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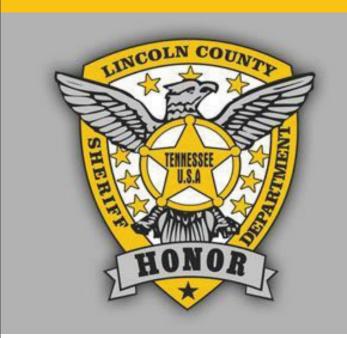






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**OCTOBER 2022** 

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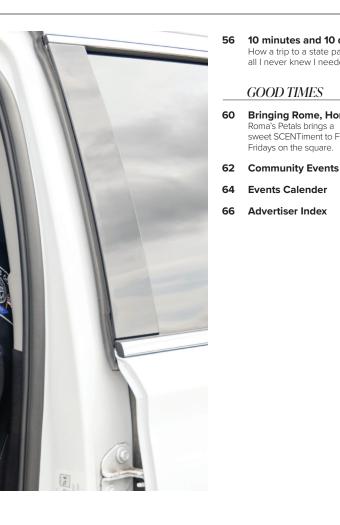
4th Quarter Pressure 54

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**企** MLS



#1517 - Approximately 70 acres of wood and pasture mix. Partially fenced. Property offered in smaller tracts as well. Call agent for details. Hillside views. Property could be a beautiful building site once cleared some. Survey to be done once under contract. Property can be divided. Currently listed in two 35 acre tracts as well. MLS#2388407 \$560,000







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## FOR NOVEMBER 8th, 2022

#### Information for the November 8, 2022 Election:

Registration deadline is October 11, 2022. Qualified voters who own real property within a municipality in which they do not live may register to vote if the municipal charter extends the right to vote to non-resident property owners. Non-resident property owners must provide proof of property ownership at the time of registration and meet requirements. A good source for voter information is govotetn.gov.

Early voting is October 19<sup>th</sup>. - November  $3^{rd}$ . Monday-Friday; 8:00am-5:00 pm, Saturday; October  $22^{nd}$  and  $29^{th}$ . 8:00 am-12:00 noon.

Election Day precinct hours: 9:00 AM-7:00PM

#### **City of Fayetteville:**

Mayor:

Vote for One (1) Donna Hartman Michael T. Whisenant Vote for Three (3) Jeff Alder Tony R Brown Joseph Faulkner Richard Wayne Howell

Alderman:

Shinar Hurd-Smith
Jacob Painter
Dorothy Small

#### City of Ardmore:

Mayor:

Vote for One (1) Wayne Harvell Mike Magnusson Jonathan Lee Peters Alderman:

Vote for Three (3) Jason Sherman Spencer N Smith Joe Stagner

#### State General:

Governor:

Rick Tyler

Vote for One (1)
Bill Lee (R)
Jason Brantley Martin (D)
Constance M. Every (I)
John Gentry (I)
Basil Marceaux (I)
Charles Van Morgan
Alford O'Neil(I)
Deborah Rouse
Michael E. Scantland

U.S. Representative Dist. 4

Vote for One (1)
Scott DesJarlais (R)
Wayne Steele (D)
Clyde Benson (I)
Tharon Chandler (I)
David Leighton Jones (I)
Joseph "Krishnadas" Magyer (I)
Mike Winton (I)

TN House of
Representative 62<sup>nd</sup>.
Vote for One (1)
Pat Marsh (R)

**School Board:** 

Mark A. Clark

Shawnta Fulton

Jennifer Murdock

Vote for Three (3)

TN House of Representative 70<sup>th</sup>. Vote for One (1) Clay Doggett (R)

Constitutional Amendments 1-4 Vote Yes or No LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## No cape. No mask. No secret identity.

Just bravery, security, and inspiration.

HEN I think of heroes, I think of my grandfather: Jimmy Mullins. He was the sheriff of Lincoln County, Tennessee, for years. I remember every single time I've been in Fayetteville in public with him, people always stop him minute after minute to tell him how much of a great man he is. I've watched the faces of people I have never met who have been just as impacted and inspired by my Papa as I have. I may not know their names, but we have something in common: a hero. I will spend every day of the rest of my life wishing to be as brave as he is. If I grow to be half the man my Papa is, I'll be not just a hero—but a superhero.

This issue of Good News is inspired by my grandfather. Heroes like him are on every street corner in our communities. These first responders can not guarantee that bad days won't come—but they can guarantee they'll be there through every minute.

The past several years have been unusual and jarring. Those years would get the best of us if it weren't for our heroes—a team of soldiers in the homeland fighting to protect us. They're not wearing capes flying around in our skies. They're waking up in the morning (or staying up all night) to make sure we're okay. They're downing coffee like it's water so they can be awake and aware... not for themselves but for us.

Our heroes are selfless. They're strong. They're forgiving yet diligent. They're a special tier of people like a box of fireworks on the Fourth of July. Certain fireworks put on a bigger show, shine a little brighter, and fill our minds with wonder. The security our heroes provide is

fragile. It could slip away at any moment. But it never does. They're always there. Ready. **GN** 

Wesley Bryant, MANAGING EDITOR

#### From our readers



Do you have family and friends in Fayetteville who would enjoy Good News?

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Thank you for reading Good News!

"I just want you to know how much I enjoyed reading your magazine. I do not watch the news anymore. Every story is so depressing. Thank you for sharing good news and making us feel better about the community around us and the good people who live here and share their lives with us. Great job—keep up your good work."

- Eva Lewis, Good News reader

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CITY NEWS

## An ocean of possibilities

Library program "seas" great success.

By Gabriel Grant Huff // Photos provided by the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Public Library



F AT first you don't succeed, try, and try again. And tried, and tried again is what Fayetteville-Lincoln County Public Library's (FLCPL) staff did with the library's summer reading program after having a turnout of about five people in the summer of 2021. It was library director Meghan Murr's first reading program since starting in her new position last year.

But everything flipped this past summer as attendance increased to 335.

The FLCPL hosted its Ocean of Possibilities reading program this past summer, from June 7 - July 31, with the goal of encouraging patrons to read more. Murr said

participants were split into three groups: children ages 3-12, teens ages 13-17, and adults 18 and older.

"The main goal is just to get our patrons excited about reading," Murr said.

The three groups received challenges and themes to guide them through the summer. Tracking sheets were also provided to all participants to assist them in marking their reading progress.

The children's group had an aquarium theme and were tasked with reading about two hours every week. For every 15 minutes of reading, each child was allowed to color in a fish.

The teens went on a pirate treasure chest hunt, collecting special coins as they followed a reading map, which eventually led them to the treasure chest. The group's objective was to read for about four hours a week.

A scuba diving theme was assigned to the adults as they strived to read for about five hours per week, marking off a bubble when meeting their weekly goal. As all the groups reached certain levels, the library awarded them with prizes, such as gift cards.

Last year, the library struggled to run its reading program, as there was not a program coordinator or director in place. This time around, a director was placed. Murr said the library's staff promoted its program on social media and their website. They also ensured that every school in the Lincoln County and Fayetteville City School systems received flyers about the FLCPL reading program, along with other schools in the area.

The library staff held fun events almost every day to accompany the reading program that included yoga, a ven-





triloquist and balloon artist show, a Tennessee aquarium virtual visit, art classes, craft sessions, children's storytime, and a Titanic Museum virtual adventure. Squids were dissected as well.

Library assets, along with donations from a couple of organizations helped fund all the activities. By the end of the program, over 2,000 hours of reading were logged.

"Boosting those literacy skills was huge," Murr said. She saw the program make a difference in kids' lives.

"I know we've had just so many parents that have come in, and they'll say, 'Oh my goodness Murr, my child is so excited," Murr recalled. "He can't wait to read every night when we get home. He looks forward to doing this, and I've never seen him read so much.' It's just been great to hear that what we've been doing has given that incentive for the kids to read." **GN** 

# Honoring Our Heroes

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

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#### Pictured from left to right:

**Steve Jefferson** - United States Navy, Active duty 1977-1988, Aviation Ordinanceman AO2, E-5. Served Onboard USS independence (CV-62) during the Iran Hostage Crisis

Brenda Jefferson - Retired RN, 43 Years

**Joe Benton Donaldson** - United States Army, Active Duty 1963-1965



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SCHOOL NEWS

# Meeting students' nutritional needs and reaching new heights

Fayetteville City Schools serves free school meals to students. Lincoln County High School's NJROTC program flourishes.

By Gabriel Grant Huff // Photos provided by Sandy Williams and Siegfred Pitpitan

AYETTEVILLE CITY Schools (FCS) is now participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, supplying breakfast and lunch meals to all students at no cost to families. The district officially qualified for the program toward the beginning of the semester as classes commenced on Aug. 1.

"Fayetteville City Schools is thrilled to be able to provide free breakfast and lunch to all of our students," FCS director Bill W. Hopkins Jr. said, according to the district's news release. "The CEP is such a huge benefit for our Tigers – we all know that when students' nutritional needs are met, children have better attendance, are more attentive in class and have fewer disciplinary problems."

Derived from the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, CEP allows eligible schools to provide non-pricing lunch and breakfast meal service to all students for free without collecting household applications.

FCS director of nutrition, Megan Hall, said the district is currently set to participate in the food program for four years, but she hopes to see its affiliation extend beyond that duration.

"I think Fayetteville City Schools basically felt that it would allow the families some relief to not have to worry about paying for their child's meals," Hall said. "Also, it really eliminates the entire stigma of kids that don't wanna eat because maybe they can't afford to pay for it but they don't want to get in trouble for not paying for it."

Hall wanted to ensure the district supports households where kids are not necessarily consuming enough food outside of school.

"I want to make sure we can reach every kid that needs those nutritious meals," Hall said.



## SIEGFRED PITPITAN LEADS LINCOLN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S NAVY JROTC UNIT

Retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Siegfred Pitpitan wanted a challenge. So he moved to Fayetteville, Tennessee, in the spring of 2018, upon retiring, to start a Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program at Lincoln County High School that July. Four years later, he is now the naval science instructor of a fully commissioned Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program.

The high school program received its official commission as a NJROTC unit in April 2021, said Pitpitan, also known as Senior Chief Pitpitan in the community. The previous NNDCC designation had given the high school a chance to provide a program similar to a NJROTC unit, devised to increase a student's opportunity to learn about obligations as Americans and the basic elements of national security.

Although the program has the same curriculum as before, the new NJROTC designation allowed LCHS to obtain federal funding instead of having the school system finance most of the program's fees. Due to those federal funds, the unit was then able to acquire additional cadet uniforms, drill rifles, precision air rifles, educational drones, educational robots, and organizational gear among other perks.

The commission was one of Pitpitan's biggest goals to achieve. "I love challenges," Pitpitan said. "That's what motivated me to

serve 26 years of active duty. So that's one of my challenges. In the NJROTC world, I think we achieved that in record time.

"So, there's something that I think as a community we should be very proud of," he continued. "Typically, you'll be lucky to be even considered for an NJROTC commission. But I just followed what advice our area manager gave me with regards to the program, and even through the challenges of a COVID year, we were able to achieve that." GN



INDUSTRY NEWS

# Meet one of the youngest branch managers in the nation

New Hometown Lenders branch moves to Fayetteville.

By Gabriel Grant Huff // Photos provided by Ashlyn Kendall Poole

A SHLYN KENDALL Poole's age has been her greatest challenge. Hometown Lenders, Inc. opened up a new branch in Fayetteville earlier this year under Poole's management, making her one of the youngest branch managers in the country, at 22 years old, she said. Selling houses is an immense responsibility for both the buyer and mortgage loan originator, but Poole knows she possesses the qualifications, spirit, and knowledge to get the job done.

"I think there's a lot of people that are skeptical about trusting a 22-year-old with that big of a life accomplishment," Poole said. "It's a big deal to buy a house."

Founded in 2000, Hometown Lenders is an integrated multi-channel mortgage lender headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama. The business has more than 100 branches in the nation, spread across more than 40 states.

Poole began working for Hometown Lenders as a receptionist in December 2018. After Poole worked her way up in the mortgage company, Hometown Lenders awarded her dedication by placing her in charge of her own branch. A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 5.

"My preacher came out and prayed over the business," Poole recalled. "And there were a lot of people there from just around the square, different businesses, my friends, my family, and then people from other Hometown Lenders locations. And then we set up a



tent at [Fayetteville's] First Friday, and we did free snow cones and free face painting for the kids."

She will not be completely alone at the new branch, as she will work with a part-time mortgage loan originator: Trina Hyman, a recently hired employee at Hometown Lenders.

The new branch manager has attained many life lessons from her time working in the mortgage industry, such as learning how to purchase her own house. She discovered opportunities to serve others as well. While in Huntsville, Poole worked with Mission Firefly, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to serve communities and spread God's word. A group of people at Hometown Lenders created the organization in 2009. The organization supports impoverished communities in Guatemala. Mission Firefly also manages a local ministry called Lunches of Love, that aims to provide healthy food for more than 1,100 children in Alabama. Poole wishes to build off this ministry.

"I would like to extend that to our community," she said.

Poole said that she feels the community's support as she is beginning this new journey in her life.

"The community has definitely been very supportive, and it makes me feel more confident in opening up the branch, because I think that I can depend on Fayetteville to help me succeed," she said. 6N





SPORTS NEWS

## Welcome coach B.J.

Billy Jack Netherland named new head coach for the 2023 Tigers baseball season.

By Gabriel Grant Huff // Photo provided by Billy Jack Netherland

AYETTEVILLE HIGH School (FHS) hired Fayetteville native Billy Jack Netherland as the new head coach of the Tigers baseball team, toward the beginning of the school year. Known as Coach B.J. on the baseball field, Netherland, 56, previously served as the baseball head coach at Fayetteville Middle School (FMS) for the last 10 years.

The coaching position became available after former baseball head coach Jay McElyea announced his retirement near the end of last spring. About a decade ago, Netherland had asked McElyea to accept that very same position. Having known him since childhood, Netherland knew McElyea would make a great coach.

"He did an amazing job over there," Netherland said. "And he just decided it was time for him to step down, and I told him I would take it over."

But McElyea will still be at FHS.

"I had the chance to coach and develop some great kids," McElyea said, in a May retirement post on Facebook, "and I will cherish that forever. I am still working at FHS and coaching golf. I'm looking forward to that."

Netherland's goal for his new baseball team is to

"The main thing is never give up no matter what the score is. Don't even look at the scoreboard. Just play as hard as you can, and good things will come from that."

-B.J. Netherland

ensure his players become great students, athletes, and citizens, carrying themselves well.

"I'm [going to] try to instill good work ethics in them, teach them how to be mentally tough and be competitive and just give 100%," coach B.J. said. "The main thing is never give up no matter what the score is. Don't even look at the scoreboard. Just play as hard as you can, and good things will come from that."

The new high school head coach will also look to return the Tigers to greatness, as the team experienced a down year last season, losing most of its games. The team had winning seasons prior to the 2021-22 season.

Baseball has been a part of Netherland's life since the days of playing ball with his father, as a young child, in the family's backyard.

A Fayetteville, Tennessee native, Netherland graduated from Lincoln County High School in 1984, having played multiple sports, including baseball. He also played on the first Lincoln County Falcon state championship football team. After high school, he worked at Copperweld Bimetallics, LLC., in Fayetteville for about 23 years. He has two grown sons, Brandon and Ben.

When FHS was established in 2011, the FMS base-ball coach at the time, transferred to the high school, leaving the middle school without a coach. That's when the FMS principal, Steve Giffin, an old friend of Netherland, called him asking if he was interested in the vacant position, and coach B.J. was born.

High school coaches played an important role in Netherland's life. Now he wants to return the favor.

"I know my coaches back then were a very huge part of my life, and I decided that's what I wanted to do," Netherland said. "And I try to give back to these kids anyway I can. I enjoy it. I love it. I'm just thankful to have the opportunity to work with these kids and try to be a good role model and influence in their lives."

Outside of baseball, Netherland loves music and has served as a disc jockey at weddings. He is also a huge fan of the Alabama Crimson Tide football program. **GN** 









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# THE WARRIOR'S EXHIBIT

A pictorial display and personal tribute to Lincoln County Veterans.

By Julia Eads // Photography by Brooke Snyder





N MAIN Avenue North, in downtown Fayetteville, a particular building sticks out. It is hard to miss with its red, white, and blue colors bursting with patriotic pride. On the exterior of the building hangs a sign that reads, "The Warrior Exhibit." On the inside of the building rests the faces and memories of hundreds of warrior veterans.

The exhibit is the fruitful aftermath

of one woman's mourning journey. Linda Williams, a Fayetteville native, lost her brother, U.S Marine Corps Corporal R.D. Williams Jr. or "Bobby," years ago when he served in Vietnam. Since his passing, Williams has been on a mission to honor him and all the other brave men and women from Lincoln County who have served our country.

The most notable instance that deeply provoked Williams to act, happened when

she attended a function at the Lincoln County Museum a few years back. She walked through the different rooms until she finally got to the military room at the museum's end. It was there that she noticed there was no Vietnam section. Immediately upon leaving the museum, she got on the phone with one of the museum board members and asked if they would like to display her brother, Bobby's, old military uniform. Museum President





During the laborious process of organizing this exhibit, one of Williams' friends approached her and said, "Linda, this is really a tribute to Bobby [Linda's brother]." Taken back, she replied, "No, this is for all veterans." Her friend came again and asked, "Would you have done all of this if you had not lost Bobby?" Williams stopped and took a moment to think. Finally, she said, "You know what... you are probably right. But when something like this happens to your family, and you lose somebody, it hits home. It's not somebody else's family. It

is your family. And it's personal."

It's not only personal for Williams, but it is also personal for countless others who have lost a loved one to war. Therefore, if you were to step foot into the front door at 113 Main Ave. N., you would instantly lay eyes on over a thousand different faces of those who have served, from the Revolutionary War all the way up to the present-day conflicts. These faces are not just stock images printed off the internet and hung up for artistic expression. These photos are images of loved ones who are dearly

missed and fondly remembered. Walk around the room, and you will lock eyes with Mom. You will see your young cousin's soft grin or your uncle's rough beard. You might laugh as you see your grandfather's receding hairline or smile at your grandmother's beautiful jawline. And it will all feel personal, because it is.

Collecting pictures of local veterans continues. Anyone who has lived in Lincoln County at any time in his or her life is eligible to be in the exhibit. Pictures as well as basic information (rank, branch of service, and war era) may be submitted

Marie Caldwell happily accepted the offer. Then Linda and her sister, Brenda Williams-Roles, went to work to raise money for a display case that would later house the uniform.

A local veteran, Pat Bennett, caught word of the additions made to the military room. He approached Williams and suggested she visit the war memorial in Hohenwald, Tennessee. At his suggestion, she went. Moved beyond the point of

tears, she said to herself, "We have to do something like this for our veterans."

So the work began. Williams and Bennett started coordinating with others in the community, looking for an appropriate place to house such a powerful memorial. At first, the memorial was set up in the Fayetteville Recreation Center. The memorial stayed on site for quite some time before being relocated to its current location on the square in downtown Fayetteville.



on site at the Warrior Exhibit located at 113 Main Avenue North in Fayetteville. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Williams shared, "The Friends of Fayetteville Lincoln County Veterans Inc. (FoFLCV) is the 501(c)(3) organization who sponsors the exhibit. The exhibit would not be what it is without the loyal, hard working board of the FoFLCV Inc. Come see us at the Warrior Frame Shop located [inside] the [Warrior] Exhibit [building]. All proceeds are used to maintain the exhibit." **GN** 



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## ONE TABLE, FIVE QUILTMAKERS,

# countless connections

QUILTERS STITCH UP FELLOWSHIP IN LINCOLN COUNTY.

By Tina Neeley // photography by Brooke Snyder



"IT WAS ONLY TEN O'CLOCK WHEN THEY SAT DOWN TOGETHER AT THE QUILT. HOW THEIR NEEDLES AND TONGUES DID FLY! LAUGHTER, TOO, RIPPLED ALONG MERRILY. AT ELEVEN, MOTHER FIXED THE FIRES, PUT THE POTATOES IN THE OVEN, STIRRED UP SOME CUPCAKES, BROUGHT A RELISH AND A JAR OF RED RASPBERRIES FROM THE CELLAR, SPREAD A CLEAN CLOTH, AND SET THE TABLE FOR THREE."



T COULD have been a quilt they were gathered around. Beneath could have been small children playing and watching as needles passed through the layers of calico fabric. With snacks nearby and warm conversation dotted with laughter filling the room, they might have been friends stitching a special coverlet for a friend or family member.

But the year is 2022, not 1935.

At Wanda's Creations & Longarm Quilting, around one table, five quiltmakers, kindred spirits connected by thread and fabric to the past, the present, and the future, gathered to reflect on more than patterns, notions, and the latest designs. They reflected on why they quilt, the memories associated with quilts and quiltmaking, and how they continue to share the legacy.

Quilts, like quiltmakers, are memory keepers, vintage souls that connect us to our loved ones and each other. They stir the childhood memories of their makers. They create new memories as they are used and handed down from generation to generation. The creative process is an antidepressant and reduces stress and anxiety, even while ripping out stitches to ensure the final pieces properly intersect. And like pieces of our lives, they always intersect.

Like a family heirloom handed down from one family to the next, sharing knowledge and skills while creating new memories passes the tradition on to the next generation.

Dori Troutman, originally from New Mexico, lives in Kelso, Tennessee, and learned to sew by watching her mother. She is passionate about teaching her grand-girls, their friends, and homeschool students to sew and quilt. As a blogger for Mary Jane's Farm, she shares life snippets, including quilting projects, and blogs for Clover, sharing tutorials featuring their products.

"I branched out into making quilts before I ever had a clue. And I can even remember thinking, I don't know what I'm doing. Now I've taught lots of kids, but anybody can do it. Kids will teach you that it's okay. They don't obsess over fabrics. They like what they like and don't let you change their minds. They're very passionate, and it's amazing," said Troutman.

Wanda Boyd is self-taught and loves teaching others in her Park City shop. She began teaching in quilt shops in Chattanooga before moving back home to Lincoln County. Classes in her shop began with six students four years ago and have continued





to grow, with something happening at Wanda's year round. In addition to the classes, she's sharing her love of quilting with her family.

Boyd said, "Recently, my niece has acquired the taste of sewing. She's been in the sewing room twice and picked out a pattern. That will be our first quilt class next year, and I'm excited about it. She's 25, and she just loves it."

Fayetteville resident Anita Johnson began with a Quilt in a Day class at Motlow, where she sewed, and her mother pressed the log cabin blocks that became her first quilt. A student more often than a teacher, she's passing it on too.

"I have a little neighbor (we always call them little), she's probably 40, and she wanted to learn. I bought her a sewing machine and supplies, and she's made her first quilt. My grandson's fiance wants to learn too, so maybe soon we can do that," Johnson said.

Janice Harwell has had a needle in her hand since childhood and was hooked after her first quilt, laughingly recalling her husband saying it kept her off the streets. She taught at The Flower House for years and now lends her expertise and endearing sense of humor to fellow quilters at retreats and the local quilt guild.

Harwell said, "Miss Annie Beth Pickett was an old-timey quilter, and she'd come every Saturday morning to my house.

We'd have a quilt in the frame, and she'd sit on one side, and I'd sit on the other like a quilting bee. We talked the whole time, and I learned so much from her. It means a lot to you when you share things with your friends."

Evelyn Smith, whose mother sewed socially, first learned through a class and is drawn to designing and creating. She was, in her words, the instigator of the local guild, the Lincoln County Piecemakers.

"I've always been a helper, I guess. And people have expected me to be able to help, and I'm glad I can. I've made lots of good friends. And quilters are so sharing, too. They will share their information and help you in any way. I've been very fortunate. I've made lots of good friends and gotten to do many things through quilting," Smith said.

Johnson, Smith, and Harwell join other ladies on most second Thursdays at Prospect Baptist Church for Sew Day. Everyone's invited to bring whatever sewing projects they have underway, not just quilting. Who doesn't love gathering in the fellowship hall for time with kindred spirits?

The future of quilting is secure thanks to these local quilters and others, many of whom can be found on Instagram and Facebook.

Troutman said, "We're in this new generation of quilters. The young generation of quilters is passionate about it. It's amazing to



Miss Annie Beth Pickett was an old-timey quilter, and she'd come every Saturday morning to my house. We'd have a quilt in the frame, and she'd sit on one side, and I'd sit on the other like a quilting bee. We talked the whole time, and I learned so much from her. It means a lot to you when you share things with your friends.

-Janice Harwell



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see. One of my favorite things about quilting these days, is this new generation of quilters. They think outside the box and are amazing with fabric, colors, and designs. Many of them are very passionate about the old quilts, and they'll restore them. They're into special old fabrics and things like that."

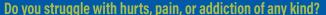
Passionate about the old and optimistic about the future is quilting at its finest. **GN** 





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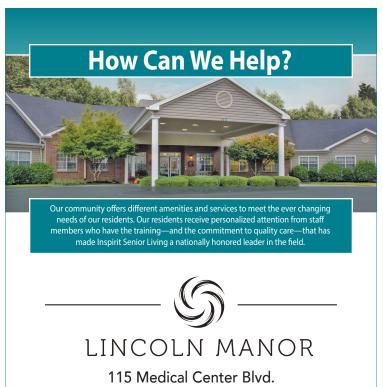
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# Someone Has Your Back

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of warm caramel coffee lingers in the air of your vehicle on the way to work, you don't have to think about watching your back. While not every driver on the road is aware of their surroundings, and accidents do occur, there is always someone just a call away. Rest assured, you won't have to sweep up all of the broken pieces by yourself. Someone is minutes away, coming to bandage up your wounds from the wreckage.

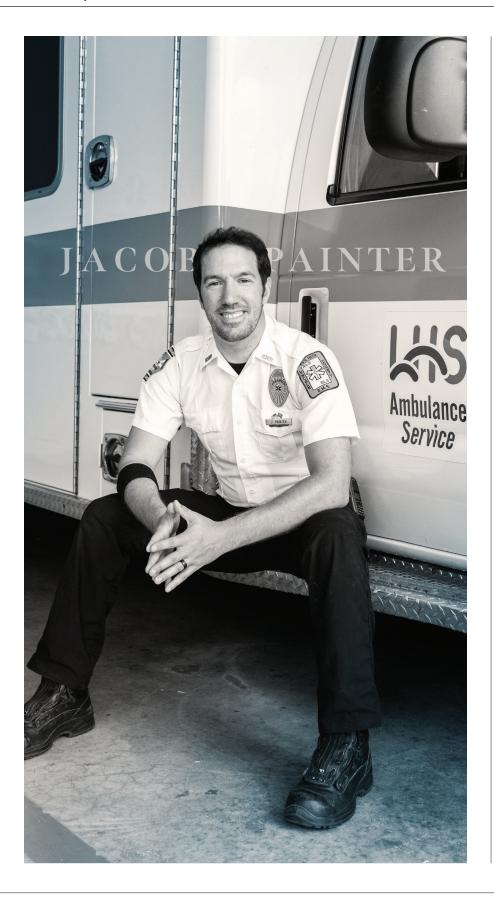
If — in the unlikely and unfortunate event — your dinner decides to burn itself a little more than usual and engulf in flames, you don't have to throw on a helmet and fire suit to put it out yourself. I'd be willing to bet you don't have a fire truck sitting in your backyard waiting on standby. Because you don't have to. Someone has your back.

When you get a call about a dangerous situation at your child's school, of course you worry, but you don't have to. Because someone is already working on your behalf. Teams of trained professionals are on standby in case of any unfathomable event. These men and women willingly put their lives on the line to keep your life and the lives of those you love safe and out of harm's way.

If -God forbid- your worst nightmare becomes your reality in the middle of the night and fear overtakes you, you pick up the phone and quickly press three buttons. Why? Because deep down, you know somebody has your back. The calm voice on the other end of the line assures you that you are not alone. Your rescuer is enroute. On your worst day, someone is ready and willing to give their best and fight for you. Someone has your back.

While their capes don't always look like something attached to a unitard, and they may not drive a batmobile to a bat cave, they still sacrifice in the same reckless way. Their uniform isn't a cape flapping in the wind. It is a pair of scrubs, a badge over a bulletproof vest, a respirator mask, or even a headpiece at a 911 command center. Though they don't have funny trademarked names, they are our real-life heroes.

They come across as superhuman, but at the end of the day, these heroes are just like you and me. They are your friends and coworkers, and they eat at the same restaurants you do. Their kids play on the same soccer teams, and they sit with you in the same stands. They have dreams and ambitions, hidden talents, and favorite hobbies. They have heartaches and hardships, making them every bit as human as you or me. And to these men and women whom we bump shoulders with daily, enough thanks could never be said. Cheers to those arriving first on the scene! We appreciate you. GN



# Precious Lives Called Him Back to Lincoln County

HOW BEING A CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC HAS SHAPED JACOB PAINTER, BRINGING HIM BACK TO LINCOLN COUNTY TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS.

N A SMALL rural community, where the pace of life is undoubtedly slower, one would think that a first responder's job would be fairly cushy. Images like firefighters tucked in bed at the fire station, their home away from home, might come to mind. Some have joked that police officers write speeding tickets "because they have nothing else better to do." Yet all of these assumptions couldn't be further from the truth. First responders in rural communities, especially emergency medical service (EMS) professionals in Fayetteville, Tennessee, are some of the busiest and most demanded experts in the workforce.

To put things into perspective, critical care paramedic Jacob Painter shared, "We average close to 400 to 500 calls a month. That's about 23 to 24 calls a shift, so we stay incredibly busy for a small service."

Painter has been a critical care paramedic for the past six years and an EMS service provider for 11 years alto-

gether. He started working here locally as an EMT in 2010. Then, in 2020, he left to work at Vanderbilt in Nashville. Painter shared, "I worked in the [emergency room] at Vanderbilt, as a critical care medic, for some time. Then, I left there in 2021, to fly with Erlanger Life Force with their helicopter service. After a couple of months, I learned of the shortage of EMS in our town and decided it was time to stay and work at home, here in Lincoln County."

Painter shared, "Even now, on a good day, we only have three ambulances staffed. When you only have three trucks, it's kind of a heavy workload. But we are working on trying to get some more people so we can have more trained professionals in the field."

Unknown to many, Painter and his co-workers answer more than emergent calls. He shared, "We do more than 911 calls. We do convalescent and scheduled calls, such as discharges from the hospital. There's not a lot of downtime for us. Either we're on the road doing a 911 call, a dialysis call, or we're doing a discharge."

Painter continued, "About 60% of the calls the service gets in a day are emergent calls," making the vast majority of calls emergent in nature. When asked what is on his mind while heading to a 911 call, Painter said, "When I'm going on a call, I always anticipate the absolute worst-case scenario. I prepare myself mentally and physically. Then once I get there, if it's not as bad as I made it out to be in my mind, I can downgrade. I am calm, because I have already prepared for it."

Very few times has Painter's preparation strategy not been successful. One of those times happened when he was still working as an EMT and got a call to work a murder-suicide scene. Unfortunately, there was no care to be provided. The job entailed

cleaning up the scene instead. Painter shared, "There were three bodies on the floor, and it was very gory. It was really, really bad."

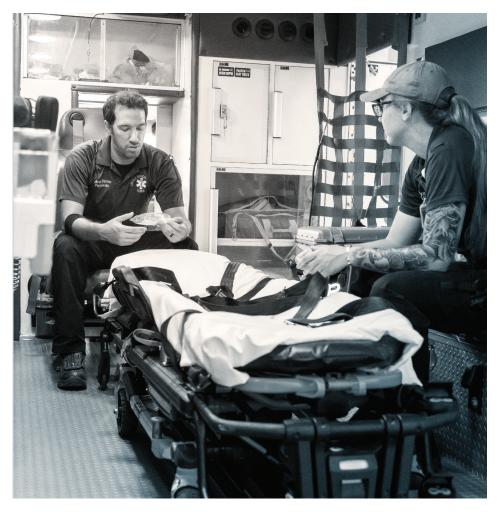
Thankfully, calls of that nature are not the norm. Most calls elicit medical attention and end when the patient receives excellent and lifesaving care, making a positive story of someone returning to their loved ones. In fact, Painter shared that, in July, seven calls were from people who went into cardiac arrest. He said, "In the month of July, we had seven people who went into cardiac arrest. We also had seven people that got a pulse back, in the month of July. So we were seven for seven on ROSC [return of spontaneous circulation]."



"Life has always been precious to me, but now it is super precious" - Jacob Painter







Since Painter started this career path fresh out of high school, he has had a lot of time for his experiences to marinate in his own heart and mind. Being on the front lines in the medical field has caused him to change his outlook on life. He shared, "You know, seeing things that I've seen, unfortunately, can make you grow up super fast. I started this job right out of high school. Coming into this stuff as a young 19-year-old definitely changes your mindset. When you start seeing the things that we unfortunately see, your eyes are opened to how precious life is. Life has always been precious to me, but now it is super precious." GN



# A Firefighter's Many Calls

REFLECTIONS FROM LIEUTENANT DANIEL UNDERWOOD.

OST EVERYONE takes comfort in knowing that when they need help, someone is there to answer the call. But who is that someone? In Fayetteville, it's quite possible that the person answering your call will be Lieutenant Daniel Underwood of the Fayetteville City Fire Department.

Underwood began his career as a firefighter over three years ago. At a young age, he was drawn to public service as he watched his father serve his community in Madison County, Alabama. Underwood shared, "As a sheriff's deputy, my dad was a public servant. I watched him do his job and interact with the public, day in and day out, and that was very inspiring to me. I just wanted to be a part of that."

For Underwood, being a first responder has been a very fulfilling experience. One of the reasons he considers being a firefighter a privilege, is being able to participate in or host different community events. He shared, "We [the fire department] do a toy drive every year. It warms my heart to see the families come through the line. Their faces light up. We've seen many parents with tears in their eyes, because they're so grateful to know their kids will have something for Christmas. To me, that's very rewarding."

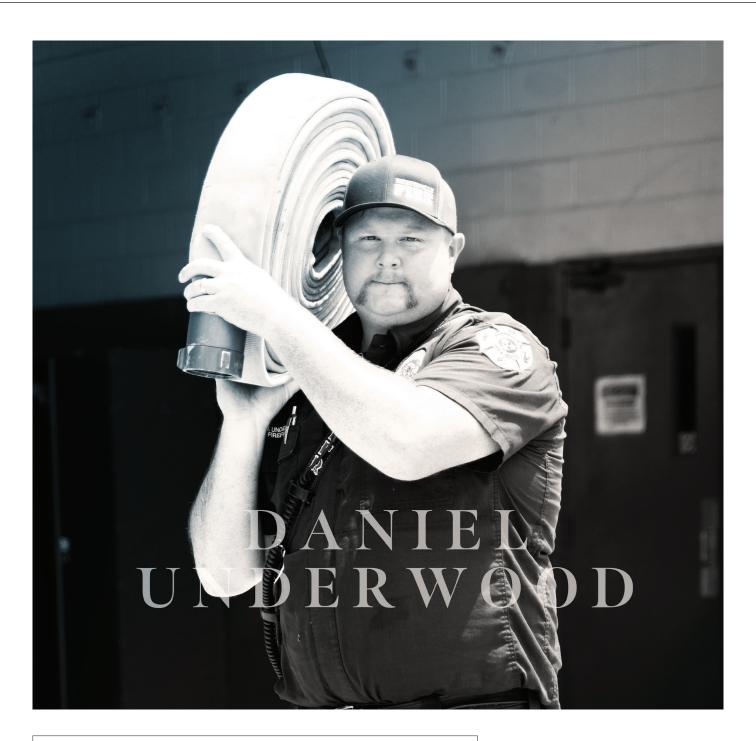
Events that place Underwood



and his co-workers within the community are some of the sweetest aspects of the job. He enjoys the opportunities like going to schools for demonstrations or hosing kids off on a hot day, with the fire hose. He said, "It's rewarding to be able to make someone's day, even in a simple

way. It's nice just being a presence in the community and providing comfort to someone that needs it."

As one might assume, however, being a first responder of any kind comes with its fair share of difficulties. At any moment, a first responder could get a signal telling them it's



"It's rewarding to be able to make someone's day, even in a simple way."

- Daniel Underwood time to drop everything they're doing and go. For firefighters, their signals come in the form of tones dropping. Underwood shared, "You never know what you're getting called to or what you're going into each time the tones drop at the station. You don't know





whether you're going into a structure fire or if you're going into a bad call where someone is hurt. Your mind starts racing."

"Immediately, you start sizing up the situation and go through a mental checklist like: What will the situation entail? What am I going to need when I get there? If it's a home, what kind of house is it? Where is it located? There is a rush of adrenaline."

Firemen and women are trained and ready to handle both intense and dangerous situations. Yet despite their formal training and implementation of safety protocols, there is still an undeniable element of danger looming in their typical work day. Underwood said,

"Being in a house fire is so different. You go in, and in the back of your mind you're always thinking, "You know, there's a chance that I might not come out of this once I go into it." And that's something you must understand when you start this job. You take a risk every single day. Underwood continued, "Mentally, you have to prepare yourself before going into something. And it's not as scary because of the training that we go through."

One of the hardest calls Underwood has ever had to respond to happened a few months after his son, Beckham, was born. He shared, "Without going into much detail, I went on a call whenever my son was about four months



in order to outlast the burdens associated with the job. Underwood reconciles the unsettling emotions by looking for the bigger picture. He shared, "There have been many hard calls. Everything you see here is not all good. But you have to tell yourself that God has a plan, He does things for a reason, and that he's called you to be in that position to deal with that situation at that time. That's how I deal with the rougher calls. You just have to tell yourself that it's all in God's hands, and He's called you to do the job." GN

"You just have to tell yourself that it's all in God's hands, and He's called you to do the job."
- Daniel Underwood

old, to a call with another four-monthold. To see that baby hurting really got to me. It's one thing to see someone older in pain. You definitely have sympathy for them. But to me, the kids are so helpless. The hardest thing is seeing the look in a hurting child's eyes when they don't understand what's going on." Underwood reflected further and said, "At the time, I did the job like I was supposed to do. But after the call, it really hit me hard. It was too close to home."

Seeing someone in excruciating pain is not for the faint of heart. Taking forward action in the face of danger is not for the timid. It takes bravery, courage, and an unshakable call to serve





# Expect the Unexpected

SEASONED POLICE SERGEANT SHARES ABOUT THE UNPREDICTABILITY SURROUNDING THE JOB.

OST OF the population begins each work day with a basic understanding of the tasks that lie ahead of them. Expectations are clear, and circumstances are generally unchanging. For some, that may look like editing and updating the same spreadsheet. For others, a typical work day may consist of refilling racks or shelves or driving a routine truck route. Even those with more variables associated with their job, at min-

imum, have the comfort of controlled variables such as an office space that never changes. For police officers, there is no such thing as a typical or ordinary day out on patrol. There is no telling where an officer might end up on a given call and even less guarantee of what they might face when arriving at a scene.

Even a seasoned officer has a hard time pinning down and deeming anything as typical. Sergeant Tull Malone of Fayetteville has served as a deputy sheriff for 22 years, and the one commonality he could land on can be summed up in the common phrase, "expect the unexpected."

Malone shared, "In the life of a police officer, it could be a beautiful and pretty day. Then quickly, it can turn around to be the worst day of your life. You can go from having a peaceful day, like any other normal human being, and then it can turn into the most traumatic day of your life due to seeing death and destruction."

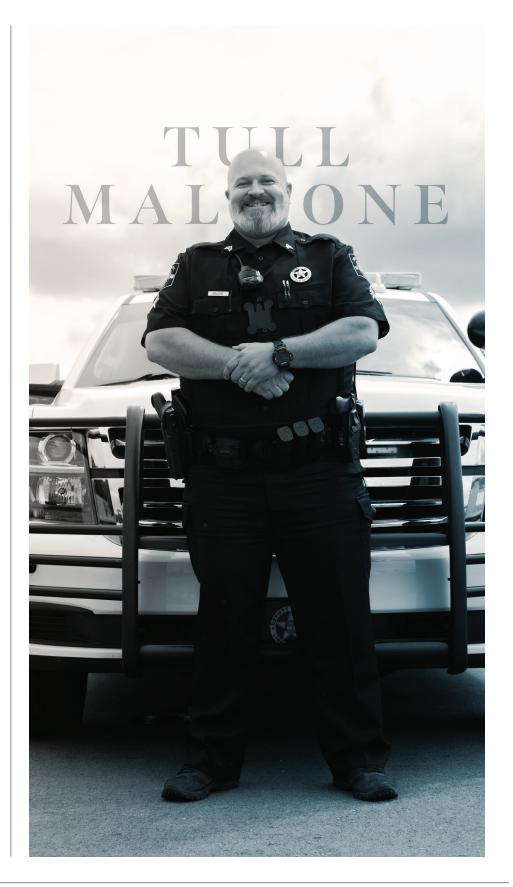
Malone continued, "Nobody calls you when they are having a barbecue. Nobody calls us when they are having a birthday. Everybody calls us in the worst moments of their lives. And truly, that's a lot of what we see on a daily basis."

The most challenging part of Malone's role is knowing he has lim-

"I'm just looking for the next person I can help. One of the main reasons I do this is my love for my community, my county." - Tull Malone

itations. He shared, "Sometimes you know people are looking at you for all the answers, and you know you don't have them. That's hard. Other times they're looking at you to fix things that you know you can't fix. That's hard too. However, any time you can help someone and do something positive, that makes for a great day."

Helping people is what makes the doom and gloom associated with the job not seem so dark and all-encompassing. There are a lot of rewarding aspects of being a first responder. Malone recalled a memory of one of the first calls he ever went on as a reserve officer. He said, "There have been many good times just helping people out. When I first knew that this was what I wanted to do, I was in the posse (a program now known as the Sheriff's Reserve). We stopped and helped an elderly lady, on a call, because her hot water heater was leaking. She was upset because the garage was flooded, and water was on everything else. She didn't know what to do so we shut the water off, and it was like the best thing in the world we could ever do for her. That was when I knew that this was what





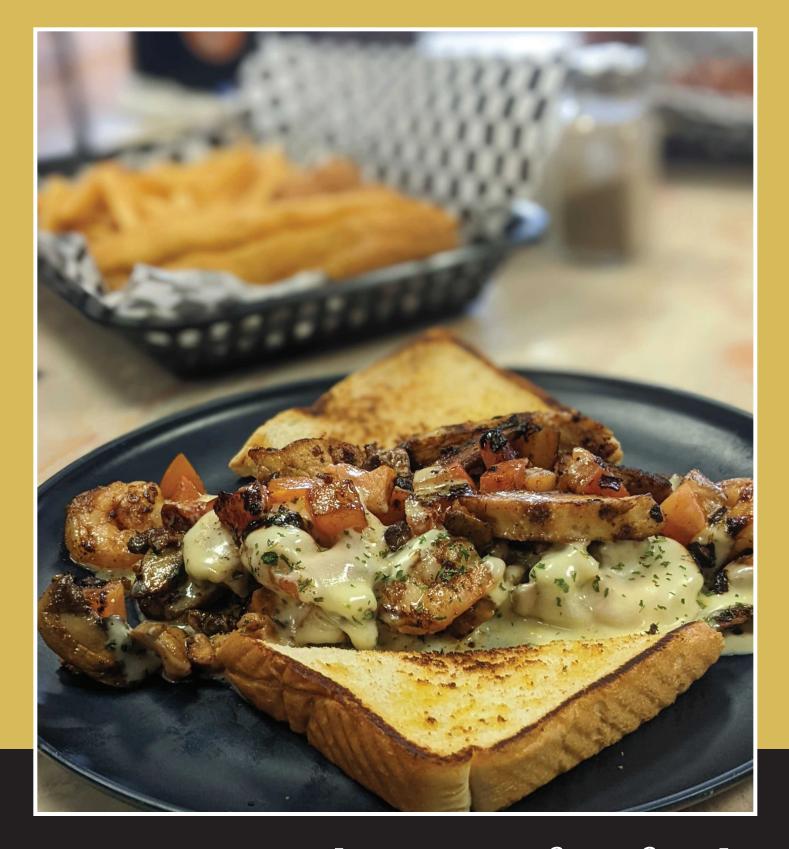


I wanted to do. That interaction confirmed it for me."

On the more emotionally taxing days as a deputy sheriff, Malone shared his reasoning for putting on his uniform again, day after day. He said, "I'm just looking for the next person I can help. One of the main reasons I do this is my love for my community, my county. I've always been a homeboy. I'll always be a Lincoln County boy. And that's why I do this, to serve people in Lincoln County."

However, Sergeant Malone and his fellow officers could use our community's help and support. After over two decades of service on the force. Malone's main request regarding the community would be to have patience with him and his fellow officers. He shared, "In my 22 years, I've gone from people being courteous and kind and glad to see us to them having absolute disdain for us even before we say a word. I just want people to know that we are here to help, and we appreciate their patience with us." Patience can go a long way. With all that police officers and first responders put on the line to serve and protect us and those we love, let's say thank you by showing our gratitude by practicing simple patience for the men and women in blue. GN





# Beano's Southern comfort food

IS AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

BY: BRIANNA BRUBAKER



# Good News is coming to dinner!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Fayetteville. This time Brianna Brubaker visited Beano's Kitchen.

### Beano's Kitchen

2715 Huntsville Hwy. Suite C (931) 557-5003 OFTEN FIND myself going to the same places for lunch on days when I feel strained from work. I visit fast food joints, not for the taste and quality, but just to get lunch "over with." It certainly doesn't improve my mood as I push through the rest of the day. Feeling tired of this lunch tradition, I invited my coworkers out to try something new. We've all heard about a place called Beano's, but never went searching. Today felt like a great day for a lunch adventure.

As we entered the restaurant, I felt nothing but good vibes. We were greeted by the hostess with a smile and encouraged to sit where we please. The restaurant was clean and well lit. I could already feel the tension on my shoulders lifting.

The lunch menu offered a variety of Southern comfort food, like wings, burgers, loaded baked potatoes, and fried fish baskets. One item on the menu stuck out to me; the 4th Quarter Pressure. The name in itself was relatable to how my week was going. It seemed fit for me to order it on a day like today.

When I ordered the 4th Quarter Pressure, I wasn't sure what to expect. The menu described the food well: "Grilled chicken and shrimp with mushrooms and onions, topped with American cheese and tomatoes," but it failed to describe the

incredible experience of eating such an exceptional meal.

A savory scent reached my nose, and my mouth instantly watered in anticipation of a bite of this aromatic meal. Laid before me was a beautifully plated dish. The grilled chicken, shrimp, and mushroom and onion saute was arranged along the center of a classic black plate. On top, was creamy melted cheese and pops of red diced tomatoes. On the sides, were two sliced pieces of buttery toast.

Have you ever taken a bite out of something and just sighed with relief? I thought only my mama's cooking could do that to me, until I ate at Beano's. Every bite was like a hug to my taste buds. The tender shrimp, perfectly seasoned; melt in your mouth chicken; and savory cheese brought me so much bliss. The buttery toast was a nice compliment to the salty, gooey cheese. I finished it off with a sip of sweet iced tea. The fourth quarter is when games are won, and this dish was victorious. I felt comforted from my morning and was left ready to tackle the rest of my day. I've found my new lunchtime tradition.

If you've never been to Beano's, I highly recommend that you stop in, take a load off, and enjoy delicious and affordable Southern comfort food. The kind staff and quality food will brighten your day. **GN** 

# 10 minutes and 10 dollars

How a trip to a state park became all I never knew I needed.

By Julia Eads

T WAS the first week of college, freshman year. Leveryone was outside playing the never-ending game of meet and greet. Countless names and faces swarmed in my mind, leaving quicker than they entered. But not his.

As everyone else exchanged phone numbers and gassed each other up on compliments, he quietly

loaded his Subaru with camping gear and kayaks. Unbothered by the social foolery around him, the tall, dark, and handsome man had caught my attention.

Unashamedly intrigued, I asked around, "Who is he? What's his story?"

"That's Sid; Sid Angel," someone answered.

"Of course it's Angel," I thought to myself.

Sid drove away in his beat-up Subaru but not without locking eyes with me first. His icy blue eyes looked deep within my soul, and I knew this would not be the last I'd see of Mr. Angel. However, to my surprise and utter disappointment, that was the last time I saw his face on campus.

Fast forward to three years later. Mr. Angel and I became pen pals, developing fond feelings from afar. We decided to meet. After quick deliberation, we planned to each drive 400 miles to Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas.

There were many hindrances along my journey. First, I locked my keys and phone in the car at the roughest gas station in Memphis, Tennessee. The gas station attendant and I did not speak the same



minutes and \$10." I was terrified. I stood next to my car like a lost puppy. But sure enough, a man in an unmarked van scratched my window and unlocked my car for \$10, 10 minutes later. Once I finally got on the road again, my GPS said, "proceed to the route," with no other explanation. I grew anxious, thinking, "If this trip were supposed to happen, surely there wouldn't be this much pushback. Maybe I'm not supposed to go."

I continued anyway. At dusk, I arrived at the state park. There was an undeniable eeriness lingering in the air. As I laid eyes on Mr. Angel, at the campsite, I instantly had a gut-wrenching feeling that this was a horrible, dangerous idea. I said hello and then quickly and apologetically said goodbye. Just like that, I peeled off down the gravel road and started driving the six-hour trip back home.

At this point it was late, and I was scared and tired. As a lone woman, I just wanted a safe place to lay my head. I called a girlfriend who lived a few hours away, and she made arrangements for me to stay at her mentor's home, about 30 minutes from where I was.

When I arrived, I sheepishly walked up to the house, feeling mortified by my poor choices. But no judgment met me at the door. Instead, a kind woman and her entire family invited me in for a fun night of games and snacks. I remember both saying and thinking that I only needed a place to sleep, but what they offered me was more than I could think of or ask for, and I was grateful.

The grace they extended to me directly mirrors how Jesus treated people during his life. In Matthew 8, there is a specific story about a man with leprosy. During Biblical times, lepers were considered outcasts and had to live on the outskirts of town. Nobody would touch or get near them for fear of getting the disease. By law, those who suffered from leprosy had to cover their mouth when anyone got near them and yell out, "Unclean! Unclean!" to warn everyone about their condition.

In Matthew 8, Jesus was teaching to a large crowd on the mountain. Afterwards, a man with leprosy came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. He said, "I am willing. Be clean!' Immediately, he was cleansed of his leprosy.

The man with leprosy came before Jesus, simply asking to be healed of his skin disease. Similarly, all I asked for was a place to lay my head. But this family did so much more than I asked. Jesus did the same for this man.

This man had probably not been touched by another human being for years. Not only did his body ache from the boils, sores, and open wounds, but you can imagine his heart hurt as well. He was cast out, left alone, and had to yell "Unclean! Unclean!" about himself when anyone came near. Society told him that he was not worthy enough and too dirty to engage with others.

But Matthew 8:3 states, "Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man."

Jesus could have said a word, and the man would have been healed. But Jesus knew the man's deeper need to be loved as he was.

That is the character of Jesus. That is who He is for us. Jesus doesn't care where we come from or what condition we find ourselves in. He just wants to meet us, be with us, and care for us. He is not scared off by a disease we have. He knows everything already, and He has the power to heal us and meet our deepest needs. And most importantly, He wants to. He wants to reach out and touch us when we feel least worthy. When we are screaming about ourselves, "Unclean!" He loves us deeply. **GN** 







Roma's Petals brings a sweet SCENTiment to First Fridays on the square.

By Julia Eads // Photography by Brooke Snyder

HERE THEY were, a young couple in love, walking hand in hand down cobblestone streets in Rome. The two were giddy, swooning equally over one another and the romantic allure of the ancient city surrounding them. Pop-up shops and vendors filled the streets. The markets were bustling with activity, but it was one little vintage Italian farm truck, parked off to the side, that caught the couple's attention. Its truck bed spilled over with beautiful flowers for sale. Their sweet smell was divine. The couple thought a fresh-cut bouquet from the truck would be the perfect way to memorialize their long-awaited honeymoon trip.

But, as we all know, just as flowers bloom they also wither. And no matter how well-preserved a bouquet might be, there is nothing like creating a whimsical atmosphere where the sweet smell of fresh flowers abounds. Therefore, before the two left the city they agreed they would bring the same type of charm they were experiencing on the streets of Rome back to their quaint hometown of Fayetteville. After returning stateside, the two got to work establishing Roma's Petals Flower Cart, tenderly named after their beloved city of Rome.

The unique pedaled flower cart, owned by Hannah and Joseph Faulkner, has been a staple at Fayetteville's First Friday outdoor market for the last two years. The outdoor market, hosted by Fayetteville Main Street, takes place on the downtown square on the first Friday of every month from April to September. Though the world-famous Colosseum is nowhere in view, and the streets are not made of cobblestone, the atmosphere downtown on a Friday afternoon is just as moody and spectacular.

Beginning in front of the Lincoln Theater, food trucks with eclectic gourmet food, line the historic downtown streets. Other vendors are scattered about under pop-up tents, each selling their own unique and handcrafted goods. Fresh fruits and vegetables of every color and hue are laid out as local farmers unpack tables full of their most recent harvest. Excitement and new energy fill the air as people roam about, popping in and out of local shops and restaurants that have vowed to stay open late on these nights!

Then, tucked off to the side is the adorable Roma's Petals Flower cart. Hannah shared, "The cart is set up as a DIY (do-it-yourself) cart. People are welcome to come up and completely customize a bouquet. Or some people prefer to give me a price point and then I will put a bouquet together for them. But it's all about the experience." The gorgeous cart showcases blooms grown in the Tennessee Valley by local farmers, and honey from Faulkner Bee Company, a partner business run by Hannah's beekeeper husband, Joseph. Together, the two make the perfect pair spreading joy to Fayetteville locals one stem at a time. **GN** 







# COMMUNITY EVENTS

# Touch-a-Truck Event

Photos by Brooke Snyder

August 6, 2022, was a big day for many little friends in the community. The city of Fayetteville's police and fire departments, Fayetteville Public Utilities, Wright Paving, and Paul Armstrong gathered their heavy machinery and vehicles at the public library for a "Touch-A-Truck" event. Children had the chance to touch, see, explore, climb on, and "drive" fire trucks, dump trucks, tractors, and more. Young attendees also had the opportunity to climb in the back of an ambulance and briefly hear about the daily situations and responsibilities a paramedic might face. Additionally, they got to see the tools that a first responder might utilize when responding to an emergency situation. The Kona Ice truck stopped by to help cool everyone off with icy treats, ending the event on a sweet note.



Jake and Mack McNeal









4 Miles Gone drummer Travis Ashley

¥ 4 Miles Gone



# Music in the park

Photos by Brooke Snyder

Tight parking and lawn chairs scattered about were the tell-tale signs that Music In The Park was back. After being postponed due to weather, the party in the park originally scheduled for July 28 was rescheduled to August 4. This ongoing concert series at Stone Bridge Park has been a hit for the Fayetteville and Lincoln County communities. Most recently, on August 4, the beloved local band 4 Miles Gone graced the stage for a memorable performance. The band combines Southern rock with a traditional country sound, and they have a reputation for their high-quality entertainment. It's hard to sit still when they are on stage. Their Music In The Park performance confirmed that this band knows how to party. Band members include Travis Ashley, Jacob Painter, Seth Hall, and Adam Farris.







# FREE FALL LIGHT UP

Fayetteville
Public
Utilities
Free Fall Light
Up begins on
September 12
through
October 31.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

### September 3

#### 9:00 am Annual BBQ Day

81 McBurg Road Frankewing

Come enjoy a car show, antique tractors, kid's zone, barbecue plates, hamburger plates, hot dog plates and more!

### September 16

# 5:00 pm Lincoln County Fair Cruise In

1003 Hedgemont Ave. Fayetteville

Hosted by: VooDoo Customs Contact: Brenda Burns (931) 993-8189 Joe Burns (931) 993-8190

### September 17

### 9:00 am Lincoln County Fair

1003 Hedgemont Ave. Fayetteville, TN

September 17-24 For ticket information: www.lincolncountyfairtn. com

# September 21

#### 6:00 pm Weekly Road Run

Jacked Up Coffee Fayetteville

Meet up at 6 am and hit a 5K route or more, if interested. We have very casual all the way to hard-core runners, so all speeds and walkers are welcome!

# September 24

#### 8:00 am Fall Run 2022

2007 Wilson Parkway Fayetteville

Proceeds will go toward our community Veteran Angel Tree event for the holidays! Free coffee and donuts. Registration starts at 8 am. Kick stands up at 10 am.



### September 30

# 9:00 am Camp Blount Volunteer Days

Camp Blount

Living history and historical demonstrations throughout the day on September 30 and October 1.

Visit CampBlount.com for more information.

## October 13

#### 5:30 pm Pickleball in the Gym

First Presbyterian Church 101 Mulberry Ave. Fayetteville

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. We play every Thursday.

### October 22

### 9:00 am Yoga on the farm

Pilaroc Farm 178 Patrick Road Fayetteville

Join Huntsville's Light On Yoga Fitness for a moderately paced yoga class. yoga mats provided.

# 6:00 pm Gerald's Party in the Parking Lot

Gerald's Foodland 200 College St. E. Fayetteville

Four On The Floor returns for the annual party in the parking lot! Bring your chairs and your dancing shoes!

# For more events and to submit an event visit:

www.GoodNewsMags.com/events or call (800) 247-7318



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