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Woodstock Drug Helping Ease Transition Following Jack's Discount Pharmacy Closure

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The closure of Jack's Discount Pharmacy has marked the end of an era for many West Blocton residents, leaving patients with the important task of establishing their prescriptions with a new pharmacy. While transitions like these can often be stressful, Woodstock Drug has stepped forward with a clear focus on helping make the process as smooth as possible for the community.

As part of the closure, patients who previously filled prescriptions at Jack's Discount Pharmacy will need to contact their healthcare providers and have their prescriptions called in again to the pharmacy of their choice. The announcement also noted that Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions require a new prescription from the prescribing physician.

Recognizing that changing pharmacies

can be overwhelming – especially for those who manage multiple medications or care for family members – Woodstock Drug has been working to support patients throughout the transition. The pharmacy has encouraged residents to reach out with questions, and staff members have been available to help guide patients through the process of establishing their prescriptions and navigating the change.

In addition to assisting patients, Woodstock Drug recently launched its free prescription delivery service throughout Bibb County, providing another way to make accessing medications easier for residents during this time. Whether helping answer questions, coordinating with patients, or delivering medications directly to their homes, the pharmacy has emphasized its commitment to keeping patient care at the center of every deci-



sion.

For many in West Blocton, a hometown pharmacy is more than just a place to pick up prescriptions: it's built on relationships, familiar faces, and trusted care. The closure of Jack's Discount Pharmacy has understand-

ably brought uncertainty, but Woodstock Drug has worked to help fill that gap by offering reassurance, convenience, and support as patients make the transition.

Residents who have not yet established a new pharmacy are

encouraged to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible to have prescriptions sent to the pharmacy they wish to use.

While change is rarely easy, the response from Woodstock Drug serves as a reminder

of the important role community pharmacies play – not only by dispensing medications, but by helping neighbors navigate life's unexpected transitions with compassion and care.

Woodstock Community Library Expands Access with New Saturday Hours

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Woodstock Community Library has long been more than a place to check out books: it's a gathering place, a learning hub, and a valuable resource that continues to grow alongside the community it serves. Beginning this August, the library is taking another step to better meet the needs of local residents by adding Saturday hours.

The library will now be open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., making it easier for those who work or attend school during the week to take advantage of everything the library has to offer.

To accommodate the new schedule, the library will be closed on Mondays, a day that has traditionally seen lower visitor traffic.

The expanded weekend hours will also bring additional benefits to the community. Families visiting the nearby playground will

now have access to restroom facilities, and local nonprofit organizations will have meeting room availability on Saturdays – a service that was not previously possible.

In small towns, libraries often wear many hats. They're places where children discover a love of reading, students find a quiet place to study, neighbors gather for story times and community events, and lifelong learners continue exploring new interests. They connect people not only to books, but to one another.

The Woodstock Community Library has consistently sought new ways to serve residents, from educational programming and literacy initiatives to family-friendly activities and community partnerships. Adding Saturday hours is another example of that commitment, ensuring more people have the opportunity to benefit from the library's re-



sources regardless of their weekday schedules.

Whether you're searching for your next great read, bring-

ing the kids for a visit, attending a community program, or simply looking for a welcoming place to spend an afternoon, the Wood-

stock Community Library continues to prove itself as one of the town's greatest assets.

Starting this month,

the library invites the community to stop by on Saturdays to say hi and experience all it has to offer.



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NEWS

Alabama Extension Shares Helpful Tips as Black Bears Continue Their Return

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

If you happen to spot a black bear in Alabama, the best response is simple: admire it from a distance, let it go about its business, and remember — you've just witnessed one of nature's great comeback stories.

According to the Alabama Extension, black bears are making a steady return to the state, with established populations now found in southwest and northeast Alabama. As those populations continue to grow and expand into new areas, residents may be more likely to encounter bears near homes, neighborhoods, and wooded areas.

Before anyone starts picturing bears casually strolling through downtown, it's worth remembering that black bears generally want nothing to do with people. They're far more interested in finding an easy meal than making new friends.

That's why Alabama Extension encourages homeowners to avoid unintentionally inviting bears into residential areas. Simple steps like securing trash cans, bringing pet food and water bowls indoors, cleaning outdoor grills, removing



BLACK BEARS IN ALABAMA...OH MY!
Learn how to live safely near black bears, reduce attractants around your home, and what to do in the event of a bear encounter.
 

bird feeders during active bear season, and picking up fallen fruit can go a long way in preventing unwanted bear visits.

Think of it this way: if your backyard smells like an all-you-can-eat buffet, don't be surprised if a hungry diner wanders by.

If you do encounter a black bear, Alabama Extension recommends staying calm. Do not run, keep a safe distance, and slowly back away. If the bear approaches, stand your ground, make yourself appear larger, and use loud noises to encourage it to move along.

As wildlife continues to reclaim parts of its historic range, mo-

ments like these serve as a reminder that we share Alabama's forests with an incredible variety of animals. Respecting wildlife doesn't always require grand gestures. Sometimes it simply means giving wild animals the space they need to remain wild.

So, if you cross paths with one of Alabama's newest returning residents, consider yourself fortunate enough to witness a wonderful piece of our state's natural heritage — and then politely let the bear continue on its way. After all, good neighbors respect boundaries, even when one of them has fur.

Congressional Candidate Opposes Flock Camera Deployment & Expansion



Republican congressional candidate Case Dixon said Tuesday that, if elected to represent Alabama's 6th Congressional District, he will reintroduce federal legislation aimed at cutting off certain federal funding for jurisdictions that deploy Flock Safety cameras and similar automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems.

The proposal mirrors legislation introduced this year by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), who will leave Congress at the end of his current term. Massie's bill would use federal funding restrictions to discourage State and local governments from adopting Flock-style surveillance systems.

Dixon framed the issue as a matter of constitutional rights, arguing that widespread vehicle tracking conflicts with the protections guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment.

"Mass surveillance has no place in a free society," Dixon said. "Americans should not have their movements tracked, recorded, and stored simply

because they drove down a public road. The Fourth Amendment exists to protect innocent people from unreasonable government surveillance, and Congress should take that seriously."

Flock Safety cameras and other ALPR systems capture license plate numbers along with the date, time and location of passing vehicles. When connected across multiple jurisdictions, the systems can create extensive travel histories for individual vehicles. Supporters say the technology helps investigators solve crimes and recover stolen vehicles, while critics argue it enables broad government surveillance of law-abiding citizens without individualized suspicion.

Dixon said he would seek to continue Massie's legislative effort if voters send him to Washington.

"If elected, I will reintroduce this legislation in the next Congress," Dixon said. "The federal government should not be subsidizing technologies that enable the routine

tracking of innocent Americans without individualized suspicion or a warrant."

The debate over Flock cameras has intensified in recent months as lawmakers, privacy advocates and local officials have questioned how the technology should be regulated. Concerns have centered on the long-term collection of location data, data sharing among agencies and the potential for misuse. At the same time, many law enforcement agencies maintain the systems have become valuable investigative tools.

Dixon said Congress should pursue policies that preserve both public safety and constitutional protections.

"Public safety and constitutional liberty are not mutually exclusive," Dixon said.

"We can give law enforcement the tools they need to investigate crime without normalizing mass surveillance of the general public. Congress should be protecting the constitutional rights of the American people, not helping fund their erosion."



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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News
By Brenda Hubbard

Sympathy goes out to the family of Rita Eady, age 91, who passed away on July 22, 2026. Services were held on July 27, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church with burial following the service. Rita was such a sweet lady and will be missed by her family and many friends.

Anniversary wishes go out to Darryl and Lane Lightsey who recently celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary.

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Franklin Johnson who passed away on July 18, 2026 at the age of 89. Services were held on July 22, 2026 at Rockco Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m. with burial following at Pineland Cemetery. Franklin will be missed greatly.

Anniversary wishes go out to Richard and Sheila Beam who recently celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Brayden Kornegay, age 25. A service was held

on July 24, 2026 at Rockco Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m. Burial followed at Haysop Baptist Cemetery. Brayden will be missed greatly by family and friends.

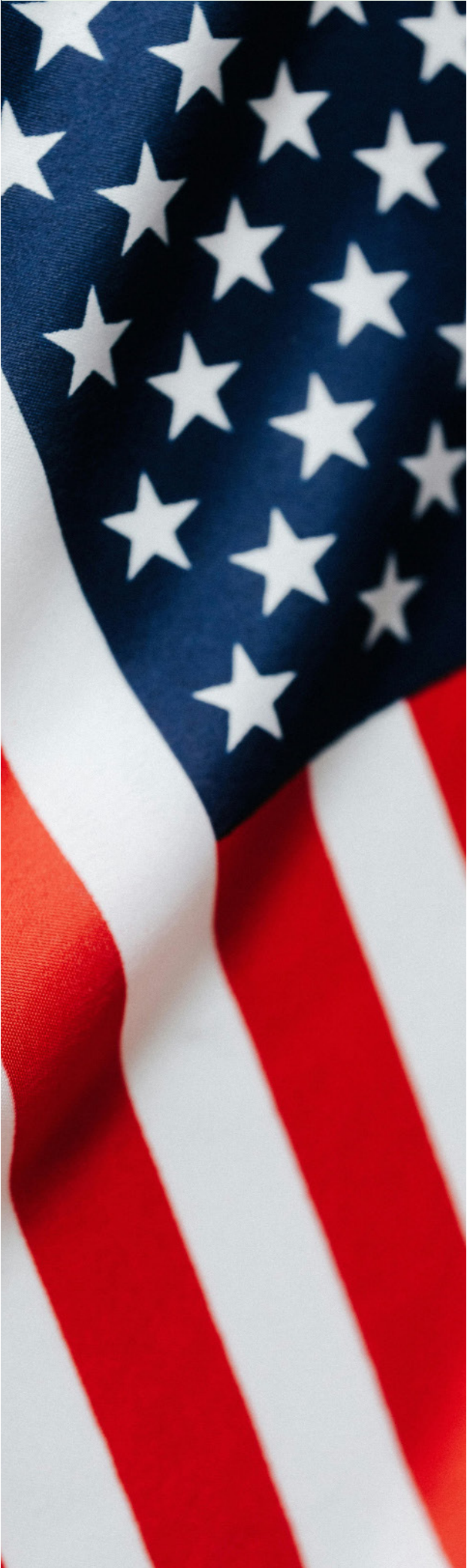
A fellowship luncheon was held at Brent Baptist Church recently after worship services.

Odie and Doris Newman; Bruce and Betsy Graham and daughter, Becky, have returned home after visiting with their sister and Aunt Nancy Newman in Phoenix, AZ, reporting a great week.

Several that have birthdays in August are Raymond Magourik, Jaxon Lightsey, Angie Perry Grogan, Lynn Ellinghausen, Crystal Thompson Nelson, Melanie Wallace, Linda Eady Cox, Debbie McCool Perry, O.V. Garner II and Jonah Brewer.

Anniversary wishes go out to Casey and Stacie Brewer who celebrated their 11th Wedding Anniversary on July 28, 2026.

If you have news call it in at (205) 316-1181.



Relay for Life Queens Host First-Ever Back to School Bash on August 1

BY CANACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

The 2026 Relay for Life Bibb County Queens hosted their first-ever Back-to-School Bash on Aug. 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Bibb County High School gym. Ryan Thompson served as the event lead for Bibb County Relay For Life.

The event featured live music from DJ Jeremy G, also known as Jeremy Foster, along with performances by artists Holsen and Taylor Bagi. Holsen, a Bibb County native, also performed

at this year's Celebration on the Green. Bagi has performed at the Woodstock Music Festival and at venues throughout Tuscaloosa and Birmingham.

The winners of April's Relay For Life pageant organized the fundraiser to kick off the 2027 Relay For Life season.

Local vendors included Kettle Works, 959 Sweets and Treats, and Mimi Brews. Representatives from Bibb County DHR shared information about foster care and its impor-

tance to the community. READY also hosted a booth to provide resources, education, and advocacy for drug-free youth and offered free snow cones to attendees.

Members of the North Bibb 12U All-Star team and the South Bibb 10U All-Star team attended the event to meet community members.

For mothers of students entering their senior year of high school, local author Carrie Terry introduced her new book, Senior Year, Mama:

Cherishing the Last Firsts. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase signed copies of the book.

The event opened with the national anthem, performed by Kobe, a fifth-grade student at Centreville Middle School. A special ceremony followed to recognize local students and teachers before the start of the new school year, with each grade level and faculty members receiving recognition.



Bibb County Recognized for Safety Month Practices

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — For the second year in a row, public officials and employees in Bibb County earned statewide recognition for their special efforts to improve safety and reduce accidents in the workplace.

During National Safety Month, county officials and employees conducted strategic risk management programs each week to enhance safety for both county employees and the public. These programs focused on housekeeping, road projects and property inspections, as well as heavy equipment use and maintenance. This year, Bibb County went the extra mile, garnering further recognition for additional efforts to increase safety with firearms and firearm equipment.

"In the hectic pace of life today, the contributions and commitment of officials and employees in county government are overlooked far too often," said Sonny Brasfield, executive director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA). "When we do that, we miss a thousand things — large and small — that they do each and every day to provide vital public services. I am proud to salute Bibb County for its continued investment in safety."

This month-long initiative is an annual



program of County Risk Services (CRS), the Montgomery-based organization working hand-in-hand with Alabama's county governments in partnership with ACCA. In recognition of this safety month achievement, the county will receive a complimen-

tary breakfast funded by CRS.

Bibb County is an active participant in ACCA's self-funded insurance programs, designed to allow county commissions to pool their resources and expertise to provide savings to the taxpayers. Sixty-one

county commissions and many other county government entities are members of one or more of these custom-tailored insurance programs: workers' compensation, liability, property and cyber.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Alabama lawmakers should act now to avoid a repeat of Arizona’s SNAP crisis

An Opinion Editorial By LaTrell Clifford Wood and Joseph Palomino

When Dee McDonald renewed her family’s benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) last fall, she had no reason to think the process would leave her choosing between paying the rent and feeding the three grandsons she is raising. Months passed without assistance. McDonald told The New York Times she relied on food banks, stretched every grocery dollar and skipped meals while trying to resolve a paperwork problem with Arizona’s SNAP system. Her family never stopped qualifying for help. The system simply failed to deliver it. McDonald’s experience was not an isolated bureaucratic mishap. It was one glimpse of a statewide crisis. Since Congress enacted HR 1 last summer, nearly 440,000 Arizonans have lost SNAP assistance, also known as food stamps — roughly half of all participants. More than 180,000 are children. The decline far exceeds estimates of those directly affected by new eligibility restrictions. This suggests many eligible people are being caught in a system struggling with complicated rules and pressure to reduce errors and future costs. Arizona has issued \$600 million less in SNAP benefits since July 2025, even as food bank traffic surges. Alabama should take notice. Arizona shows what can happen when sweeping federal changes collide with an underfunded, overburdened system. About 1 in 8 Alabamians — roughly 650,000 — use SNAP to help keep food on the table. The federal government has fully funded these benefits for decades. But under HR 1, the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), most states must pay for 5% to 15% of SNAP ben-

efits starting in 2028 based on a flawed measure called the payment error rate. The law will require Alabama to cover 10% of SNAP benefits, or about \$174 million a year. This enormous cost shift is based on the misinterpretation of what payment error rates actually measure. Error rates do not measure fraud. Instead, they measure underpayments and overpayments that agencies — including Alabama’s Department of Human Resources (DHR) — make while administering SNAP. As in Arizona, SNAP participation is falling in Alabama despite higher food prices and persistently high food insecurity and because of decades of unbending food apartheid. Since July 2025, nearly 82,000 fewer Alabamians, including about 23,000 children, are receiving SNAP benefits to help keep food on the table. That number is almost enough to fill Jordan-Hare Stadium. Much of this decrease is due to SNAP participants’ struggles to navigate HR 1’s new red-tape barriers, including expanded work reporting and verification rules. These requirements have forced DHR staff to manage more calls, applications and paperwork. Additionally, HR 1 now requires states to cover 75% of SNAP administrative costs, up from the previous 50%. In short, the federal government has told Alabama to reduce its SNAP error rate while cutting federal funding and making the program more complicated to administer. And if state legislators don’t allocate \$174 million for SNAP benefits next year, Alabama could be forced to end its participation in SNAP entirely. That is how a fiscal cost shift becomes a hunger crisis. Alabama legislators must provide the funding needed to con-

Vote Next Week on New Congressional Lines

Inside the Statehouse By Steve Flowers

August 5, 2026:

There is no question the U.S. Supreme Court is in the process of dismantling the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which has allowed the federal courts to dictate, direct, and draw gerrymandered Democratic districts throughout the south for the past 60 years. There is no question, the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act were necessary and the right remedies to enact to secure equal rights for all American citizens. The Voting Rights Act was the most necessary. As late as 1960, black citizens were essentially precluded from voting in Alabama in overt fashion. Alabama’s population was, and still is, around 30% African American. The voting age population is 27% African American. Out of that 27% in 1960, only about 1% were allowed to vote due to discriminatory Jim Crow literacy tests and poll tax laws. The few black voters were the elite preachers, funeral home directors, and college presidents. After the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act it was “Katie bar the door.” It was immensely apparent that black people in the south had a generational aspiration to exercise their inherent right to vote. The proof in the pudding came in the 1966 Democratic Primary and General Election that next year. There was a higher percentage of black voters in 1966 than white voters, which was amazing. However, the measures taken to secure equal rights for all American citizens were effective and the that wrong has since been righted. In fact, the most intrusive sections of the Voting Rights Act, which mandated that the five Deep South states required preclearance from the U.S. Justice Department before changing any voting laws or even polling locations, was set to expire in 1970. It was renewed, routinely, by Congress over the years. The Constitution clearly gives the power of the pen to state legislatures to draw their states own congressional and legislative districts. The Supreme Court has consistently ruled to uphold that inherent and clear states right. They have stated that is a political decision and power. If a state like California, New York, or Massachusetts has a Democratic majority legislature, they can and have drawn gerrymandered districts that favor Democrats. Conversely, if Republican states like Oklahoma, Nebraska, or Wyoming have a Republican majority legislature, they can draw Republican gerrymandered districts. However, the deep South states of Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Mississippi have been prohibited from drawing their own con-

gressional and legislative lines due to the Voting Rights Act.

The Supreme Court is saying that there comes a time when a wrong has been righted. The sins of the father should be righted for only so long. The grandchildren and great grandchildren of white southerners should not be penalized for something that occurred generations ago. It is actually reverse discrimination. Indeed, a good many young, white Republicans in Alabama grew up in other states. It is probably perplexing to a young engineer in Huntsville as to why a federal judge decreed their power extends to drawing lines that destroy communities of interest and declares that they go into a district that extends to Mobile to create a black Democratic gerrymandered district. The June 2nd U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the ongoing Voting Rights Act case of Milligan v. Allen, indicates clearly that the Court is going to reverse the lower three-judge panel’s 2023 decision to draw racially discriminatory, congressional maps. The Supreme Court’s 6-3 decision clearly indicates they are poised to rule in favor of Alabama in a final decision to reverse Milligan and declare the nail in the coffin of the Voting Rights Act. The effect on Southern and national politics is monumental. There will be a shift of probably 10-15 Congressional Seats moving from Democratic to Republican in the South. Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Louisiana have already moved expediently. Governor Ivey and our Republican Legislature moved quickly and prudently to capitalize on the anticipated Supreme Court decision. In the May Special Session called by the Governor, the legislature enacted a plan that calls for a 6 to 1 Republican to Democratic Congressional district plan, similar to what was in place for over 30 years prior to Milligan. For those who say Alabama is the more racist of the Southern states, I disagree. Our sister southern states are going all out and wiping out all Democratic districts. Our approach is fairer and more prudent. We will vote next Tuesday in a Special Election on the new Congressional District 1, District 2, District 6 and District 7.

Vote 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.

tinue providing SNAP benefits. Otherwise, Alabamians risk losing the stabilizing power that SNAP offers for families, local grocers and retailers, farmers and the broader community. Alabama has many revenue options to cover new SNAP costs. One would be to increase the state cigarette tax. Another would be to limit or end the state’s federal income tax deduction — a skewed tax loophole that overwhelmingly benefits Alabama’s wealthiest households — and redirect some of that revenue to fund SNAP. Ultimately, Congress should reverse these harmful new SNAP cost shifts. At minimum, federal lawmakers should give states enough time and resources to implement them without pushing eligible families out. Over the weekend, U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman inaccurately claimed his Farm Bill draft would give “additional time to strengthen administration of SNAP benefits and reduce payment error rates.” Alabama would not get additional time to reduce error rates, but our lawmakers would get additional time to address the revenue gap the One Big Beautiful Bill Act created for our state budget. As the Farm Bill moves toward committee markup on Thursday, Aug. 6, it appears our state administrators still will have to put paperwork over people beginning this year. Ultimately, we would get a payment plan, with less than optimal “payment error” rates. Lawmakers should continue to delay the SNAP cost shift for Alabama and give states an opportunity to reduce their payment error rate to reduce the cost of the program. Giving states until at least 2029 to prepare would protect families’ access to food while preserving SNAP spending that supports farmers, grocers and local economies. Arizona’s experience is a cautionary tale. Alabama still has time not to repeat it — but only if state and federal leaders act before the warning becomes another crisis.

LaTrell Clifford Wood is a hunger policy advocate at Alabama Arise. Email: latrell@alarise.org. Joseph Palomino is director of the Arizona Center for Economic Progress. Email: jpalomino@azeconcenter.org

Centreville Press

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BY SAVANNA LOGAN

"I Am Thine, O Lord"

Few hymn writers have left a legacy as enduring as Fanny Crosby, whose more than 8,000 hymns have encouraged believers for generations. Among her most beloved is "I Am Thine, O Lord", a hymn of consecration written in 1875 with music composed by William H. Doane.

The hymn was born during one of Crosby's visits to Doane's home in Cincinnati. As the evening unfolded, the family's conversation centered on the joy and blessing of experiencing the nearness of God. Their discussion inspired Crosby in a remarkable way.

In a sudden moment of inspiration, she began reciting the hymn aloud, giving its words line by line, verse by verse, followed by the familiar chorus. Soon afterward, Doane composed the music to accompany her lyrics, and another treasured hymn was added to Crosby's remarkable collection.

The hymn expresses a heartfelt desire to draw nearer to Christ, beginning with the familiar words, "I am Thine, O Lord, I

have heard Thy voice, and it told Thy love to me." Its well-known refrain — "Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord" — has become a prayer for countless Christians seeking a closer walk with God.

The message of I Am Thine, O Lord reflects the biblical invitation found in Hebrews 10:22: "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith." That theme of trust, surrender, and communion with the Lord runs through each verse, encouraging believers to dedicate every part of their lives to His service.

Since its creation in 1875, the hymn has ministered to and challenged countless people to pursue a deeper relationship with Christ. More than 150 years later, its simple yet powerful prayer continues to resonate with congregations around the world, reminding us that one of the greatest desires of the Christian life is to draw ever nearer to the One who first drew near to us.



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NEWS

Alabama Power Company Reports On Profitability



Alabama Power

Alabama Power reported an increase in its comprehensive income this spring compared to last year, according to a quarterly report filed by Southern Company, its parent company, last week.

The company reported a comprehensive profit of about \$435 million for the second quarter of this year, an increase of 15% from the \$381 million profit that it earned in the second quarter of 2025. For the first six months of the year, the utility's comprehensive income was \$860 million, up from \$756 million in 2025, an increase of nearly 14%.

"Ultimately, I think it shows that Alabama Power is more profitable than ever," said Daniel Tait, executive director of Energy Alabama, an organization that advocates for more renewable energy use in the state and has been critical of the utility. "We have seen years and years of record profits, and now we have another quarter."

A message was sent to Alabama Power on Monday seeking comment.

Alabama Power's earnings contributed to the overall profitability of Southern Company. The parent company's profits totaled about \$242 million in the second quarter, about a 10% increase over the same period last year.

The increased profits came amid ongoing questioning of Alabama's high residential power rates. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA), Alabama residential customers in May paid an average of 16.77 cents per kilowatt-hour, a

4% increase over May 2025 and one of the highest rates in the South. Mississippi residents paid 16.16 cents per kilowatt-hour that month; Georgia customers paid 15.84 cents; Florida residents paid 15.17 cents and Tennessee residents paid 14.47.

Concern over high electricity rates led to an attempt in the Legislature this spring to force the Alabama Public Service Commission, the state's utility regulator, to hold regular rate hearings, in which utilities must justify rate increases. But senators altered the legislation to expand the PSC from three members to seven and place it under the authority of a secretary of energy beginning next year, moves that critics said would weaken the utility's authority.

The law also prevents the PSC from holding a rate case hearing unless the newly created Secretary of Energy authorizes it or it is approved by five of the seven members who

serve on the PSC.

Messages seeking comment were left with PSC candidates on Monday. James Gordon, a former state representative and the Democratic nominee for Place 1 on the Alabama Public Service Commission, said if elected, he wants to work with other PSC members to reduce Alabama Power's kilowatt-hour charges by 25%.

Should he be elected, Gordon said he wants to work with his colleagues on the PSC to negotiate that reduction.

"They stripped it of its power. So, now it is more of a request to get to that point. If you don't get five commissioners to be on the same page, then you won't get to that level," Gordon said of the rate case. "So, my goal is to try and negotiate 4 cents per kilowatt-hour for our price reduction for the citizens of Alabama."

Based on the unaudited financial statements, Alabama Power's profits came from significant expense re-

ductions from its business operations.

"The (profit) increase was primarily due to a decrease in other operations and maintenance expenses and an increase in other income (expense), net, partially offset by an increase in depreciation and amortization," the company said in its financial statement.

The company reported a decline in its retail revenues of about \$8 million versus this time last year, going from \$1.718 billion to \$1.710 billion. The company also took in less wholesale revenues from its non-affiliate customers, going from about \$98 million in the second quarter of 2025 to roughly \$85 million in the most recent quarter of this year.

However, the company took in more money from wholesale electricity it provided to its affiliate customers, or Georgia Power and Mississippi Power, also part of Southern Company. That revenue line increased from \$36 million in the second quarter of

2025 to \$55 million in the quarter that just concluded.

Alabama Power also increased its profits by decreasing its expenses. The largest decrease in expenses came from the "other operation and maintenance" line item. That number went from \$472 million in the second quarter of 2025 to \$415 million in the second quarter of 2026, a decrease of about 12%.

The company also offset some of its expenses by using a reserve account to pay for costs related to transmission, distribution and power generation. The company also saved about \$15 million in expenses for the sale of "unregulated products and services," \$8 million in savings from the purchase of the Lindsay Hill power plant and deferred costs of about \$12 million.

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Alabama Public Service Commission Approves Solar Energy Project

Reprinted from Alabama Reflector August 4, 2026

The Alabama Public Service Commission Tuesday approved a solar project aimed at supporting a Montgomery data center.

Members unanimously approved a certificate of convenience and necessity for Alabama Power's "Clearview Ranch Project," allowing the investor-owned utility to construct a 1,400 acre, 200-megawatt solar photovoltaic generating facility and a 200-megawatt, two-hour duration battery energy storage system in Macon and Bullock

counties.

The commission also approved an agreement that allows Alabama Power to pass the costs of the solar project to Dotier, a subsidiary of Meta, for a 20-year term.

"After reviewing the project's economics and supporting information, staff concluded that the project meets those requirements and will not negatively impact customers," said Cynthia Almond, the president of the Public Service Commission. "In fact, because Dotier is bearing all the project costs, Alabama Power's customers are expected to benefit over

time rather than having to pay for the project."

Alabama Power says that Meta is supporting the cost of the project and that the social media company will then receive renewable energy credits in exchange for supporting the project.

However, Alabama Power will develop, own and operate the solar facility. It is another proposed solar project from Alabama Power that will support the \$1.5 billion data center that Meta plans to construct in Montgomery along with the solar project planned for Baldwin County, according to reporting

from al.com.

A message was sent to Alabama Power on Tuesday seeking comment.

Energy Alabama, an organization that advocates for more renewable energy use in the state, was listed within the docket but was not notified that staff had recommended that it be approved.

"Even as a clean energy advocate, it is very problematic when this type of information is being filed supposedly in a docket, but there is no information there," said Daniel Tait, executive director of Energy Alabama. "And we didn't receive any copy of it. The first

we are learning of it is when it gets approved at the Public Service Commission."

Half of the project will be in Macon County, and half in Barbour.

"It will provide power to the power grid, and it is not going to cost us any money," said Louis Maxwell, chair of the Macon County Commission. "Now, we have not seen a data center yet, that is a different thing."

Maxwell said he asked Alabama Power about the customers that the solar farm will serve, but the company did not provide that information. However, Alabama Power will compensate the coun-

ty to build the project within its jurisdiction, according to Maxwell.

Maxwell did not say the amount but directed the Alabama Reflector to contact county staff to answer the question. The Alabama Reflector reached out to Macon County officials for additional information.

According to the Alabama Power website, Macon County is expected to receive about \$27 million in revenue from the project over 20 years, or an average of about \$1.35 million a year. Bullock will get \$56 million in revenue, an average of \$2.8 million annually.



The BACK PAGE

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

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Another successful summer camp has come to a close at the BMC Wellness Center, where young athletes recently spent the week building basketball skills, growing in confidence, and making lasting memories.

BMC Wellness announced that its Basketball Camp has officially wrapped up, celebrating a week filled with learning, encouragement, and plenty of hard work on and off the court.

Throughout the camp, participants focused on developing the fundamentals of the game while also learning the value of teamwork, perseverance, and supporting one another. As campers practiced new skills and challenged themselves each day, they also gained confidence that extends well beyond basketball.

Youth sports camps like this offer much more than athletic instruction. They provide children with opportunities to stay active



during the summer, develop discipline, build friendships, and learn important life lessons such as encouragement, respect, and determination. Those experiences often leave a lasting impact long after the final

whistle blows.

BMC Wellness extended a special thank you to Coach Jamesio Rhine for investing in each athlete throughout the week and for sharing his passion for the game with every camper.

The Wellness Center also expressed its appreciation to the parents who entrusted their children to the program, recognizing the important role families play in helping make these opportunities possible.

As another summer program comes to an end, BMC Wellness continues its commitment to providing opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles, personal growth, and community connections for

Bibb County families. For many of the young athletes who attended, the camp was about much more than basketball – it was a week of learning, laughter, and growing both on and off the court.

BMC HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER



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.



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.



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.

