

Good News

LINCOLN COUNTY

VOLUME II

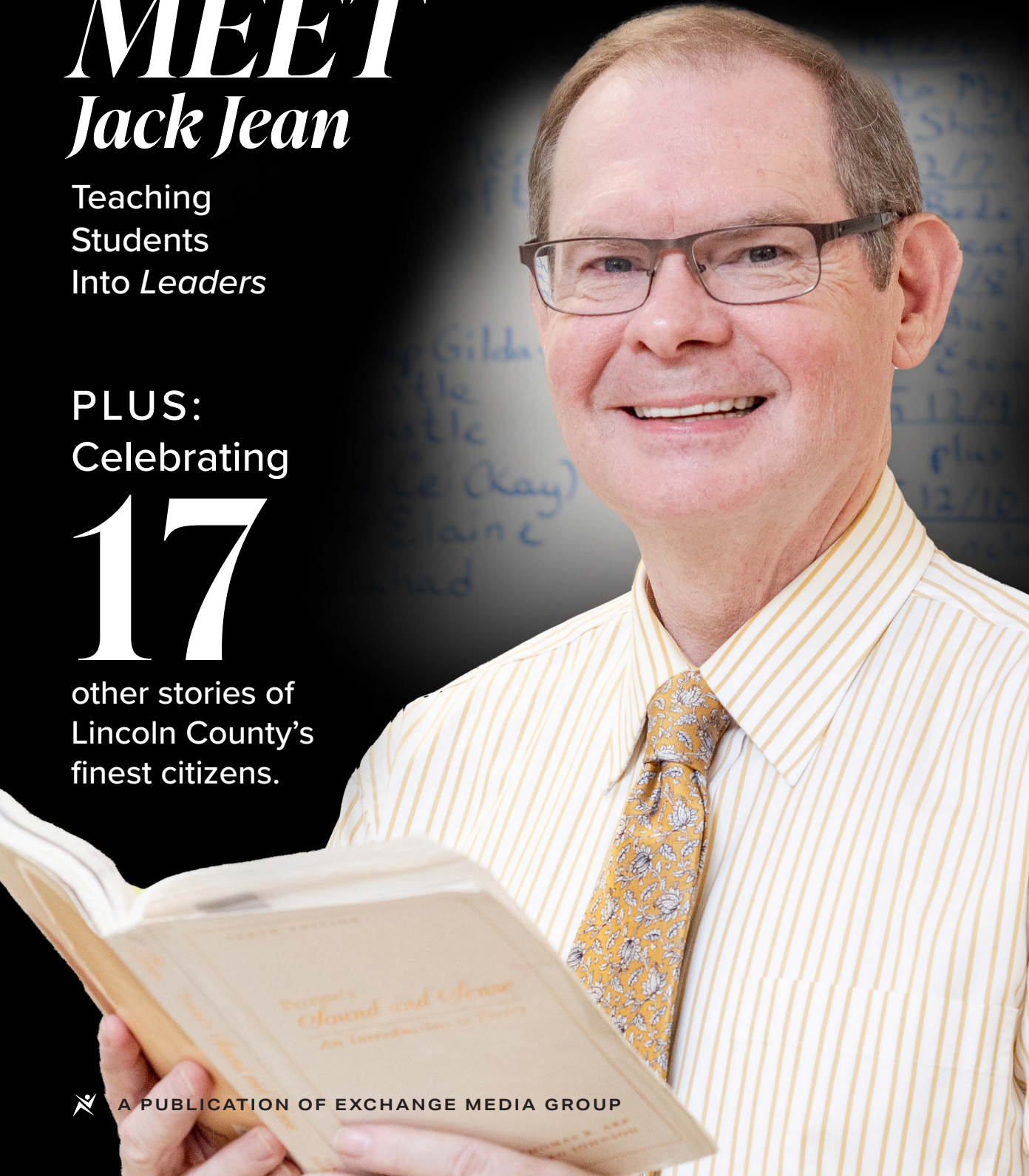
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Good news is all around us, and Exchange Media Group wants to share it with you. They eat in the same restaurants you do. They drive on the same roads you do. Lincoln County is full of good news just waiting to be shared.

It's with great honor that Exchange Media Group and I present to you: Good News Lincoln County: Volume II. These are stories of the heroes in our town.



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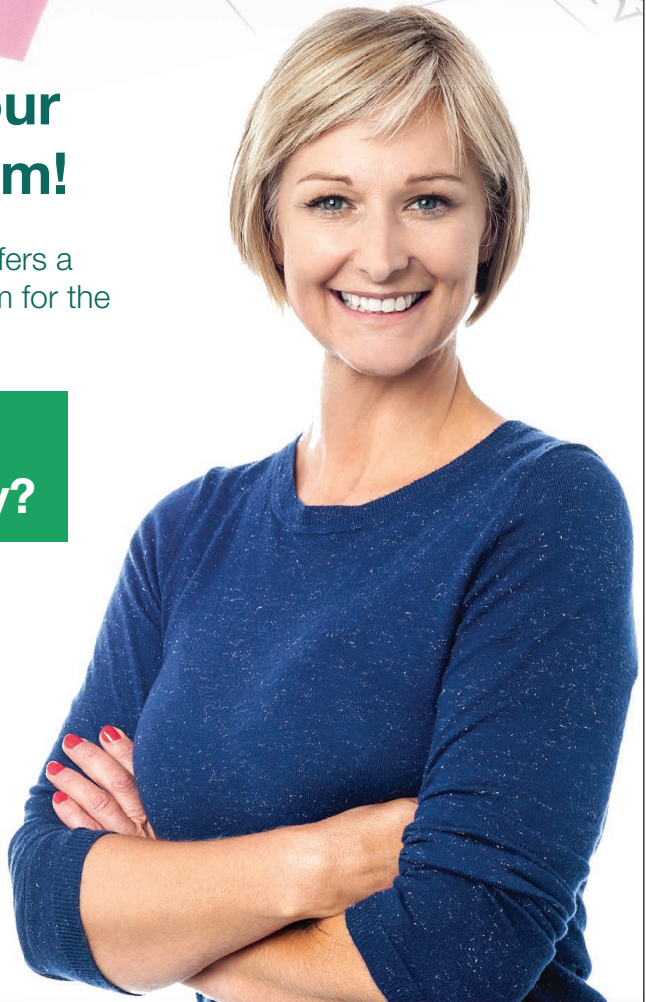
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A Game, A Coach, and a Whole Lot of Heart

Louis Thompson's legacy in football goes beyond the borders of Lincoln County.

By Kennedee McAdams

Louis Thompson has spent an extensive amount of his life involved with football. With his years of playing and then coaching, he has a grand total of 44 years of football experience.

Coach Thompson's journey with football started early in his life. It began when he joined his local high school team and led them to not one but two state championships. He then went on to play under Coach Bear Bryant at the University of Alabama and was on two national championship teams. After graduating from Alabama, he accepted a job coaching at Dadeville High School, thus his coaching career began. From there, he would go on to coach at Lebanon High School, Austin Peay State University, and Unicoi County High School, all before he landed at Lincoln County High School. It is here that he would spend 22 years of his coaching career leading the Falcons.

Within this time, he led the team to their second and third state championships. Equally as impressive, within his 22 years of coaching the Lincoln County football team, he took the Falcons to appear at the playoffs 20 times. He also served as president of the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association in 1990. Then he was head coach of the Tennessee-Kentucky All-star game in 1991.

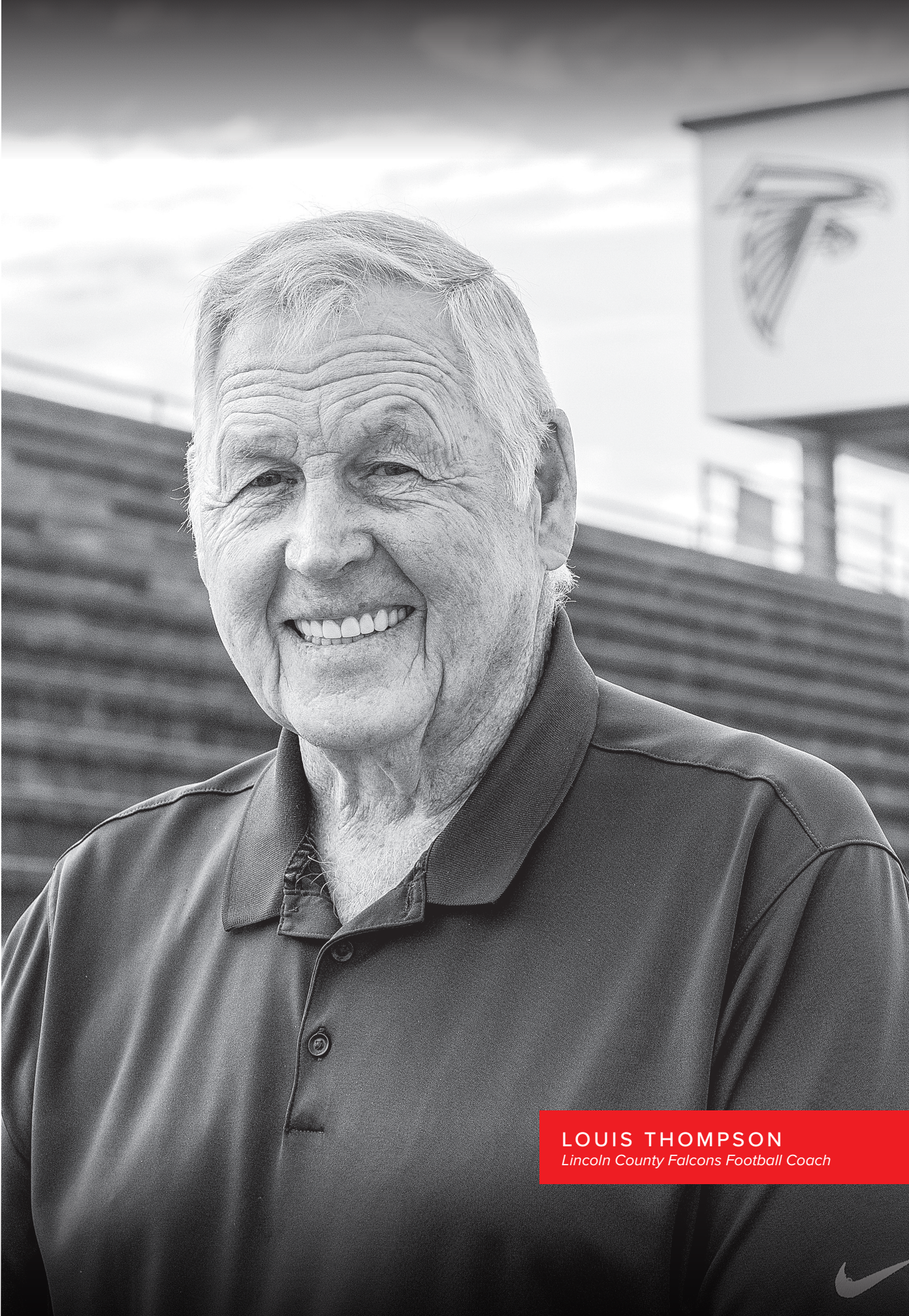
He was also an assistant coach in the East-West Shrine Bowl in 2003. However, all good things must come to an end and after his long career, Coach Thompson closed that chapter of his life and officially retired from coaching in 2013.

Thompson's legacy lives on through the countless players he coached over the past few decades. He was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 2005. This is a testament to his success in his career and in the way he built relationships with those around him.

Billy Joe Evans, Thompson's friend of 30 years said that "Louis being inducted into the hall of fame speaks volumes because it is so much more than just winning. It is about good character and how well liked you are. He was ethical in his ways of dealing with people."

Although Thompson's official work is over, his impact has not ceased. He continues to spend his days contributing to the growth of the community by coaching a local golf team along with holding some leadership roles within the county.

To put it simply, he enjoys being around people and people enjoy being around him. We have not seen the last of Coach Thompson's positive impact all around Lincoln County, the state of Tennessee, and the entire country. **-GN**



LOUIS THOMPSON

Lincoln County Falcons Football Coach



A Passion for Community

Lucy Carter Williams makes an impact on Elk Valley Times Newspaper as well as the Lincoln County Toy Drive.

By Jeriah Brumfield

Coldwater, Lincoln County native Lucy Carter Williams began working with her hometown newspaper, the Elk Valley Times, in 1988 and never looked back. The publication is part of a group of newspapers owned by a company called Lakeway Publishers incorporated.

Williams said she gained a lot of experience from working with different newspapers in and out of college. She eventually became an Elk Valley Times editor, which she said allowed her to help her family. In explaining why she continued to be a part of the publication, Williams said, "I just fell in love with it," and that she did not want to give it up. She worked with the newspaper for 32 years. Williams eventually hired her sister-in-law Sandy Williams, who helped her continue to publish the newspapers for the 32 years.

As an editor, she edited news stories that writers sent to her. She covered front-page stories, city and local government news, county government news, county school board information, and hard news stories. In addition, she covered the crime beat for some time. She also served as publisher of the newspaper. Williams' main goal was to inform the community about what their governing bodies are doing and how they affect them.

Williams said she had a great mix of people on staff and was passionate about informing the county about what was happening. She said, "They all had one thing in common, and that is that they loved Lincoln County." One thing Williams enjoys about the group is that they had a good team dynamic.

For Williams, giving back to the community is not a foreign task. She is a member of the rotary club and has also been a part of the county toy drive for 33 years, and it is the 55th year that the toy drive has been in operation.

Joe Collins started the toy drive in 1966 to benefit local foster children. It is a partnership between the Elk Valley Times newspaper, the local Fire department, and the federal rotary club. Trucking companies around the county partner together to drive trucks to transport toys. Williams said the organization receives monetary donations for the toys as well as store-bought toys. The organization helped bring in 536 children's toys last Christmas. Adults who grew up in foster care and local churches and schools help contribute to the toy drive.

Williams said the toy drive will always be nearest and dearest to her heart. She and her sister-in-law Sandy Williams pull applications and shop for children



LUCY WILLIAMS

*Elk Valley Times
& Lincoln County Toy Drive*

“She not only does the things we all do, but she goes above and beyond with her contributions.”

- Marisa Thornton

with special needs, which is an addition to the work she is doing with the toy drive. Williams said what she enjoys most is witnessing what the toys mean to children who otherwise may not receive gifts. She also enjoys receiving letters from families expressing their appreciation for what the organization is doing for the community.

Marisa Thornton describes Williams as a "go-getter" and someone that she looks up to. Thornton said

that Williams is an asset to the community, "She not only does the things we all do, but she goes above and beyond with her contributions." Thornton became friends with Williams because she participated in the rotary club.

Williams said she is grateful for the community and the work they've done and that the organization's goal is to "show children and their families that they are cared about." -GN

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A New Outlook Can Change Everything

Positivity in the classroom and the gym can heal the body, mind, and spirit.

By Kennedee McAdams

Montie Dangerfield is an encourager by nature. She centers her life around things that bring positive energy, and she carries this way of living into her teaching style. Dangerfield has been an educator for 20 years now. She started out teaching middle schoolers but has since transitioned to teaching high school English. Along with teaching at our local high school, she is also a fitness instructor.

Dangerfield's desire to be certified to teach classes began five years ago. She has always loved to dance—plus, staying physically active was essential for good health. So she took these two passions and combined them into a career. Dangerfield believes in enjoying one's workouts, and if you do, you are more likely to stick with it.

"Music is my passion, and incorporating dance movement is a win-win for me when it comes to getting a great workout," Dangerfield said.

Gyms are fun for some people, yes. However, this does not apply to everyone. In Dangerfield's case, she was never a fan. Because of her lack of fondness for gyms, she strives to keep her personal classroom fun for everyone, ensuring that all students feel that they have a safe space they can go to work out.

Dangerfield prioritizes both spirit and a good workout. She feels that her classes should be a reflection of herself: happy and fun!

"My dance fitness classes are a reflection of my spirit; if we aren't having fun while working out together, then I'm not reaching my goal as an instructor," she said. "It's important to me that people feel uplifted, supported, and encouraged in my dance fitness classes."

She has designed her classrooms to be a judgement-free zone. She strives to ensure that all students feel

comfortable. She does this by ensuring there is no competition between students. Instead, everyone is chasing after the same goal: health. Her style of teaching provides a new outlook on physical activity. It is one that speaks of positivity and celebrates the body for its ability to move.

"It's important to me that people feel uplifted, supported, and encouraged in my dance fitness classes."

Dangerfield carries this same positivity into her teaching career as well. She is upbeat and helpful to all students and fellow teachers alike. She is always ready to help and is seen as a strong motherly figure to all of her students. Her colleagues agree.

"She has strong expectations for her students—something I'm proud that all our English department has—and she is widely loved and respected by students and fellow teachers alike, and always with a million-dollar smile," her colleague and fellow English teacher Jack Jean said.

Dangerfield's optimism is one thing she has conveyed to all aspects of her life, especially her teaching career. She enjoys life and believes this enjoyment should not cease in the classroom. Regardless if she is teaching high schoolers or showing individuals how to dance their heart out, you can be sure that you will find Montie Dangerfield with an idealistic spirit and a smile on her face. -GN



MONTIE DANGERFIELD
English Teacher - Lincoln County High School



GREG MCARTHUR
Fayetteville's Best Friend

Our Town's Best Friend

Greg McArthur warms hearts, rain or shine.

By Julia Eads

If you have spent any amount of time on the square in Fayetteville, odds are you have been greeted by Greg McArthur. With a ballcap on his head and a handheld CD player in tow, there he is zipping around to socialize with the town.

Greg is what some may call a creature of habit. He's an early riser—on the square each morning before most roosters even have the chance to crow. Rain or shine, Greg is opening doors and giving hugs. Like clockwork, Owen Bagley and his children have an exchange with Greg each morning on their way to school. Once they spot him on the square, they give him two honks, roll the window down,

and wave. In response, Greg waves and shoots them back a thumbs up. The interaction is simple. However, to Owen and his children, it means the world. It is how they jump start each day on a bright and positive note. Greg is known for little yet meaningful interactions just like with countless people in Fayetteville. Lincoln County would not be as hospitable if sweet Greg were not in it.

Greg makes it his mission to intentionally connect with others as often as possible. Wherever people are, Greg wants to be as well. Owen joked, "Greg is the only man I know that hates weekends and holidays because not many people are on the square and most of his friends are gone."



**Wherever you
run into Greg,
he is guaranteed to
put a smile on your face
and brighten your day.**

But in all seriousness, Greg has been making friends all over the square for over 20 years.

The lovely ladies who work down at the courthouse are some of his best friends and, like Owen, have the pleasure of seeing Greg each day. At the courthouse, Greg will greet the staff by name, open their doors, escort them to the elevator, and will even push the elevator buttons to ensure people arrive on the correct floor. His kindness is unparalleled. He has even been known to bring birthday cards when somebody has a birthday to help celebrate his pals!

Greg is one of those people who naturally make you feel loved as if you've known him your entire life.

He is as many people would say, “a staple of the community” whether it be on the square or under the Friday night lights at Falcon football games. He is always around and always displaying such kindness. Wherever you run into Greg, he is guaranteed to put a smile on your face and brighten your day. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Greg yet, head to the square. Sit down at Honey's and grab a hamburger or walk down to the Local Cafe for a cup of coffee. Greg should be making his rounds all over town soon and if you're lucky you might even meet your new best friend of a lifetime. -GN



The Simply Fabulous Singers of the Fabulous Fifties Show

Singing community members serve those around them.

By Sara McClaran

If you've seen the Fabulous Fifties Show, you've seen the music group Simply Fabulous. It is the backup group that is more than a backup group, and their participation in the show has spanned over 30 years. Their participation has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society and the Multi-County Cancer Support Network.

Not all of the current members have been there from the start, but all of them have been singing with Simply Fabulous for well over a decade. Lincoln County trustee Mary Jane Porter has been a part of the group for 27 years, singing and playing the keyboard. She can't imagine a life without being a part of the show.

"This has been a part of my life for so long," Porter said.

Simply Fabulous didn't always have a name. The group began by singing in the Fabulous Fifties Show, but after being invited to sing everywhere from birthday parties to funerals to the Lincoln County Fair, they decided they needed something to call themselves.

"I think somebody just said, well, you're just simply fabulous," Bagley & Bagley employee Sharon Williams said, "and it just kind of stuck."

The members of Simply Fabulous love to sing, but to many, the help they provide is just as important. As music is a passion of theirs, it is a perfect way to give back.

"We see a lot of the people that come in requesting help," Williams said. "...They're struggling so just knowing and seeing the people that we're helping... that means a lot."



SIMPLY FABULOUS
Community Singers

D&J River Farms owner Josh Ogle believes that their ministry is not only in the money they raise but also the joy they bring and the healing power of music.

“With everything that’s going on in the world today and not to mention the division in our country, I believe music and specifically the ministry of music can help bridge the gap and reconcile the negativity that seems to be forefront everywhere you look,” Ogle said.

Many of the members of Simply Fabulous have been touched by cancer themselves, so they understand what those they aim to serve are going through.

“I lost my mother to cancer when I was 7 years old,” Porter said. “I have always wanted to make sure I gave back to help those who are and have battled this.”

Most of all, the members of Simply Fabulous love spending time together and working together in harmony.

“They’re just another family to me,” Williams said, “It’s been a blessing for all of us to have found each other and just get to share what we all love doing.”

Simply Fabulous has no intention of going away, especially after their many years of service. They intend to be there for every Fabulous Fifties Show, as backup singers, soloists, and stars.

“If our group can provide support, help, care, and love and lift spirits with our music,” Bigham said, “then I pray we can continue to lift hearts and bring joy to each and every one for a long time.” -GN



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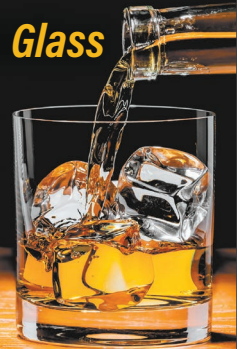
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Off to the Races

Commemorating Cindy Harwell and the impact she has made on the local county fair.

By Jeriah Brumfield

Harness racing has been a part of the Lincoln County Fair for over 100 years. To say that the races are a significant part of Lincoln County's history would be a considerable understatement. The Lincoln County Fair is the only fair held in Tennessee that offers harness racing, and Harness racers come from Kentucky, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and many other states for such a memorable event.

One person who has played a pivotal role in keeping the races alive is Cindy Harwell. Harwell owns a beauty shop formerly known as Salon 201. She is located at 211 Main Avenue Street, where she and her hairdressers enjoy doing clients' hair, nails, and makeup. Harwell became enthusiastic about working with the County Fair whenever she and a co-worker started attending harness races on Saturdays. One of her clients had previously been president of the fair.

Harwell began working under David Putman in the early '90s, where she became more involved in volunteering with harness racing. When asked to accept the position of clerk of the course, Harwell started immediately. Her job consisted of taking horse papers home to her living room and working on them by hand on her living room floor. She later learned to do her work on the computer program, which made her job a lot simpler. Harwell would often take one week off of work during the races to volunteer. She helped feed fair entertainers in the kitchen and provided any other services that helped keep the races running.

Harwell said the races are where adults and children come together, grab their snacks and cheer on their favorite racers. On Tuesday, they have senior citizen day, and on Saturdays, they interview and present an award to the longest living fan in the audience.

One year ago, Harwell passed the torch on her job. In explaining what inspired her to decide to hand her job

over, she said, "It is time for the younger generation to step in." Harwell said she has no regrets about handing over the office job and is always ready to lend a helping hand whenever the staff needs her. Anna Catherine Osteen described Harwell as "loving, lots of fun, and creative." In stating what separates Harwell apart from others is her drive. She said, "She just never stops." Osteen said that in observing Harwell and her work ethic, she could see Harwell's passion in everything she does. Anna Catherine Osteen started temporarily working under Harwell.

Harwell has gotten to know and love many racers, which she believes makes the event more meaningful.

**"Loving, lots of fun,
and creative."**

Harness racer Freddie Patton attends the races from Clinton, Mississippi. Eventually, his children took part in the races, and now his grandchildren are starting to attend. She explained that they might not know Patton personally, but they know him as a racer, and they expect him to come. Harwell said the audience members have specific racers that they like to see, and when they don't show up, the audience is disappointed. The races and the audience's relationship with the racers give the audience something to look forward to.

Harwell is always overjoyed to see people of all ages enjoying the event. Senior citizens lined up around the race track, watching and anticipating the event. Harwell said harness racing is always better at local fairs and that she would continue to participate in the Lincoln County Fair for as long as she lived. **-GN**



CINDY HARWELL
Owner, Salon 211

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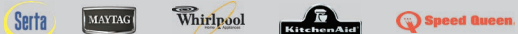
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PAUL HENRY
Local Photographer & Teacher

Saving Lincoln County's Memories

Paul Henry captures the light in Lincoln County.

By Jeriah Brumfield

Kentucky native Paul Henry never ceases to express his commitment to Lincoln County by exhibiting his skills in photography and videography to showcase the beauty of the community. With experience in film, drone piloting, and videography, Paul Henry has captured some of the most meaningful and memorable images that will live on forever.

In the early part of his career, Paul worked with Sandy and Lucy Williams to publish Elk Valley Times newspapers. He has been editing and uploading footage for 21 years. Paul said he has always had a taste for imagery and photography.

Paul enjoys working behind the scenes to produce top-quality work to continue to help the community shine. "Everything I do is from a community standpoint," he said. Paul shot films in the '80s and later shot black and white photography.

"He's just a great guy. A super community person," Famous Fifties member and close friend of the Paul Family, Mickie Bigham, stated. Bigham said she enjoys watching Paul capture photos of the Fabulous Fifties group. "You'll always see him show up at events, and he'll have his camera there ready to take pictures."

In explaining what inspires him to take photos, Paul said, "You're taking a shot of a moment in time that will never exist again." He never misses a moment to snap photos of community events, organizations, sports teams, and breathtaking sunsets resting above cotton fields.

Paul has gained a wide range of experiences from his time in Lincoln County. Some of Paul's most famous photos are of horse races, County Fairgrounds, and capital buildings. Some of his most memorable shoots consist of

mainstream artists like RnB artist Whitney Houston. His favorite people to shoot photos of are country singers like Keith Urban and Billy Ray Cyrus at the CMA Festival in downtown Nashville.

Paul is not just an excellent photographer, but he is also an outstanding educator. He takes much pride in teaching the younger generation how to build photography skills. He travels to a different middle school each week with the LEAPS Program, where he teaches sixth, seventh, and eighth graders cellphone photography.

Paul credits much of his success to his two parents Bob and Martha Henry. The Henry Family has been nothing short of supportive to Lincoln County. Growing up with two parents who dedicated their lives to impact the county, Paul experienced firsthand what it was like to be a part of a loving and caring community. Some of Paul's fondest memories lie on the Falcon Football field.

Martha Henry was a member of the Falcon Club, and Paul and his father used to capture photos and videos together at Lincoln County football games. Paul said his parents enjoyed working and dedicating their work to the community. Bigham described the family as "Good folks, living in small communities, contributing to their communities, and just living life."

Paul hopes to continue shooting photography, as well as to inspire younger generations to pursue photography. He plans to continue to enhance his skills in drone imagery throughout the rest of his career. In capturing each image, Paul portrays Lincoln County in photographs that the community can look back on and admire for years and years to come. **GN**

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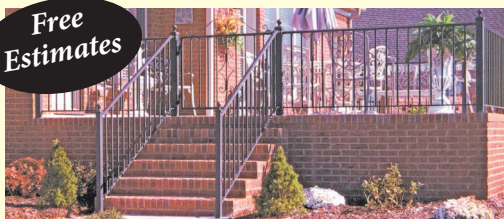
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JANET HALE

Special Education Assistant

A Life Lived for Others

Changing lives in the community through 4-H.

by Sara McClaran

If you've been a part of 4-H in Lincoln County, you know Janet Hale. A self-proclaimed lifelong 4-Her, Janet has been working with the 4-H extension service for almost all of her professional career.

"I don't think anybody who knows Janet Hale does not like Janet Hale. Everybody who knows her has to love her, because she's just that kind of person," said former 4-H parent and program assistant Cathy Helms. Helms said that even when Hale was not officially involved with 4-H, she was volunteering her time anyway she could. Even after Hale officially retired from 4-H, she continues to work as a special-education assistant.

"She's been very, very involved in the community and her church."

"She's been very, very involved in the community and her church," Helms said. In fact, Janet Hale and her husband Darrell spent many of their summers with their 4-H kids, taking them to camps or conferences throughout the country for most of June and July.

"Mrs. Janet and her husband Mr. Darrell kind of became like second parents to those of us who stayed in it from fourth all the way into our college years... It takes somebody who will love... their core group of kids to hit the road the day that school gets off in the summer and pretty much stay with those kids all summer long," said

former 4-H participant Melanie Kelso. "They're definitely a Lincoln County treasure."

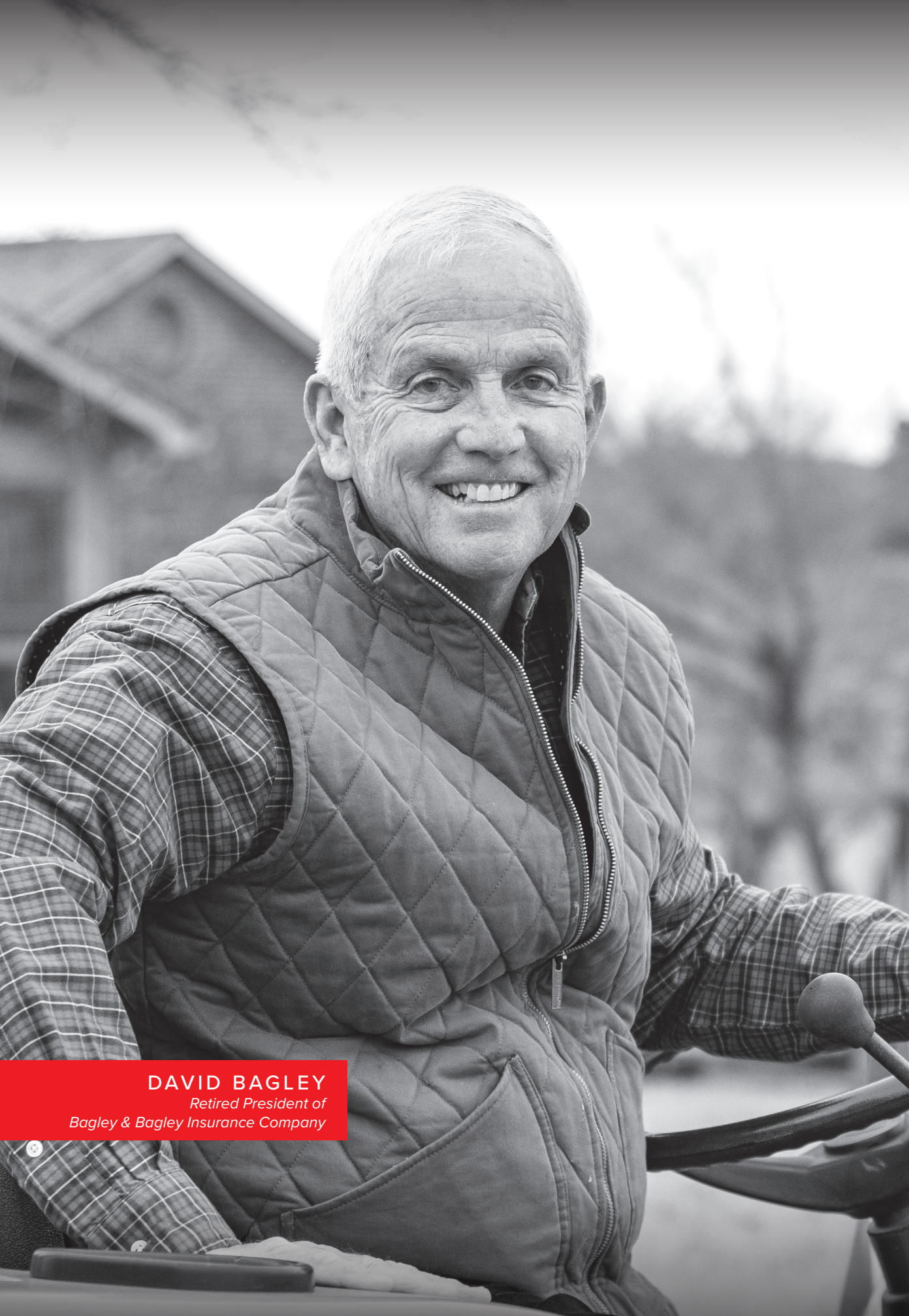
Kelso has known the Hales for over 30 years, ever since they moved to Lincoln County in 1987, and said that the Hales had 4-H kids who were now state legislators, and local business owners. In fact, seeing that impact on youth is one of Janet's favorite things about 4-H.

"I had one young lady that was very shy and hid behind her mom the first time or two she participated in 4-H," she said. "She later became a state winner in the clothing project and started her own business later on in life in the textiles industry."

It hasn't all been give, for Janet Hale. She said that the biggest thing she has learned from her time in 4-H is that every child is unique in both learning style and personality – and that every child matters.

"It's the most rewarding either volunteer or paid job that you can have, to work with youth – and of course with their parents and with community leaders. You are... just working with a whole package within a community," she said. "We still have a really active program in Lincoln County, and have... a wonderful 4-H agent in Dan Owen and I would encourage parents if they don't know about 4-H to to visit with him – and it of course starts in fourth grade and goes through 12th grade, and then like me, you can be a lifelong 4-Her by working with them and volunteering with them. So once a 4-Her, you can always be a 4-Her."

The youth who had the honor of having Janet as their mentor have made impacts all over the country. Because of Janet, their lives are forever impacted for the better. -GN



DAVID BAGLEY

*Retired President of
Bagley & Bagley Insurance Company*

The Life of Serving

David Bagley is always there to serve the people of Lincoln County.

By Gabriel Grant Huff

The saying “we need more people like you in the world” is commonly reserved for the generous and most considerate citizens of society. Lincoln County has one of those people.

David E. Bagley is a Christian man, family man, and volunteer. Born in 1954, Bagley has lived in Fayetteville all his life. He has been retired from his family insurance business for about three and a half years. The business, Bagley & Bagley Insurance, was created in 1907 by Bagley’s grandfather and great uncle, and it offers various types of insurance. David began working for the company in 1974 at just 20 years old, joining the third generation of Bagleys to work for the company. Before retiring, he had been serving as president of the company for about 30 years. His sons Owen and Adam help make up the fourth generation. David’s sister, Cary Sullivan, also works there with other family members.

David said his favorite part about the family business was meeting new people.

“I’m very much a people person, and I enjoyed meeting and being able to help people,” David says.

David strongly believes in his duty to help others. During his lifetime, he participated in feeding programs such as Hands of Mercy. For about 30 years, David was also an affiliate of the Fayetteville Rotary Club, a civic service organization that works on projects to help the community. Currently, David volunteers to deliver food to senior citizens from the Lincoln County Senior Citizens Center.

“I was always raised up that you give back twice as much to the community as the community gives to you,”

David says. “I tried to give every bit of that back to my community. I love Fayetteville—Lincoln County. It’s been good to my family, and I’d like to try to return the favor to the community.”

David is very involved in his home church: First Presbyterian Church. David has served as treasurer for at least the past 20 years. One thing he loves doing is joining the church’s mission trips to Guatemala, where he helps install water systems in places such as churches, schools, and hospitals. David says he has been on six to seven trips with the last one occurring right before the COVID-19 pandemic. The mission trips have been placed on hold due to the virus, he says.

Joseph Hamilton, David’s fellow church member, says David plays an important role in the church and its mission trips.

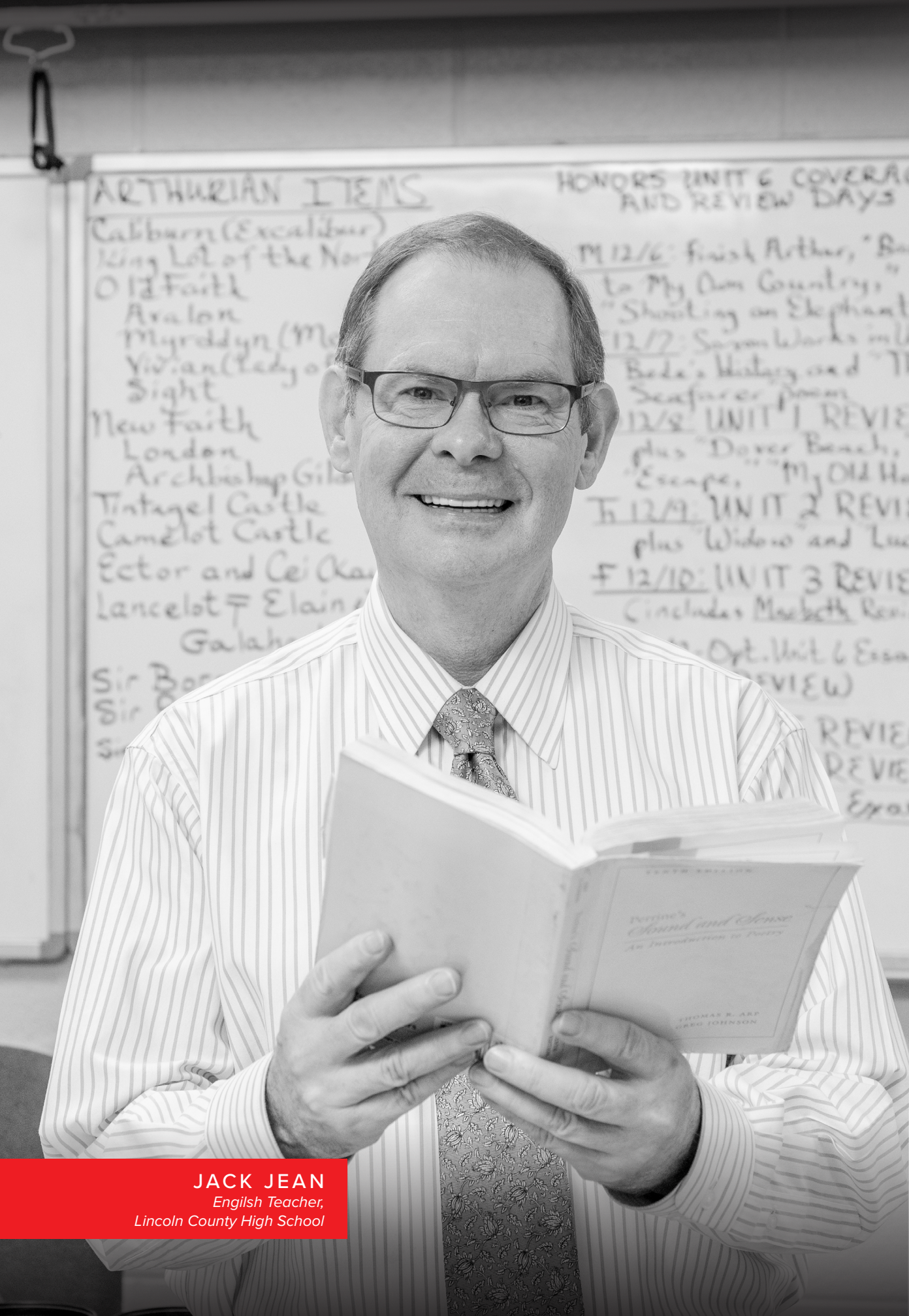
“He’s a very important part of the mission trip in that he’s one of the people that actually teaches the people that we go and install for,” Hamilton says.

David says he is happy with the relationships he has with his family, including his wife, Cyndi. They have been married for 44 years.

“He’s self-giving and caring, but he just cares so much about everything around him,” Mary Ann Marsh, David’s cousin, says.

David’s future goal is to continue his volunteer work and maintain great relationships with family and friends. If there is one thing everyone could learn from him, David says it would be how to treat others.

“Treat every person the way that you want to be treated,” David says. -GN



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- T 12/7: Saxon Works incl... Bede's History and "The Seafarer" poem
- W 12/8: UNIT 1 REVIEW plus "Dover Beach," "Escape," "My Old Home"
- F 12/9: UNIT 2 REVIEW plus "Widow and Luc..."
- F 12/10: UNIT 3 REVIEW. Concludes Macbeth Rev... Unit 6 Exam REVIEW
- REVIEW
- REVIEW
- Exam

JACK JEAN
English Teacher,
Lincoln County High School

Teaching Students into Leaders

Mr. Jack Jean at Lincoln County High School is a teacher who students remember for a lifetime.

By Wesley Bryant

Sitting in an English classroom in Lincoln County High School, a student is listening to the teacher. The student looks up to the teacher as a role model, impressed at all the teacher has accomplished and his intelligence. On the first day of class, the student walked into the classroom like any other classroom in the hallway. The teacher was just another teacher. And it was just another English class... but not for long. The teacher was different. This class was not like the others. The student may not realize it at first, but as the teacher carried on day to day, the student realized the compassion and inspiration that naturally flowed from the teacher at the podium. Like reading a novel that's more impressive after every turn of the page, the class catches on that this teacher is one you will remember for your entire lifetime. But not only for the

“Everything you do in Mr. Jean's classroom is worth your time”

student... but the student's parents. And maybe even their parents have sat in the same classroom coming to the same realization as the school year continued—this teacher is one who comes once in a lifetime, like a rare shooting star.

This is the story countless families in Lincoln County can tell. The lifetime and career of Mr. Jack Jean has spread from Lincoln County, throughout the state, and throughout America over the decades like a hit novel that inspires people from coast to coast. LCHS, and our county, would not be the same without Mr. Jean's presence.

“I knew I loved to teach,” Mr. Jean said. “I taught a lot at church.”

The talent of teaching doesn't come naturally to all, but it did to Mr. Jean. As a teen, he was teaching adult Bible classes to members of Washington Street church of Christ. He knew he loved to teach and with the opportunities at his church community, he was able to find his natural talent.

“When I was a teenager I worked on the church bus program—that was teaching kids who were picked up on the bus around Fayetteville to come to church,” he said.

Mr. Jean went on to achieve many more accomplishments in his professional career of 38 years. Among those accomplishments is being named “Lincoln County School District's Teacher of the Year,” not once... but twice.

“Everything you do in Mr. Jean's classroom is worth your time. I'm three years into college and still thinking of him every day in my English classes,” former AP-English student Sara Koonce said. After Mr. Jean's class, Sara tested out of English college courses, essentially skipping those English college courses for more advanced English classes. Other students have gone on to have lives of success; one student wrote a #1 novel read by hundreds of thousands of readers.

“Over a dozen of my former students are now teachers in my school,” Mr. Jean wrote in his statement of success. “Many more are also principals and other administrators, teachers, professors, business leaders, and other successful individuals in our city and county and beyond. I am now teaching many students whose parents I also taught. I am thankful for the opportunity to add my educational contributions to those of dozens of our fine educators in Fayetteville and Lincoln County who work every day to broaden the experiences and enrich the lives of students in our community.”

Mr. Jean continues to teach at Lincoln County High School, blessing students who walk through the doorway that looks like any other. His classroom still holds life-changing education for semester after semester. -GN



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Nursing During a Global Pandemic

Our friends and family make all the difference.

By Julia Eads

Being a nurse has never been an easy job, much less being a nurse during a global pandemic. Needless to say, working in the medical field over the last two years has become more demanding than ever. From understanding how to beat a new virus to treating more patients with less help, there seems to be one hoop after another to jump through for these public servants. Heather Smith is a nurse who specifically has stood out among the rest with her steadfastness and positive attitude. She has worked many long hours through this pandemic and has always shown love and care to patients as well as her co-workers.

Although nursing has always been in the back of Smith's mind, she has not always been in the medical field. She actually taught for 15 years at Riverside Christian Academy. However, after she had the opportunity to stay home with her father when hospice was present, she decided there is no time but the present time to chase her dream career. As heart wrenching as it was to see her dad pass, it only furthered her confidence that she should be in the medical field. Between her dad passing and her grandmother's encouragement, she finally decided to take her shot and go to nursing school.

Now, with six years as a full-time nurse at Lincoln Medical Center under her belt, nursing is not just a career for Smith. It is so much more. She loves her patients and treats them as if it were her own family member in the bed. In fact, when Smith was in nursing school, that's the one thing that her grandmother was constantly drilling into her mind. She would say, "Whoever is in that bed is your family member. They are your brother, sister, mother, and father. Care for them as such." Smith has taken that charge to heart and has given each family and each day her complete and total effort.

Smith admitted that the past two years have been incredibly stressful for her and her co-workers alike. In addition to all of their normal roles and responsibilities, the nurses have had to become the in-between person when the

family is separated from the patient. They have had to become better communicators, more emotionally supportive, and more involved overall. Instead of complaining about the new workload, Smith has said it has been incredibly rewarding to fill the gap for the patients and their families. Something she always tells them is "education keeps fear away." She pleads with them to please ask questions and warns them not to go anxiously spiraling through the internet for answers. She reassures families that there is not a dumb question. She was willing to sit down and talk details over and over until patients and their families felt better and understood what was going on medically.

"Family or loved ones can keep a person's heart going when they don't want to."

Although some restrictions at hospitals have been lifted, Smith expressed that COVID-19 truly has shown her firsthand the importance of family connectivity. The priority of safety for all comes with caveats. Unfortunately, there were many times she had to be with people as they passed from life to death because they were too sick or had given up. Smith saw firsthand the will to live in people significantly increased when they are able to hear and see their family members, even if only through a window or phone screen. Smith continued, "Family or loved ones can keep a person's heart going when they don't want to." For Heather Smith, her co-workers are the family that kept her going through this pandemic. She is forever grateful for her amazing team and workplace and she said she would not be the nurse she is today without them by her side. -GN



HEATHER SMITH
Nurse, Lincoln Medical Center

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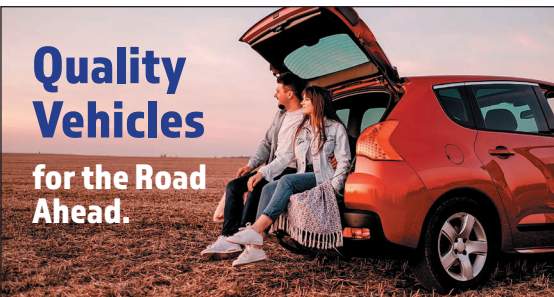


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An Inspiration On and Off The Court

Coach Fitz brings our community together by encouraging students through basketball.

By Kennedee McAdams

Sometimes you meet someone, and you just know that they will do great things. Well, this is the case with Fitzgerald Hopkins and many who have had that privilege of meeting him can testify to this. Fitzgerald cares for kids in many ways, some may even go as far as to say his life and passions are centered around watching young adults walk into their full potential. "Coach Fitz" uses basketball as an avenue to show the next generation what they're capable of.

One of the various ways he demonstrates this is by his teaching career. He is currently a teacher at Fayetteville High School. It is here that he spends his days teaching personal finance. At the high school, he

is also the assistant basketball coach for the boy's team. While he is both a teacher and a coach, it doesn't even scratch the surface for all the ways he is impacting the kids in the area using basketball.

Along with teaching and coaching, Coach Fitz owns an elite basketball training organization called 3G Reps. The main goal of the business is "to help athletes at all levels develop their fundamentals and skills and basketball IQ." It is through this business that he does basketball skills training with local athletes anywhere from first grade and up. However, he does not stop here.

Traveling is also something that is often in the



FITZGERALD HOPKINS
Basketball Coach

cards for Fitzgerald. He will frequently venture to different colleges in and out of state to do a similar type of training. He recently started something new; in the upcoming season, he will run a junior pro basketball league that is open to students from kindergarten to eighth grade. This opportunity will allow students from not only Tennessee but also Alabama to participate. This is exciting for the students because it will allow them to play with various kids from inside their county and the surrounding counties as well, sharpening their skills with people from other communities.

Community is important and so is passion. Coach Fitz has mastered the art of combining

the two in order to bring individuals together. He is a role model to many and an inspiration both on and off the court.

Betsy Thomas, a mother of a nine-year-old player whom Coach Fitz coaches says, “Coach Fitz is fully committed to teaching and mentoring student athletes in our community. He is an excellent role model for all of his students and encourages hard work, dedication, respect, and self-discipline on and off the court.”

Fitzgerald Hopkins's impact in the surrounding area does not go unnoticed. His drive to inspire children through basketball has already changed the lives of many—and many more for years to come. -GN



A Round of Applause

Honoring Mickey Johnson and the lasting impact he has made on the community for over 34 years.

By Jeriah Brumfield

Actor and Director Mickey Johnson has been instrumental in contributing to the county through his delicious desserts, breathtaking artwork, and his phenomenal acting and directing skills. Johnson has been a member of the Carriage House Players Performing Arts Theater organization for over 20 years, where he continues to direct and produce show-stopping performances.

Carriage House Players Theater has played a pivotal role in the community of Fayetteville. With numerous productions and activities set to launch per year, the organization is nothing short of unifying for friends and family of all ages. It has been a successful and well-known organization in the county for 34 years and counting. The organization is still rising in support, with

just over 2,100 followers and over 2,000 likes on their Facebook page.

Fabulous Fifties member Brenda Wilkes said they decided to open a theater organization because only one out of three schools offers a theater program. Though the organization produces shows in the museum on Main Avenue, leadership purchased a building in downtown Fayetteville to renovate and help community members create art of all forms. They have four theater performances each year, with two singing groups performing twice a year. Both Wilkes and Johnson have been committed to the Carriage House organization since the late '80s and early '90s. Before moving to Fayetteville, Johnson spent a lot of his time working in Huntsville and North Alabama.

Johnson's remarkable acting skills have afforded him lots



MICKEY JOHNSON

*Carriage House Players
Actor & Director*

of experience in the realm of theater and production. He played Colonel Mustard from "CLUE: On Stage" and the Grand Duke in "Cinderella's Glass Slipper." He wrote and directed "Frankenstein... A Monster Among Us," a play on the famous Halloween movie "Frankenstein." In addition, in 2020, Johnson performed in Carriage House Player's production of "12 Angry Jurors." He helped to direct "Sarah, Plain and Tall," as well as "An Old Fashioned Christmas."

He has helped with fundraiser nights at Shoneys as a server and is well-known for his tasty treats, like his Sun Drop Cakes that he showcases at the Slawburger Festival held by the Carriage House Players.

Wilkes said Johnson is an integral part of both the community and the organization and has a lot of background

and experience. "He has a background in art, management, and theater. All of those come into play." Johnson was an art major in college, and his knowledge and enhanced skill set did not go to waste. Aside from acting and directing, Johnson spends a lot of his time assisting the organization with fundraisers and other community activities.

A small-town man, Johnson is always prepared to lend a helping hand to fulfill any needs the community may have. "If he's in the leadership role, he will take the lead," Wilkes described. "If he is not in the leadership role, he will provide any assistance he can." The director is very committed to the organization and to helping them progress. Wilkes said the community should know that Johnson continues to do his best to help them achieve their goals and live out their theater dreams. -GN



TINA HUDSON

*Volunteer,
Hands of Mercy Center*

Difference Makers in Lincoln County

A food bank that shares the good news of Jesus Christ.

By Julia Eads

What began as a soft whisper from God to one woman's heart has slowly grown into a countywide ministry. Like most churches aim to do, Hope Assembly of God was looking for ways to love and serve their community in a tangible way. Church member Tina Hudson knew a very practical way to be the hands and feet of Jesus was to simply make sure people had enough food. Thus, the Hands of Mercy food bank was organized.

Tina Hudson knew a very practical way to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Although it started out in 2006 as a ministry being supported and run solely by Hope Assembly of God, it has grown and developed into much more. When Hudson's father, Randy Cowan, passed away, she was put in charge of liquidating his real estate properties. There was one property on Easy Street that seemed like it would not go anywhere! Hudson and her mom, Betty Lawrence, both felt and agreed that they were supposed to do something special with the property. They brought an idea to their pastor and the rest is history.

Men from their church rallied around the women and undertook a remodeling job of the building to make it suitable for a food pantry operation of this size. When they were finished, they dedicated the building in memory of Hudson's father Randy Cowan. Cowan was a very generous man and would have been delighted with the building going to this cause. Today, Hands of Mercy is located at 101 Easy Street in Fayetteville. It is an active 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is now supported by multiple local churches, community organizations, businesses, grants, and individuals.

Hands of Mercy Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 3 p.m. Clients who qualify for aid can come in and receive free groceries each month to help fill in the gap where paychecks or food stamps will not suffice. Many people depend on this help and are grateful, returning clients. Another extension of Hands of Mercy is their Weekend Feeding Program known as BOBS (Bags of Blessings). This is a bag or backpack filled with non-perishable food. These bags are sent home from school with critical-needs children every single week. The children are discreetly identified by the school counselors and teachers. Hands of Mercy volunteers pack about 200 bags each week and take them to the schools every Thursday. To date, every school in the city and county are receiving bags!

Additionally, Hands of Mercy offers several Mobile Food Pantries throughout the year. Food is given away to the first 250 families present at the events. The food bank has no intention of slowing down. Instead, they are growing and hoping to be able to help with more individual tasks like helping clients obtain a driver's license and supplementing more utility bills.

Hands of Mercy is a volunteer and donor-based organization. They are confident that anyone can help in one way or another. Below are a few ways you can help: Donate food items such as individually wrapped cracker packs and any snack items. Donate funds. Donations can be sent to PO Box 1215, Fayetteville, TN 37334-1215. Volunteer your time. Packing bags, delivering food, and working at the pantry are all ways to help. Additionally, every Thursday a delivery truck must be emptied on site and able-bodied volunteers are always needed! Lastly, the ministry always welcomes prayer partners. They ask that you specifically pray for God's blessings, protection, and favor for each child, family, school, volunteer, and staff member. For additional information feel free to call at (931) 433-4263 or visit their Facebook page. -GN



CARY BAGLEY SULLIVAN

Third-generation partner, Bagley & Bagley Insurance



The Heart of a Community

Make things better than how you found them.

By Jada Robison

The success of a community is dependent upon the people within it and how much work they are willing to do to support it. Cary Bagley Sullivan is no stranger to this concept and has done so much for the Fayetteville community.

Cary, daughter of the late Sam and Evelyn Bagley, has lived in Fayetteville her whole life. She is married to Dexter Sullivan and has three daughters and six grandchildren, who she hopes all come to love and support Fayetteville as much as she does. Two of Cary and Dexter's daughters and their husbands have started their own businesses and their youngest daughter is involved in helping the children of Lincoln County as well as other surrounding counties.

Cary is the third-generation partner of a family-owned-and-operated independent insurance agency located on the downtown square. Bagley & Bagley has been in business in downtown Fayetteville since 1907 and they are now within their fourth generation of family ownership.

In seeking to continue to build upon the successes of her community and be as involved as possible, Cary actively supports any and everything in Fayetteville and Lincoln County. She has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, chairperson of the First Presbyterian Church Child Care Board and was a member

of Alpha Kappa. Cary also served on the committee for the Host of Christmas Past event and was instrumental in starting a fundraiser for cancer research, The Fabulous Fifties Show. The show will be celebrating its 35th year in the spring. Countless cancer survivors have benefitted from the hard work of the Fabulous Fifties Show over the past three and a half decades.

"Make things better than how you found them," is Cary's motto. She strongly believes in and encourages everyone in the community to get involved and to be active in the care and wellbeing of those around them. Whatever any individual does in the community, big or small, can make a huge difference in the future as well as potentially encourage others to do the same.

If you would like to be more involved in Lincoln County and support the community that supports you, and in the words of Cary, leave it better than you found it, make sure you reach out to local businesses and organizations and ask what you can do to help. You can also join local Facebook pages and groups. Make it a goal to seek out a need within Lincoln County and help meet it. Create events and fundraisers that can encourage the community. Follow in the footsteps of Cary and her incredible impact to make Lincoln County a better place. -GN



EAGIN EVANS
School Counselor

The Sweet Spot

Where one's passion and gifts are in perfect alignment.

By Julia Eads

Eagin Evans has been the school counselor at Highland Rim School since 2010, yet her passion for helping others dates much further back. Caring for others is not a line in her job description but more like a fiber of DNA ingrained in her very being. Although being other-centered comes naturally to Evans, there are experiences and influences that further nurture this quality. For starters, growing up going to church and being out on mission trips grew the desire to help meet the needs of others. Then in later years, sitting in her college Educational Psychology class, gleaning from her professor

develop a four-year plan. She also hosts group counseling sessions on a regular basis. A former student recalled an exercise dubbed the “Hot Seat” that Mrs. Evans had them participate in during class time. One person would be in the hot seat and the rest of the class would write positive and affirming words around the person sitting in the chair. This exercise, and many others like it, make a monumental difference in the lives of students each year.

Talking about her role, Evans expressed, “the most rewarding part is when the students come back the same day or years later and tell me I helped them through that time and how they appreciate it.” One of her tiniest students once told her, “Thank you for gluing back my broken heart.”

While this is the upside of her role, the heavier part of being a counselor is hearing the adversities that students in her school and community have gone through or are currently going through. It's a double-edged sword as Evans takes great delight in being their safe person. Evans feels this is more than her job, but rather her calling.

“I truly believe I was made for this. I feel like I've just been put here to help people,” Evans said.

As if doing her job wasn't enough, Evans continues to find ways to help children both inside and outside of the school walls. Eight years ago, Evans founded a girl's encouragement group called Socialites. The group meets once a month and is open to middle school girls all over the community. It is a time for the girls to eat, hang out, play games, listen to guest speakers, and talk about the struggles of being a teenage girl.

In addition to this group, Evans helps coordinate resources for children whose needs are not being met at home. She says, “I am blessed to be in a position where I can work with others and line up families with services and people willing to lend a helping hand.” A few of the most prominent connections are Clothe Our Kids, Hands of Mercy, and Lincoln County Family Resource Center. With their help and the help of so many organizations, individuals, and churches, kids all over the community get the opportunity to live a better life. It's people like Eagin Evans who make a difference in the lives of children in Lincoln County every single day. -GN

“Thank you for gluing back my broken heart.”

further confirmed her desire to help people on a deeper level. Lastly, while working on her Master's degree in School Counseling at Middle Tennessee State University, Evans worked at Haven of Hope, a women and children's shelter. Her time at the shelter provided the opportunity to learn the needs of people and taught her how to care for those needs in a real and immediate way. All of these experiences led Evans down the path, up the sidewalk, and through the front door at Highland Rim School.

As the full-time school counselor, Evans cares for, teaches, and counsels about 800 students ranging from pre-K to eighth grade. She sees students come in with “sweet little baby teeth” and leave as teenagers. For the younger children, Evans teaches guidance lessons on topics such as self-esteem, manners, kindness, and responsibilities. For the older kids, the lessons grow more complex like bullying behavior, academic success, changing families, assertiveness, friendships, conflict resolution, peer pressure, and career education. Before students in the 8th grade transition into high school, Evans helps them

Small Gestures with Big Impacts

*A Community Center, Banks, and Housing:
Charles Gleghorn has changed our community for the better.*

By Kennedee McAdams

Helping the community has always seemed to be second nature for Charles Gleghorn. He has positively impacted the people of Lincoln County in countless ways. Gleghorn has been in the business of banking for 61 years. He first called Lincoln County Bank home as the president and CEO. In 2000, he sold the bank started his next one, Bank of Lincoln County, in 2002. He also was the president and CEO. While his daughter now holds that position, he remains as the chairman for the bank. But he is not only responsible for those banks, he was also responsible for starting North Alabama Bank in 1989, where he still remains as the chairman.

Within his life, he has managed to use his influence in various areas to benefit all types of people in the community. One of the large ways he has helped the community is through pushing for the establishment of a satellite campus of Motlow. Tullahoma had yet to have a community college prior to the newly installed satellite campus. Motlow, though existing for some time, was never fully accessible to those located in Tullahoma due to the commute. However, this obstacle no longer stands in the way—allowing a community college option to now be available to those in Tullahoma. This has opened many doors for all age groups and has allowed for education to feel more obtainable. In support of the school, Charles annually puts on a golf tournament that fundraises

money, all of which goes towards Motlow. Along with his investment in the education side of the community for both Fayetteville and Tullahoma, he has also benefited the book lovers in the area by acquiring the necessary funding for the local library.

Charles Gleghorn has sat on the Fayetteville Housing Board for 30 years as the chairman. It is here that he has been able to push for residents to find affordable housing. In honor of his work, they built the Charles Gleghorn Community Center, a space that is now used as an event area.

Many would commend Charles for his acts of kindness through the years; however, Charles views it slightly differently. He accredits his faith for being the thing that pushed him through all of the ups and downs throughout his life. He simply feels blessed to be able to help others. He expressed that there is value in what you are able to do for people and it is here that you can find joy throughout life.

Out of all of his accomplishments, Charles is most proud of his family. He was married for 51 years to his wife Joy. He has two children and seven grandchildren. He truly is a family man. He clings to his simple life as a country boy, living on a farm, and loving his family around him. Charles Gleghorn has found happiness through helping others, in both big and subtle acts. -GN



CHARLES GLEGHORN

BOLC & North Alabama Bank Chairman

In Memory of Freddie McKinney

A man who lived a life of willingness.

By Kennedee McAdams

Once a year, the annual harness races commences in Lincoln county. This race is a legendary staple for the area, and in that same way Freddie McKinney was a legendary staple for volunteering at the races. Freddie had worked for the harness races since he was 16 years old. He was consistent in his commitment to tending to the needs of the race year after year. His dedication to the race began in the late 90s when Ruthie Jean, the president of the horse races at the time, hired him as the official plumber of the event. Then, he started volunteering in any instance that rose up. He began placing the blankets on the horses and holding the winning horses while their photos were being taken. This grew to him helping with the horses on a consistent basis; eventually he started sitting at the gate that leads to the track. He would jump up after every race to go and help. This became a consistent occurrence and everyone else working the event always knew they could rely on his dedication.

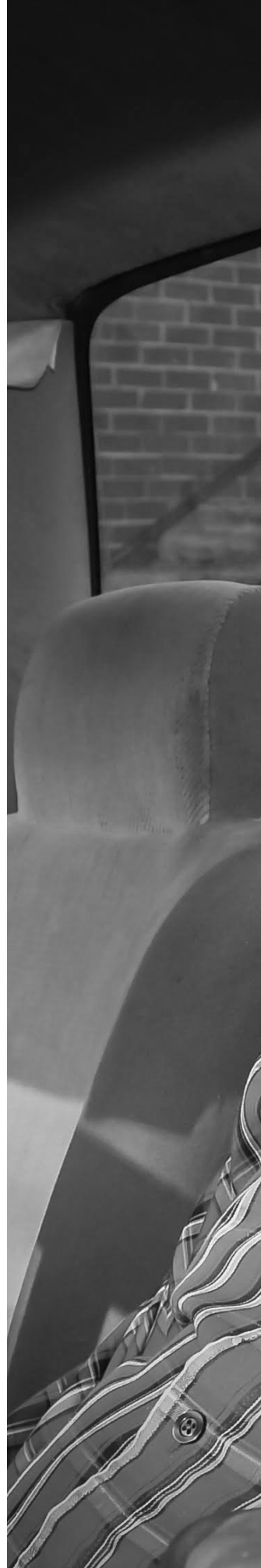
In 1955 after his graduation, Freddie immediately went to work. He started out by working for James Scott, which eventually opened the door to his career of plumbing. Freddie McKinney was in the business of plumbing for quite some time, and along with working as the official plumber at the races, he was also the official plumber of the

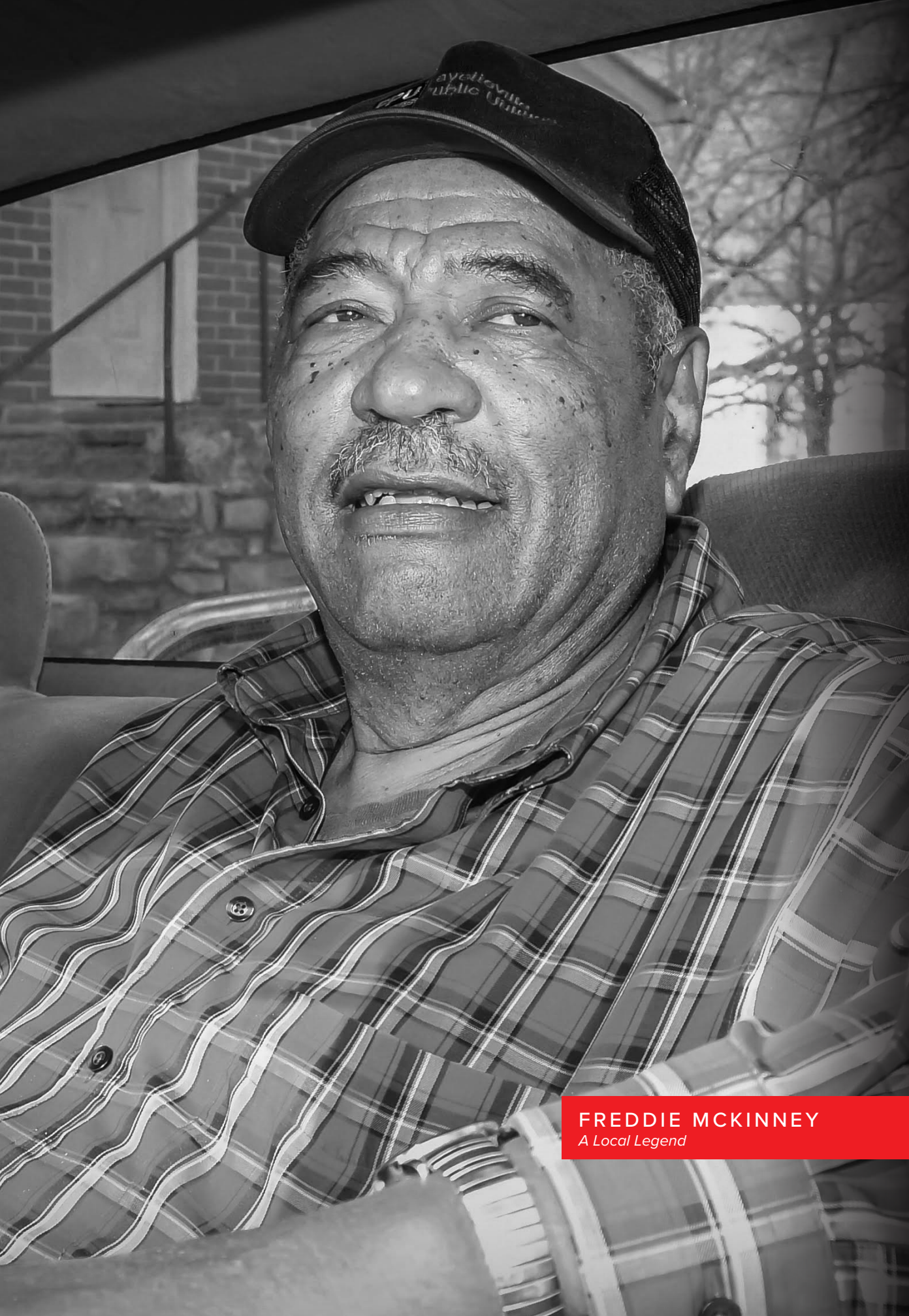
local nursing home and for many residents in town. In 2016, he was selected as the “best plumber” in Lincoln County’s Finest survey of the Elk Valley Times’s Readers.

Freddie’s legacy goes beyond the harness races. He frequently volunteered at his church and was known for the way he helped local people. He was the kind of man who would show up for the community in any way he could. His career and volunteer work are all things to be noted; however, his upright character is what made him stand out in the crowd. Freddie accredited a lot of his values to William Lee Raby. Raby saw great potential in Freddie and taught him how to ethically go about situations in his life. Freddie was known by many as an honest and loving man. Cindy Harwell, a friend of Freddie, referenced his character by saying, “I would have to say that Freddie [was] a kindhearted gentle giant since he [stood] well over six foot.”

Freddie truly made Fayetteville a better place. He had a sweet and pleasant spirit to him, making him enjoyable to everyone around him. His willingness to pour out his time and energy into volunteering in various ways has been a huge benefit to the community. Freddie McKinney has and always will be an example of what it looks like to live a life of servanthood.

His legacy will carry on in Lincoln County for decades to come. -GN





FREDDIE MCKINNEY
A Local Legend

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