

Good News

LINCOLN COUNTY 2020

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of gratitude,
humility, and
walking
through
trying times.

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Celebrating

17

other stories of
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Table of Contents

10	Ice Cream Man <i>Matt Davidson</i>	36	Dancing in the Rain <i>Starr Mason</i>
12	Superheroes Among Us <i>Crystal Guess</i>	40	A Reason to Believe <i>Ann Hatcher</i>
16	For the Sake of Unity <i>Tina Posey</i>	44	Clothing with a Deeper Purpose <i>Laura Mayer</i>
18	There's Still Hope for America <i>Josh Ogle</i>	46	A Good Word <i>Charlie Cannon</i>
20	A Special Touch <i>Tina Osgood</i>	48	Growing a Community <i>James T. Cox</i>
24	All the World is a Stage <i>Sara Jo Pierce</i>	52	A Servant's Heart <i>Susan Arrick</i>
28	You've Got a Friend <i>Dora Barnes</i>	52	A Powerful Story of Transformation <i>Jackie Netherland Wright</i>
32	A Voice for the Community <i>Dorothy Small</i>	58	Tennessee's First Volunteers <i>Dr. Farris Beasley</i>
34	A Fayetteville Treasure <i>Eugene Ham</i>	62	Learning to Adapt <i>Brittany Barnett</i>

Good News

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A DIFFERENCE**



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is never cancelled.



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WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS

This magazine is the result of a collaborative effort by our team to make a positive impact during this odd year. In one way or another, everyone in our community has been affected by COVID-19. We will not forget how it has hurt our businesses and turned our personal lives upside down. On top of the pandemic, people have also had to deal with the curveballs life throws every day. With a collective understanding and empathy of the hardships we are all experiencing, we came up with the "Good News" magazine idea. We knew there were remarkable stories about individuals in our community. Through nominations made by our readers, we were able to discover those stories. The people featured in this magazine are making lasting impacts on our community. We salute them and offer our gratitude for making Lincoln County a better place through their contributions.



Will Thomas

WILL THOMAS

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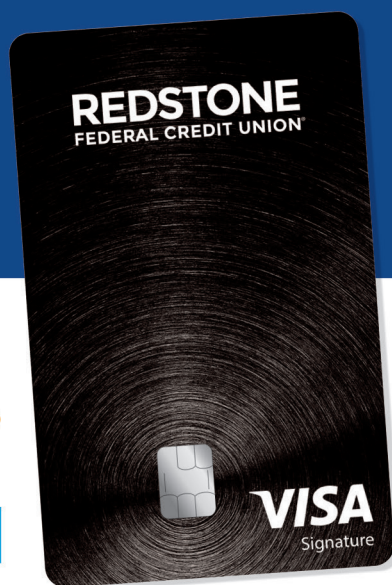
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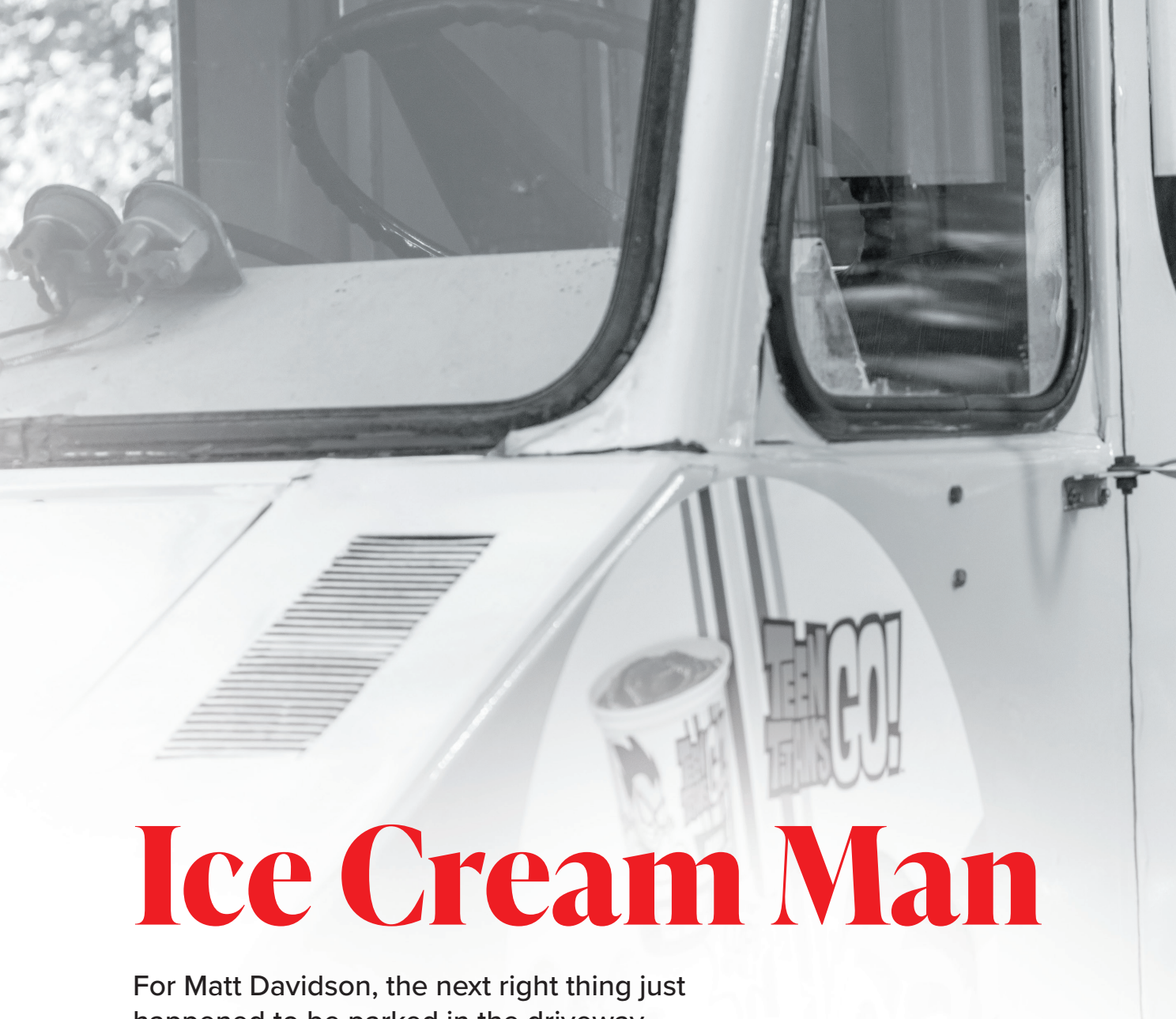
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Ice Cream Man

For Matt Davidson, the next right thing just happened to be parked in the driveway.

It's been less than a year since Matt Davidson's wife, Shea, came home with a classic ice cream truck. She had her eye on it for some time and when the previous owners were ready to part with it, she was the first in line. Matt didn't share her enthusiasm. When he pulled in the driveway after welding all day at an Aerospace shop in Huntsville, he would shake his head at the new addition that had claimed his parking spot. But then the pandemic hit, and he began to see things differently. Shea, a massage therapist, was suddenly out of work due to the restrictions of COVID-19. With some extra time on her hands, she decided to load up the kids and take the ice cream truck out for a run. "I was against it at first," Matt says. "But we had to keep the lights turned on. It was really the perfect scenario." Shea started making runs through Meridianville, Hazel Green, and the outskirts of Huntsville. When Matt got off work, Shea would go home with the kids and he would run the truck until late at night. "I didn't think much of it at first. We would just

run all we could," Matt says. They set up a Facebook page letting people know where the ice cream truck would be and before long they were receiving hundreds of messages a day.

Within a few weeks, Matt was running the truck full-time. But what surprised him most was the overwhelming support of the community. "It became a very spiritual experience for me," Matt says. "People would come up to the truck with a twenty-dollar bill and say 'We're proud of what you're doing, buy some kids some ice cream who can't afford it.'" The generosity of customers continued to happen again and again. Over the 4th of July, several people came up to the truck with cash in hand and paid for people in line behind them. One person would pay for \$50 worth of ice cream and then another person would pick it up again and pay for more. One afternoon he ended up in Elora after missing a birthday party due to an incorrect address. However, all was not lost. He checked



**“My story is don’t give up
and don’t think there’s not
good in the world.”**

MATT DAVIDSON

Proprietor, Chunky Monkey Ice Cream Truck

his messages and there was a request for him to come to Mimosa. He made a quick Facebook post and when he pulled into the parking lot of the Mimosa Church of Christ, there was a crowd of over one hundred people waiting for him and they had already formed a line. Upon seeing the crowd, he was overcome with feelings of happiness and gratitude. “All these people had come out to support me. The entire parking lot was full. I had to bite my lip to hold back the tears,” Matt says. “The outpouring of the community towards me, I don’t even have the vocabulary to describe it.”

In September, Matt will celebrate two years of sobriety. For most of his adult life, he has dealt with addiction and alcoholism. He knows what it feels like to hit rock bottom and it’s not a place where he wants to return. Through a blessing disguised as an ice cream truck, Matt has a new outlook on life, one full of hope and joy. “That’s the big thing about the ice cream truck, I’m dealing with children

every day. It’s kept me going,” he says. These days, Matt is somewhat of a celebrity. He is recognized by children everywhere. At his son’s ballgames, it’s not uncommon to hear the kids calling out to their friends that the Chunky Monkey is in the crowd.

Matt says that a year ago, you couldn’t have given him that ice cream truck, he had no use for it. But today, he’ll tell you that he will have that original ice cream truck until the day he dies to remind him of God’s blessing. “My story is don’t give up and don’t think there’s not good in the world.” And he’s right. Just wave down the ice cream truck and you’ll not only gain a new friend, but you’ll also meet a kind and patient man who genuinely wants to make your day better. And a little ice cream always helps.

Follow the Chunky Monkey Ice Cream Truck on Facebook for the latest information.

Superheroes Among Us

Through her work at Junior's House, Crystal Guess helps child abuse victims heal from the heartbreaking stories of their past and write new stories full of hope, happiness, and love.

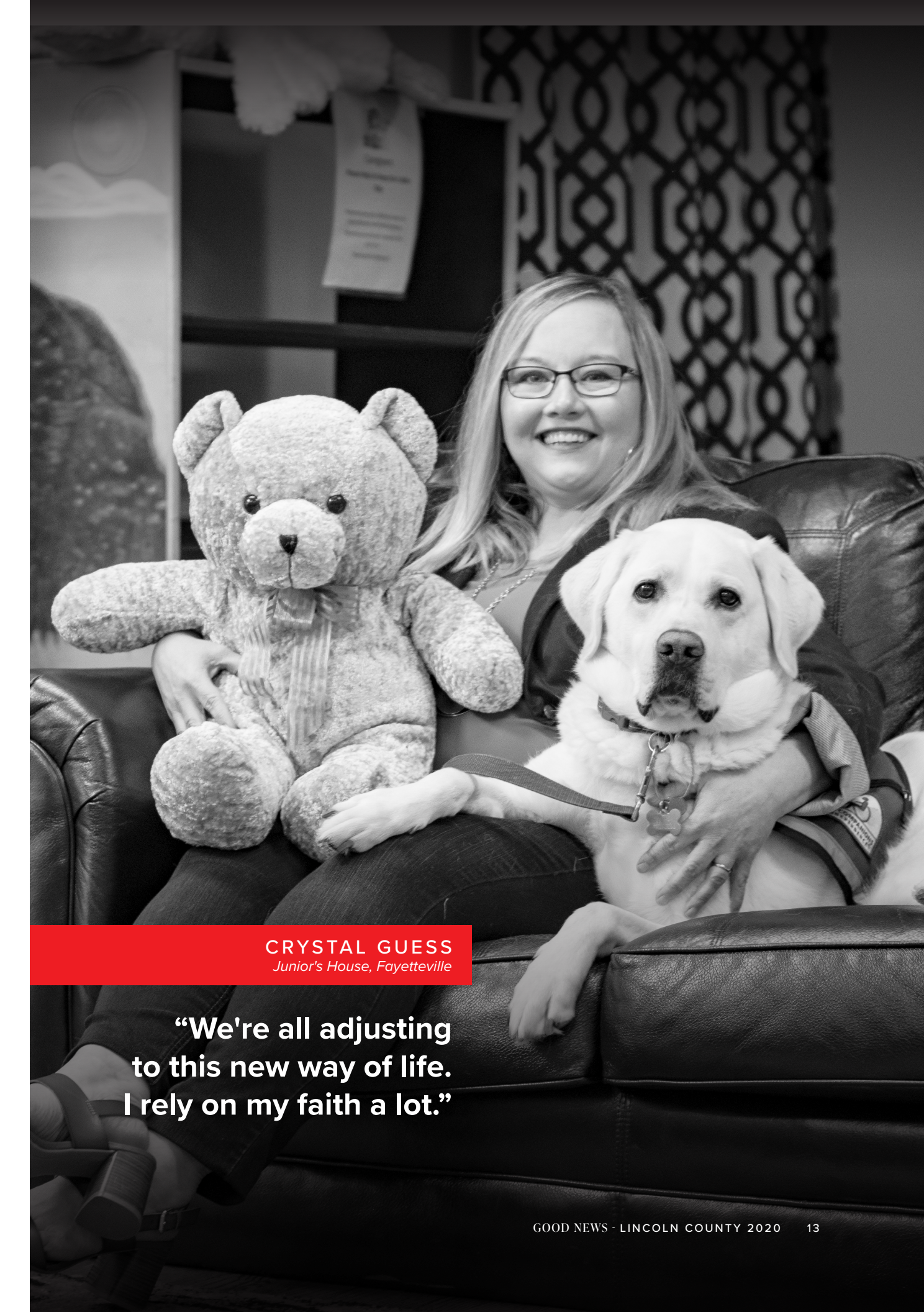
At Junior's House in Fayetteville, it's not uncommon to see a super-hero walking down the hall, clad in a cape and wielding a new-found power of self-esteem. These brave children are the reason Crystal Guess has spent the last two decades working with child abuse victims. In 2009, she came to Fayetteville to work with Junior's House, a non-profit organization that provides free services and advocacy to victims of child abuse and neglect. Throughout the years, Crystal has been a voice for those who haven't found their voice yet. She not only has a heart for children but she also believes in miracles. She knows from experience that things can get better, hearts and relationships can heal, and that a bright future awaits every child. It's a tall order, but with a heart as big as Crystal's, anything is possible.

"For me, it's the honor of my life to get to work with these children," Crystal says. "They're so strong, and so brave and still willing to love after someone they love has harmed them." When the children have completed their therapy, they often tour the office in super-hero capes as a testament to the bravery it took to share their stories and work through past traumas. Crystal and her colleagues at Junior's House also work with the children's families and help them learn to cope with difficult situations. The safe-

haven is a place where children find someone who cares about them, who believes them, will listen to their story, and provide the counseling and support they need.

To bring even more comfort to the children at Junior's House, Crystal sought out the opportunity to bring in a therapy dog. After spending two weeks in Orlando training at Canine Companions for Independence, Crystal came home with Allin, a loving and gentle dog who provides comfort, plays games, and greets everyone with a wagging tail.

Crystal acknowledges that even though the pandemic has had a negative impact there has also been a positive side. "It calls for us all to slow our lifestyles down a bit. To be at home and focus on things that are important in our lives that maybe we had shifted our attention from," she says. And in her household, the extra time at home has been put to good use. According to Crystal, her husband would say that she's become a constant home remodeler. Her son learned to ride his bike and her daughter has taken up sewing. "They've been able to focus on things they are interested in," she says. For others, she offers these words of encouragement, "Always keep trying to adapt and be patient with each other."



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Back Row Left to Right: Dorothy Small, Tonya Allen, Danny Bryant, Donna Hartman.
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TINA POSEY

*Proprietor, Merle Norman
Cosmetics Salon*

For the Sake of Unity

Tina Posey believes prayer can change the world and that there's no better place to start than in your own hometown.

On a Sunday afternoon in early Spring, a few neighbors set up their chairs in a front yard and prayed together. Tina Posey had organized the casual prayer meeting to create unity. What she didn't know then was that the small neighborhood gathering was just the beginning. As the threat of the pandemic increased, Tina decided it would be better for her neighbors to pray together at a designated time each week from the safety of their homes. She posted the time and date on Facebook and invited others to participate and reach out in their neighborhoods as well. But she didn't stop there.

"I strongly believe that prayer changes things."

Tina gave County Mayor Bill Newman a call and shared her vision of a community united in prayer. Mayor Newman wholeheartedly agreed that she was on to something good, and for the next several weeks the two communicated by phone about how to widen the reach, get people involved, and implement the grass-roots effort. "We spoke for about a month before we went forth with it," Tina says. "I would give him my ideas, he would give me his ideas. We would both think about it and then meet together again over the phone." Throughout the entire month of April, they worked out the details. On May 1st, both County Mayor Bill Newman and City Mayor Michael Whisenant signed proclamations that Wednesdays would officially be a day of Lincoln County CommUNITY Prayer.

The very next week after the proclamation was signed, Tina's business, Merle Norman Cosmetics Salon, which had been closed due to COVID, was allowed to reopen. "After a month of people not being able to get their hair cut, I was slammed," Tina says. At the same time, the community prayer day was continuing to gain momentum. "When it became a proclamation, people began to donate money to the cause," Tina says. To help get the word out, she had a few signs made and put them around the courthouse lawn. With additional donations, she purchased more signs and distributed them throughout the community. During a previous conversation, Mayor Newman had suggested to Tina that a short devotion be added to the prayer gathering. "I started calling different pastors and scheduling them. My goal was to have a different pastor from every church around our community lead a meeting," Tina says. The response from the local church leaders exceeded her expectations. Witnessing pastors from all different denominations coming together for the good of the community has been one of the highlights for Tina. The weekly services are now being live-streamed and recorded thanks to the generosity of Terri Lewis, who donates her time and the use of her video equipment.

With so much division going on in the world today, Tina's efforts to unite people and bring them back together is living proof that it only takes one person to bring about change. "I think people are realizing that yes, prayer can change things and prayer can bring us together in a more united way," Tina says.

The community prayer event takes place every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Fayetteville Square next to the gazebo. To watch the live stream follow @UNITYprayerwednesday on Facebook.



JOSH OGLE

Songwriter, musician, farmer

There's Still Hope for America

Josh Ogle pens a song with a timely message of hope.

Last April, at the onset of the pandemic, when things were looking pretty grim, Josh Ogle had a thought cross his mind, *There's still hope for America*. Being a songwriter, Josh wrote down the line. A short while later, he sat down at his piano and composed a song based on the line. He set it aside and didn't think much about it. Then the state of the country took a turn for the worse following the events that occurred over Memorial Day Weekend. Josh's song began to take on a whole new meaning. "We live in a land of promise, and with our faith in God, there's always hope, always has been, and always will be," Josh says.

Knowing it carried a timely message, Josh recorded the song with just him and the piano, and posted it on Facebook. He had such a great response that he decided to record it professionally with James Hudson at Coldwater Studio in Taft, TN. Several local musicians and vocalists joined him in the studio, including members of the local band Strangers With Friends. He also recruited the help of Don Counts to shoot and edit a video for the song. The result of the collaboration is a beautiful video that features some stunning views of Lincoln County. You can watch the video on YouTube. Just search for Josh Ogle "There's Still Hope for America."

Although Josh grew up singing in the choir, it wasn't until his senior year in high school that he started taking a deeper interest in music. "Something changed, and music struck a chord," Josh recalls. He has been making music ever since. "I love leading music. I love doing choir work." He has also been a big part of the Fabulous Fifties Show for the past ten years. In addition to performing at the Fifties show, he has also written many of the skits.

Music and farming go hand in hand for the Ogle Family. Most days, Josh can be found working on the family farm in Flintville, where they grow cotton, corn, soybeans, and wheat. "Farming is my full-time job. Music is a passion for me." Josh and his wife have three children, all of whom sing. His oldest son Levi, who is approaching eighteen, has been playing the guitar since he was eight years old. "The last six or seven years, he's really taken to it and plays every day," Josh says. Levi writes songs as well.

With over 1,000 shares on Facebook, Josh's song continues to touch people all over the world. Josh agrees that you have to look past the headlines to find something good. "Good news doesn't get reported that well. Deep down, it seems like there's an awakening in people who realize being divided is not part of America. There is hope out there. You just have to look for it."

*There's still hope for America to be all she can be
There's still promise is this land of the free
We must come together to help our fellow man
There's truth in "United we Stand"
There's still hope for America*

*People helping people is exactly what we need
With the heart of a volunteer no doubt
we will succeed
Now's the time to stand and join each other
hand in hand
It's up to us to do our part and fight for this land.*

— from Josh Ogle's "There's Still Hope for America."

A Special Touch

Whether it's a family gathering, a holiday, or a win for the girl's soccer team, for Tina Osgood, there is always a reason to celebrate.

Making things pretty comes easy for Tina Osgood. She does it every day. As the owner of Ivy Wreath Florist, she's in the business of adding that special touch to celebrations and creating a little holiday magic. "Having celebrations was always big in our family," Tina says. "It's something that's close to my heart. My mother was a huge Christmas fan and she loved to decorate for the holidays. My number one favorite holiday is Halloween."

Tina's family originally moved to Fayetteville in the '60s, when her dad went to work for NASA. She was in the first class to graduate from Lincoln County High School. After graduation, she moved back to Nashville for several years. In 2006, she returned to Fayetteville to help her grandmother and never left. In 2007, she decided she wanted to pursue her God-given talent arranging flowers and opened up a little flower shop on Fayetteville's downtown square.

Tina is a strong supporter of the school system in Lincoln County. "I love the schools. I grew up in the city and the county school system." She especially loves to encourage girls' sports in any way she can. "I love to see when young girls are getting into sports such as softball, soccer, or golf. When I was growing up, that wasn't an option." If she could, Tina would help every child she meets. "I don't want one child to be left out," Tina comments. Whether it's a child who can't afford a corsage or boutonniere for Homecoming or decorating ornaments for pre-K kids, she is quick to lend a helping hand.

Tina's all-time favorite organization that she gives to every year is the Imagination Library. "To get a book into a child's hands means everything." At the shop, she hosts a Dr. Seuss Day and donates a portion of the sales income to the Imagination Library. "With my mom and my grandmother both being teachers, it means so much to me." Tina's grandfather was also very involved with the schools and served twice as superintendent of Lincoln County High School.

"I was always taught to love my community and help the people in my community."

The Lincoln County Senior Center holds a special place in Tina's heart as well. "We love Sam Freeman, the director of the senior center. She gives so much to the community." Every year for the Valentine's Day Dance, Tina donates a dozen roses to be given away. "The senior citizens are big to me." Tina adds, "And if you tell me you're a veteran and come to my shop, you'll always get a discount."

During the pandemic, Ivy Wreath Florist was closed for seven weeks. Although it was hard on her business, it could have been much worse. "My customers called, asking how they could help. I was very blessed that they continued to support my business through porch deliveries, curbside pickups, and more. They kept us going." Tina also has high praise for Fayetteville's First Fridays. The local event has been a blessing to her and the other merchants on the square. At every event, more and more locals are coming in to support small businesses. "I want to see this town survive," she says. "We were a destination town for Sir's Fabric, and when it burnt, we lost a lot of out-of-town traffic." All the small businesses have felt the impact.

For Tina, supporting the local community is all in a day's work. If it sounds like she has more hours in the day than most, she does. "I run on very little sleep. I may be up at 2:00 in the morning or 4:30 in the morning." Anytime there's a need, she does her best to rise to the occasion. "I was always taught to love my community and help the people in the community."



TINA OSGOOD

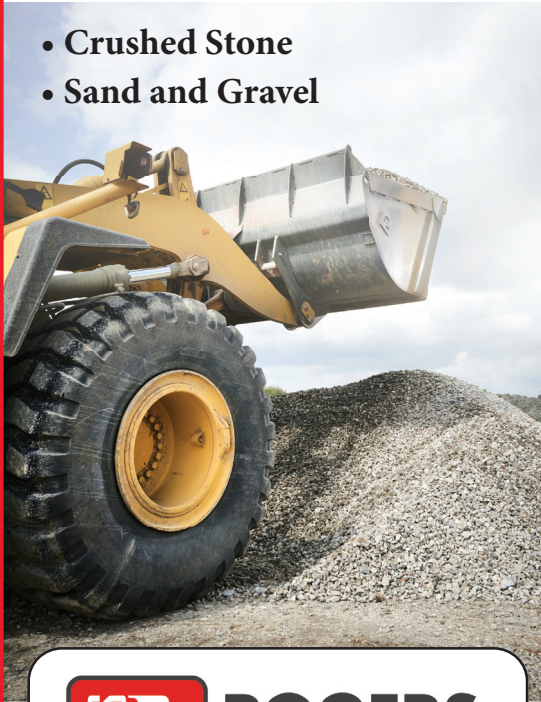
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SARA JO PIERCE
*Fayetteville-Lincoln County
Chamber of Commerce*

All the World is a Stage

Whether she's under the spotlight or working behind the scenes, Sara Jo Pierce uplifts and supports the community.

Sara Jo Pierce has been gracing stages in Lincoln County throughout her whole life. "Music was my first love," she says. As a young girl, you could find her performing at a piano recital or in a high school play. Today, you might see her acting out a part in a Carriage House Players production, performing a song in the Fabulous Fifties Show, singing with the musical group Voices of Carriage House, or with the back-up group of the Fabulous Fifties show Simply Fabulous at a variety of venues. Wherever she is, you can be sure that Sara Jo is doing her best to be an uplifting voice in the community.

"I realized that I loved making people laugh almost as much as I loved to sing."

For over twenty-six years, Sara Jo has been a part of the Fabulous Fifties Show. The popular local Fifties show is a fundraiser for the Multi-County Cancer Support Network. The annual event holds a special place in Sara Jo's heart for many reasons. For one, it's a family affair. "My son plays lead guitar in the band and sings, my daughter is a soloist and a part of the back-up singers, and my son-in-law performs in the comedy scripted portion of the show," she says. "It's a big part of our lives." Sara Jo has also come to know a lot of deserving people who have benefitted from the show. Her husband, a cancer survivor, as well as most of the cast and crew, have been touched by the show in one way or another. "It's comforting to know how much it means to all of them." The show, which brings many tourists to the community, will celebrate its 35th season in March 2021. "I'm honored to be a part of it."

Sara Jo is also very involved with the Carriage House Players, the oldest performing arts organization in Lincoln County. "I always had a secret desire to be in Carriage House, but I never really stepped up to do that

until my older daughter came home from college. She came back and became very active in Carriage House. I followed in on her coattails," Sara Jo recounts. "I realized that I loved making people laugh almost as much as I loved to sing." Not only has she performed in dozens of productions, but she has worked behind the scenes as well. She has been stage manager, seamstress, helped with set building, and been an assistant director a time or two. Sara Jo has also been instrumental in securing the new building that will serve as the future home of the Carriage House Players. Although the building needs some major renovating before it is ready for a show, Sara Jo, along with all the rest of the Carriage House family, is excited about the possibilities and states that they have big dreams and aspirations for the new theater house.

Sara Jo is also a member of Voices of Carriage House, a talented group of singers that is an off-shoot of Carriage House Players. The group performs several shows during Christmas. They have also performed various themed shows over the years featuring patriotic songs, as well as music from Broadway and Disney. "I enjoy that group very much," she says.

When she's not on stage or working part-time at the Fayetteville Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, you will find Sara Jo cheering on her grandchildren at their sports events. "I've always enjoyed sports. My son played baseball and now my grandson plays football and baseball. My granddaughter also plays sports." She's a big fan of Tennessee football and Braves baseball as well. This Thanksgiving, she's looking forward to welcoming a new grandbaby to the family.

Through the pandemic, Sara Jo has noticed a few positive things taking place. "Families have gotten closer," she says. "We've come to realize that we don't have to go out every Friday night, and I've learned to cook again," she laughs. "It's caused us to slow down a little bit, and take stock of the important things in our lives."



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If you haven't smiled today, then you haven't seen Dora Barnes yet.

Every morning Dora Barnes wakes up with the same thought, *Today I need to make somebody smile.* It's been her motto for years. As she continues with her day, you might catch her picking flowers and casually placing them on a coworker's desk, or a dozen other random acts of kindness. “Every day, I try to make one person's day by doing at least one act of kindness. I get a lot more out of it than the recipient does because I just like to see people smile,” Dora says.

For Dora, who was born and raised in Lincoln County, there's no place else she'd rather be. “I love this community,” she says. “I can't imagine living anywhere else.” While her six children were growing up, Dora stayed busy going from one activity to another including sporting events and 4H. As you might have already guessed, she was actively involved in a multitude of Parent-Teacher Organizations, Young Farmers and Homemakers, Dairy Day, and a 30-year run as a 4H leader. These days, her family has grown to include ten grandchildren. “If I could be anything in the world, I would be a full-time grandmother, to be at their beck and call,” she says. Dora also is very active in her church, teaching Sunday School and helping with Vacation Bible School and has participated in many community organizations including Fayetteville Main Street, Host of Christmas Past, the Multi-County Cancer Support Network, and more. “I love being a part of things that make people's lives better,” she says.

Throughout her working career, Dora has been the smiling face behind the counter at several local businesses including the Lincoln County Farmers Co-op, and Farm

Credit. “I love dealing with the public. I enjoy people in general,” she says, “especially the elderly and babies.” For the past twelve years, Dora has worked at the County Mayor's office. “One of the things I really enjoy in the job I have now is meeting new people who have moved to Lincoln County,” she says. “I find it so interesting to say ‘What brought you here? What do you like to do? What can I do to connect you to the community?’ whether it be a church, a civic group, or friends that have the same interests.” And she means it. Dora genuinely wants to welcome newcomers into the community she loves so much.

Dora's optimistic outlook on life is contagious. Through the pandemic, she has noticed that people seem to be a little kinder, more forgiving and appreciative of one another, and not so frustrated. She's even witnessed an increase in people letting others go ahead of them in line. “Before the pandemic, families were all so busy going in different directions. However now, they have slowed down, with more time to enjoy family meals at the table, plant gardens, nurture their relationships, and reevaluate their family life. I think it has made people realize how important family time is,” she says.

At a time when it's easy to focus on ourselves and the negativity of current events, Dora offers a word of encouragement. “Make an extra effort every day to reach out to someone else. It's not hard to find somebody who's having a harder time than you are,” she says. “I think that's one of the things I do by trying to make someone else smile. It puts the emphasis on somebody else and it makes your day go a whole lot easier, let me tell you.”



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A Voice for the Community

Whether she's belting out a song on the Fabulous Fifties stage or debating a local issue for the City of Fayetteville, you'll want to hear what Dorothy Small has to say.

She grew up singing in the church choir, raising her voice in honor of God. To this day, Dorothy Small continues to use the gift of her voice for the greater good. Born and raised in Fayetteville, Dorothy has always had the heart to help others. In one capacity or another, she has spent her entire working career as a public servant. For 45 years she cared for patients as a nurse at the Lincoln County Hospital, a job she loved. Working in the medical field not only allowed her to help people feel better, but it also fueled her passion for knowledge in medical science. As she worked through the ranks of nursing, she eventually topped off her career as an operating room nurse, a very specialized field of nursing. If you've ever been to the Fabulous Fifties show, you've

seen her on stage. Since the early '90s, she's been belting out songs like nobody's business. "I tell my son I'm going back to embarrass the family again," she laughs. However, it's the cause behind the Fabulous Fifties Show that is dear to her heart. The annual production raises money for the Multi-County Cancer Support Network, a non-profit organization that reaches out to cancer patients in an eight-county region, helping with expenses related to cancer treatment not covered by insurance. As Dorothy stands in the greeting line after each show, she is deeply touched as she listens to the stories of the people who have benefited from the funds. "Some of them are cancer-free, some are going through Chemotherapy," she says. "It really means something."



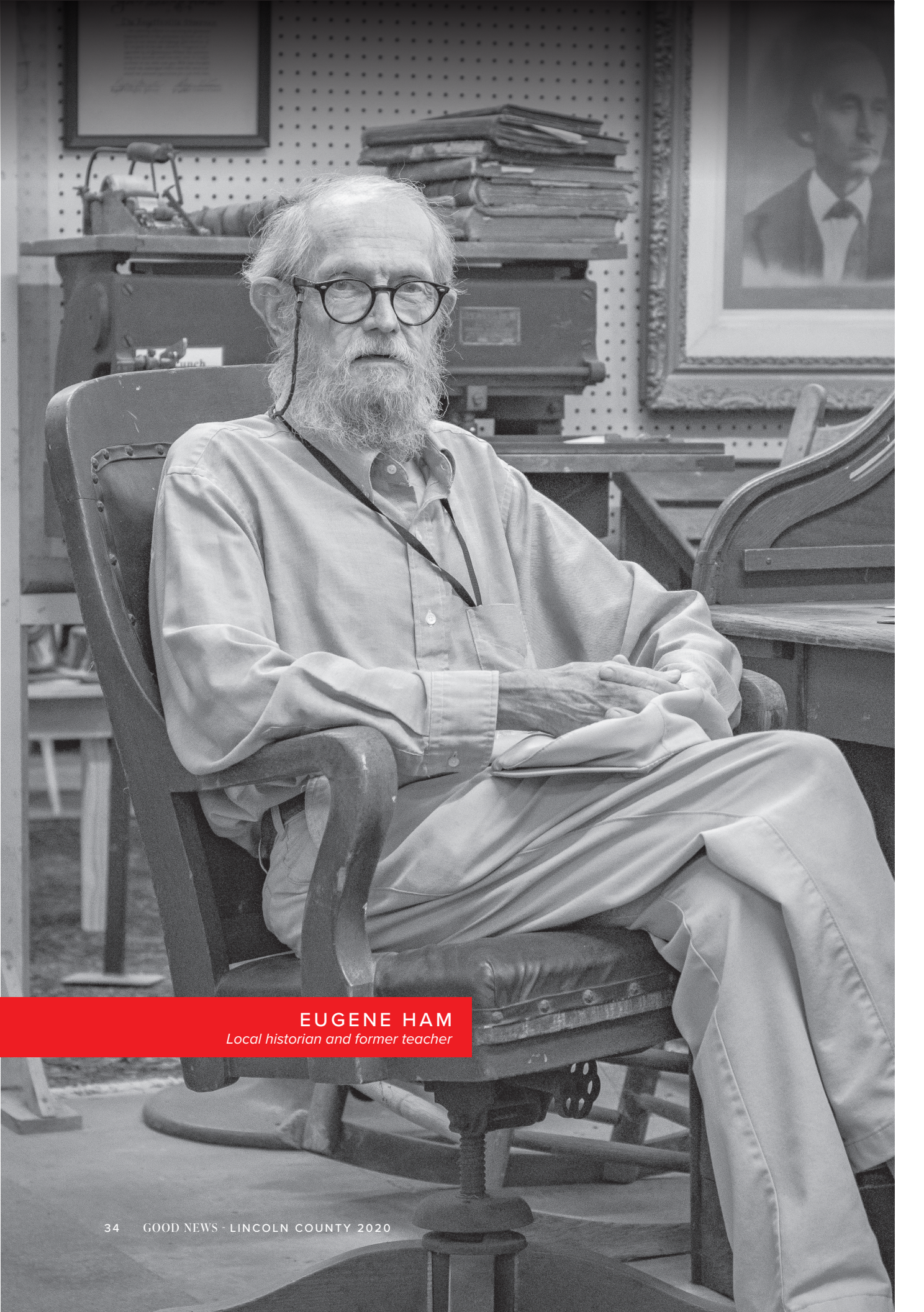
DOROTHY SMALL

Vice Mayor, City of Fayetteville

Beyond her tremendous singing voice, Dorothy is a voice of reason in the community as well. She found that politics are another way she could serve the community as a whole. In her role as Vice Mayor for the City of Fayetteville, Dorothy is not afraid to voice her opinion, even when it may not be popular. She really tries to go to battle for Fayetteville. "You can't always accomplish everything you set out to do, but you can give it your best," she says. She must be doing something right. First elected as an Alderman in 2006, she is now serving her fourth consecutive term.

Aside from all her service to others, she still carves out a little time for herself to dig in her flower bed or spend

time with her grandson. "Each day when I wake up, I'm in awe of God's powers. My favorite song in the world is How Great Thou Art," Dorothy says. Today more than ever, she sees the importance of drawing on the strength of a higher power. In speaking of the current times, she says, "It's not easy. Try to focus on what's positive about it. Look for something that gives you joy." One thing is certain, wherever you may find Dorothy, you can be assured she's not waiting for anybody else. She's a positive force in Lincoln County with a passion for being involved and is doing all she can to make life in Fayetteville the best it can be for everyone.



EUGENE HAM

Local historian and former teacher

A Fayetteville Treasure

Much-loved resident Eugene Ham knows Lincoln County history better than most and can tell a story that will have you wanting to hear more.

If you haven't met Eugene Ham in person, you've probably seen him walking on the sidewalks of Fayetteville. Every morning, he walks a mile or two, taking care of his daily errands such as picking up his mail at the post office or returning a book at the library. Although his rich and distinctive Greenville, Mississippi voice might drop the hint that he is from further South, he is very much a native of Fayetteville. His mother was born in Fayetteville, and as a boy, he spent many summers visiting his grandmother. He even attended elementary school in Fayetteville for a season. Managing family farmland eventually brought him home to Fayetteville to stay.

“Eugene Ham is a local historian, teacher, public fixture, and a conscience of the community.”

– Bob Scott

Mr. Ham has a deep knowledge of the history of Fayetteville. He can tell you about the trees that used to line the streets, the bricks in the buildings around town, the families that have come and gone, and even the family dogs. As he masterfully weaves his knowledge into a story, you'll find yourself hanging on every word, hungry for what he's going to say next. He also has an appreciation for plants and flowers and can discuss gardening in great detail. In the past, he has led nature walks in Wells Hill Park and shared his in-depth expertise about the flora and fauna of the area. Although he is very grounded in the South, he has traveled extensively, and has many friends and acquaintances throughout the world.

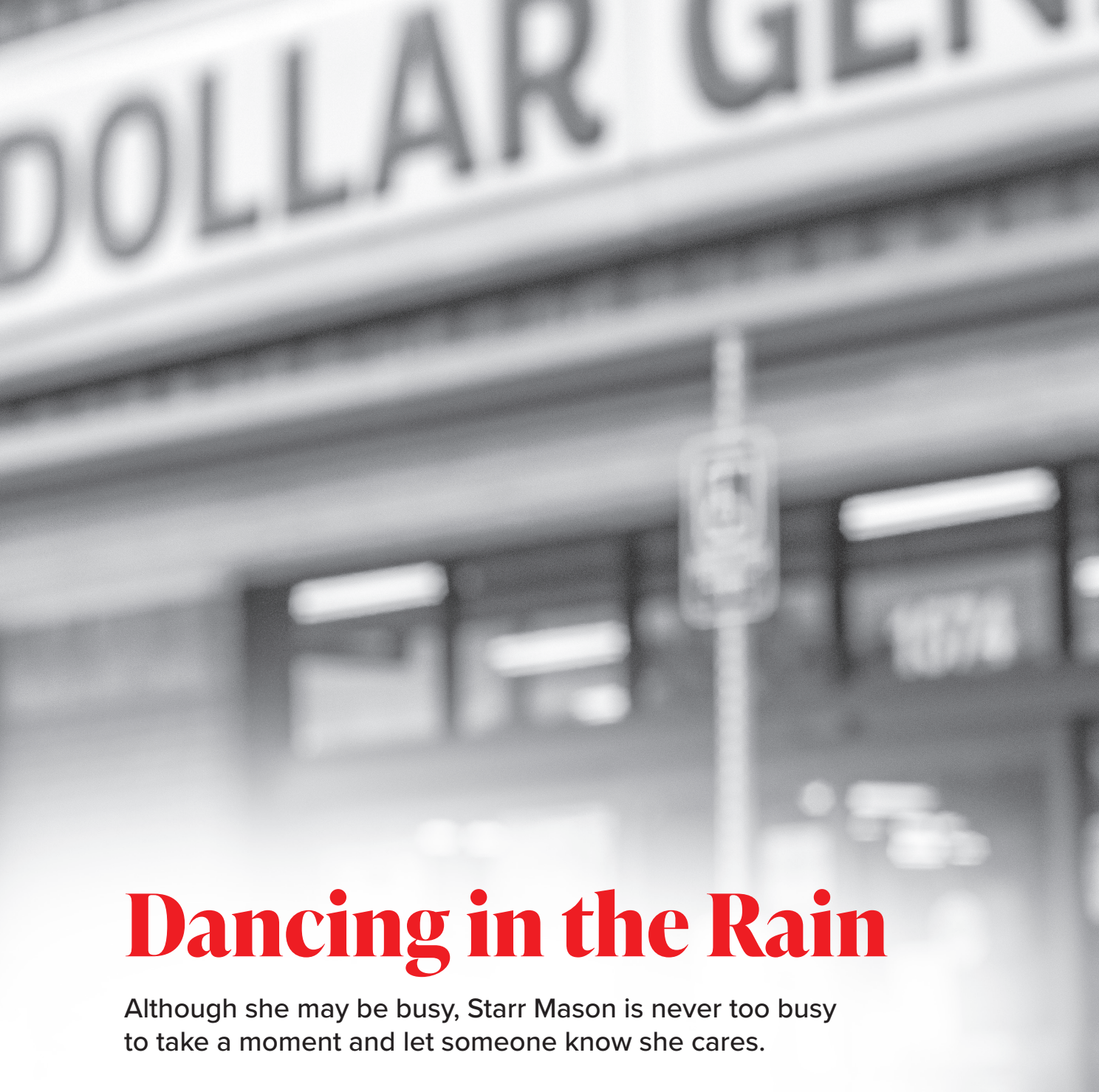
As a former teacher, Mr. Ham has been impacting the lives of Lincoln County youth for many years. He taught various subjects throughout his career, including classes in Latin and history at Lincoln County High School. Many of his former students still hold him in high esteem. Bob

Scott, also a former teacher, appreciates the wide range of knowledge Mr. Ham lends to the community. “Eugene Ham is a local historian, teacher, public fixture, and a conscience of the community. He encourages the residents of our county to value local history as much as the far off battles, generals, and events covered in the school books,” Bob comments.

Mr. Ham has always been very active in community organizations including the Lincoln County Museum and the Rotary Club. However, due to his age and other health concerns, he has chosen not to attend recent meetings. “I don't have a computer or a magic telephone. I am fortunate that people have run something off and dropped it off, or called to let me know what has transpired,” he comments. “I also subscribe to a number of periodicals so I have an in-depth slant on the news.” Mr. Ham is somewhat of a book worm as well. Long-time friend Bartie Scott appreciates his literary side. “I love to read serious books, classics, and history. Several times, I have called him up, excited about a book, and he is very kind to discuss it with me. Often, he remembers all the characters, lots of minor details, quotes, etc. It's a mystery how he can remember so much,” she says.

In light of current events, Mr. Ham can't say enough about those who have continued to serve the public. “The people we most depend on have been wonderful. Anybody in the medical line, checkers in the grocery store, and above all the postal employees.” He adds, “I have observed the postal service in three or four different countries, and ours is unparalleled.”

Mr. Ham truly is a Fayetteville treasure. Bob Scott's comments touch on what he means to this small community. “Mr. Ham is so soft-spoken and mild-mannered that it is easy to forget his many hours working in community organizations, activities, and causes that help us think about where we've been and where we're going. He will tell you that historic preservation is not about nostalgia or quaint tourist attractions, rather it reminds us of who we are, based on who we were.”



Dancing in the Rain

Although she may be busy, Starr Mason is never too busy to take a moment and let someone know she cares.

On a rainy afternoon at the end of her shift at the Dollar General store on Hwy. 64 in Fayetteville, Starr Mason noticed a young boy asking his mother if he could go play in the rain. Although neither one of them had a change of clothes, Starr didn't hesitate to seize the moment. She and the boy went outside in the parking lot and danced in the rain. Both of them had smiles from ear to ear. For Starr, moments like that are what she hopes for every day.

In her role as a manager, Starr frequently travels to other Dollar Generals in the area to train new managers. Wherever she is, she makes a point to greet every

customer that comes through the door and wants them to know that she is genuinely happy to see them. Her upbeat attitude and cheerful demeanor do not go unnoticed. Customers often comment and tell her how much they appreciate her. "I love people. All my customers are like family," she says. "Every day, I try my best to make sure everybody I come in contact with smiles." Even at the checkout register, she offers a positive message with a small cardboard sign taped to the glass that reads, "Smile, you are alive today."

Choosing to focus on the positive and reach out to others has helped Starr get through some tough times



STARR MASON

Manager, Dollar General Store

and heartaches in her own life. “I have suffered great losses in my life. I lost my son when he was five, and my brother when he was nineteen,” she says. “I have another son, Justice, and he inspires me to push harder. He’s been with me through hard times, and I just want him to know no matter what’s going on in life, no matter what bad we have to endure, there’s always going to be a brighter day.”

Like her name, Starr’s beautiful and genuine spirit shines bright in this community. She notices the people around her and is always ready with a kind word, a smile, and a helping hand. Whether it’s

offering a ride to an elderly lady that Starr frequently sees walking on the side of the road, or giving a bottle of cold water to someone on a hot day, she takes a moment to make one person’s day a little brighter. At times, she has even purchased clothes for someone in need. “I don’t want to see anyone go without,” she says. For those going through a tough time, Starr offers this, “Tomorrow is another day. We just have to look ahead.” And she speaks from experience because she’s been there too.



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ANN HATCHER

*Associate Pastor,
Fayetteville United Methodist Church*

A Reason to Believe

Ann Hatcher has a heart for helping people get their lives back on track and the compassion to meet them where they are.

It hasn't been that long since Ann Hatcher, the Associate Pastor of Fayetteville United Methodist Church, first became aware that addiction was a very real problem in her hometown. She remembers the story well. It was about a young girl in the second grade who kept falling asleep in class. As the story unfolded, Ann learned that the child's mother was an addict, and the task of caring for a premature newborn sibling, including late-night feedings, had fallen on the young girl. "At the time, I had a great-niece that age, and it just floored me knowing that this child held the vast responsibility of keeping the baby alive," Ann recalls. "I began to talk to people and realized what a problem we had with addiction within our own community. I had no idea. I was clueless."

"Ann Hatcher is one of the truest examples of having a heart for Jesus and broken people that I know. That lady is the real deal."

— Lance Carter

Ann began praying for the children affected by substance abuse and began to seek out ways she could become a part of the solution. "If we could have an effect on the parents, then the children's lives might be impacted and changed," Ann says. She also realized that for those struggling with addiction, serving time in jail is a very real consequence.

Even though Ann had never stepped foot in any jail before, the call to go to the Lincoln County Jail became

stronger and stronger. "I talked to the sheriff about it, and we started with a bible study in 2016," Ann says. The first time she walked into the jail, Ann remembers being terrified. However, the feelings of fear and apprehension didn't last long. "I used to teach at Motlow and I loved working with adults. Once I walked into the classroom at the jail, I felt like I was in a Motlow classroom."

Although Ann agrees that the statistics for recovery are not encouraging, there are success stories. One of the first women Ann met at the jail in 2016 has turned out to be a star student. Ann recounts that when the woman was released from serving her time in jail, she immediately began to fall through the cracks with no place to stay, no car, and no job. "I knew she was going to make it, but she had to have help." Within a short time, the young woman was able to get into Blue Monarch, a residential recovery program in Tennessee. Today, she is a shining example of what is possible. Ann smiles and says, "That's what you hope for all of them."

Ann's labor of love for the Jail Ministry and other addiction recovery efforts in Lincoln County shines like a lighthouse in the community. Working in cooperation with the Tennessee Faith-Based Recovery Network, Ann notes there are many options available to help those in need. "If they are ready to get serious about their recovery, we can help connect them to the right resources. If they're ready to go, we can find a place."

"The Jail Ministry has been the biggest blessing. So many times we think we're going to do something for someone else, and the blessing comes back to us. It has grown my faith, and it has changed me," Ann says. "I've just fallen head over heels in love with these folks."

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LAURA MAYER

Co-founder, Clothe Our Kids

Teen - Girl

Clothing With a Deeper Purpose

Through her work with Clothe Our Kids, Laura Mayer is helping children to see themselves differently.

A new pair of shoes or a new outfit indeed changes a person's outward appearance, but it also does something on the inside. Laura Mayer, a co-founder of the non-profit organization Clothe Our Kids, knows there's a deeper work that goes along with providing children a few sets of nice clothes. "Yes, it's about putting clothes on these kids, but it's also about clothing them with confidence. We want them to walk a little higher," Laura says.

"Our town is incredibly lucky to have her. Laura is such an asset to Lincoln County, and it seems like she just continues to spread love, kindness, and generosity everywhere she goes."

– *Pierrine Thomas*

The idea for Clothe our Kids came to Laura one day while cleaning out her garage. As she sorted through clothes, she thought, *I wish I knew of a family I could give these to instead of taking them to Goodwill.* A few moments later, she picked up the phone. "I called my friend Shelly and said, 'I've got a crazy idea.' She said, 'Let's do it.'" And thus, Clothe Our Kids was born.

That was seven years ago. Today, Clothe Ours Kids has expanded to include seven independent locations in three states. So far, over 7,000 children have benefitted. Every Wednesday, Laura and a group of volunteers gather together in a 1,000 square foot warehouse in downtown Fayetteville and sort clothes. "It's like doing laundry all day," Laura says. Once the clothes are separated into sizes, the volunteers put together outfits for a specific child, such as a four-year-old girl, or a twelve-year-old boy. The clothing requests come from teachers, counselors, and caseworkers who see the children regularly and are aware of their needs. The facility is not open to the public. "All of our clothing comes from community donations. We only use things that we would put on our own kids,"

Laura explains. Through the program, every child receives an unmarked duffle bag with eight outfits, a pack of new underwear, a pack of new socks, a pair of new shoes, and a coat. All items are clean and in current styles. "My favorite part is when a first-time volunteer is putting together outfits, and they realize that this is for a real child that is actually going to open that bag up today or tomorrow." Volunteer Pierrine Thomas agrees, "It feels really good to be able to be the hands and feet to put together sets of nice clothes for a child that is really in need."

"We're just a team of moms and grandmas," Laura comments. She also notes that Clothe Our Kids does not operate on any kind of grants. Fayetteville United Methodist Church generously loans the organization the use of their building. Incoming donations are used to purchase new socks, underwear, and shoes. However, there is a lot of hard work that goes on behind the scenes by volunteers. "We talk about that a lot, reminding the volunteers of the why. Why are they doing this? Why does it matter?" Although the volunteers don't have the opportunity to see the children's faces when they open the bags, occasionally, Laura will hear back from a teacher or caseworker about a child's reaction. "One of my favorites is a sixteen-year-old boy that broke down in tears when he pulled the items out of his bag that included brand names like Nike and Hollister." Another caseworker commented to Laura, "I don't think you realize this, but you are giving these kids access to something that is completely out of their reach."

For Laura, what started as a mission to clothe children has turned into a mission of instilling identity and more self-confidence in the kids. "That is what has lit a passion in me," Laura says. "When you're sitting next to a kid decked out in Under Armor and your shoes are duct-taped together, or your clothes are rotting because they're so old, you start this internal dialog about yourself that you're not as good. You're not worth as much."

Laura has a heart for helping people see themselves differently. In addition to her work at Clothe Our Kids, being a wife, and mother of three daughters, she also has discovered a newfound love for public speaking. Last May, she launched a weekly podcast. "I love stirring people's hearts to grab a hold of a bigger vision and to be a part of something bigger than themselves. I think we are wired to be givers," Laura says.



CHARLIE CANNON
Bank of Lincoln County

A Good Word

Charlie Cannon lives a life of gratitude, and in times like these, he wants you to know one thing, “Everything is going to be alright.”

Charlie Cannon left home when he was ten years old. When other boys his age were playing catch or building a fort in the backyard, Charlie was on his own, not knowing where his next meal would come from. “I’ve been through it all,” Charlie says, “and I know regardless of what you’ve been through, you can overcome anything you want with God’s help.”

“That’s the key to life. Always be humble and be thankful.”

For the past sixteen years, Charlie has been working behind the scenes at Bank of Lincoln County. “When God put me with Charles Gleghorn, it was one of the greatest decisions of my life,” he says. “When you love to come to work and feel like you can’t do enough for the people you work with because of the way they treat you, well, it makes you feel like you’re the luckiest human in the world.” Charlie frequently works late doing whatever needs to be done at the different branches including transporting things back and forth and taking care of the buildings, inside and out. “I just try to be good to people and do a good job,” he says. Charlie also serves on the Fayetteville Housing Authority Board and is very involved in his church as well.

It doesn’t matter where he is or what time of day it is, Charlie always has a word of encouragement and a friendly smile for everyone he comes in contact with.

“You never know what anybody is dealing with, so I just try to put a smile on their face,” he says. “It’s the little things you can do.” He also emphasizes the importance of telling someone they’re doing a great job and how much you appreciate them. “A kind word goes a long way and it makes you want to push a little harder,” he reiterates. “I’m working with some good people and I always try to thank them.” He also believes that it is equally important to acknowledge and respect the members of the local police force. “It takes a special person to be a police officer. Every time I see an officer here in Fayetteville, I tell them how much I appreciate what they do. Without them and the people who serve in the armed forces, we would be in serious trouble,” he states. “This is the greatest country in the world. We just need to show more love for one another.”

Along with love and gratitude, Charlie notes that there is another essential aspect of maintaining good relationships, forgiveness. “Don’t ever go to bed mad because you might not wake up the next morning. Make it right, and ask for forgiveness. I preach to myself and work on myself every single day because I’ve lost a lot of good friends and we don’t know what tomorrow brings,” Charlie adds. For young people, Charlie offers this advice, “Surround yourself with good people because they will determine how successful you will be. Good people are the key.”

“The older you get, you realize what is important -- God, Family, and Friends. If you keep them in that order, it will be alright,” Charlie says. “If I leave here today, I’m blessed. I have one of the greatest sons in the world and it’s a joy for me to get up every day and try to do something to make this country a better place.”



Growing a Community

For over 50 years, James T. Cox has invested his time and effort into making Lincoln County a place everyone can be proud of.

What do you do when you're new in town and don't know anybody? If you're James T. Cox (Jimmy), you get in your pickup truck and start introducing yourself to the neighbors. You also extend your neighborly visits to the farms outside the city limits and get to know the farmers on a first-name basis with a friendly smile and a handshake. The year was 1969, and many of the people Jimmy met in those early days not only became lifetime friends, but they also became some of his best customers at First National Bank in Fayetteville.

Throughout his 50-plus years as a community banker, Jimmy helped countless individuals purchase their first cars, first homes, or start new businesses. He also helped farmers fund their crops or buy a piece of much-needed

farm equipment. "I like people," he says. "The biggest joy of my career was helping other people help themselves. If I gave them some advice and it helped them, it made me feel good."

Jimmy stresses the importance of being active in the community. "You always look to help the community. I ingrained it in my employees that they needed to do business with the local people because the local people are the ones who make the deposits and support the bank," he explains. He didn't just talk about being involved, he set the example. Whether it was being a member of the Rotary Club or serving two terms as the President of the Fayetteville Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, James put his words into action. "To be a part of something you believe in, you



“Fayetteville is a warm community. If you give to the community, it will give back.”

JAMES T. COX
First National Bank

have to make a commitment,” he says. His years at the chamber were productive and played a valuable role in laying the groundwork for future growth in Lincoln County through recruiting new industry in the area and forming the Fayetteville Lincoln County Industrial Board. Those past efforts continue to reap rewards and attract global industries to Lincoln County. It’s also important to note that his wife Donna served a term as the chamber president as well — Fayetteville’s own “power couple.” To Jimmy, education is a key factor in growing and maintaining a strong community. “I’m a big believer in education. My wife taught school for 35 years,” he states. “If you can educate people to a higher level, they’ll have a higher income, which helps the community.”

Today, Jimmy is working harder than ever, farming 1,200 acres and raising 225 Black Angus cow/calf pairs. Although it may sound like a lot of work for a man who is retired, anyone who knows Jimmy also knows that he has an extraordinary supply of energy. “I’m full of energy,” he agrees. “I like to be doing something and to accomplish things.”

It’s safe to say, that if you live in Lincoln County, you are receiving the benefits of Jimmy’s tireless efforts throughout the years. He encourages everyone to participate in making things better – shop locally, support local businesses in any and every way you can, and get involved in community organizations. “If you help, and try to be positive about situations, it will end up turning out better than you think.”

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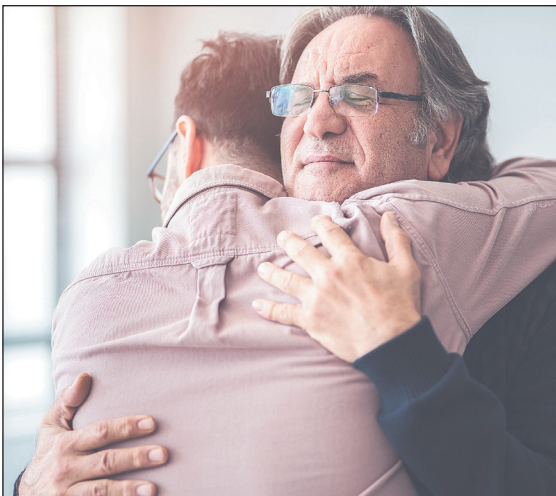
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A Servant's Heart

Susan Arrick fills the tiny gift shop at Lincoln County Hospital with a whole lot of love.

“She works hard, not for glory for herself, but to truly serve others.”

– *Katie Stovall*

Anybody who has spent time in the hospital knows how refreshing a visit to the hospital gift shop can be. The bright flowers, cute stuffed animals, colorful balloons, and the heartfelt words inside gift cards can do wonders to lift the mood of a patient's family and friends. For doctors, nurses, and hospital staff, it can do the same. Lincoln Health System Auxiliary (LHSA) volunteer, Susan Arrick, knows that the gift shop plays a much bigger role in the hospital than solely raising money. It's also a place where weary hospital staff can take a much-needed break.

LHSA is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization. Presently, Susan serves as chairman of the gift shop. In the past, the Auxiliary offered several other services, such as running hospitality carts with coffee and water, as well as an information desk that helped patients get to where they needed to be. However, today, as more restrictions are put into place, operating the Gift Galleria located on the first floor of Lincoln Medical Center is their main role. The purpose of the gift shop is to raise needed funds for the hospital. “All our profit goes back into the hospital,” Susan explains. “Every year we ask the hospital to give us a wish list, and we try to accommodate whatever is on the list. In the past, we've given anywhere from \$8,000 to \$20,000 in a single year. This year we bought a new type of wheelchair that makes it easier to get patients in and out of hospital beds and cars.”



SUSAN ARRICK

Lincoln Health System Auxiliary Volunteer

Although COVID disrupted the operation of the gift shop for several months, it's open once again, and Susan couldn't be happier. "One of the main reasons we've opened back up is for our hospital staff," she states. "They've done an outstanding job. They're on the front lines. I love every one of them, and when they come into the shop, they bring me joy." The feeling is mutual. While it's true that sometimes the staff just comes in to take a break and look around, many of them purposely come in to see Susan and enjoy an uplifting conversation.

Through their time and donations, the Auxiliary volunteers enhance the patient care experience at multiple LHS facilities. Susan works hard to keep the program together and to communicate with her fellow volunteers amidst constantly changing circumstances and regulations.

Susan has a passion for serving her community, and throughout the years, she has touched many lives. One of her favorite experiences was being part of Leadership Lincoln. "I really enjoyed doing that," she says. "At the time, I was Program Director at South Central Human Resource Agency, where I worked for nineteen years." She recently retired as a Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church, where she taught 3rd- to 4th-grade girls for as long as she can remember. "They were the love of my life." Susan also volunteers with local food bank Hands of Mercy, packing Bags of Blessings for the outreach's weekend feeding program.

"The first thing I do every morning is I sit down with my husband and we have our quiet time and do a bible reading. That gives me hope," she shares.

A Powerful Story of Transformation

Jackie Netherland Wright is living proof that radical change is possible and she's helping others to believe things can be different.

Six years ago, Jackie Netherland Wright was at her lowest point. At five hundred pounds, it was difficult for her to even breathe, and walking was near impossible. "I was in a mess. I had just come out of a divorce that was straight out of a horror movie, and I chose food to find comfort through the hard times," Jackie recounts. At a time when she was unable to help herself, someone reached out to her and offered a helping hand.

One day at a time, Jackie turned her brokenness over to God. As she got involved in church and began making small efforts to change her situation, she began to see a glimmer of hope. Sometimes the best way to help yourself is to help others. Jackie decided to do just that and signed up for training to be a Stephen Minister, a lay congregation member trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, illness, or relocation. She also participated in New Life Promise, a Christian-based healthy eating program, and began to make positive lifestyle choices.

To date, Jackie has lost over 300 pounds. This past year, her incredible weight-loss story was featured in a video that is helping women all over the world who are struggling with their weight. "I had one reach out to me from Spain the other day, and another one from the

Netherlands," Jackie says. "So many of us have weight issues. I never wanted weight to be part of my journey or testimony, but it seems to be what God is using most right now."

Jackie is also a group leader with Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind. She has been instrumental in getting the program started and in keeping it going strong. "Celebrate Recovery is for anyone with hurts, habits, and hangups, and that's all of us," Jackie adds. "My addiction was food." Her love for others, her enthusiasm, and her willingness to openly share her struggles are proving to be a constant source of inspiration to many others. "People just need somebody to walk with them and to know someone cares. I truly believe with all my heart that our pain is never greater than its purpose. We just have to surrender that pain to God to use for his glory."

To see someone that's deep in addiction come to the other side with the hope of something beyond the darkness is worth everything to Jackie. "We can't fix them, only God can do that, but we can at least plant that seed and be Christ's hands and feet," Jackie affirms. "To me, that's what church is all about. It's not what we do inside the church but what we do outside the church that matters."

“People just need somebody
to walk with them and to
know someone cares.”



JACKIE NETHERLAND WRIGHT
Group leader with Celebrate Recovery



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Tennessee's First Volunteers

Dr. Farris Beasley leads the charge to the Camp Blount Historic Site.

Dr. Farris Beasley has always been a history buff. However, for the past two decades, the history made in his own backyard has been front and center. "It's probably one of the best-kept secrets in Fayetteville's history," Dr. Beasley notes. He's referring to Camp Blount, where over 200 years ago, on the banks of the Elk River, General Andrew Jackson called for 2,500 volunteers, and 4,500 showed up. The events that followed would write history.

The quest to bring the eventful story to light began with a painting by artist and historian David Wright. The painting, titled *Crossroads to Destiny*, shows General Andrew Jackson, Ensign Sam Houston, David Crockett, and Dr. John McKinney meeting together during the Tennessee Militia muster at Camp Blount in Fayetteville in October 1813. "That was the first physical evidence that our community had of what happened here over 200 years ago," Dr. Beasley states.

The Camp Blount Historic Site honors the legacy of the early patriots who answered the call to defend the nation from the Creek Indian uprising and later at the Battle of New Orleans. The British defeat at the Battle of New Orleans marked the end of England's attempt to colonize America. "For that reason, and since a large portion of those troops came from a mustering site in Fayetteville, we say that we can lay claim to being very essential to the two battles that were the victories of the battles of the War of 1812 that sent the British home for good. That's what's important about Camp Blount."

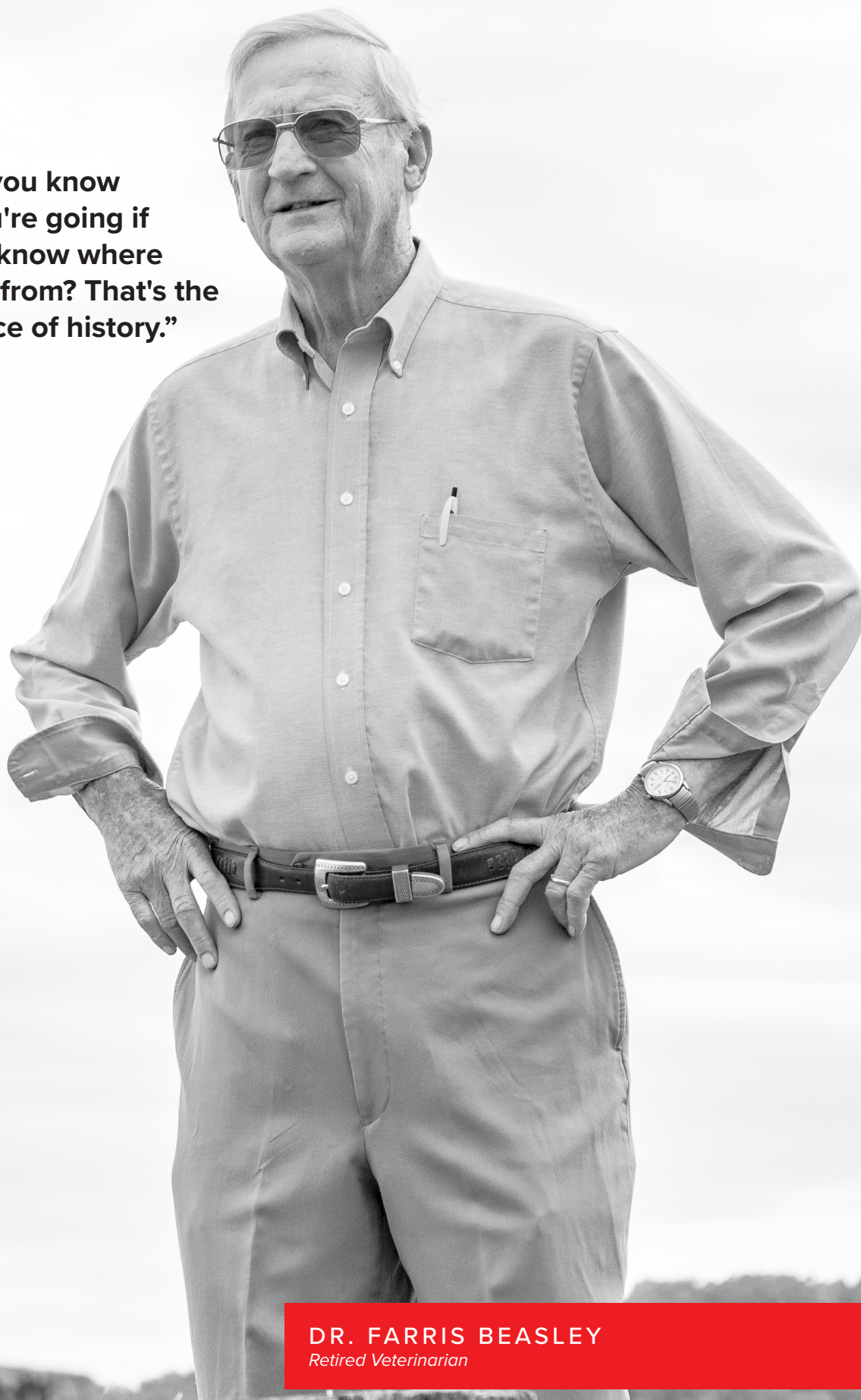
Dr. Beasley, who was born in Petersburg and grew up in Nashville, spent 41 years as a farm animal veterinarian in Lincoln County and 11 years teaching animal science at Motlow State Community College. Several Lincoln County farmers still recall him driving his Chevrolet out into the field to deliver a calf. These days, his only veterinary work involves maintaining his herd of 125 head of cattle. Aside from working his farm and spending time with his three sons and their families, Dr. Beasley has been a tireless leader in the effort to bring Camp Blount Historical Site to the finish line. "We need to celebrate that legacy, and let the people know what went on that made it possible for us to be where we are today," Dr. Beasley says.

Soon, people all over the world will learn about the essential role the small town of Fayetteville played in the War of 1812. A new entrance sign is already in place at the site, and in October, an 8-foot-6-inch tall bronze statue of "Tennessee's First Volunteer" will become the centerpiece of the Volunteer Plaza. The figure will stand tall on a 7-foot-6-inch limestone base. When the project is complete, it will not only be a tourist draw, but it will also be a historical treasure that will make the community proud.

Camp Blount will be Tennessee's 8th Historic Site. "It's not a park, it's a site," he clarifies. For Dr. Beasley, the biggest reward has been sharing the story of our heritage with so many people that didn't have any idea about it before. "We need to know our heritage for the young people to appreciate where we came from. How do you know where you're going if you don't know where you came from? That's the significance of history."

The Camp Blount Historic Site is located at 1202 Huntsville Hwy, Fayetteville, adjacent to the River Oak Shopping Center.

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Learning to Adapt

First-grade teacher Brittany Barnett takes her classroom online and discovers new ways to keep her students, and their parents, engaged and working together.

Brittany Barnett wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. Ralph Askins Elementary School in Fayetteville has been like a second home for her most of her life. As a child, she attended Ralph Askins. Her mom also worked at the school. Even when Brittany moved on to middle school and high school, she was frequently walking back through the doors of the elementary school. While she was in college, she started working at the school, and for the past seven years, she has been teaching first grade. “It has been a huge part of my life,” she says.

Last March, when classes were canceled due to the “Safer At Home” order, Brittany quickly determined that it was essential to stay connected with her students. She began sending out videos offering activities and assignments to keep them engaged. Although the abrupt end of the school year could have left students with a lot of fear and uncertainty, Brittany’s proactive approach and adaptation helped her students through the transition. “I missed the students, and I wanted to keep that engagement with them. It really helped,” she says.

When school started back up in August, Brittany had a whole new class of 33 first graders to teach, virtually.

“It’s been totally different,” Brittany says. “Basically, we’re writing our own curriculum, trying to take everything we do in the classroom, and do it online.” A big part of implementing the new curriculum includes helping the parents understand how to navigate the system. “Parent involvement is key to virtual success,” Brittany states. “We feel lucky that we have some good parents working with us.”

On a typical school day, Brittany records herself teaching a lesson in her classroom, and then sends the video to her students to watch on their computers through Google Classroom. At a designated time, the class joins together on Google Meet. Since hands-on work is also an important part of first grade, pencil and paper assignments are included as well. Every Friday, parents go to the school and pick up packets that contain the following week’s assignments. If a student needs additional help, they can message Brittany, and she will help the child with the assignment, via computer.

Good communication with parents is proving to be a key element of student success. “As a teacher, you always struggle with making sure you’re getting those connections and support at home,” Brittany states.



BRITTANY BARNETT

*First-grade teacher,
Ralph Askins Elementary School*

“Parent involvement is key to virtual success. We feel lucky that we have some good parents working with us”

The experience is already helping to build stronger relationships between everyone involved. “I feel more comfortable with them [the parents]. I am learning more about how they approach things and the questions they have.”

Brittany’s husband Chad, is also a teacher. He teaches at Fayetteville Middle School and coaches football. School

activities are a big part of their lives along with their five-year-old daughter Ily, who has autism. Ily goes to school with Brittany each morning and attends general education Pre-K classes. She also participates in occupational therapy and speech therapy and works with autism therapist Stephanie Hathcock of Spectrum Therapeutic Learning Center. “She’s amazing. We love Stephanie,” Brittany says. “Ily went from being completely non-verbal to knowing her letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. We still struggle with communication, but academically, she’s doing great,” Brittany says. “We’ve been very blessed.

For parents that may be having a difficult time adapting to the new virtual school model, Brittany understands. “There’s always tomorrow. If you’re interacting with your child, anything is better than nothing. Keep trying, reach out to different people for help, and don’t be afraid to ask for different ideas. Everybody learns in a different way at a different time, just like my daughter. I know it’s hard, but don’t give up.”

Advertisers' Index

American Development Corporation.....	50	Higgins Funeral Home	8
Askins Publishing	42	Hoffman Land Surveying	61
Badcock Furniture.....	26	Howard Bentley Chevrolet Buick GMC	51
Bank of Lincoln County	5	Interlocal Solid Waste Authority	39
Bluebird Recovery LLC	50	J Paul Richardson & Son	57
BMA Properties	66	Kuston Kuts	42
Boneyard Auto	22	Lewisburg Farm Center	30
Bradford Appliance	57	Lewisburg Garden Center	60
Cars Ink	64	Lincoln County Automotive, LLC.....	38
Carters Drug Store.....	66	Lincoln County Farm Bureau	61
CB&S Bank.....	22	Lincoln County Mayor	57
City Of Fayetteville.....	14	Lincoln County Museum Association	30
Daly and Son	66	Lincoln County Sheriff Department.....	30
D and M Market	26	Lincoln Farmers Coop	56
Elk River Health	60	Lincoln Health System	23
Elk River Trading Company	2	Lynchburg Funeral	56
Exchange Media Group.....	7	Lynchburg Nursing Center	56
Farrar Tire	50	Lyon Family Farm	27
Fayetteville Chrysler Dodge Jeep	66	Norman Furniture	61
First Bank.....	31	Palatec Trucking LLC.....	50
First Commerce	3	Patrick Trailer.....	56
First National Bank	15	Redstone Federal Credit Union	9
FNB Mortgage.....	26	Richardson Waste Removal & Solid Waste...42	
Fowler Auction	43	Rogers Group	22
Gallant Riverview Funeral Home.....	61	Senator Shane Reeves	57
Hair In Motion - Kandise Hill	22	Small & Small Oil	42
		Southeast Electric	65
		Southern Iron Works.....	56
		Spirits of TN LLC.....	38
		Sprays Jewelers	68
		Stovall's Body Shop	60
		T and L Roofing	60
		The Local Cafe	14
		Tri-Green of Fayetteville	14
		Triple B Auction.....	14
		True Discount Lotto Land.....	30
		Welch, Rex.....	67

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