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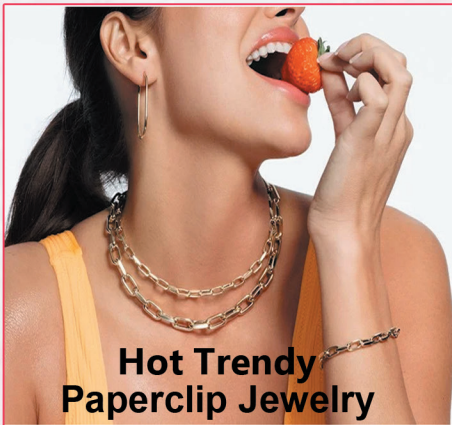
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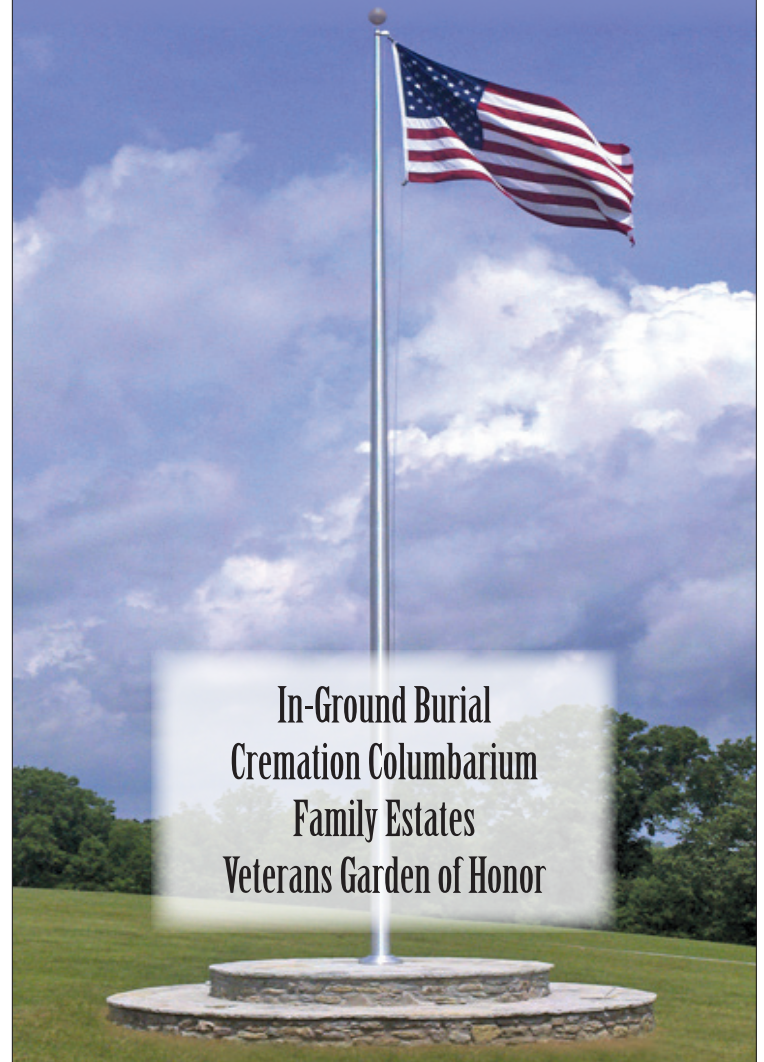
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## The impact of ‘shop local’

Together we can ensure that their legacies continue, our economy is kept stable, and our community continues to thrive.

**T**HE ECONOMIC Policy Institute reports that for every dollar spent at a locally owned business, 68 cents of it stays in the local economy. Compare this to 32 cents staying in a local community when spending money at a chain store. The University of Florida conducted an analysis that showed how local businesses help fight high unemployment rates. When large companies lay off workers, local businesses are able to provide employment opportunities and maintain a consistent workforce. This is critical in sustaining our community and keeping money flowing within it.

Our locally owned businesses have helped our community become what it

is today. The long-standing staples in our community have created bridges between the generations. People who were once shoppers at a young age are now the mature employees who always greet you with a smile. And as new decades come and go, their smiles never fade. And the young shoppers they smile to will one day be in their shoes.

We should all continue to make an effort to support our local businesses. Not only does it help create a stronger economy for our town, but it also helps preserve the memories and traditions of generations before us. Together we can ensure that their legacies continue, our economy is kept stable, and our community continues to thrive. **GN**

*Wesley Bryant*  
**Wesley Bryant,**  
MANAGING EDITOR

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— Kay Bartley,  
Good News reader

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# GOOD NEWS

## CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

- 14** Male-dominated industry has local female assistant manager
- 18** Mary Allison Dempsey's brother inspires her to save lives
- 22** Lincoln County trap team passes 16 years of teaching safety and sportsmanship

Submit a positive story on our website:



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

◀ Mary Allison Dempsey





▲ Kim Posey

## Male-dominated industry has local female assistant manager.

Kim Posey is more than a statistic.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

VISIT THE Fayetteville Public Utilities (FPU) website, and you'll see that FPU serves 34,330 customers over a system undergirded by \$213.3 million in gross plant assets, including 3,071 miles of utility lines. We go about our daily lives, scrolling on our laptops or tablets after a supper cooked on our favorite time-saving appliances. Our morning shower and the hot water for our dishwasher faithfully flow into our homes, all improving our quality of life with little interruptions, thanks to FPU.

Lifetime Fayetteville resident Kim Posey knows numbers and service. As the assistant manager of FPU, Posey is happy to work behind the scenes to positively impact the community she loves.

A career working with numbers was always her goal. She was leaning toward teaching math or becoming an accountant, at least until calculus class. Then the decision was easy, and Posey obtained her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Upon graduation, she was hired by Putnam & Hancock CPAs, obtained her certification in public accounting in 1994, and worked with the firm until 1999, when she became the finance director for the City of Fayetteville. In 2007, Posey became the manager of finance and office services at FPU.





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*“Some days are a challenge, but I truly enjoy the people I work with. I feel like we have a family atmosphere here at work, and it makes it enjoyable to come to work.”*

-Kim Posey



“As I learned all about the technical aspects of the utility – and I still don’t know everything there is to know – my responsibilities grew, and in 2018 I got the opportunity to be named assistant manager,” Posey said.

In a traditionally male-dominated industry, Posey appreciates the weight of her position.

“I’m definitely humbled and honored that [CEO/General Manager] Mr. Dye and the board have confidence in me to help lead this company. I’ve been fortunate to work for leaders who have valued me for what I know and my abilities, and gender has never been an issue,” she said.

A family person at heart, FPU customers and her co-workers are her extended family. Working with and for that family frames her days, and her time with her husband, Scott, and their adult sons consumes her spare time in positive ways – like the electricity provided to FPU customers.

“When I first went to work at Putnam & Hancock, I was always introduced as Roy and Judy Jones’s daughter, and I was proud of that. People connected me with my parents, who taught me my work ethic and so forth,”

Posey said. “And now, I’m Matthew and Nathan’s mama, and I’m proud of that, too.”

Their oldest son, Matthew, and his wife, Morgan, live in Murfreesboro, where Matthew is associate director of creative services in Middle Tennessee State University’s (MTSU) athletic communications department. Nathan is a junior at MTSU and works in the music ministry at Murfreesboro’s Northside Church.

She said, “I try to see them as much as possible when they’re not busy. When Nathan’s singing or playing somewhere, we try to make it, and we go up for Matthew’s sporting events. Keeping up with them while I’m going back to college to get my master’s in business administration has been very time-consuming.”

But thanks to online learning made possible by technology and public utilities, college is more accessible than ever.

“I love my job, and I enjoy coming to work every day. Some days are a challenge, but I truly enjoy the people I work with. I feel like we have a family atmosphere here at work, and it makes it enjoyable to come to work,” said Posey.

And when you’re family, you’re more than a number. **GN**



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▲ Mary Allison Dempsey

## Mary Allison Dempsey's brother inspires her to save lives.

A first responder knows how you feel.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**T**HEY WERE her childhood heroes. When her family needed them, they were there. When complications from her brother's diabetes required immediate attention, she knew they would always come, and they always did. From her gratitude for their care, a desire was born to do the same for others. Mary Allison Dempsey wanted to be a paramedic, but it wouldn't be easy.

Despite being a single mom at 20, Dempsey refused to give up on her dreams or change career paths, committed to becoming the one that answered the calls to 911. In fact, she answered 911 calls as a dispatcher before obtaining her dream

job. Her parents stood behind her, offering their full support as Dempsey worked and studied to complete training as an emergency medical technician and paramedic. Dempsey knows she's where she's meant to be in her job today with Lincoln County Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

She said, "It's an honor to be in my position. I've crossed a lot of obstacles to get to where I am today. My brother always needed medical attention for his acute, chronic condition. I always knew that I wanted to do something in the medical field. First, I got into dispatch and learned my love for emergency medicine. Now I get to serve like the medical professionals did



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*“If you stay calm, then everybody else will feel at ease. It takes a lot of training and a lot of faith in God for sure.”*

-Mary Allison Dempsey



for my brother. I saw firsthand the importance of first responders and how their knowledge and critical thinking skills save lives.”

Being mentally prepared and staying calm in emergency situations is imperative. Dempsey is trained to handle the situations but credits her faith for the underlying strength needed for her job.

“If you stay calm, then everybody else will feel at ease. It takes a lot of training and a lot of faith in God for sure,” Dempsey said.

It’s hard to believe some patients walk away from tangled wreckage, yet Dempsey sees it happen. At other times, it’s as bad or worse than it looks. Riding the roller coaster of adrenaline and emotions is a balancing act.

She said, “It hits me sometimes. You’re in chaos at work, then you come home to calmness, and you have to switch from point A to point B. Your family has no idea what you deal with at work, so it’s hard for them to cope with you. That’s probably the hardest part — transitioning and making sure home life isn’t affected by work.”

In most situations, first responders transfer care to the emergency room staff, and their interaction with the patient ends. But their concern for the outcome doesn’t end at the emergency room or helicopter door. Further interaction with the lives they save is not always possible, but it is always remarkable.

“It’s definitely surreal knowing that your knowledge and skills can impact somebody else’s life in the community. I’ve met a couple of different patients, and it’s just the greatest thing. It’s better than any medal or award because their family is forever grateful,” Dempsey said.

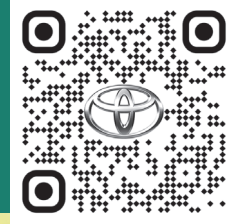
Dreams, like patients’ lives, are worth fighting for. In Dempsey’s case, pursuing the dream itself saves lives today.

She reminds us, “Never give up on what you truly feel is your passion. Being a female in the EMS world is very challenging. Don’t let challenges ruin your dreams or your true love for what you want to do with your life. With all the obstacles I’ve had to go through to get to where I am today, I try to push people as much as possible and encourage them to keep on going because one day, they’re going to be really proud that they can.” **GN**



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▲ Front: Matthew Butcher, Ivan Paulson, Koda Chandler, Evan Baker, Brandon Sisk, Elijah Rogers, Levi Biles, and Wyatt Tanner  
 Back: Coach Tanner, Aljah Foxx, Wyatt Stewart, Justin Ellis, Michael Sisk, Brady Noblin, Knox Rogers, and Mark Horton

# Lincoln County trap team passes 16 years of teaching safety and sportsmanship.

It's a win for the community.

By Tina Neeley // Photos submitte by Mark Horton

**P**ULL!" AT the shooter's call, clay discs are hurled at 42 mph into the air, simulating a hunter's flying game. Lincoln County Trap Team members are competing for more than bragging rights, and the team's coaches are aiming for more than championships.

Coach Mark Horton's number one priority is safety.

Horton said, "Before winning ever comes into play, I want to make sure we're safe and that a kid learns how to handle a firearm properly. As long as we teach them

to handle a firearm the way it should be handled, then I'm a winner. Winning as a team is second to me."

Initially formed by Lincoln County High School, the trap team moved from a school organization to a youth league team to allow youth of all ages to compete. Horton said starting them young is essential if you hope to keep them involved.

Students from 9 years old to 23, male and female, can participate. The Lincoln County Trap Team is a member of the American Trap Association (ATA) and

competes under ATA's AIM program, which stands for academics, integrity, and marksmanship.

Horton and assistant coach Kevin Tanner know the program's long-term potential to benefit students. Aside from the fellowship and teamwork, the sport offers academic scholarships, and five team members have obtained assistance with further education from those awards.

"At the nationals every year, they give away \$80-\$100,000 in scholarships. Five on our team have received scholarships

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▲ Sub Junior C Class National Champs, Coach Tanner, Matthew Butcher, Koda Chandler, Alijah Foxx, Levi Biles, Knox Rogers, and Mark Horton

to further their education and keep shooting. There are colleges out there that have trap teams now. My daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Faulkner Horton, was on one of them,” Horton said. “And I’ve had four kids go to Bethel University. My son, Ethan Horton, received a partial scholarship, which he used at the Colorado School of Trades to become a gunsmith. One teammate has won partial scholarships for the last three years for his college education.”

The Sub-Junior C Class (11-14-year-olds) was national champions in their division last year in Sparta, Illinois. The Senior Class was the runner-up in their division. “That’s a big accomplishment when you’re competing against 2,000 kids. We’ve done well for about the last six years bringing home trophies from the national championships,” Horton said.

Another great thing about trapshooting, according to Horton, is that it’s a family-oriented program. The team participates at times in ATA shoots outside the AIM program, and moms and dads can participate, as well as the students.

“That’s what makes it so much fun because parents want to get involved. I have some exceptional parents and always have had good parents,” he said.

Watching the students have fun, achieve a sense of accomplishment, and learn self-control makes Horton’s sacrificed time for the program worth it all.

Horton said, “It’s all a mindset. This game is more of a 99% mind. If you keep that, then it makes it easy. You want them to be proud of what they’ve accomplished, and then, in the long run, they’ll give back. A lot of my team members have given back to the trap team.”

Gun safety, pleasure, and personal development combine for award-winning seasons, on and off the field.

“Pull!” GN

---

The team’s annual fundraiser, a Boston butt sale, is Father’s Day weekend. For more information or to sponsor the team, contact coach Mark Horton at (931) 703-3478 or assistant coach Kevin Tanner at (931) 993-8868.



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# GOOD NEWS

## CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 28** Helping feed 300 students for 12 years
- 36** Skills from the tides wash up in a Fayetteville art studio
- 40** Shop local
- 54** Recipes: The taste of memory
- 57** Faith: Dare to finish the race

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

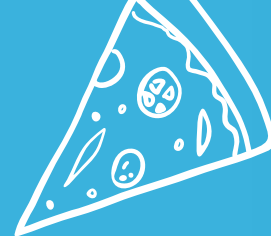
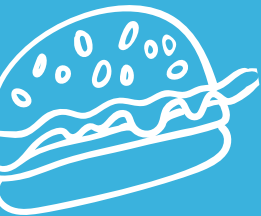


[goodnewsmags.com](http://goodnewsmags.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

◀ Resa Beasley, Joyce Jones, and Laura Roland





# HELPING FEED 300 STUDENTS FOR 12 YEARS



## April Holt brightens lunchtime at Riverside Christian Academy.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

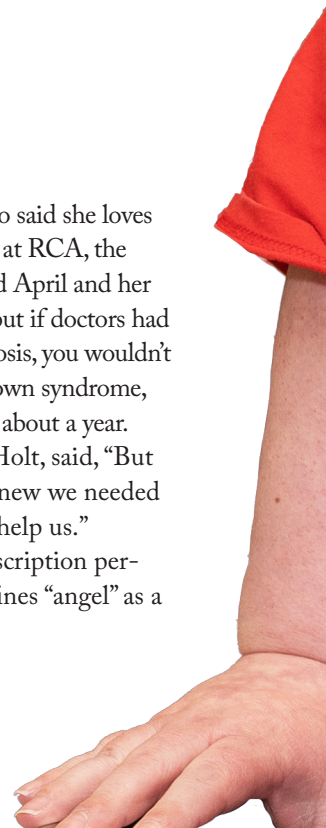
**A**LTHOUGH THE first students won't arrive for several more hours, the lunchroom at Riverside Christian Academy (RCA) is buzzing with activity. Pots and pans clang, cans are opened and produce is sorted as the day's menu begins to take shape. The time for the first classes quickly arrives, and everything is ready and waiting. In addition to the trays filled with the day's lunch, smiles await the hungry multitudes, and April Holt's smile is among them.

Jessica Carter, cafeteria manager, said, "April is an integral part of our crew here in the RCA cafeteria. She's in charge of sanitizing all our tables between lunch periods to ensure they are clean and welcoming for the next group of students, and she assists in making sure the serving line is moving [smoothly]. It would be really tough to get it all done without her. She is a joy to have on our crew. She adores dressing up for each holiday and having fun with the kids, and they love her back!"

According to April, who said she loves her friends and co-workers at RCA, the feeling is mutual. You'll find April and her contagious smile at RCA, but if doctors had been correct in their prognosis, you wouldn't see her at all. Born with Down syndrome, doctors predicted she'd live about a year.

April's mother, Tami Holt, said, "But the Lord blessed us. He knew we needed an angel here on earth to help us."

April matches that description perfectly. Dictionary.com defines "angel" as a







April Holt







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She always looks for the better side of things and never gets discouraged. Her outlook on life is so much bigger than I can picture.

- Breand Mitchell



person with qualities generally attributed to an angel, such as beauty, purity, or kindness.

“She touches everybody’s heart and everything she comes in contact with,” said Breand Mitchell, April’s older sister.

April’s optimism and life outlook are less common than many of us possess. Today’s news headlines and circumstances do nothing to dim her light. Her sister said she’s kind and loving and never meets a stranger.

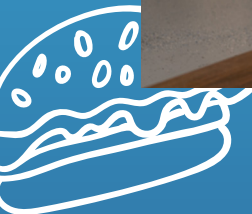
“She always looks for the better side of things and never gets discouraged. Her outlook on life is so much bigger than I can picture. If we could love the way she loves, the world would be a different place,” said Breand.

April, who always says that the truth will set you free, may understand the wisdom of her words more than others realize.

“April says it all the time. She wants to tell the truth no matter what,” her sister said. “And because of all she’s taught me, I can interact well with others with special needs. So many people love her and are able to love others with special needs because of her, including my husband.”

Breand is proud to be identified as April’s sister, and the sisters are fiercely protective of one another. April regularly tells Breand’s husband to be nice to her sister, and Breand is on call anytime April needs her — always has been.

Breand said, “I got in trouble on the bus because older kids were making fun of April, so I got up in their faces and actually punched





▶  
April Holt and  
Travis Creasy

one of them. But I treated her just like a normal sister growing up. I was mean to her, and I'd chase her around and take her toys away from her. April was very mean to me, too, and definitely took up for herself."

April lives a highly independent life and thrives on routine, thanks to the support of her mother and sister and training at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna.

"She gets herself up, fixes her breakfast, and rides the transportation van to work and back, pretty much living her own life while we're both working," said Breand, who lives less than a half mile from her mom and sister.

She's Aunt April to Breand's four daughters, a job she takes very seriously and loves dearly.

"She would sit down in her little glider chair and hold them, rock them, and sing to them. Growing up around her has taught my children not to treat [people who have special needs] any differently," said Breand.

April's deeply connected spiritually as if she has a direct connection to heaven. Her light shines even brighter when she prays.

Her mom said, "What she says is pure and comes from the heart. She prays over us, and you know God is right there. When she testifies in church, you know that what she says is true, and you get so encouraged. It's a beautiful thing."

April's love, outlook, and honesty brighten the lives of everyone in her path. Should we expect any less from an angel on earth? **GN**





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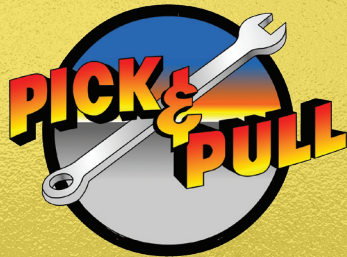
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BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

**A**RT AND opportunities are found in everyday places, and on rare occasions, the two combine to create a unique career. Jessica Allen wasn't looking for new work when she and her mother-in-law took a class on a beach vacation that resulted in a one-of-a-kind charcuterie board decorated with resin.

"I just fell in love with working with resin, and when I left, my mind kept spinning with all the possibilities that could come from opening a business like that in Fayetteville," Allen said.

The lingering joy from the class consumed her, leaving her to believe God was stirring a dream in her heart. Her background in marketing led her to research studios in our area. Finding only four similar, but nowhere near Fayetteville, Allen said she took the leap of faith and decided to open By Your Hand Art Studio.

While training at the studio where she first fell in love with resin art, she also gained experience in crushed glass art. She brought those skills back from the beach vacation and sandy shores to Fayetteville and now offers crushed glass art classes at her studio on West Washington Street. Students and artists create their own designs from broken glass, seashells, resin flowers, beads, and other supplies, which Allen preserves in resin. The art requires no prior experience, and anyone can do it.



“

ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE LINED UP AND ALLOWED ME TO OPEN THIS BUSINESS HAVE BEEN A TRUE BLESSING FROM GOD, AND I HAVE TO GIVE HIM ALL THE HONOR AND GLORY FOR THAT.

-JESSICA ALLEN



Many of the studio's resin art pieces capture the ocean's beauty and freeze the movement of the waves in the resin covering. Art depicting angel wings, a class favorite, reflects peaceful, ethereal energy. Anything a student can imagine finds its way into the designs, with recent favorites including Christmas trees, chickens, turtles, and hearts.

Allen said of the charcuterie boards and the broken glass art, "You don't have to be an artist to do this. It's easy and fun."

In the broken glass classes, students arrange the glass into their chosen design on a canvas or board until they're happy with it. After that, Allen completes their project by sealing it in resin for them.

The charcuterie board art is a play in color and resin. Students are introduced to different ways of manipulating the resin and decide on their designs and methods. Like many broken glass pieces, waves of color resemble beach sunsets, retreating waves, and rolling dunes. Coordinating coasters complete the set.

"You pick your board and up to four different pigment colors, and we provide you with resin. Then, we walk you through the preliminary steps of mixing resin and pigment and prepping and pouring your board. We go over how to manipulate the resins to where they flow and move together to create the design they imagine," said Allen.

Classes are available for individuals or groups, and parties of six or more can reserve the studio for private classes. All created art must dry for 24 hours and be picked up the next day, or shipping can be arranged.

Everything about the studio work has been a blessing. Besides the joy of seeing students overcome their intimidation of working with resin and the pleasure of seeing their creativity come to life, the studio allows the flexibility to include her family in her work. She and her husband, BJ, are parents to Macie, Ella, Aisley, and Axton.

"Now that I've opened, I'm able to help my mom, who's had a kidney transplant, as she enters back into a normal routine in life. I have a place where my children can stay after school, and I get to keep my two-year-old at the studio with me," she said. "All the things that have lined up and allowed me to open this business have been a true blessing from God, and I have to give Him all the honor and glory for that. If someone had told me as a marketing account manager for higher education colleges that I would have an art studio, I wouldn't have believed it. Everything we do here is more about the love of it. Once you get a feel for the technique, you take off with it. I have people that have already become repeat customers. It's really amazing."

The art options are ever-changing and never-ending. They're as wide open as our imagination.





▲ Shayna Kidd, Sharon Speck, Velda Rogers, Jackie Day, Ramona Love, Yvonne Hillis, Jeznel Button, Louida Button. and Ann Mason

▼ Ramona Love and Jackie Day

Allen said, “I’ve expanded a bit into preserving funeral and wedding flowers in resin for people. There are so many ways you can help people with this; a lot of it is therapeutic. They come in and are so focused on making their design that they are able to heal and grow.”

No matter how short, an escape through creative play is an opportunity to relax and reset. Drop by or check out the studio online to create your own unique treasure. **GN**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A CLASS OR PARTY, VISIT [BYOURHANDARTSTUDIO.COM](http://BYOURHANDARTSTUDIO.COM) OR FOLLOW THE STUDIO ON FACEBOOK. YOU WILL FIND THEM AT 806 WASHINGTON ST. W., FAYETTEVILLE, AND YOU CAN REACH THEM AT (931) 675-9391.







# Shop Local

Find your new favorite local  
business in Fayetteville

**W**HEN YOU shop locally, you're making a statement – and not the kind that causes controversy or makes people pick sides. You're taking a stand for your neighbors. You're spending your time and money on people who are just like you. Our local stores probably don't have billionaire investors, but they can have the most important investment of all. It means more. It has a greater impact on lives. And it lasts much longer than the ink on a printed contract. You have the opportunity to be that investor. And no, we're not talking about

getting into a pricey business deal. We're talking about just showing up.

When you walk into a store, and the owner hears the *ding* from the bell above the door, you're giving the gift of love. It's a simple affirmation of a smile and burst of joy that someone walked into this local store, but it's good enough to make someone's day.

That's the statement and investment that can change a life. So visit your local businesses. Your support changes not only you and the owner but the community as a whole. **GN**





Fayetteville







Hunter Brothers Masonry

# Quality Before Quantity

Hunter Brothers Masonry proves it.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder



**W**ORKING IN the summer heat shoveling mortar and toting brick on the job site alongside his father, Joe Hunter, and uncle, Raybon (Shorty) Hunter, 12-year-old Danny Hunter didn't know he was working on more than someone's home. Through each summer break and school holiday, Danny continued to work, eventually learning to lay brick and block, graduating to work full time in the family business. Today, he realizes it was a legacy they were building.

"When summertime got here, I had to go to work, and I didn't think anything about it. I thought it was just something everybody had to do. In a way, we had a good time because looking back at all the jobs we've done, it's just crazy that it's been that long because I've been doing it [full time] for 38 years. I have people telling me all the time that it's a dying trade, and it truly is because there's a difference between a bricklayer and a brick mason because there's quality. We always strive to do quality work,





Danny, Joe, and Raybon (Shorty) Hunter





and I believe that has gotten us where we are today,” Danny said.

Their work speaks for itself so well that a business card was never needed. Folks stopping by a job site to ask if they’d take on their project received a phone number scribbled on whatever paper was handy, and word of mouth carried them from job to job. The secret to their success is not really a secret.

He said, “It’s been rewarding to be recommended by former customers. When my dad finally let me get on the wall and learn how to lay bricks, he would always tell me quality comes first and then quantity comes later. That’s always stuck in my head.”

Joe and Shorty began as Hunter Brothers Masonry in 1965, working together until Joe’s retirement in 2010. Shorty still works with Danny, and his presence and experience on the job are priceless assets. While Danny isn’t sure he’ll be able to make it for as many years as Shorty, he can’t help but think of a coming day when Hunter Brothers Masonry is no longer in business. It helps to know, though, that the work of Hunter Brothers will stand long after.

“Daddy always told me they went straight from the cotton fields to laying brick. They worked long hours and really built a name for themselves. I remember

he would go to work early in the mornings and come home [in the] afternoons with headlights on; I remember he worked all the time. My Uncle Shorty still works just about every day and has told me he’s worked on people’s houses, their kids, and their grandkids’ houses. It’s good to drive by those jobs years later; everything still looks nice and stands up straight. There’s hardly a road in Lincoln County that we haven’t laid some kind of block or brick or done some kind of work on. I guess my wife and kids get tired of hearing me say that we bricked this house or that one over there,” Danny said.





“

We have worked for some really great people over the years. It's nice to go out and work for people and get to know some people we don't know.

- Danny Hunter



The work has been a family affair through the years and has gifted them a lifetime of memories not common to other work. Shorty's sons, Charles and Randy, both worked with Hunter Brothers over the years — Charles longer than Randy. Charles and Danny made quicker work of bricklaying, [with] one being left-handed and the other right-handed. They'd work their way from the outside in, meeting in the middle — a picture of team-work and efficiency.

Working with the Lincoln County community has been just as gratifying.

He said, “We have worked for some really great people over the years. It's nice to go out and work for people and get to know some people we don't know. Some people move in here from another state or across the country, and we make friends with them. They're people we work around all the time, like other contractors; some I've been friends with all my life, and some are just getting started.”

Looking again toward the future and a time when the trowels and mixing drums are put away, Danny has mixed emotions.

“It's kind of heartbreaking to know that the name will die out, but at the same time, a lot of people will remember Hunter Brothers Masonry 20 years later. I'm glad my dad was a brick mason,” said Danny. GN

For more information, follow Hunter Brothers Masonry on Facebook or call (931) 993-4576





Charles Higgins



# *A Rock for Fayetteville Families*

The Higgins family has comforted their community for more than a century.

By Wesley Bryant & Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder and provided by Higgins Funeral Home

**A**NYONE WHO has lived in Fayetteville knows Higgins Funeral Home. Sadly, many of us have said goodbye to loved ones inside those walls. While it's hard, the Higgins family is there for ours. Families all over the area get the respect and care they deserve in the time of the passing of a loved one. The cornerstone of Fayetteville is its local business owners and workers, generation after generation of them. When we say "Shop Local," it should include family businesses that have helped these generations for over a century. Supporting Higgins fulfills that mission as much as shopping with any local merchant.

With passing comes respect and an appreciation for the lives of our loved ones. We place our respects and our

flowers at their final resting place. We have several options of local businesses that can care for us and help us during this time, but that was not always the case. Fayetteville finally had its very own business to help families more than 100 years ago in 1903. Higgins Brothers Furniture and Undertaking opened on January 1, 1903. We know Higgins Funeral Home and its service, but before 1903, the options were none.

Embalming, if requested, was done in the home, a practice that became more widely known and used following the death of President Abraham Lincoln. Families had to place the deceased in the home where family and friends would call to comfort the bereaved family. Funerals were conducted in the community church, much like we experience today.





In 1931, brothers Hiram, Eugene, and Owen Higgins sold their furniture company and opened Fayetteville's first official funeral home at 213 East Market Street. Philip Higgins followed in the footsteps of his father, Hiram, and his uncles when he joined them as a funeral director and embalmer that same year. Charles Higgins began serving the public with his family in 1972, and in 2001, Charles's son, Clay, became the fourth generation Higgins at Higgins Funeral Home.

You need strong emotional intelligence and the spirit of a therapist to be in this line of work. Charles Higgins said that while the job can be challenging, it is more about being there for the family.

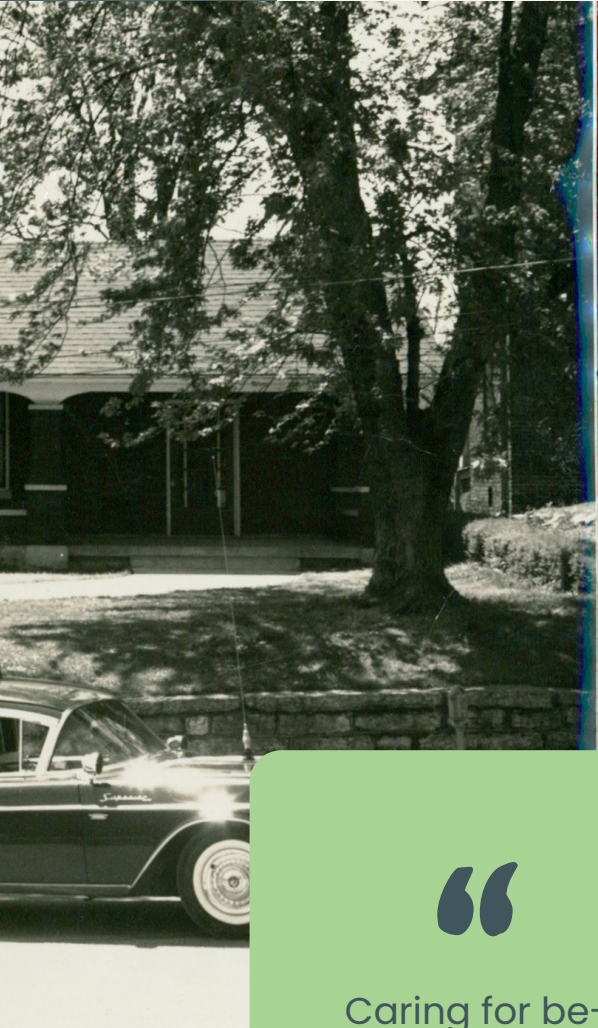
"I find sitting across from someone who has lost a loved one both challenging and rewarding at the same time," Charles said. "You want to guide them in a way that is best for their family. I find it most difficult when

there is a sudden loss where preplanning or that important conversation with the loved one hasn't taken place. Caring for bereaved families is certainly a ministry, and the team we have built at Higgins works together to provide a knowledgeable and compassionate environment. If we are able to help them through a dark time in their life, it makes it easier to focus on the rewards rather than the challenges."

Like the firm's staff, the services offered by the company have grown through the years.

Motor-driven hearses doubled as ambulances until the Lincoln County Ambulance Service was established in 1972. The original funeral home, the Holman home, built in 1912, underwent renovations and modernizations, but the home was tragically destroyed by fire in 1986. Still, the level of service and the Higgins family's commitment to the community was steadfast, just as it is today.





“

Caring for bereaved families is certainly a ministry, and the team we have built at Higgins works together to provide a knowledgeable and compassionate environment.

- Charles Higgins

Higgins Cedar Hills Memorial Gardens is the peaceful, final resting place for many loved ones today. The gardens offer cemetery plots, family estates, the Garden of Honor for veterans, and a columbarium for the lasting permanent home for cremated remains. Charles Higgins said it is another way for them to help our community and honor loved ones.

It's a community loved by all of the Higgins family.

Charles said, "Being able to serve and work in my hometown has been a true blessing. My wife, Suzanne, taught kindergarten for 25 years, and we were able to raise our children, Laura and Clay, in a close-knit community. The legacy established by my father, grandfather, and others in my family made it easy for me to continue to build relationships in the community. Serving generations of families through funeral service connects you to them in a very meaningful way. GN

Higgins Funeral Home is located at 213 East Market St., Fayetteville, and may be reached at (931) 433-2544. For obituaries, call (931) 433-2233 or view them online at [higginsfh.com](http://higginsfh.com)







Carter's Drug Store

# More Than Medicine

At Carter's Drug Store, you're family.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

**F**OR NEARLY 125 years, Carter's Drug Store on the Fayetteville square has dispensed more than medicine to members of the Lincoln County community. To many, it's been a steady job in good times and lean years. To others, it's been the comfort and security of recommendations for over-the-counter help for everything from a toothache to a poison ivy rash. And at times, it's a call for a unique gift for a bride, baby, or bereavement. Carter's commitment to the community is timeless and priceless.

The store was a family affair founded by George F. Carter in 1899, later owned and operated by his daughter, Elizabeth Faison, and her husband, Joe, after Carter passed away in 1945. Third-generation

druggist Joe Faison Jr. took over drug store operations in the late 60s. The Carter family's ownership ended when Wayne Damron, who came on board at Carter's in 1970, purchased the store from Joe Jr. in 1994.

Damron's daughters, Jennifer Swindall, and Becky Gleghorn, now manage the store. It is the cornerstone of their memories.

Swindall said, "We grew up coming here. Even when we were little, we would sit on the counter, help put stuff in sacks, and give it out. When I was around 15, I started working here on holidays and in the summer until I left for college."

As you step under the striped awning into Carter's front door, you're soon greeted with an





Becky Gleghorn, Wayne Damron, and Jennifer Swindall



offer for help and likely called by name. The old brown brick building has stood as generation after generation of your family passed in and out of its doors over the years. Your memories may include the soda fountain of years ago, and you think of it every time you're there. Or you may thankfully remember their special care during COVID-19 when the doors stayed open without fail and employees ran your medicines to your car. Maybe your traditions include a recipe from one of the many cookbooks.

Drug stores with gift shops have long been a tradition, and Carter's selection holds something for every taste and occasion.

"I've seen pictures of our store from 50 to 60 years ago, and they've always had gifts. It always has been a one-stop shop. Yes, it's changed over the years, but we've kept the tradition and specialized in gifts," said Swindall.

Whatever your favorite things are about Carter's and whether you visit on the square or utilize the drive-thru at their Stonebridge location, their favorite thing is you!

"We try to take care of our customers to the best of our abilities. We have a large staff at both stores and consider them part of our family. By having a large staff, we can work accurately and efficiently and take time with each patient. We're a full-service pharmacy with a compounding pharmacy that gives vaccinations and delivers within the city limits. Our huge gift department is stocked with gifts for all ages, jewelry, accessories, clothing, a bridal registry, and a baby registry. People come from all over to shop with us," Swindall said.

And they do more than shop at Carter's; they gather.

She said, "It really is a place where people gather around. They'll stand here



▲ Cindy Howell

for 30 minutes and just catch up and talk to people they haven't seen in a long time. And I don't know that you can do that at the grocery store or Walmart, but I feel like it really does happen here a lot. They see people they haven't seen in a long time and catch up."

Catching up and gathering is never a bother or hindrance at Carter's. It's a welcomed sight. It affirms the connection between Carter's and the community, as does their donations and sponsorships to local teams and causes. Recognizing Damron's heart for the people he serves, his employees replaced their traditional Christmas gifts with donations used to help others in need.

"We try to give back to Lincoln County because they have always supported us," Swindall said. "Wayne has taught us to know our customers and treat all customers as we'd like to be treated. Our success has been because of our dedicated employees and our loyal customers. Without either one of those, we don't have anything."

Carter's is as vital to the community today as when the doors opened in 1899, defining the reciprocating benefits of shopping local small businesses. **GN**

▶  
Jennifer Swindall,  
Wayne Damron,  
and  
Becky Gleghorn



Visit Carter's Drug Store on the Fayetteville square at 106 South Elk Avenue or call (931) 433-1511. You can also visit Carter's Stonebridge location at 6 Eldad Road or call (931) 438-0760. Follow Carter's on Facebook for a peek at new items and special announcements.





▼ Jennifer Swindall and Jonathan Wright



“

We try to give back to Lincoln County because they have always supported us. Our success has been because of our dedicated employees and our loyal customers.

– Jennifer Swindall







# The taste of *Memory* Nothing tastes like Mama's cooking.

By Tina Neeley

**E**VER CATCH the aroma of a memory? You know the one — your mama's Sunday pot roast, fried onions and potatoes, chocolate chip cookies, or cinnamon rolls? We do our best to recreate them for our families, but something is always missing. The same food anywhere else is never exactly like Mama's, and perhaps it's because the foods of our favorite holidays and traditions are seasoned with special memories and love.

This Mother's Day, take time to share memories of your mother's cooking while creating new memories around the table with the ones you love. **GN**

## *Mama's Pot Roast*

Submitted by Cathy Gulley

3-4 lb. chuck roast  
3 T. vegetable oil  
6 med. potatoes, diced  
2 lg. onions, diced  
1 lb. carrots, sliced  
6 c. water  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
¼ c. soy sauce  
2 pkgs. beef stew seasoning mix  
1 t. chicken bouillon granules  
½ t. ground black pepper  
1½ t. Accent®, optional  
1 bay leaf

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large skillet over medium high heat, sear both sides of the roast in vegetable oil. Remove from heat; place in the center of a large roasting pan, along with the juices from the skillet. Place vegetables around meat and add water, garlic, and soy sauce. Sprinkle dry ingredients on top; stir lightly to dissolve seasonings. Add bay leaf. Cover, and bake at 375° for 30 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 275° and continue baking for 1½ - 2 hours or until meat and vegetables are tender.



## *Dinner Rolls*

Submitted by Edith Sandlin

1 c. shortening  
1 c. sugar  
1 t. salt  
1 c. boiling water  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 c. lukewarm water  
2 pkgs. yeast  
6 c. AP flour

In a bowl, mix shortening, sugar, and salt. Add boiling water; blend and cool. Add the beaten eggs. Soften yeast in lukewarm water; pour into egg mixture. Add flour a little at a time and mix well. Refrigerate 6 hours or overnight. Remove from refrigerator and knead onto a floured board. Roll out into ¼". Cut out with biscuit cutter. Let rise about 2 hours. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes.

## *Strawberry Angel Food Cake*

Submitted by Faye Bonner

1 angel food cake  
2 pkgs. frozen strawberries, 10 oz., thawed  
1 lg. pkg. vanilla instant pudding  
1 container whipped topping, 8 oz.

In a large mixing bowl, tear angel food cake into pieces. Pour strawberries over cake pieces. Mix pudding according to package directions. Pour pudding over the cake and strawberries. Refrigerate until cold. Cover top with whipped topping. Keep refrigerated.



---

Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine  
and the Exchange Cookbook: [www.southernaprons.com](http://www.southernaprons.com)



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# Dare to finish the race

Unleashing the power of endurance.

By Jeriah Brumfield

**S**TAR OLYMPIAN Usain Bolt is known as the fastest man in the world, and his reputation was cemented when he won the gold medal in the 100-meter race at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2012 London Olympics. He set a world record for both races, running 100 meters in 9.69 seconds in Beijing and 9.63 seconds in London, and set a new record at the World Championship in Berlin in 2009, running 100 meters in 9.58 seconds.

Bolt's championship-winning race from Beijing showcased his incredible speed and talent. He got off to a strong start, immediately taking the lead over his competitors, which he maintained for most of the race. With about 25 meters left, Bolt pulled away even more and looked poised to break a new world record (at the time) as he crossed the finish line first within 9.69 seconds. He held his arms out in celebration while slowing his stride after crossing the finish line, knowing he had just achieved greatness.

His record-high performance was remarkable not only because of his speed and prowess but also because of the endurance and mental fortitude it took him to achieve greatness in the face of adversity. His success story didn't come without a cost.

Many people don't know that Usain Bolt was born with scoliosis and has experienced some health issues affecting his performance on his road to beating world records. His right leg is half an inch shorter than his left, and his spine curves to the right, but he adjusted his movements to accommodate the effects of his diagnosis.

Bolt understood the power of endurance firsthand. He didn't allow his diagnosis and the issues it caused to interfere with his dreams. Endurance pushes us to keep going when we want to give up on our dreams and aspirations.

Endurance is like a muscle that grows stronger with use. It's not something we're born with, but rather something developed over time through hard work and dedication.

It's the resilience to bounce back from setbacks and continue the race even when we fall down. Endurance is the fire that burns inside, the drive that propels us forward, even when the road ahead seems dark and uncertain.

Endurance is the courage to keep going, even when the odds are against us, and the faith to believe that victory is within reach, even when it seems impossible. It's the determination to push past our limits, reach new heights, and achieve our goals, no matter how challenging they may be.

The Bible has much to say about endurance, a common theme throughout the Old and New Testaments.

One of the most well-known verses on endurance in the Bible is found in the book of James. "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

Endurance is an essential part of life. It is steadfastness and perseverance in the face of adversity and is often associated with faith and hope. So, the next time you find yourself standing face-to-face with adversity, remember Usain Bolt's testimony — keep the faith and run with endurance, the race set before you. **GN**











# GoodTimes

## CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

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- 62 Community Events
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Submit a positive story on our website:



[goodnewsmags.com](http://goodnewsmags.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER



Satisfying the  
**sweet tooth**  
while  
**SHOPPING LOCAL**

Fayetteville Main Street presents  
the first-ever Chocolate Walk.

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Brooke Snyder



▲ Anna Laura Hills





▲ Mary Gentry Byrd and Neely Pigg



▲ Tina Osgood and Kathy Hobson

**L**OCALS WERE making a sweet trip around town, attending the first-ever Chocolate Walk event in downtown Fayetteville. The Fayetteville Main Street program sponsored the event to bring folks in to see what local businesses offer.

According to Aimee Byrd, executive director of Fayetteville Main Street, 18 merchants participated in the event, allowing ticket holders to shop and enjoy something sweet.

“Ticket holders checked in at the Main Street office by members of the Youth Leaders Council. They received a wristband and a ‘shop local’ bag for all their treats,” she explained. “They also received a map and list of participating merchants and could visit each participating business at their own pace. At each merchant, they received something chocolate, compliments of their ticket admission. It was something different at every stop, with goodies that included cake pops, cake, brownies, chocolate-covered strawberries, and more. Some of our merchants had special discounts along with giveaways.”

Participating merchants included Timeless Treasures, The Book Inn with Roma’s

Petals, Kudzu’s Antiques & Home Décor, Beautiful Me Boutique, Mercantile on Market, Young Vintage, Rocket City Popperz, Artfully Inspired beside Java Road, The Skin Refinery, Lawson’s Department Store, Ivy Wreath Florist & Gifts, Anna Phillips Design with Puppy Love Dog Treats, Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio, Bumblebee Baby & Kids, West Side Antiques, Dragonfly Gallery & Design, Whiskey Rose Boutique, and Norman Furniture.

Byrd said that the program had researched hosting a chocolate walk and the benefits it brought with doing such.

“We have researched other Main Street programs and their success hosting chocolate walks,” she said. “We also wanted to host an event focused on downtown merchants. The merchants also had some pop-up vendors that set up shop outside their businesses, bringing even more people to the event. All the proceeds from the ticket sales go back to Main Street as part of our investment into downtown and revitalization of downtown.”

Byrd said the event was a success in its first year, and the program looks forward to having it next year and enjoying continued success.

“We sold over 70 tickets,” she said. “This will definitely become an annual event for Main Street. I learned much about what we need to do to improve next year. People in our town are hungry for something to do at night on our beautiful square.”

The Main Street program has a growing list of events that offer folks a chance to delve into all things local. They are experiencing growth with some events and looking for opportunities to expand on them.

“First Friday has been successful for us,” said Byrd. “It has grown so quickly that we knew we had to change it up. We’re moving the event to the first Saturday of the month. “It will be a longer event that will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. That’s during normal operating hours for our merchants, and when people are out shopping, so it’s a win-win for everyone.”

For a complete list of events taking place in downtown Fayetteville, visit the Fayetteville Main Street website. **GN**



▲ Cynthia Lambert and Lori Pigg



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



▲ Jen Pierce

## Journaling through scripture

Photos submitted by Teresa Crabtree

Teresa Crabtree and Jen King Pierce recently hosted a bible journaling session at the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Arts Center. Materials and dinner were provided for event attendees. The event welcomed area women to learn journaling techniques that incorporate scripture and encouraged meditation and devotion.

► Teresa Crabtree



► Sharon Womack and Carole Swinford







◀ Back row:  
Carole Swinford,  
Sharon Womack,  
Pat Dillon,  
Carol Lee, and  
Teresa Crabtree

Front row:  
Kira Broadwater,  
Patti Hunt,  
and Jen Pierce



▲ Lana Stephenson



▲ Pat Dillon





# We have more photos!

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**Good News** MAGAZINE

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## April 22

### 10:00 am **8th Annual Cruisin' for a Cure for Huntington's Disease**

The Rock Family Worship Center  
Fayetteville Campus  
2626 Huntsville Hwy.

Car, truck, and motorcycle show. \$20 vehicle registration. General admission is free but donations are accepted.

### 1:00 pm **Spur Spankin' Invitational 2023**

Lincoln County Fairgrounds  
1003 Hedgemont Ave.

Live music, food, drinks, turkey weigh-in, bounce houses for the kids, raffles, and more!

Cost for event is \$30. For more information visit [spurspankin.com](http://spurspankin.com)

## April 27

### 7:00 pm **You're the Jury – The State vs. Max Cooper**

Fayetteville Lincoln County Museum  
521 S. Main St.

Show dates are April 27-29 and May 4-6. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students.

For more information contact Carriage House Players at (931) 433-1300.

## April 29

### 10:00 am **Our Town Fair**

Morgan Cultural Center  
103 Alumni Lane  
Petersburg

If you have questions or wish to register as a vendor for the Little Miss and Mr. Our Town or Our Town Idol, call (931) 675-7111, email [admin@petersburgccc.com](mailto:admin@petersburgccc.com) or visit our Facebook page: Our Town Fair





## May 5

### 7:00 pm **Lincoln County Fair Spring Truck & Tractor Pull**

Lincoln County Fairgrounds  
1003 Hedgemont Ave.

Gates open at 4 p.m.  
Pull starts at 7 p.m.  
Admission \$10  
Ages 5 and under are admitted free.

For more information visit [www.lincolncountyfairtn.com](http://www.lincolncountyfairtn.com).

## May 6

### 10:00 am **First Saturdays**

Fayetteville  
Main Street

First Fridays are moving to First Saturdays each month from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. From fresh produce to handmade jewelry, custom woodworks, and food trucks, there will be something for everyone.

For more information call (931) 557-5150 or visit [Fayettevillemainstreet.com](http://Fayettevillemainstreet.com)

### 6:00 pm **Lincoln County Fair Spring Demolition Derby**

Lincoln County Fairgrounds  
1003 Hedgemont Ave.

Gates open at 4 p.m.  
Little Tikes Derby at 6 p.m.; registration at 5:30 p.m. with no entry fee.  
Demolition Derby at 7 p.m.  
Admission \$10  
Ages 5 and under are admitted free.

For more information visit [www.lincolncountyfairtn.com](http://www.lincolncountyfairtn.com).

## For more events and to submit an event visit:

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# Lincoln Health

## Cardiology

Cox, William 931-433-2909  
Jackson, Ann 1-800-345-5016  
Fahrig, Stephen 1-800-345-5016  
Kerrigan, Jimmy 1-800-345-5016

## Family Practice

Barnes, Larry 931-433-9900  
Cline, Richard 931-438-4111  
Edwards, William A. 931-438-4111  
Gafford, Christopher E. 931-433-7778  
Hughes, William D. 931-438-4111  
Jones, William R. 931-433-2551  
Loiacono, Mike 931-433-2551  
Sain, Paul D 931-443-2551  
Thelen, Sarah 931-227-4984

## Family Practice/OB

Morrison, Theresa T 931-433-2229

## Gastroenterologist

Mallipeddi, Dayaker 931-388-8302

## General Surgery

Crump, David B. 931-433-0892

## Hospitalist

Nedumthottathil, Thomas 931-438-1100  
Uzzi, Idowu 931-438-1100

## Internal Medicine

Kidd, Charles A. 931-433-2551

## Neurology

Capps, Raymond 931-240-0001

## Obstetrics & Gynecology

Nobles, Michael 931-433-1105

## Orthopedics

Bryant, Ginger 931-433-1102

## Pediatrics

Kidd, Charles A. 931-433-2551  
Spears, W. Kyle 931-433-2551

## Podiatry

Mitchell, Jeffery 615-814-0885

## Pulmonary/Sleep Medicine

Patel, Prakashchandra 931-536-4149

## Urology

Selph, Patrick 615-622-5047

**Lincoln Medical Center**  
**Donalson Care Center & Short Stay Rehab**  
**Patrick Rehab - Wellness Center**  
**Lincoln Medical Home Health and Hospice**  
**Lincoln Ambulance Services**

931-438-1100  
931-433-7156  
931-433-0273  
931-433-8088  
931-438-7407

**In the case of an emergency, dial 911**



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