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1438 Shelbyville Highway, Petersburg, TN
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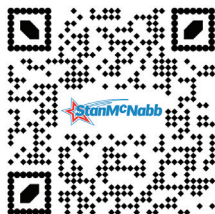
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Education in Bloom

Educators give students the opportunity to bloom like a seed in a greenhouse.

I THINK OF education the same way I think of the spring season. In that time of year, out of season and lifeless-looking trees begin to bloom and become like new. The new nutrients, new water, and new sunlight create new opportunities. They drop seeds, give us food to eat, and give a place to call home for squirrels and birds. When all of these things come together perfectly, these plants—that seemed like they had nothing left to offer—in fact were hiding beautiful colors, growth, petals, and leaves. The brownish grays and mossy splinters turn into pinks, whites, and greens. The snow and frozen limbs are exchanged for new growth and sunlight.

Education does the same thing. It is like having a new lease on your fu-

ture. It can change us for the better, and when we pass this education on and carry the torch, we change the lives of those around us. Education expands our lives. The classroom is like a greenhouse, and we're the ones who get to soak in the nutrients, the sun's rays, and the pure water. This issue of Good News celebrates the educators in our lives that help us bloom. We thank you for your hard work and endless compassion. You give students in our communities the opportunity to bloom. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

From our readers



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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local positive news you may have missed.

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Submit a positive story
on our website:



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Erica James-Hernandez
and Andrea Mooneyham



Local people celebrate our libraries.

National Library Week is on the way: April 23 - 29

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

MEMORIES OF books, card catalogs, and hushing librarians come to mind when we recall the libraries of our childhood. We can almost smell that perfect mixture of paper, dust, and nostalgia. Those places full of books were safe havens for young readers, who felt a sense of wonder looking at books with exciting covers or reading stories that seemed out of this world. The books broadened our understanding of each other and the world around us and offered places to go without leaving home. As time passed and technology advanced, our libraries grew with us, but our connection to the libraries of our past survives.

America's first public library opened in Boston in 1854, according to [encyclopedia.com](https://www.encyclopedia.com). Books had to be requested at the desk and then retrieved by the librarian; the public could not access the stacks or browse the shelves. In the early 1900s, however, libraries began to transition to open stacks, changing the role of the librarians from gatekeepers to research supporters.

Campaigns sent books and periodicals to American troops during World War I and II. The Library Service Act of 1956 continued the spread of literacy, education, and entertainment when it put the library's services on wheels and made books available to rural communities and underserved areas.

As technology evolved, libraries grew to include much more than books and periodicals. Tape recordings, microfilm, and microfiche created searchable archives. Soon, books on tape and compact discs put our favorite books on the road again, this time in our vehi-

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As computers became a part of our everyday lives, libraries created computer labs and loaned time and internet access to their patrons, many experiencing the technology for the first time. Classes on utilizing the technology, both then and now, enabled users to make the most of their personal computers and devices offsite.

E-books burst onto the scene, and libraries again stepped up to give patrons access to the digital reading realm. Your library card allows you to check out books today and read them on your tablet, laptop, phone, or favorite e-reader.

Genealogists have long haunted the history rooms of local libraries, and today can access a literal world of information online through portals like the Tennessee Electronic Library. Students can use the site's resources to prepare for tests, and history buffs can view the state's photographic library containing a wealth of detailed information.

Most, if not all, area libraries now offer free public Wi-Fi, work areas, and meeting rooms. The hushings of our childhood memories are less likely to be heard, and in their place is the laughter and conversation of students deep in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) projects or adults collaborating on a project.

In the present economic times, our local libraries offer free resources that include something for every household, interest, and age group. Check them out. While you may not hear the dull clunk of the old card machine dating your return card, something old might just find you among the new. **GN**

Visit the Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library at 220 S. Jefferson St., Shelbyville. For more information, call (931) 684-7323 or go to sbcplibrary.org.

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▲ Bobby Lemmon

Priceless history exhibit invites exploration.

Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation houses a unique display.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

THERE IS at least one in nearly every reader's home. Barna.com reports that in 2021, approximately half of American adults go to it at least occasionally and that half of the U.S. adults believe it is without error. While many of us possess it and use it regularly, how much do we know about its history? What is it? It's the Bible, and for the first time in Shelbyville, an exhibit of the history of the 1611 King James Bible is open to the public.

The Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation (BLMF) is now home to The Biblical Heritage Exhibit, a display of time-

lines and materials historically reproduced from original artifacts. Individually or guided by Shannon or Tiffany Lemmon, you'll walk through time beginning with Moses and follow the royal leaders, translators, martyrs, and historical players who preserved the Word of God for all mankind. Even those who tried to stop it were instrumental in continuing its existence despite their intent to destroy it and keep it from the common people.

From the time you reach the top of the stairs that lead to the exhibit, you are immersed in the rich journey of the 1611 King James Bible.

Turn the pages of copies of rare Bibles. Look into the eyes of John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Tyndale, and others through murals, portraits, and busts. Consider their commitment to preserving the Bibles we possess today and their sacrifices, even their very lives. Listen to the evolution of the translation of the Word from Hebrew and Greek to Latin, German, and English. See a true-to-scale reproduction of Gutenberg's printing press. Touch the velvet robing of King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth.

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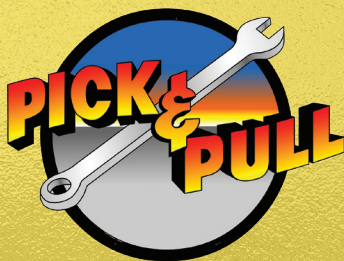
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Tiffany said, "We want people to have confidence in the preserved Word of God. The goal of this exhibit is for its viewers to see that God is more than capable of preserving His Word in writing. It's to give confidence to those words coming straight from the Lord, not from a secretary who penned it or a printer. God's Word is God speaking to each individual."

It's also a history dear to the heart of Shannon Lemmon's mother, Linda Lemmon, who passed away

in 2017. It was Linda who encouraged Shannon to study the history of the King James Bible in-depth, beginning the journey that has culminated with this exhibit.

"I believe we've fulfilled my mother-in-law's dream. We've come full circle," said Tiffany.

Individually or with a group, check out the exhibit for yourself. Immerse yourself in the journey of your Bible and experience your studies in a new way, fueled by respect and appreciation for those who God used to make it possible.

To schedule a tour, call The Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation at (931) 684-0304. BLMF is located at 2101 Hwy. 231 S., Shelbyville, TN. More information may be found at biblelit.com.

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▲ Erica James-Hernandez

Erica James-Hernandez adds small business owner to her title.

New Shelbyville business saves your family time and sanity.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

LAURENCE J. Peter said, “It’s better to have loved and lost than to have to do 40 pounds of laundry a week.” Erica James-Hernandez, the owner of Fresh Fold Laundry Co., agrees and doesn’t want you to do 40 pounds of laundry. Even if it’s more than 40 pounds a week, James-Hernandez is happy to do it for you.

When she decided it was time to add small-business owner to her stay-at-home mom title, she didn’t want just any business; James-Hernandez wanted to offer a service that would improve the lives of busy families. Her father owned a laundromat when she was growing up, so she was familiar with maximizing its benefits.

She naturally connected the two, and Fresh Fold Laundry Co. was born last September.

“With laundry always needing to be done in my family, I wondered if I could do something like that and take that burden off other families — other moms. That way, they didn’t have to spend several hours a week loading the washer and dryer, folding, and putting away [laundry]. We could just do that for them. I wanted something that made me feel good while I served my customers,” James-Hernandez said.

Customers are given 30-pound laundry bags to fill and place outside their homes or designated location for pickup. James-Hernandez picks up the bags and returns the

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“We’re here to help. That’s the biggest thing I want my customers to know. I’m here to help you; whatever you need, let me know, and we will get it done.”

- Erica James-Hernandez

laundry within hours clean and folded or placed on hangers, all according to the customer’s wishes.

She said, “They can sign up for a weekly or bi-weekly service. Depending on their family size, my weekly customers have one to two bags a week. They fill it up with their laundry — everything from socks and underwear to shirts and towels. Sometimes we do their sheets. That’s what our average customer looks like, but I also have other customers whose comforters don’t quite fit in the washing machine or take forever to dry, so I’ve gotten on a weekly or monthly cycle with them. They set their comforters out, and I’ll pick them up. We’ll wash them and drop them back off, and they’ll have their fresh linen for the week or so.”

W.G. and Kenzie Miller’s North Main Laundry is James-Hernandez’s home base. She recognizes their facility is top-notch, filled with the newest equipment, and recently remodeled.

At the end of the day, her goal is to make your life easier.

“I feel like a lot of moms have seen my service and sometimes feel they’re behind. They’ll say, ‘Oh, gosh, I’ve got three bags; it’s so embarrassing.’ But it just happens. Life happens, and I want people to use my service regularly, of course, and get on a schedule with me that keeps



them caught up. But also, I want people to realize we can be a good little restart button, and it’s okay to be a mom, and it’s okay to get a little behind. We’re here to help. That’s the biggest thing I want my customers to know. I’m here to help you; whatever you need, let me know, and we will get it done,” she said. **GN**

For more information and pricing or to sign up, follow Fresh Fold Laundry Co. on Facebook.



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CHAPTER 2 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local people or businesses you need to know about.

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- 34 Where everyone's seen
- 40 Education in bloom
- 55 An açai bowl that's good for the soul

Our stories are based on submissions from local people. Submit yours here:



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Ean Matusek, Caden Duggin, Victor Smith Rogel, Jeremy Bryant, Kelly Kingree, Krisha Patel, Gracie Herrod, and Vanessa Torres



SHATTER- ING STIGMA AND BREAK- ING DOWN WALLS



Life with
autism
spectrum
disorder is
beautifully
different.

By Tina Neeley



SOMETIMES LIFE JUST ISN'T WHAT IT SEEMS.

There are situations where we view each other through the fishbowl of life. We watch from outside, sure of what we're seeing. Meanwhile, inside, life is its own reality, and the days pass with the feeling of someone else watching. What someone else sees and understands may not quite be the reality of life inside. Such is often the case with families living with an autism diagnosis.

According to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. Some

people with ASD have a known difference, such as a genetic condition. Other causes are not yet known. People with ASD may behave, communicate, interact, and learn in ways that are different from most others. There is often nothing about how they look that sets them apart from others, and the abilities of people with ASD can vary greatly.

April is National Autism Awareness month, a great time to shatter the glass separating us from families managing life on the spectrum. Two families offer their perspectives from the inside.



LIFE ON THE SPECTRUM — ONE FAMILY'S PERSPECTIVE

Amanda West shares her family's journey with ASD:

We begin to ponder the life we lived just one day before. Like permanent bookmarks, the diagnosis of ASD separates the pages of our lives into categories of before and after.

"Your son has level one, high-functioning autism spectrum disorder," the team of psychologists reported. My husband and I took several days to process the information together privately before we shared the diagnosis with our nine-year-old son. He was sitting at his computer desk designing an elaborate video game. When I told him, his fingers froze on his keyboard. He looked right at me and said in his matter-of-fact way, "Well, that explains it," then turned toward the screen and kept right on typing. Later that evening, he and I watched the movie "Temple Grandin."

"Mom," he said, "she has autism like me, but I don't act like her."

I explained that if you know one person with autism, you know one person with autism.

Although I know everyone's experience with ASD is different, the last seven years have been years of temporary regression, enormous growth, physical and emotional maturity, and, most of all, lots of therapy. He underwent occupational and speech-language therapy to recognize facial expressions, decipher body language, and understand idioms and words with double meanings. He underwent physical therapy to strengthen his fine motor skills and overall coordination. Our family feels blessed that he was able to have these necessary interventions provided by Jones Therapy in Shelbyville.

As a 16-year-old, he is a witty honor roll student, a member of the National High School Honors Society, has a steady group of friends, is still highly creative, and is working toward earning hours toward his driver's license.

FROM THE INSIDE OUT — WHAT THEY'D WANT YOU TO KNOW

Anna Sapach, a single mom to a young child on the spectrum, clarifies things the bowl has distorted from our view and our understanding of those with autism:

From the outside perspective, ASD can be embraced or judged in various ways. It can be embraced by acknowledgment and kindness or judged by silent stares and gawky remarks.

There's a multitude of degrading false information that has distorted the image of individuals with autism. Information and education are powerful tools that can guide or mislead us. The volume of errors and misdiagnoses throughout history, even with advanced testing and medical progression, has left a paper trail so long that it can collectively fill enough books to build a library. That happens when we judge the cover without picking apart the pages first.

If I were to ask you, the reader, what autism looks like to you, what would you see? Without education or background, where would your mind lead from only what the eyes can see? Would you see a child stimming (arm flapping, spinning in circles, tugging on clothes or ears)?

Would you see a child trying to self-soothe in an environment that sets their senses on fire? Or better yet, an environment that they're enjoying, and offer them a smile accompanied by a wave? Would you see an adult in sensory overload (nail biting, popping knuckles, repeating words) at a music store and presume they're behaving oddly? Or, would you see someone trying to manage anxiety in a loud place because they wanted to bravely learn how to set their noise-canceling headphones aside and embrace change?

With this insight, do we embrace a change in our neurotypical day-to-day environment, or do we scratch our heads and turn away?

Coming from a mother to a son with autism, all we ask is that you show kindness. You don't have to read every article or order a stack of books on ASD to become aware or understanding.

If it weren't for my son, I wouldn't have the knowledge I do today on autism. He saved me from the ignorance I held for years, unknowingly blinded by the social stigmas these adolescents had been painted by.

Misguided mindsets distort the beautiful picture that is the wonderful and complex world of life on the spectrum.

NO MORE WALLS

Shattering the walls that separate us from ASD families and coming together as a community that longs to enter their world's beauty and struggles is a priceless gift. It's a gift to them and a gift we receive from them when we allow them to share our lives.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to share life on the spectrum. GN





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Ean Matussek, Caden Duggin, Victor Smith Rogel, Jeremy Bryant, Vanessa Torres, Krisha Patel, Gracie Herrod, and Kelly Kingree

WHERE EVERYONE'S SEEN

The atmosphere at Shelbyville Central High School is energized by something new.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

DID YOU feel like an outsider at some point in high school? Do you remember the invisible boundaries between you and those in sports or clubs? Were your grades or wardrobe always short of measuring up? Did high school make you feel more alone than connected?

Visit Shelbyville Central High School (SCHS) today, and you might be surprised to find a different energy than the one you remember, thanks to the work and commitment of the SCHS Renaissance Team.

Dictionary.com defines renaissance as a renewal of life, vigor, interest, etc., or a rebirth or revival, which is exactly the program's purpose.

Kelly Kingree, SCHS response to intervention & testing coordinator, and Jeremy Bryant, U.S. history teacher, are the program's faculty leaders, but they will be the first to tell you this is a student-led movement.

Kingree said, "It's a program modeled after the Jostens Renaissance positive school

culture movement and began at SCHS in the 2017-18 school year when Tim Harwell was principal. It takes a lot of work and a very supportive administrative team. Mr. Harwell was 110% committed to making sure this program was a success."

Student leaders Gracie Herrod and Victor Smith Rogel are passionate about the program's ongoing impact on students and faculty (or "staffulty").

Herrod said, "Our goals are to improve the school's academic success, attendance rates, discipline, and school spirit. The result of these goals is a positive school culture where all students are seen and valued. And part of making those goals happen is implementing change in our building through student-led ideas. Because our students are so involved in speaking out for the student populace, we're seeing positive change."

Unlike most school clubs or programs, everyone can participate in the Renaissance

program, and the number of participating students has grown yearly. Meeting the basic human need to be seen and affirmed sparks personal growth and change that ripples throughout the school and the Shelbyville community.

Bryant said, "We talk a lot about the invisible kid; how the invisible kid is the kid that might not necessarily be the best at academics or sports, so they often get overlooked. We always try to make those kids feel like they're part of something and let them know we see and care about them and that they are a part of our school. That's one of the pillars of the whole Jostens Renaissance program."

It's not just students being recognized and initiating change.

The "staffulty" is equally engaged in changing the school culture, and the students are working to be sure the "staffulty" knows they are seen and appreciated.



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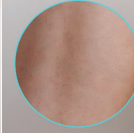
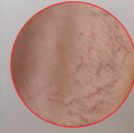


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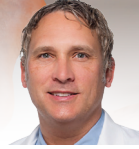
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- Renaissance “Staffulty” Holiday Tree — annual holiday tree with silly pictures of every staff member displayed in the front office
- Renaissance Rallies — upbeat, school-wide rallies twice a year celebrating academics, attendance, character, and behavior with an over-the-top performance and theme
- Freshman Rally — welcomes freshmen to SCHS the first week of school with a beach theme, bubbles, high-fives, fun music, games, and dancing, with upper-classmen welcoming and encouraging them to get involved.
- Renaissance Reward Cards — cards earned for academic achievement, academic improvement, good behavior, and attendance, including sweet treats, SCHS event passes, free T-shirts, and more.

“We cannot be Shelbyville Central High School without Shelbyville.”

-Gracie Herrod

The program is shaping student leaders’ futures, too. Smith Rogel realized the magnitude of its impact during a recent Renaissance conference in Orlando at Disney World, usually the greatest place on earth.

Smith Rogel said, “If you know anything about Disney World, it’s very packed. Everyone was really excited to go to Disney World, but when we were waiting in line, it really wasn’t. I told some of the guys I would much rather be in the hotel brainstorming, thinking of ideas, or

listening and taking notes at a session. I couldn’t [focus] on being at Disney World, which was really surprising.”

The community can and is assisting with changing the environment at SCHS. There is no funding for the school’s Renaissance Team, leaving them to rely entirely on the community’s support to continue their efforts.

“A big part of Renaissance is the support through our community through partnerships. As a partner, we not only want

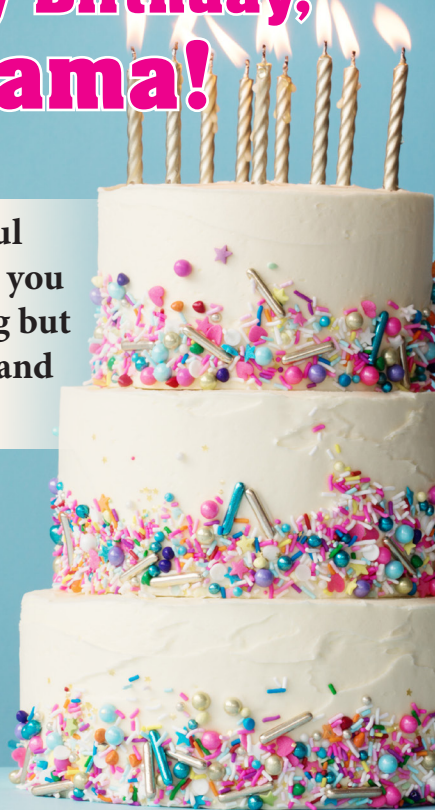
you to help us financially, but we want you in this building at our events. When they see what we’re doing and our positivity, it will affect them and move into their own lifestyles and businesses. Because if they see positivity in what we’re doing, maybe they’ll be inclined to spread that positivity into their own workforces,” said Herrod.

A school’s Renaissance spreading into the community — after all that’s been going around the past three years, there’s something we’ll be happy to catch! GN

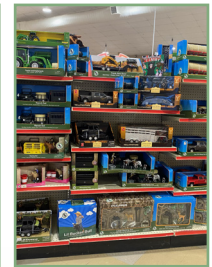
Happy Birthday, Mama!

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Fuzzy & Shelli



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Memorial Day - Labor Day (Weekends only in Aug.)
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A photograph of a student with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt, sitting in a classroom and raising their right hand. The student is seen from behind, and a backpack is visible on their back. The background is a blurred classroom with other students and desks. The overall image has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

EDUCATION

in BLOOM

A decorative graphic element consisting of a blue curved line with several teal leaves and a single pink flower with yellow dots at the end.



AS SPRING approaches and new blooms open to the world, students prepare for the end of the school year. Each student is a new bloom that takes on the world. After 18 years of education, studying, and building relationships, those students are almost ready to leave their mark on our community. But these students would not be the blooms they are without our educators. Our educators are the water, nutrients, and soil that students need. They leave lasting impressions and mold the next generation.

This issue of Good News celebrates our educators who help us bloom. **GN**



**DR. LUCAS
BOWLING**

THE BEST KIND OF TIRED

A busy life is not
always a bad thing.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



I never really intended to be a teacher, but through this confluence of events, God put it all together.

– Dr. Lucas Bowling

FAR FROM home while deployed to Iraq, Dr. Lucas Bowling received a call that changed the trajectory of his life. Not the kind you answer with your cell phone, but a call that doesn't use Verizon's nationwide network. It was there that Bowling felt and answered the call to ministry.

His initial career path was engineering, but he changed course and began working as a youth minister at Edgemont Baptist Church, where he served for six years. And then came a call asking him to pastor Parkview Baptist Church in Lewisburg. And again, he answered. The small church could hardly afford a full-time pastor, so it was necessary to supplement his income, something he did through substitute teaching at area schools.

Between his first work as a youth pastor and working with students as a substitute teacher, Bowling began to see the intersection of two careers and decided to pursue his teaching license. Add coaching to the mix, and it became more than a career; it became a lifestyle he shares with his wife, Tricia, and sons, James and Blaine.

Physical science and biology teacher; football, baseball, and wrestling coach; Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Fellowship of Christian Students (FCA/FCS) sponsor; pastor; husband; and father — all links in a chain that wraps around Bowling's work and life calling.

Bowling said, "Teaching is a calling for me, but it wasn't something I knew I wanted to do when I started high school. When my wife and I first met, she was already a school teacher, and I used to tell people I could never be a teacher, and that I didn't ever want to be a teacher. I never really intended to be a teacher, but through this confluence of events, God put it all together."





Young people are a central part of his days, and the classroom brings more opportunities to teach and influence young lives.

“I enjoy the job more than I thought I would have. The biggest thing is knowing that teaching is where God wants me to be,” he said.

As a physical science and biology teacher, he encourages students to evaluate scientific claims and reach their own conclusions.

Bowling explained, “The benefit of a science class is that we’re naturally skeptical. When you learn to critically evaluate and interact with evidence for yourself, you may or may not come to the same conclusion. You may want to investigate further using primary resources instead of secondary sources. So if the book says something, it might be well supported, but we can be sure if it’s well supported, you can go and replicate these experiments and replicate the findings so that we can be very critical in a healthy way.”



I enjoy the job more than I thought I would have. The biggest thing is knowing that teaching is where God wants me to be.

– Dr. Lucas Bowling

Community is where his family is, literally and figuratively. His wife teaches first grade at Community Elementary and coaches cheer, and his sons are in classes at the high school and are involved in the sports he coaches, so they spend more time together than an average family. Add his extended family of students, staff, and administrators to it, and you have a perpetual sense of support, even though the days are long and busy.

When asked how he does it all, Bowling said, "In one sentence, it's by the grace of God. While the coaching portion and the FCA/FCS work would normally feel a little bit more like work, it's such a blessing because

when I think about the hours that I get to spend not only with other people's teenagers and children but with my own kids... man, it's pretty awesome. I see them more in a week than some parents get to see their children in a month."

As exhausting as it is, he would have it no other way.

"You hear pastors say they're always so tired on Sundays, but it's a good tired because they know they're doing something worthwhile that has value in God's eye and kingdom. I feel the same way. With all of the irons I have in the fire, it leaves me feeling exhausted. At the end of the week, we're pretty wiped out. But for my wife and me, it's a good type of tired because we've invested ourselves into young people, some of whom have become convinced that adults don't like or love them or don't understand or care about them. But I would like to think that every one of my students knows at the end of the day they have at least one person who's happy they're here," he said.

The community's leadership is heartfelt.

Bowling said, "Dr. Williams and Dr. Ralston do such a great job of supporting us like family and allowing us to support one another like family members. I think that starts with the administration and filters to the staff. Then, as we all run our classrooms like that, it trickles down to the students."

Bowling's days are filled following a call from above in a family that supports from the top down.

"It's a pretty awesome place to be," he said. GN



LYNNA
MILLER

EXTRA SPECIAL EDUCATION

A lifetime teacher
teaches for life.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



LYNNA MILLER'S students are a part of her life forever, each becoming one of her kiddos. But some put the "special" in education — a field Miller has been actively involved in for more than 30 years.

An early classwork finisher in grade school, Miller was allowed to assist with Southside Elementary School special education students, igniting her passion for special education. Added to that early bonding was the time she spent babysitting a child who has special needs. The two combined to seal her future as a teacher committed to meeting their educational needs with compassion and forward-thinking.

Working with verbal and nonverbal students, Miller has seen the rewards of teacher, student, and parent investments. Whether building skills that may enable a student to lead a more independent life in the future or hearing a student speak for the first time, there's nothing like it.

"It's super exciting. I've had several kids who were nonverbal, and their moms had never heard them speak. They've never said anything. And after we've worked and worked and worked, they finally started talking, said Mom for the first time, said I love you, said something — you just can't duplicate that feeling of knowing that you not only helped that child grow but helped that mom realize something she'd been waiting for all their lives to that point. It's very, very rewarding," she said.

Miller's sister, Shontá Lamb, who passed away in 2014, was also a special education teacher and worked at Skills Development before teaching in the comprehensive developmental classroom (CDC) at Thomas School and Southside Elementary. Lamb's experience working with special needs adults gave Miller a new perspective on her students' future and the importance of their early education. Upon her sister's passing, Miller took over her sister's CDC class and continues to honor her vision and passion for their best life.



The kids think it's crazy when I say I was in this room in first grade. Now, here we are in this room, and I'm teaching. I've been here a long time.

— Lynna Miller

She said, "Shontá saw these grown women and men who, if their parents passed away — and they would eventually because they were older — would not be able to live an independent life. They would have to go into a group home or a state institution because they didn't have enough skills to stay in a more independent setting. So when she talked about teaching those adults skills, she really helped me see that it's so important for them to start getting those skills independently when they're little. And so it kind of changed the focus of what I was doing. Special education has changed its focus, just like regular education. Some of it's for the better; some of it's not, but years ago, all they worried about was life skills, and now they're more concerned about academics. But the reality is, they need a nice balance of useful academics and life skills."

Miller, who's taught at Southside her entire career, has been connected to the school her whole life.

"The kids think it's crazy when I say I was in this room in first grade. Now, here we are in this room, and I'm teaching. I've been here a long time," she said.

Although Miller is not presently teaching special education, her first grade class is an inclusion classroom, allocating time for special education students to experience the class with the general education students. Having taught both groups, combining the two is still challenging.

She said, "It's harder because you want to do so much with every student, but there are so many demands to be met that it's difficult to spend the time that you want to spend, to do the things that you want to do to meet every child's needs."

But regardless of which group she's teaching, a sign in her classroom affirms her teaching philosophy: "All children are gifted; some just open their package sooner than others."

Miller said, "I truly believe that every child can learn, and every child deserves to have an education that is tailored to them. Sometimes it's more challenging than others, but it's never not an option."

Seeing that these students experience education the same as general education students is her passion.

"I believe they should experience everything their general education counterparts experience. They should get to do fun things, go on field trips, do science experiments, and have hands-on fun. It's been my mission to make sure that happens," she said.

Each group is special to Miller and brings joy to her days.

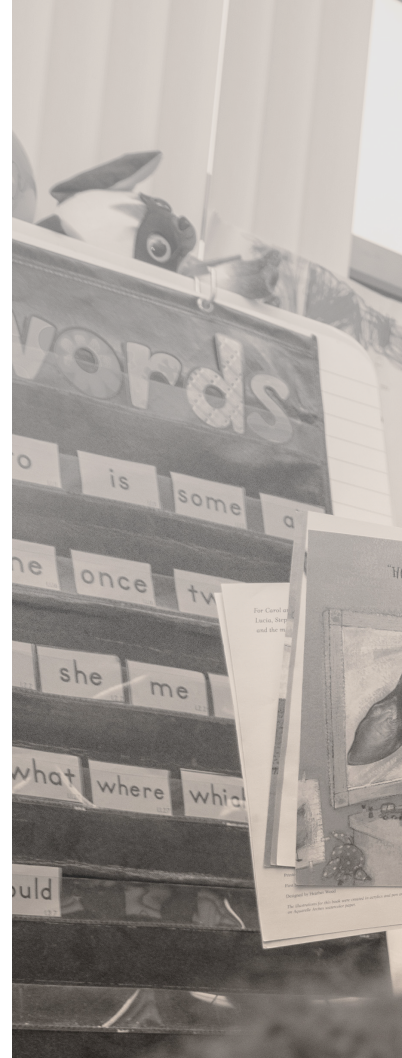
She said of her general education first graders, "I love the little kiddos. They love on you, and they want to bring you presents and draw you a picture. They're still at that age where it's exciting to come to school, and they're happy. And you still get to see the light bulb come on when they learn, and they're so proud when they master a skill we've been working on."

And she's proud of them, too, not just while they're in her classroom, but for the rest of their lives, she's watching and cheering for them.

"I tell my kids, 'you're mine, and you'll be mine for the rest of your life. I'll be watching your future always,' and I do. I'm friends with so many of my grownup students who are teachers now. Some students bring their babies back to show me, and now I'm teaching their children. I've got children of children in my classroom, and I love it. I enjoy keeping up with them, seeing how they do, and then seeing their lives progress. I'm so proud of them when they choose their life path, succeed, and then have kids and bring those kids back to see me. It's super rewarding," she said.

Teaching truly is Miller's calling, and the best for her students' future is her mission.

Miller said, "I love my students, and I'm in their lives for as long as they want me to be. I love them all. Every child deserves the chance to learn and have fun while they're learning. If they're not learning and having fun while they're learning, then I'm not doing my job." GN





...LY SMOKE-TO!" exclaimed the creature.
He said to the other two:
"You are not a fairy."
And they just might like enchiladas on Tropic, though they're for the
litty boy named his mark, and began to sing in a new sort
of way.
"Your ears are not like
ours, and
the
long
Chihuahua
guide
the whole Enchilada!"
My name is Joppy Enchilada, and I'm
And I'm all to eat all types of enchiladas
My class went
And I don't eat chili
The class is to eat a sombrero, and I'm

knowledge

The World

**BREANNE
PILKINGTON**

LAYING GOOD FOUN- DATIONS

BreAnne Pilkington's students' success is her number one priority.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



IT'S BECOME a Bedford County tradition — graduating seniors returning to their elementary schools to walk the halls of their childhood memories. When the last days of high school are marked off the calendar and seniors return to East Side Elementary School this spring, it will be a big day for them and an emotional day for teachers, especially BreAnne Pilkington. The students she taught her first year are among this year's graduating classes.

Pilkington is fulfilling her childhood dream. It's not uncommon to hear teachers recalling playing school and never doubting what they'd be when they grew up. Although she briefly considered pursuing forensics, she followed her childhood passion. She was happy to teach her dolls, stuffed animals, and friends, but today she oversees a more lively group of students in her first grade East Side classroom. She sees firsthand how their enthusiasm grows as her students build upon the things they learned in kindergarten.

Gone are the days when first grade students were just starting to learn, picking up basic math skills, and looking forward to storytime and recess. The pace is much faster now, and Pilkington knows to keep up with her first grade students, she must continuously stay ahead of them. Her strategy for staying on her toes begins before most of us hit the snooze button for the first time each morning. She heads to the gym four days a week, finishing her workout long before the first bell rings.

She said, “I feel like it helps me get through the day and helps me be more focused in the mornings. I’m already up and going, and my body’s in gear, so I definitely think it helps get me through the day.”

Her classroom days start at 7:30 a.m. with math, followed by a time when some students go to classes focused on their needs while others remain with her in the classroom. Then comes lunch and art classes before recess makes an all-too-short appearance — perfect timing, too, because it’s knowledge, science, or social studies time next. They’re certainly being taught an incredible amount at an ever-increasing pace. For Pilkington and grownups who recall the school days of their childhood, this is not the routine they remember.

“I started at Southside Elementary and was there for two years, then went to Liberty through eighth grade and graduated from Shelbyville Central High School,” she said.

After graduating high school, Pilkington obtained her bachelor’s degree from Middle Tennessee State University and her master’s degree from Cumberland University.

Pilkington is determined to give her students the best possible foundation from day one. After being a kindergarten teacher at East Side for eight years, she left teaching but realized after only eight months that she needed to be back in the classroom and returned to East Side as a first grade teacher. Pilkington uses data





“

I love seeing my students learn and grow. When they have those ‘aha moments’ or accomplish a goal they’ve been working really hard towards, those are the best!

– BreAnne Pilkington



available on each student’s level of learning to tailor their curriculums accordingly — sometimes going back to the basics they learned in kindergarten.

Pilkington said, “Making sure every student reaches their greatest potential is a challenge I’m presented with at the beginning of the year and aim to accomplish each year. I love seeing my students learn and grow. When they have those ‘aha moments’ or accomplish a goal they’ve been working really hard towards, those are the best! I also truly love the relationships I get to form with each and every student.”

Family is at the heart of Pilkington’s life, whether at or away from school. The East Side family is one of her favorite things about her work.

She said, “It’s just like a big family. You can feel the care; you can see the care. We’re just all here for each other.”

For Pilkington, family is a source of strength and her number one priority. From special occasions spent with her parents, brother, and extended family to life’s little and big moments shared with her husband, Jason, and their foster son — it’s all part of what makes home such an important place in her heart.

Pilkington said, “The people who work at East Side and the students are my favorite thing about my school. We have the best administration, teachers, assistants, and students, hands down. I love East Side and am so glad to call it home!” GN

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WHETHER YOU'RE on the go or wanting to eat a meal that's packed with good for you ingredients, Earth Bar has your back with their multiple options of smoothies, açai bowls and fresh juice shots. Located in front of Planet Fitness is a once abandoned building, now renovated into the much-welcomed smoothie and açai bowl spot, guaranteed to break up the monotonous meals of a busy life.

During my first trip, they were sadly out of açai berry for me to enjoy, so I opted to try out some smoothies. I ordered the strawberry banana smoothie and a peanut butter banana smoothie. With each smoothie consisting of just three ingredients, the taste was vibrant and pure, not stale or powdery. The strawberry banana smoothie was mixed with orange juice, for an extra fruity flavor. And the peanut butter

banana was mixed with oat milk for a creamy-smooth finish. Each were so delicious and kept me full for my entire morning.

The açai bowl is something I've never had before yet cannot wait to get once more. Topped with crunchy oats, strawberries, bananas, macadamia nuts and Nutella, this bowl was out of this world delicious. The açai berry blend on the bottom was cold and frozen, like ice cream. The fruits on top were vibrant and fresh. Mixed together, it was a perfectly harmonious meal that was fresh and fulfilling.

Stop by for a healthy alternative to the fast-food chains, grab a smoothie when you're on the go or get a ginger juice shot to boost your immunity. Be sure to follow the Earth Bar group on Facebook to see these beautiful creations and new ones to come. **GN**

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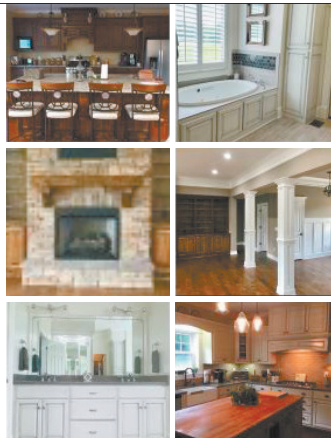
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CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

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- 66 Advertiser Index

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Kristy Watkins and Whitney Collier





Nothing sweeter than flowers, and nothing tastier than barbecue

Daffodil Day and Best of the Butts BBQ Cook-Off take place in Bell Buckle.

Photos provided by Bell Buckle Chamber of Commerce

AFTER TWO long years, the Bell Buckle Daffodil Day and Best of the Butts BBQ Cook-Off were back in action. Cozy, little historic Bell Buckle sparkled and shined for the third weekend in March when thousands upon thousands of smiling daffodils exploded in brilliant yellow glory.

This year's Daffodil Day is Saturday, March 19, with the ever-popular Daffodil Flower Show, book signings, live music, and an interactive barbecue cook-off.

The appearance of the daffodils has been celebrated in the most charming manner known every year for more than 44 years on the third Saturday in March. Over a century ago, mass plantings of the golden beauties were set out along the corridors to the scenic little town of Bell Buckle. The daffodils have multiplied and now grow in every direction throughout the tree-lined town. It is truly a sight to see. The Daffodil Flower Show is always great fun for young and old alike.

Home to Tennessee's former poet laureate, Margaret Britton Vaughn, Bell Buckle has always had a special place for books in its history and heart. Sawney Webb, the founder of The Webb School, spent more money on books than buildings when the school was moved from Culleoka to Bell Buckle in 1886. The Bell Buckle Coffee Shop and Book Swap celebrates Bell Buckle's long literary love affair with a book signing by John

T. Wayne, grandson of "The Duke," John Wayne. Mr. Wayne was on hand to sign books from his "The Gaslight Boys" series.

There is tons of fun at the Bell Buckle Best of the Butts BBQ Cook-Off held on the Captain Rodney lot. Patrons watch barbecue grill masters perfect their art and participate in the judging. The only thing better than the smell of barbecue is getting to sample all the entries.

Event goers could also meander around contestants' tents to observe the masters of the trade as they compete to be the best of the best.

Spring and outdoor-themed vendors were sell handcrafted goods and wares all day. Experience live music throughout the day on the Quilt Square with performances by Olivia Mason and Chase Clanton.

Arbor Day festivities celebrate Bell Buckle's 22nd year as the smallest Tree City USA in Tennessee. The festivities included the always-popular tree seedling giveaway. This year's seedlings are hybrid chestnut, buttonbush, and Nuttall oak. All seedlings are free to eventgoers. **GN**

For more information about upcoming events in Bell Buckle, visit online at bellbucklechamber.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS



▲ Yolanda Flick and
Mandy Mitchell



▲ Paul Angel



►
Yolanda
Flick
and Jim
Trasport



►
Julia
Logan
Mayes
and Ashlyn
Chapman

But first, coffee

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

The Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce members recently started their day with coffee and conversation. The chamber recently kicked off its newest networking event, Third Thursday. The event will take place each month to offer its members an opportunity to come together and connect.

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Good News MAGAZINE

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 13

9:00 pm **Wild Life Takes Over The Lone Goose Saloon!**

The Brass Lantern
1608 Madison St.

Join us for an awesome night of your favorite '80s new wave hits.

March 15

12:00 pm **Walking Horse Trainer's Association National Horse Show**

Calsonic Arena
721 Whitthorne St.

For more information contact Mel at (931) 684-5866.

March 17

7:00 am **Joseph Habedank: Edgemont Baptist Church**

Edgemont Baptist Church
150 Fairfield Pike

7:00 pm **Biloxi Blues**

Fly Community Theatre
204 S. Main St.

Tony award-winning play by Pulitzer prize-winning playwright Neil Simon will be presented by Fly Community Theatre on March 17, 18, 24, 25, and 26, 2023.

Tickets available at flyartscenter.com.

March 18

10:00 am **Bell Buckle Daffodil Day and Best of the Butts BBQ Cook-Off**

Downtown Bell Buckle

Mark the arrival of spring and enjoy a day filled with fun, family-friendly activities.

March 25

12:00 pm **Shelbyville Monster Truck Wars**

Calsonic Arena
721 Whitthorne St.

For more information contact Ron Woodbridge (480) 219-6502 or (480) 772-7490.



1:00 pm Teen D&D/RPG Club
Bedford County
Public Library
220 S. Jefferson St.

Grades 6-12. The club is focused on playing tabletop role-playing games, where each person creates their own character to be part of a larger story.

April 1

10:00 am Johnson's Makers Spring Market
First Assembly
Shelbyville
2510 U.S. Hwy. 231

Welcome spring with a handmade makers market! A bounce house park, and a special appearance by our princess for children. Food trucks and plenty of shopping for adults.

For more information contact (615) 631-2636 or thefruitylemontn@gmail.com

10:00 am Author Talk: Book Presentation & Signing with Dr. Lona Bailey
Bedford County
Public Library
220 S. Jefferson St.

Dr. Lona Bailey will be doing a presentation on her newest book, "The Voice of Villainy," a biography of actress Betty Lou Gerson.

For more events and to submit an event visit:

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



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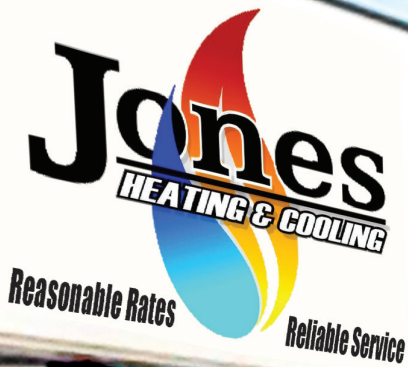
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