

Centreville Press

Volume 148 | Issue 31 | 75¢ | July 31, 2026 | Full Digital Edition



Subscriber Access www.bibbvoice.com

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Bibb County Extension's Holly Hall Selected for Prestigious Leadership Program



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Bibb County continues to be represented by dedicated leaders who are investing in the future of agriculture, and one local Extension professional is doing just that.

Holly Hall, Bibb County's 4-H Extension Agent, has been selected as a member of the Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program Class XIII, a statewide leadership initiative administered by the Alabama Cattlemen's Association.

Hall joins 23 other young leaders from across Alabama who will spend 2026 participating in six leadership and networking sessions held throughout the state. The program is designed to strengthen leadership skills while connecting participants with beef producers and industry leaders who help shape Alabama's agricultural community.

In addition to serving Bibb County through

Alabama Extension, Hall is a resident of Shelby County and serves as treasurer and scholarship chairwoman of the Shelby County Cattlemen's Association.

"I have a passion for agriculture and all that it provides for my community," Hall shared in a Alabama Extension release. "I am also passionate about teaching agriculture to young people through my career with Alabama 4-H. During my journey through the Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program, I really hope to expand my knowledge and contact base with beef producers and industry leaders."

For many Bibb County families, Hall is a familiar face through local 4-H programs, where she works to introduce young people to agriculture, leadership, and hands-on learning opportunities. Her selection for the prestigious program reflects not only her commitment to the ag-

ricultural industry but also her dedication to preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Agriculture has long been an important part of Bibb County's heritage and economy, and programs like this help ensure knowledgeable, passionate leaders continue to advocate for the industry while bringing new ideas and valuable connections back to their local communities.

The members of Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program Class XIII will graduate during the Alabama Cattlemen's Association's 84th Annual Convention and Trade Show in Montgomery in February 2027.

Hall's selection is a well-deserved recognition of her passion for agriculture, education, and service – qualities that continue to benefit Bibb County and the young people she mentors each day.

West Blocton Churches to Host Free Back-to-School Bash for Local Families

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

As families prepare for a new school year, two West Blocton churches are coming together to help students start the semester with confidence during a community-wide Back-to-School Bash.

Hosted by West Blocton First Baptist Church and Lowerytown Baptist Church, the event will take place on Saturday, August 1, from 2 to 5 p.m. at West Blocton First Baptist Church, located at 1249 Main Street.

The free event is designed to support local children and families by providing backpacks filled with school supplies, along with clothing and shoes to help students head back to the classroom prepared for the year ahead.

In addition to receiving school essentials, children can also enjoy a free treat from Deerman's Shaved Ice, making the afternoon both practical and fun as families celebrate

the close of summer.

Back-to-school events like this demonstrate the power of a community coming together to support its youngest members. For many families, the cost of purchasing school supplies, clothing, and shoes can add up quickly. By lending a helping hand, local churches and volunteers help ease that burden while reminding families they are supported by their community.

Organizers note that children must be present to receive the backpacks, school supplies, clothing, and shoes.

Whether it's a backpack stocked with fresh supplies or a new pair of shoes for the first day of class, even small acts of generosity can make a meaningful difference. The Back-to-School Bash offers an opportunity for families to prepare for the year ahead while experiencing the kindness and fellowship that continue to define the West Blocton community.

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NEWS

Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Program Available Through Alabama Spay Neuter

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Pet owners in Bibb County have an opportunity this summer to take advantage of reduced-cost spay and neuter services through a special assistance program offered by Alabama Spay Neuter.

The July-August initiative is supported by the organization's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund, established by VP Funds and Ken Jackson, and

is designed to help eligible households provide important preventative care for their pets at a significantly reduced cost. Families who qualify may have up to three pets spayed or neutered through the program.

To be eligible, a member of the household must verify current enrollment in one or more government assistance programs, including Medicaid, Disability, WIC, SNAP, or EBT. Under the special, spay or neuter sur-

gery is available for \$25 per pet. Rabies vaccinations are available for \$15 for pets that have not received one within the past 12 months, and microchips can be added for \$15 for pets receiving surgery through the program.

Spaying and neutering not only helps reduce pet overpopulation but can also contribute to the long-term health and well-being of dogs and cats. These procedures help prevent unwanted lit-

ters while supporting healthier communities by reducing the number of homeless animals entering shelters and rescues.

Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and Alabama Spay Neuter encourages interested pet owners to schedule early, as high call volumes are expected.

Appointments can be made by calling (205) 956-0012 or texting (205) 243-4185. When leaving

a message, callers are asked to provide two callback numbers.

Pet owners may bring their animals directly to the clinic or take advantage of the organization's monthly transportation service, which includes Bibb County along with several other Alabama communities.

For eligible families, the summer special offers an affordable opportunity to invest in their pets' health while helping address a need that benefits the entire community. Those interested are encouraged to make an appointment as soon as possible while funding remains available.

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BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

Fall Soccer registration is officially open at the BMC Wellness Center. Applicants are encouraged to register by August 7 to take advantage of the early bird discount code, BIRD5. The final registration deadline is August 16. The recreational soccer program is open to co-ed play-

ers aged 4 to 14. The season begins on August 17 and runs through October 23. Participants must have permission from a parent or guardian to register. The registration fee is \$75 for members and \$90 for non-members. For more information or to register, visit the BMC Wellness Center website.

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News
By Brenda Hubbard

A Back to School Bash will be held at Pineview Church on Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 6-9 pm Free even for families, everyone is cordially invited to come out to Pineview Baptist Church for food, water slides, snow cones and other fun things to do.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Coach Jimmy Jones who passed away on July 11, 2026 at the age of 92 and was a resident of Six Mile, Alabama. Services were held on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 12 pm at Six Mile Baptist Church. He was laid to rest at Six Mile Cemetery. Coach Jimmy will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

A Memorial Service was held for William "Doc" Holladay on Sunday, July 19, 2026 at Pineview Baptist Church at 2 pm. We send out sympathy to this family, "Doc" will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Anniversary wishes go out to Charlie and Rhonda Cook who recently celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Birthday wishes go out to several who have birthdays in July, Faye Marchant, Kitty Nichols Hollis, Hollie Rowland, Donald Glass, Jim Garner, Dedra Clinerr, Kelsey Lightsey Dunn and Wanda Whaley.

Homecoming was

held on Sunday, July 19, 2026 at Shady Grove Baptist Church, Randolph, AL. Special singers were Trusting Grace from McCalla. Singing began at 10:30 a.m. and lunch was also served.

Congratulations to Katie Morris, 2027 Distinguished Young Woman of Bibb County. Katie is the daughter of Sam and Janet Morris and a student at West Blocton High School.

Birthday wishes go out to Wyatt Clinner who celebrated his 5th birthday with a backyard water bash on Saturday, July 18. A lot of family and friends attended this special occasion with the children having a lot of fun. Wyatt's birthday was Monday, July 20, 2026.

Several have a birthday in August. We would like to send birthday wishes out to them; Amy Boykin, Butch Suttle, Odie Newman, Paul Hightower, Patricia Frederick, Elaine Gilliland, Tonya Bigham, Fay Romaine, Davis Patridge, Fred Kiser, Susan Parker Williams.

Marilyn Marie Murphy passed away on July 16, 2026. We send out sympathy to the family and friends. She will be missed greatly.

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



Bibb County Schools Presents at Alabama State Department of Education Mega Conference in Mobile

By Vicki Brown

The Bibb County Schools Special Education Department presented at the Mega conference sponsored by the Alabama State Department of Education. Bibb County was invited to present on their successful community partnerships with businesses and organizations to give students with disabilities valuable experience working at job sites in the community. Community partnerships are Bibb Medical Center, Norris Chiropractic, Hope and Compassion Food Basket and the Brent/Centreville Library. The coffee shop has been very popular and has received over-



their grand opening and are open on Tuesday's from 9:00 am-11:00 am in the basement of the Brent/ Centreville Library. The coffee shop has been very popular and has received over-

whelming support from the community. The members of the Transition team presenting were Vickie Brown, Instructional Coach for the SPDG grant which Bibb County is a part of, Katie Williams, SPE.

Teacher Bibb County, Jennifer Downs, Special Education Director Bibb County Schools and Katie Crumpler representing community partner Bibb Medical Center.

Annual Back-To-School Backpack Give Away



On Saturday, July 18, SE T2026, Word of Faith Church served as headquarters for the perfect example of how a community works together for the good of all.

Excellent planning went into ensuring this event was top-notch. Tables were laden with top-of-the-line school supplies and quality backpacks for 100. Clothes and games for the children and a welcoming atmosphere made the event extra special. After filling their backpacks everyone was served refreshingly delicious watermelon.

The volunteers and community leaders behind this event not only recognize the importance of investing in our children but also cultivating an understanding of the need to support our future leaders.

This successful event could be measure by the excitement on the faces of the children and the appreciation expressed by their parents for making a stressful and costly time of year enjoyable.

Volunteers helping to make this event possible: Pamela Moore, Jeremiah Moore, Charity Johnson, Jameka Robertson, Valerie Johnson, Cherry Lilly, Anilyia Lilly, Don Mack, Moses Moore, Sheryl Moore, Patricia Bell, John Bailey, Brittney Bailey, Louise Steele, Mickey



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

The Jere Beasley Story

Inside the Statehouse
By Steve Flowers

July 29, 2026:

Many famous successful lawyers in our state have served a stint in politics. Jere Beasley, the legendary Montgomery trial lawyer served eight years as lieutenant governor. Having been born and raised in Barbour County, he has a good many great political stories. He shared a few with me over the years.

Jere tells a great story that illustrates how fleeting political fame and notoriety can be for a politician. Beasley was elected lieutenant governor in 1970. A young Bill Baxley was elected attorney general that same year. Albert Brewer lost a very close race to Wallace for governor that same year. All three were primed to run for governor in 1978, as Wallace could not succeed himself. State Senator Sid McDonald and Fob James also joined the “Three B’s” in the race.

As was common at that time, there were political rallies and candidate forums all over the state. Most political pros will tell you that these forums got you very few votes. The reason being that almost all the attendees were already committed supporters of the other candidate. However, if you did not attend one, it gave you a black eye in that county for shunning that particular community.

The folks in north Alabama were especially sensitive about your not attending their county gathering. Each gubernatorial candidate would have his most loyal supporters there, adorned head-to-toe in their campaign paraphernalia. They would congregate early to hear their candidate. Wallace used to even have professional yellers follow him all over the state. One particular one looked like he belonged in a circus, but he could cut a rebel yell like you have never heard. Each candidate was given 30 minutes to speak but very few confined themselves to that time limit once they got cranked up.

Beasley mused that at an event up on Sand Mountain, all five gubernatorial candidates appeared. As was the protocol, they drew straws to see who would go first. As luck would have it, Beasley ended up as the last speaker, which means he would have to sit on the stage dutifully and politely for three hours or more listening to his enemies extol their virtues and occasionally lambast him or his fellow candidates, depending on who the speaker thought was his primary opponent. The speeches dragged on and as was customary, after each candidate spoke, they would excuse themselves and head on to the next campaign event in an

adjoining county or elsewhere in the state. Likewise, when the candidate left the scene and stage, so did his supporters.

By the time Beasley got up to speak, there were only a handful of people left in the audience. Beasley dutifully began to give them his best speech. As he droned on, he noticed an overalls-wearing farmer standing right in front with rapt attention.

When Beasley finished, he came down off the flat-bed truck and shook the old farmer’s hand vigorously and hugged him and looked him squarely in the eye and said, “You don’t know how much I appreciate you. You have to be the best Beasley supporter I’ve got in Alabama.”

The farmer looked at Beasley apologetically and with a little sympathy and said, “Boy, I ain’t never heard of you. That flatbed truck y’all been shouting from is mine. I was just waiting for you to get off my truck so that we can both go home.”

Beasley was an outstanding high school quarterback at Clayton High School. Clayton is a small community in Barbour County in southeast Alabama. It is also the hometown of George Wallace.

Clayton’s archrival in football in Beasley’s heyday was Brundidge, about 15 miles down the road from Clayton. Beasley recalls a Friday night game against Brundidge during his senior year. Brundidge, like many small Alabama towns of that day had some large well known family names, such as Godwin and Senn.

Beasley says they were leading Brundidge a good bit and Brundidge was substituting a lot. As he broke the huddle to head to the line of scrimmage the hometown Brundidge fans were quiet. All of a sudden, the PA announcer broke the silence with the announcement, “God went (Godwin) in, Sin (Senn) goes out.” Beasley thought maybe he was in an early Sunday school class rather than the middle of a Friday night football game.

Jere Beasley has an outstanding legacy in Alabama history.

See you next week.

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



Centreville Press

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The Centreville Press (USPS #098-880) is published each Friday by Bibb Community Media Inc., Centreville, AL 35042.

2026 Yearly Subscription Rates: \$45.00 All Access + tax
Periodicals postage paid at Centreville, AL 35042.

POST MASTER: Send address changes to
Centreville Press, P.O. Box 127, Centreville, AL 35042

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BY SAVANNA LOGAN

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

Written in 1905, "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" features lyrics by Civilla D. Martin and music by Charles H. Gabriel. Centered on God's faithful care, the hymn reminds believers that if God watches over even the smallest sparrow, He certainly watches over His people as well.

The inspiration for the hymn came from a deeply personal experience in Martin's life. After experiencing the protecting hand of the Lord during an illness, she wrote another well-known hymn, "God Will Take Care of You". Later, while visiting a friend who was struggling with discouragement, Martin shared her testimony in hopes of offering comfort.

After listening, her friend responded with a simple but profound observation: "You know, I shouldn't worry, should I? We are promised in the Bible that God watches over the little sparrows."

The two women spent time rejoicing together in God's faithful protection and watchful care. When Martin returned home,

those words continued to resonate in her heart. She sat down and penned what would become "His Eye Is on the Sparrow".

The hymn's message is drawn from Jesus' words in Matthew 10:29-31, where He reminds His followers that not even a sparrow falls to the ground apart from the Father's knowledge, assuring them, "Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

That promise echoes throughout the hymn's verses, which acknowledge discouragement, loneliness, temptation, and uncertainty while pointing listeners back to God's constant presence. The familiar refrain declares, "I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, for His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."

More than a century after it was written, "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" continues to encourage generations of believers with its timeless reminder that God's loving care extends to every detail of our lives.



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NEWS

Arizona Man Pleads Guilty to Conspiring to Distribute over 20,000 Carfentanil Pills

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – An Arizona man has pleaded guilty to trafficking thousands of pills containing carfentanil into Birmingham, announced U.S. Attorney Phillip W. Williams Jr.

Ignacio Miguel Tirado-Castillo, of Arizona, pleaded guilty to conspiracy with intent to distribute and distribution of a fentanyl analogue and attempt to distribute a fentanyl analogue. In May 2025, Tirado-Castillo was charged by a federal grand jury in Birmingham, Alabama.

According to court documents, on December 16, 2024, inspectors with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) in Denver contacted USPIS inspectors in Birmingham to notify them of a suspicious package sent from Phoenix, Arizona, to Midfield, Alabama. An inspector was at the post office when the package arrived and took custody of it. A K-9 alerted to the presence of narcotics in the package. The inspector obtained a federal search warrant for the package. Inside the package was approximately 20,300 “M-30” pills containing carfentanil. Carfentanil is an analogue of the fentanyl compound and is approximately 100 times more potent than fentanyl. Inspectors subsequently identified the mailer as Tirado-Castillo, and he admitted to mailing the package.

Surveillance photo



Packages destined for Birmingham containing over 20,000 carfentanil pills



Surveillance photo of Tirado-Castillo mailing the package

of Tirado-Castillo mailing the package

Packages destined for Birmingham containing over 20,000 carfentanil pills

According to filings in the case, a search of Tirado-Castillo's

iCloud account revealed additional evidence of criminal activity, including pictures of various firearms, including stolen firearms, being transported to Mexico. Other iCloud evidence included brutal depictions and discussions of cartel-

associated violence, including a video of a decapitation.

Tirado-Castillo is also facing charges for similar conduct in the District of Nebraska. Agents arrested Tirado-Castillo in Arizona for the Nebraska case and,

at that time, discovered an additional 25 pounds of carfentanil in his apartment.

“Thanks to the dedicated work of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, thousands of lethal carfentanil pills were intercepted before

they made their way onto our streets. We will continue to leverage every resource to protect our communities from those who would destroy them through the distribution of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.”

“The U.S. Postal Inspection Service remains steadfast in its collaboration with law enforcement partners, standing side by side to relentlessly pursue individuals infiltrating our communities with lethal narcotics like carfentanil,” said Shameka Jackson, Inspector in Charge of the USPIS Houston Division. “We remain committed in preventing these illicit substances from entering the U.S. mail system, protecting our postal employees, and safeguarding our community.”

This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime.

USPIS investigated the case along with the Birmingham Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison J. Garnett prosecuted the case.



The BACK PAGE

West Blocton Fire & Rescue to Offer CPR Certification Course for Community

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

When a medical emergency happens, every second matters. While first responders work quickly to reach those in need, the actions of a nearby family member, friend, coworker, or even a stranger can make all the difference. That's why West Blocton Fire & Rescue is inviting the community to become better prepared by offering a CPR Certification Course on Saturday, August 29.

The class will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the West Blocton Fire Station, located at 50 Fire Station Road.

Open to everyone, the course welcomes both EMS professionals seeking to renew their certification and community members who simply want to be equipped with a life-saving skill. No prior medical training is

required, making it an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in learning how to respond during a cardiac emergency.

According to West Blocton Fire & Rescue, knowing CPR can double or even triple a person's chance of survival. While no one hopes to find themselves in an emergency, being prepared can mean the difference between waiting helplessly and stepping in to help until emergency responders arrive.

The cost to attend is \$20 for non-EMS community members and \$10 for EMS personnel.

The department encourages residents not to assume someone else will know what to do when an emergency arises. Learning CPR is a skill that can benefit not only family members and neighbors, but the entire community. Whether it's helping

a loved one at home, assisting a coworker, or responding during a public emergency, those few minutes before professional help arrives can be critical.

Those interested in attending or seeking additional information can send a message to West Blocton Fire & Rescue on Facebook or contact Cassie Price

by calling or texting 205-960-1934.

As the department's message reminds the community, "Don't be a bystander. Save a life." Sometimes the

most valuable thing a person can carry isn't equipment or experience – it's the knowledge and confidence to act when someone needs help most.

● DON'T BE A BYSTANDER. SAVE A LIFE. ●



West Blocton Fire & Rescue

CPR Certification Course

Whether you're a seasoned paramedic looking to renew, or a helpful neighbor who wants to be ready for anything – this class is for you. Code blue doesn't wait, and neither should you!

When & Where

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: West Blocton Fire Station
50 Fire Station Road, West Blocton, AL

Investment in a Life

Non-EMS / Community Members: \$20
EMS Personnel: \$10

Who can join?

Open to ALL!
No prior medical training required.

STOP

Fun Fact: Knowing CPR doubles or triples a person's chance of survival.

SERIOUS

Serious Fact: You could be the difference between a tragedy and a miracle.

Ready to Sign Up or Have Questions?

Don't leave your community hanging! Reach out today to secure your spot:
Facebook: Send us a message at **West Blocton Fire & Rescue**
Text or Call: CASSIE PRICE at 205-960-1934

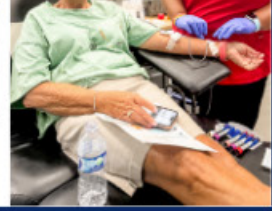
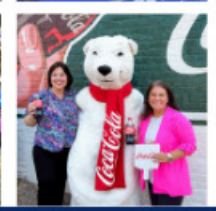
Be the beat. Save a life.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER



WELLNESS ALL SUMMER LONG.

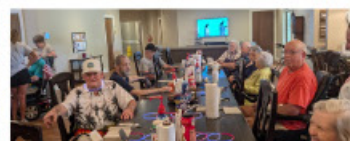


Bibb Medical Center is proud to be part of a community that comes together to support one another. Throughout the summer, we've enjoyed participating in local events, building new partnerships, and connecting with families across Bibb County. Whether we're promoting healthy living, supporting local organizations, or simply spending time with our neighbors, we love being involved in the communities we serve.

COMMUNITY.

The BMC Wellness Center offers something for everyone! This summer, we've stayed busy with fitness classes, summer camps, sports, and activities for all ages. Whether you're building healthy habits, spending time with family, or finding new ways to stay active, we're proud to provide opportunities that keep our community moving.

STAYING ACTIVE.



There's always something happening around campus! From our weekly Farmers Market and family-friendly activities like children's crafts and movie nights to Employee Week celebrations and special events at our Senior Living Community, we're proud to bring people together through fun, fellowship, and community engagement.

AROUND CAMPUS.

Education is a key part of promoting lifelong health and wellness. Through health management programs, reading initiatives, and collaborations with Bibb Medical Associates, we strive to provide our community with the knowledge and resources to live healthier lives.

EDUCATION.

