

# Centreville Press

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## Pumpkins, Corn Mazes, and Family Fun at Griffin Farms

BY CANDACE JOHNSON  
REPORTER

Griffin Farms is a pumpkin patch like no other. Not only are they a family-run farm, but they take pride in being the only pumpkin patch in West Blocton. They are located at 826 Griffin Road, West Blocton, AL, 35184. "From the moment you arrive; we want you to feel like part of our farm family. With activities for all ages—like our corn maze, wagon rides, zipline, and petting zoo—we're proud to offer something unique right here in West Blocton that brings the whole community together," Manager Lindsey Griffin

said.

Griffin Farms is well known in Bibb County, and it is a favorite fall event for families. The farm is open every Saturday and Sunday in October. Visitors typically enjoy the fall festival element, with food vendors, crafts, and farm activities. "It has become a tradition for many visitors. We love seeing families return year after year, making it part of their fall memories," Griffin said.

Griffin Farms wouldn't be a pumpkin patch without pumpkins, and a fun fact is that they are sourced locally from farmers. The best pumpkins are

then brought in and turned into illuminating Jack-o'-lanterns.

Griffin says that the family does oversee growing the popular corn maze and sunflower patch and getting it ready each year. They are also popular among schools in Bibb County, as many field trips have been scheduled there. Lindsey says that the farm enjoys partnering with schools, field trips, churches, and local businesses who want to support community events. "These partnerships help us extend the joy of the season and create meaningful connections beyond the farm," Griffin

stated.

When asked what her favorite part was, Lindsey said that she loves seeing families enjoy themselves and make lasting memories. "There's nothing better than watching kids run through the corn maze, parents snap photos in the pumpkin patch, and grandparents enjoy the day right alongside them," Griffin said. Lindsey says that being able to create a relaxing environment where people can appreciate nature and have a nice outing is what makes it all worth it.



## Miss Cahaba Lily's 2nd Annual Tackle Hunger Campaign Unites Rivals for a Common Cause

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

When it comes to Friday night lights, few things stir up local pride quite like the rivalry between West Blocton High School (WBHS) and Bibb County High School (BCHS). But for the second year in a row, that same spirited competition has been transformed into something even more powerful — a force for good in the community.

Miss Cahaba Lily 2025, Kyleigh Hood, has officially kicked off the 2nd Annual Tackle Hunger in Bibb County campaign, an initiative that brings both schools together in the fight against hunger. Hood, who wears her crown with both grace and grit, is continuing the mission started

last year: using school pride and healthy rivalry to help feed local families in need.

Rather than focusing on competition's sake, Hood's goal this year was to remind both schools that the heart of the rivalry can be used for something greater — showing love to the community and ensuring that no one in Bibb County goes hungry.

From Monday, September 29 through Thursday, October 2, students at both WBHS and BCHS were invited to drop off canned goods and nonperishable items at designated Tackle Hunger stations at their schools. Community members were encouraged to join the effort as well by sending donations with stu-



dents. Each can contribute to help move their school closer to victory — and closer to making a tangible impact in their own backyard.

The competition culminated on Friday, October 3, when the two schools faced off in their highly anticipated football game at Bibb County High School. Before kickoff, the winner of the Tackle Hunger Trophy was an-

nounced. This year's bragging rights went to the WBHS Tigers, who proudly took home the 2025 Tackle Hunger Trophy after collecting the most donations.

In total, the two schools gathered an impressive 1,095 food items — each one representing a small act of kindness, teamwork, and generosity. The campaign once again highlighted what can happen when friendly

competition is used as a catalyst for compassion.

The success of this year's campaign is a testament to the heart of Bibb County — where school pride runs deep, but love for the community runs even deeper. Both WBHS and BCHS students demonstrated that rivalries don't have to divide; they can unite, inspire, and create lasting impact when focused on a shared goal.

For those who attended the pregame festivities, the energy was electric — not just because of the upcoming matchup, but because of the sense of togetherness in the stands. Parents, teachers, and students alike cheered not only for touchdowns but for teamwork in action.

Community members have already expressed excitement to see how the campaign will grow in future years, and organizers hope the annual Tackle Hunger event becomes a lasting Bibb County tradition. As Hood continues her reign as Miss Cahaba Lily, her leadership and passion for service are shining examples of how young people can use their platforms to make a real difference.

At the end of the day, the 2nd Annual Tackle Hunger in Bibb County campaign proved that even in the most spirited rivalries, compassion wins. When schools, students, and neighbors come together for a greater purpose, everyone walks away a champion.



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NEWS

Moundville Public Boat Ramp Temporarily Closes for Renovation

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) will temporarily close the Moundville Public Boat Ramp for renovations on Monday, October 13, 2025. The facility provides boating and fishing access to the Warrior River 1 mile north of Moundville, Alabama.

During the closure the launching slab will be replaced. The new launching slab will be reoriented to allow for easier loading and unloading of boats. The ramp's new position will also reduce the likelihood of damage from larger vessels on the river. The improvements are expected to be completed in approximately three months. A reopening date will be announced when available.

Funding for this project was provided through the Sport Fish Restoration Pro-

gram, which is supported through excise taxes on the sale of outboard motor fuel, fishing equipment and the sale of Alabama fishing licenses. Additional funding was provided by Innovate Alabama, a statewide public-private partnership focused on entrepreneurship, technology and innovation with a mission to help businesses grow roots in Alabama.

For more information about this and other public boating access areas provided by ADCNR, visit <https://boatramps.dcnr.alabama.gov> or call the WFF Fisheries Section at (334) 242-3471. ADCNR promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through four divisions: Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Learn more at [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com).

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

– Mark 12:31

Together, let's make West Blocton a better community:

Each month for a year, one random neighbor will win a large pizza from The BLOcton Sports Grill.

Because in a world that can feel cruel, we believe kindness and good neighbors can make West Blocton shine brighter.

**THE BLOCTON SPORTS GRILL**

We are **WEST BLOCTON**

The BLOC's "Love Your Neighbor" Campaign Highlights Small-Town Kindness in West Blocton

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

By Savannah Logan

The BLOcton Sports Grill in West Blocton has once again found a creative way to celebrate what makes small-town living special: kindness, connection, and community. With its new "Love Your Neighbor" campaign, the beloved local restaurant is inviting residents to join together in spreading joy — one pizza at a time.

Inspired by Mark 12:31, which reads, "Love your neighbor as yourself," The BLOcton Sports Grill launched the campaign to remind the community of what matters most — caring for one another. Each month for an entire year, one nominated West Blocton resident will win a free large pizza, simply for being a kind and uplifting presence in the community. The restaurant encourages residents to nominate someone they feel embodies that spirit of neighborly love, continuing a cycle of recognition and gratitude that extends far beyond their dining room.

The "We Are West Blocton" Facebook post introducing the campaign reads, "Together, let's make West Blocton a better community," followed by a message that captures the heart of the mission: "Because in a world that can feel cruel, we believe kindness and good neighbors can make West Blocton shine brighter."

The campaign's very first winner was none other than Mrs. Cheryl Rice, a woman they described as "an inspiration to everyone." In honor of her kindness, Rice received a free large pizza of her choice. The post celebrating her win quickly filled with congratulatory comments and affirmations from community members who agreed that Rice's generous heart and joyful spirit make her a fitting first recipient.

For many in Bibb County, gestures like this serve as a reminder of what makes places like West Blocton so special. In a time when so much of the world feels fast-paced and impersonal, small-town life offers something refreshingly different. It's a place where people wave as they pass by, where neighbors check in on one another after storms, and where local businesses like The BLOcton Sports Grill become an extension of home.

The BLOcton Sports Grill has become more than just a place to grab a good meal — it's a pillar of the community, known for its warm hospitality and for finding meaningful ways to give back. Over the years, the restaurant has hosted fundraisers, support-

ed local events, and created spaces for families and friends to come together. The "Love Your Neighbor" campaign is simply the latest example of how the team at The BLOcton continues to live out their values in practical, heartfelt ways.

For owner and staff alike, the goal isn't just about food; it's about connection. Their hope is that the campaign will not only reward kindness but inspire it — that as residents see their neighbors celebrated, they'll be encouraged to spread that same love throughout the community.

In a world that often highlights what divides people, initiatives like "Love Your Neighbor" stand as a testament to the power of unity. Small acts of generosity can have big ripple effects, especially in towns like West Blocton, where everyone knows your name and your presence makes a difference.

As the campaign continues, one pizza at a time, The BLOcton Sports Grill is proving that love really is the secret ingredient to a strong community. It's a reminder that when businesses and neighbors come together with open hearts, they can make even an ordinary Tuesday feel a little brighter — and that's something worth celebrating.

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News  
By Brenda Hubbard

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Mary “TooToo” Medders who passed away on September 23, 2025. Funeral services were held on Monday September 29 at Centreville Baptist Church in Lawley, Alabama. Burial followed at Pineland Memorial Cemetery. Too Too will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Sympathy also goes out to the family of Faye Brazier, who passed away on September 20, 2025. Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 27 at 1pm at Rocko funeral home. Faye will be missed by her family and friends.

Among those having birthdays in October are Lois Skaggs, Amanda O’Neal, Judy Elliot, Whitney Clinner, Terry Mayfield, Marie Hobson, Brian MacDonald and Mary Jane Clements and Hannah Pate.

Aniversary wishes go out to Les and Susan Parker Williams, who recently celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Louise Lovelady, age 101, who passed away on September 23, 2025. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, September 30, at Rehobeth Baptist Church in Lawley, Alabama. Burial followed at Rehobeth Baptist Church Cemetery. Ms Louise will be greatly missed.

A speedy recovery goes out to Jonette McCool Ross, who recently underwent surgery.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Erskine “Pete” Stewart, who passed away on September, 30, 2025. Services were held on October 4 at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Heiberger with burial at Heiberger Methodist Church Cemetery. Pete will be missed greatly by family and friends.

A speedy recovery goes out to Raymond Magouirk, who recently returned home from the hospital.

If you have news, call it in at 205-316-1181, take care and God Bless.

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

Monday, October 6, 2025 @ 5:00 P.M.

The Town Council of the Town of Woodstock, Alabama met in a Regular Council Meeting at the Town Hall on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. A quorum being present: Mayor Jeff Dodson called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Dodson. The following Council Members were present: Kellie Parks, Ernestine Johnson and Don Bowling. Council Members Ronnie Kinard and Lee Mears were absent. Town Attorney Boozer Downs, Police Chief Len Price and Director of Library and Media Services Michele Dickey were also present.

I. COUNCIL APPROVAL:

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the September 15, 2025 minutes as previously submitted by email. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ernestine Johnson and the motion so carried.

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the following continuing education travel expenses:

Conference / Travel Expenses – Tiffney McCulley \$485.16

Conference / Travel Expenses – Judith Ruiz \$373.80

Conference / Travel Expenses – Carla Smotherman \$107.82

Motion was seconded by Council Member Don Bowling and the motion so carried.

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the following invoices for Park & Recreation: Coca-Cola – Concessions \$798.26

US Foods – Concessions \$1,010.95

Motion was seconded by Council Member Ernestine Johnson and the motion so carried.

II. MAYOR’S REPORT (cont’d.)

C. First Financial Bank Certificate of Deposit

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to renew the Certificate of Deposit with First Financial Bank for a 13-month period at the rate of 3.75%. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dodson or Mayor Pro Tem Ernestine Johnson are authorized to sign on behalf of the town.

D. West Alabama Regional Commission Title III Contract

Council Member Ernestine Johnson made the motion to approve the West Alabama Regional Commission Title III Contract. The motion was seconded by Council Member Don Bowling and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Court Clerk Interim Contractor

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to continue the services of the Court Clerk Interim Contractor on scheduled court dates and on an as-needed basis. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the motion carried unanimously.

F. 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe / Minimum Bid Amount (govdeals.com)

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to lower the minimum bid amount to \$3,500.00 for the 2014 Tahoe on govdeals.com. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were heard.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council at this time, Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to adjourn at 5:21 P.M. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

# STOP

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WEST BLOCTON TOWN COUNCIL  
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

Minutes of Regular Meeting Monday, September 15, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of West Blocton, Alabama met in a Regular Council Meeting at the Municipal Building on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:00pm. A quorum being present, Mayor Daniel Sims called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Prayer was led by Glenn Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Blane Sherron. Roll was called by Town Clerk Brandy Fancher.

Present: Fred Lynch, Glenn Johnson, Blane Sherron, Kristen Nash

Absent: Holly Barnett

Mayor Notes:

- Mrs. Barbara Smith has resigned as the West Blocton Public Library president.
- Mayor Sims has discussed the town's Dilapidated Structure Ordinance with our town Attorney. It is recommended that we obtain a building inspector to start enforcing. A list of previous structures was presented to the council, and each council member will be reaching out to the property owners that are in their district.

New Business:

I. New Town of West Blocton SEAL/ LOGO was presented. This was drawn by Jeremy Davis and will be voted on at next council meeting.

Council Approval:

Previous Council Meeting Minutes 9-1-2025

Council member Blane Sherron made the motion to approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes for 9-1-2025. Motion was seconded by Council member Glenn Johnson. All in favor and motion so carried.

July 2025 Financials

Council member Kristen Nash. made the motion to approve the July 2025 Financials. Motion was seconded by Council member Glenn Johnson. All in favor and motion so carried

Pay Monthly Bills

Council member Glenn Johnson made the motion to approve payment of monthly bills. Motion was seconded by Council member Kristen Nash. All in favor and motion so carried

Pay Increase for Water Employee Jermaine Caddell

Roll Call Vote was used to approve a \$1.00 an hour pay increase for Jermaine Caddell. This will put him at the max for laborer. Council Member Fred Lynch-YES

Council Member Glenn Johnson-YES

Council Member Blane Sherron- YES

Council member Kristen Nash- YES All in favor and motion so carried.

Citizens to Speak - None

There being no further business to come before the Town Council at this time, Council Member Blane Sherron made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn Johnson. All in favor and motion so carried.



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Ghostly Legends Linger at Old Bibb County

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE  
REPORTER

Centreville, Ala. — Ask longtime Bibb County residents about the most haunted spot in the county, and chances are they'll point to the Old Bibb County Jail. Though the building itself has been torn down, its ghostly reputation remains one of the most chilling tales in local history.

The jail, built in 1910, once stood as a fortress of law and order in downtown Centreville. Over the decades, it housed countless inmates and was even the site of executions, with the last one reported in 1949. After falling out of use in the early 2000s, the building sat empty, its barred windows and crumbling halls drawing the curious and the brave.

Stories soon spread of strange happenings inside the abandoned structure. Paranormal investigators reported unexplained noises, flickering lights, and even shadowy figures

moving through the old cells. Some locals claimed they could feel a heavy presence lingering in the upstairs corridors, as though the spirits of former inmates never left.

The Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group spent a night inside and came away convinced something haunted the jail. They described eerie footsteps, sudden temperature drops, and equipment that spiked with activity in areas known for past tragedies.

Although the jail was demolished in recent years, its legend lives on. Around Halloween, it's not uncommon to hear tales of ghostly cries or phantom footsteps near the site.

Whether you believe in spirits or not, the Old Bibb County Jail remains Bibb County's most famous haunted landmark—a reminder that history, once written, can sometimes refuse to stay silent.

Alabama Health Care and the Big Beautiful Bill  
Opinion by Robert Bentley, MD



Share of Economic Development Incentives to Healthcare

Each year, Alabama spends hundreds of millions of dollars recruiting new plants and industries. While valuable, healthcare investments create more jobs per dollar and benefit every county in the state. By directing a portion of economic development incentives into healthcare recruitment, training, and infrastructure, we can bring doctors, nurses, and emergency workers to rural areas, strengthen hospitals, and make healthcare a driver of Alabama's economic growth.

4. Leverage Federal Innovation Opportunities

The Big Beautiful Bill allows states to propose innovative solutions for rural healthcare. Alabama can lead the way by presenting programs like telemedicine networks, advanced emergency transport, and workforce incentive models. With the right proposals, we can attract additional federal funding to expand and sustain these improvements statewide.

5. Address Medicare Payments to Alabama

The number one issue that we have in Alabama that keeps us from improving the quality of rural health care, as well as health care in general around the state, is the fact that Medicare pays hospitals and Providers the least amount of any state in the country, based on the wage index.

Because Alabama is a lower-wage state, our reimbursements remain artificially suppressed. Hospitals and providers in Alabama are paid less for the exact same procedures performed in other states, even though the cost of equipment, supplies, and operations is just as high here. This inequity makes it harder to recruit and retain healthcare professionals and puts additional strain on rural hospitals already fighting to survive.

This main issue needs to be addressed by both our congressional delegation as well as our state leaders. This plan is about more than hospitals. It is about protecting families, saving lives, and securing the future of every Alabama community. With these steps, we can turn the challenges of the Big Beautiful Bill into an opportunity for Alabama to lead the nation in rural healthcare innovation. Most importantly, this approach will strengthen all five of Alabama's major tertiary hubs—Birmingham, Mobile, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Dothan—ensuring that our entire state benefits from a coordinated, modern healthcare system.

Robert Bentley, MD

Robert Bentley served as 53rd Governor of the Great State of Alabama. He has practiced medicine for 57 years as a Physician. Dr. Bentley is the founder of Great State Inc, a non-profit foundation dedicated to providing free medical care in underserved communities.



The recently passed Big Beautiful Bill has many important provisions that will help states across the country. It represents a step forward in addressing national needs, and it contains some very good elements. At the same time, certain provisions will have an unintended negative impact on Alabama's health care system. These impacts will be felt most strongly in our rural areas, where hospitals are already closing and where access to timely emergency care is increasingly limited. We need strategic planning now to take advantage of our tax dollars. As someone who has served this state as both governor and as a physician, I believe these five strategies will best serve our state.

1. Create 12 to 15 Rural Medical Emergency Centers

These centers will be strategically located in existing rural hospitals across Alabama. They will be well-equipped with up-to-date devices and services to handle all medical emergencies—from heart attacks to

trauma, strokes, and severe illnesses. Their primary purpose will be to stabilize patients quickly and then transport them, once stable, to tertiary medical centers in Birmingham, Mobile, Huntsville, Montgomery, or Dothan for advanced care. This model ensures that every Alabamian, no matter where they live, has access to life-saving emergency treatment within reach.

2. Take Advantage of Untapped Federal Medicaid Dollars

Alabama is one of ten states that has not accessed billions in Medicaid funds already available to us. By bringing these dollars home, we can provide coverage for nearly 300,000 people in the coverage gap, reduce uncompensated care that burdens hospitals, and stabilize rural facilities.

This is not an expansion of government, but a responsible step to reclaim Alabama's own federal tax dollars to benefit our people.

3. Dedicate a

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Bibbville Baptist Woodstock 938-2015	Shady Grove Baptist Randolph 366-1163	New Hope A.M.E West Blocton 540-8016
Brent Baptist Brent 926-7687	Shady Grove II Baptist West Blocton 938-0120 Pastor 834-2557	Tabernacle United Methodist Lawley
Cahaba Valley Baptist Centreville 926-5927	Shiloh Baptist Centreville 926-7041	Waymon Chapel A.M.E Brierfield 205-665-4730
Calvary Baptist Centreville 926-4079	Six Mile Baptist Brierfield	West Scottsville United Methodist Church North Scottsville Road 451-3624
Camp Branch Baptist Church 2590 Camp Branch Rd West Blocton	Smith Hill Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	<b>NAZARENE</b> Ridgeville Church Of The Nazarene Brent
Cedar Grove Baptist West Blocton 938-0828	Thomas Mill Baptist Centreville 926-6882	Spencer Church Of The Naz- arene Brent
Centreville Baptist Centreville 926-7069	Union Baptist Church 722 Magnolia St West Blocton	<b>PENTECOSTAL</b> New Life West Blocton Pastor Greg Brock 205.441.2809
Community Baptist Centreville	West Blocton First Baptist 938-7392	First United Pentecostal Church of Centreville
Deer Creek Missionary Baptist Church Centreville 225-0460	<b>BIBLE</b> Grace Bible Woodstock 938-7763	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> Brent Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4722
Ebenzer Baptist Church Brierfield 665-4865	<b>CATHOLIC</b> Church Of The Holy Spirit Tuscaloosa 553-9733	Centreville First Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4261
Enon Baptist Centreville 926-4517	St. Thomas The Apostle Church Montevallo 663-3936	Green Pond Presbyterian Presbyterian Church Rd 205-938-2344
Eoline Baptist Eoline 926-7448	<b>CHRISTIAN</b> Marvel Christian Union Montevallo 345-7018	Pleasant Hill Upper Cumber- land Presbyterian Church Centreville 926-4409
Faith Baptist West Blocton 938-7220	<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> Centreville Church Of Christ 926-LOVE	<b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b> First Brent Seventh Day Ad- ventist 926-6328
First Baptist Church of Woodstock 205-938-7479	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788	<b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Fellowship Community 926-6800
Four Points Baptist Centreville 926-7775	Caffee Junction Church Of God 205-477-5468	Scottsville Union Church Co. Rd. 9 Scottsville 205-503-6096
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Johntown Baptist West Blocton 938-7621	<b>CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> 2300 South Scottsville Rd Centreville 926-5393	God's House of Prayer 489 Co. Rd. 162 (Heiberger) Marion, AL 36756 334-683-4933 Every Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Liberty Baptist West Blocton 938-2090	<b>EPISCOPAL</b> The Church Of The Holy Comforter Montevallo 665-2769	Sandy Chapel Community Church 926-4934
Liberty Baptist Duncanville 759-9647 / 759- 4074	St. Andrews Episcopal Church 925 Plowman Street Montevallo 665-1667	
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# "Just As I Am"

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE  
REPORTER

Few hymns have touched as many hearts or carried as much meaning as “Just As I Am.” Written nearly two centuries ago, this timeless song has become a staple of church services, revivals, and especially altar calls around the world. The words were penned in 1835 by Charlotte Elliott, an English poet and hymn writer. Elliott’s life was marked by illness and frailty; she often felt useless and unworthy because of her poor health. In one moment of deep spiritual struggle, she was reminded that Christ’s love was not

based on what she could offer or achieve, but on His grace alone. Out of that assurance came the hymn’s powerful message: that anyone may come to Christ, without pretense, “just as I am.” The hymn was first published in Elliott’s The Invalid’s Hymn Book and quickly gained popularity. The tune most often associated with the text was composed by William B. Bradbury in 1849, further cementing the hymn’s place in Christian worship. Over the years, “Just As I Am” became especially well known through the ministry of evangelist Billy Graham, who used

it as the invitation hymn at his crusades. Thousands of people made their way to the altar while its familiar lines were sung, reinforcing its role as a hymn of surrender and new beginnings. Today, nearly 200 years after its writing, “Just As I Am” continues to carry the same simple but profound message: that God’s invitation is for all, no matter their condition, their past, or their doubts. As Charlotte Elliott expressed so clearly, we don’t have to fix ourselves before coming to Christ. We come with empty hands—and He does the rest.



# The Blessing of Waiting

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” — Psalm 27:14  
Waiting is one of the hardest things we are called to do in life. We live in a world of instant answers, quick fixes, and fast results. Yet, God often calls us to seasons of waiting—waiting for prayers to be answered, waiting for direction, waiting for healing, waiting for doors to open. In the waiting, our faith is tested. It can

feel like silence, like God has forgotten, or like nothing is happening. But the truth is, waiting is not wasted time. In Scripture, every season of waiting had purpose. Abraham waited decades for the promised son. Joseph waited years in prison before stepping into his calling. The disciples waited in the upper room until the Spirit of God came upon them. Waiting refines us. It teaches us to trust God’s timing over our own. It strengthens

patience and builds endurance. Most importantly, waiting draws us closer to the heart of God, as we learn that His presence is better than any outcome we long for. If you find yourself in a season of waiting, don’t see it as a delay or punishment. See it as an invitation to lean into God’s promises. He is working behind the scenes in ways you cannot see. His timing is perfect, and His plans are good.

# Plain & Simple Classic Homemade Chili

## Ingredients:

- 2 lbs ground beef (or ground turkey)
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (15 oz) cans kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (15 oz) can black beans, drained and rinsed (optional)
- 2 (14.5 oz) cans diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz) can tomato sauce
- 2–3 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper (optional, for heat)
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 cup beef broth (or water)

## Instructions:

1. In a large pot or Dutch oven, cook the ground beef over medium heat until browned. Drain excess grease.
2. Add onion, bell pepper, and garlic. Cook 5 minutes until softened.
3. Stir in chili powder, cumin, paprika, cayenne, salt, and black pepper. Let spices toast for 1–2 minutes.
4. Add beans, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, and beef broth. Stir well.
5. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for at least 30 minutes (the longer, the better—up to 2 hours). Stir occasionally.
6. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed.



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**BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION POSITION  
FULL TIME SHERIFF'S DEPUTY**

**DEPUTY SHERIFF-** The Bibb County Sheriff's Department is seeking a full time Deputy to enforce the laws of Bibb County and the State of Alabama. The successful applicant will need to have a high school degree and must meet all state minimum standards for law enforcement officers. Applicants must possess a valid Alabama driver's license and be insurable under County insurance coverage. Beginning salary is \$22.00/hr. The position also offers a benefit package.

Application may be obtained at the Bibb County Commission Office located at 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville, AL 35042. Applications will be accepted until Friday, October 17th, 2025. If additional information is needed, please call 205-926-3114. Bibb County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION POSITION  
FULL TIME SHERIFF'S OFFICE CLERK**

**Minimum Requirements:** Must be at least 18 years of age and must possess a high school diploma/GED or equivalent. Prior clerical experience is preferred.

**Description:** Sheriff's office clerk primarily handles administrative tasks including but not limited to answering phone calls, greeting visitors, managing files, processing paperwork related to arrests and investigations, maintaining records, collecting payments, providing basic information to the public, all while adhering to legal procedures and maintaining confidentiality within the sheriff's office. Other duties may include basic accounting, managing and ordering office supplies, distributing mail, and other duties specified by the Sheriff. The pay range will depend on experience. This position offers a benefit package.

Application may be obtained at the Bibb County Commission Office located at 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville, AL 35042. Applications will be accepted until Friday, October 17th, 2025. If additional information is needed, please call 205-926-3114. Bibb County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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BIBB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

VS. WEST BLOCTON

PHOTOS BY BRIDGET STOKES

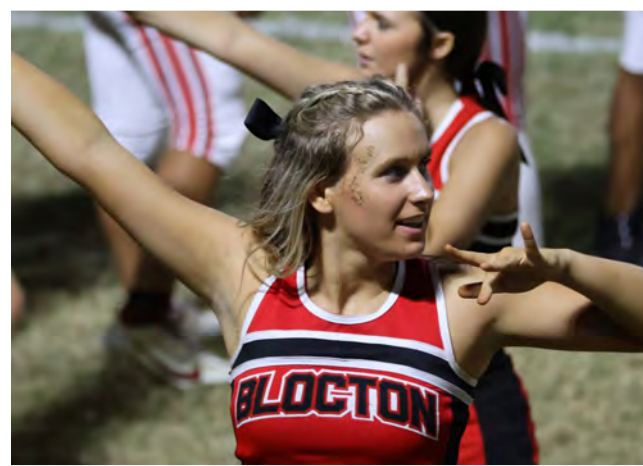




**WEST BLOCTON HIGH SCHOOL**

**VS. BIBB COUNTY**

PHOTOS BY KANDI SMITH





The BACK PAGE

Witches Take Flight: New Halloween Tradition Takes Over Main Street

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

This Halloween, something magical is brewing in West Blocton. On October 31, 2025, the Witches of West Blocton will take their inaugural flight down Main Street as part of the town's beloved Halloween on Main celebration. The new event — aptly named the Witches of West Blocton Ride — is set to bring a fresh wave of fun, creativity, and community spirit to one of the most anticipated nights of the year.

Organized as a family-friendly, festive addition to the annual Halloween festivities, the event invites witches of all kinds to don their most imaginative costumes and glide down Main Street on bicycles, tricycles, or while pulling wagons filled with candy and cheer. Participants will toss goodies to on-lookers as they make their way down Main Street, transforming the evening into a whimsical parade of laughter, lights, and lo-

cal charm. The event captures everything small-town life does best — neighbors connecting, traditions forming, and community spirit at the heart of it all.

The Witches Ride is open to participants ages 16 and older who are ready to join the fun on bikes, brooms, or two feet and a wagon. According to event organizers, “Children under 16 years of age are not allowed to participate in the ride even if they are in strollers, wagons, or walking. They may watch with spectators only.” While younger residents will have to enjoy the fun from the sidelines, there will be plenty of excitement for them to take in as the witches soar by, tossing candy and spreading Halloween joy.

This year's Witches Take Flight schedule is packed with festive energy from start to finish. Check-in runs from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. at the tent located where Magnolia Street meets Main Street. Riders should

arrive with their bikes or wagons, costumes, and registration confirmation email. Each participant will receive a wristband and a t-shirt if preordered. Organizers emphasize the importance of arriving early, as parking downtown will be limited and Main Street will be closed to cars from the Tiger Hut to Truman Aldrich for both Halloween on Main and the Witches Ride.

At 6:15 p.m., all participants will line up, and by 6:30 p.m., the witches will officially “take flight.” The parade route will carry riders through the heart of downtown, where crowds are expected to gather for what promises to be a new highlight of the holiday season.

Safety and creativity are top priorities for the event. All participants must be registered and have signed a waiver before riding. Costumes should be witch-inspired — fun, festive, or spooky — but they must also be family-friendly and allow for clear vision and

movement. Footwear is required, reflective gear is strongly encouraged, and reckless riding is strictly prohibited. Riders must remain on the designated route, maintain a safe pace, and refrain from using alcohol or illegal substances before or during the event.

Organizers have also made the event inclusive for participants with mobility concerns, welcoming manual or power wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, and other manually powered aids. However, gas-powered vehicles, ATVs, golf carts, motorized scooters, one-wheels, homemade floats, and skateboards are prohibited.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared with “LOTS of throws for young and old alike!” and to check their costumes to ensure nothing interferes with bicycle or tricycle spokes. Straps are recommended for hats to help them stay in place during the ride. Those who want to make the experience



even more memorable can “grab your closest witches and form a coven with a group theme,” the website suggests.

More than just a parade, the Witches of West Blocton Ride is an invitation to connect — with friends, with neighbors, and with the joy of a shared celebration. It's a chance for the community to come together, to laugh, to create, and to begin a new tradition that will no doubt grow year after year.

Whether riding,

cheering, or simply soaking in the magic, residents of West Blocton can expect this Halloween night to be one to remember.

For more information about registration, rules, and event details, visit <https://westbloctonwitchesride.my.canva.site/witchesride-website/#home> or contact organizers at [westbloctontownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:westbloctontownclerk@gmail.com), [cindyleawallace64@gmail.com](mailto:cindyleawallace64@gmail.com), or by phone at (205) 938-7622, (251) 223-3783, or (205) 913-3295.

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LIVER HEALTHY RECIPE

Ingredients

- ½ cup fresh or frozen (thawed) corn
- Olive oil
- ½ cup minced red onion
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- ½ cup black beans fresh or canned (low sodium)
- 2 teaspoons lime juice
- 2 whole wheat tortillas
- ¾ cup low-fat mozzarella (3 ounces)
- 1 tablespoon minced pickled jalapeños (optional)

Instructions

- **Cook the corn:** Heat a nonstick skillet, add corn, and cook until kernels begin to brown. Transfer to a bowl.
- **Make the filling:** In the same skillet, heat olive oil and sauté onion, garlic, and chili powder until fragrant. Stir in beans and corn, lightly mash, then add lime juice and season to taste.
- **Prepare the tortillas:** Toast each tortilla in the skillet until soft slightly browned.
- **Assemble:** Add cheese, corn-bean mixture, and optional jalapeños to half of each tortilla. Fold and lightly brush with olive oil.
- **Cook:** Pan-fry until crisp and golden on both sides. Slice and serve warm.

Nutrition Serving Size: 1

- Calories – 301
- Total Fat – 11g
- Saturated Fat – 3g
- Carbs – 38g
- Sugar – 5g
- Protein – 14g

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