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I often hear young adults complain about facing obstacles in reaching their dreams – reason may be for lack of education, lack of access to resources, financial burdens, information and communication technologies, or simply just not having the opportunity to get involved. But what I find to be the biggest obstacle is the lack of inspiration. Not all young adults visualize their future pathway, or are excited about business opportunities. What I want to reiterate as a 33-year young adult myself is: do not wait for an opportunity to walk up to you. It is all around you!

Dream big! Start out small and transform. Like all things in life, building a future is a gradual process. I've grown up in our small town of Fayetteville, TN. I am one of 8 generations to live on my family farm. "Home is Home and always will be" is what I love telling people. In 2006, I began my career by starting a fencing business with my best friend/partner Theo Barnes. T & J Fencing was established and a humbling beginning to my future. In September 2012, I expanded my services and formed English Service Company, LLC as owner and operator. I set my goals high, worked hard, and continued to push forward and grow my business at every opportunity. In November 2019, I purchased Fayetteville Lumber & Supply, Inc. Since then, I have acquired a General Contractor License in both Tennessee and Alabama.

Could these accomplishments have happened with little effort? Absolutely not! Most success is built from the ground up. Just like a crop may start out as a seed – if you take care of it as it grows, you will reap the benefit. In conclusion, go after your dreams! Let not one person discourage you from believing in yourself. Remember where you came from. Know where you are going. Figure out how to get there and go that extra mile.



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- Jedidiah T. English



W HEN I think of the next generation, I feel excitement. I want this issue of Good News to be a joyous celebration of the young adults who will be the leaders of tomorrow, carrying the torch of progress and making our community and the world a better place. I am confident that the future is in good hands.

We live in a time of uncertainty; it's easy to succumb to worry and doubt the next generation. However, when we truly examine the next generation, we witness a source of boundless optimism. These young men and women are driven, compassionate, and brimming with innovative ideas. They possess a remarkable ability to empathize with others and understand the challenges that lie before them.

Our communities will flourish and thrive because of these remarkable individuals. They have shown us what it means to be resilient, resourceful, and committed to making a positive impact. With each passing

Wesley Bryant, MANAGING EDITOR

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Future is Bright

The next generation is made of strength, light, and courage.

day, they inspire us with their determination, their unwavering belief in a better future, and their tireless efforts to bring about meaningful change.

I am humbled by the energy and passion radiating from these future leaders. They remind us that we must nurture their dreams and provide them with the support and guidance they need. By doing so, we can ensure that their potential is unleashed and that they have every opportunity to flourish.

The world may face challenges, but I firmly believe that with the next generation at the helm, we have every reason to be hopeful. They possess the ability to bridge divides, find common ground, and create innovative solutions to the most pressing issues of our time. They are determined to leave a lasting legacy of compassion, equality, and sustainability.

From someone who is a part of the next generation, this issue features young adults under the age of 35 who are making a lasting impact on the place we call home. **GN**

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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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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

Josey Corder with Iggy the Piggy



A McKinley Mann, Myla Louden, Garrison Tucker, Molley Frame, and Niki Tunstill

Fayetteville Main Street Youth Leaders Council shapes future leaders of the community.

Local seniors get an up-close look at Main Street.

By Tina Neeley // Photos submitted by Fayetteville Main Street

W HEN SOMEONE mentions Main Street, what comes to mind? Is it Mayberry? A trip to any small town, exploring new sights, shops, and stores? Or does Fayetteville's central business district come to mind?

Thanks to the ongoing work of Fayetteville Main Street (FMS), you probably pictured the square with shoppers strolling the sidewalks with bags in their arms, stopping to say hello to neighbors, and exchanging handshakes or hugs. Or maybe it was one of our seasonal festivals with food trucks, vendors, contests, live music, and special activities. No matter what comes to mind, Fayetteville Main Street is tirelessly working behind the scenes to build and support downtown businesses and further strengthen and connect the community. FMS invests in tomorrow by involving area youth today in their FMS Youth Leaders Council.

The youth program began in 2008 and is made up of high school seniors from three local high schools. They meet on the third Thursday of each month, exploring a different theme at each meeting. They do much more than assist FMS with their events, downtown activities, and fundraisers. These students discover much of what is involved in maintaining a thriving downtown business district and learn firsthand about local nonprofit organizations and ways to support their community.

The 2022-23 council wrapped up its session and left a lasting impression on participating students. The recent council members were Abby Honey, Andrew Himmelman, Briona Hill, Charis Gilliam, Garrison Tucker, Caleb Pierce, Jessica McWhirter, Marlee Smith, McKinley Mann, Molley Frame, Myla Louden, Niki Tunstill, and Keyaira Shutt.

Aimee Byrd, FMS executive director, said, "I want them to come back here — not just because their parents or friends are here, but because they appreciate Fayetteville and feel like home is more than just their house. My hope is for them to feel like home is our downtown square, and they feel comfortable in the businesses and with the leaders of the community. I want them to feel motivated to have a conversation or recognize business owners and community leaders."

FMS grants an annual scholarship to a youth council member, and they also awarded scholarships to two 2022-23 board members: Garrison Tucker and Caleb Pierce.

Caleb said he'd gained a sense of respect by learning how the Main Street office, along with local businesses, work together to provide shared experiences through festivals, First Saturday, Government Day, and other events for the benefit of the community as well as for the enrichment of the town's culture.

His mom, Becca Jeans, said, "I'm proud Caleb's on the Main Street board. It gives him an opportunity to interact with leaders and business owners within our community while simultaneously learning about the history of our beautiful town."

Tucker echoes Pierce's appreciation for youth council membership.



Garrison Tucker and Caleb Pierce

"I wanted to be on the youth leaders council because it makes me feel I have an opinion on what happens in our community. I love getting the chance to learn more about Fayetteville and its culture," he said.

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders, business owners, and essential links in the community's chain of success.

Thank you, FMS, for your investment in a better Fayetteville for everyone! GN

For more information on the Fayetteville Main Street Youth Council, visit fayettevillemainstreet. com or call or stop by the office at 100 Main Ave. N., Suite 1A, (931) 557-5150.

SPONSORED CONTENT



The customer service team provides individualized support to all of Fayetteville Public Utilities' customers. Back row, from left: Rita March, Shannon Boyett, Meagan Atchley, Russell Hale, Engineering Supervisor Dana Pollock, Devin Steuart, Amy Sydnes and Customer Service Supervisor Tammy Ogle. Front Row: Shawna Moore, Jenia Bell, Crissy McAnally, Mellea Bradford and Elmy Woods.

People serving people

O ne summer afternoon, you notice dark clouds building in the distance. You check the weather and realize a storm is approaching. Twenty minutes later, the intense lightning, rolling thunder and howling wind indicate the storm has arrived. As the storm strengthens, the lights flicker sending you to retrieve a flashlight. Suddenly, the lights go out. You contact Fayetteville Public Utilities

to report the outage. A friendly FPU customer service representative answers immediately, takes your information and reassures you that an FPU crew will respond shortly. Despite the remnants of the lingering storm, you soon hear a truck and look out to see an FPU crew assessing the problem. Not long after, the lights return, and you are thankful for the quick response of your local utility.

"When customers contact FPU, they interact directly with someone who is a friend and neighbor."

-FPU CEO/General Manager Britt Dye

When Fayetteville Public Utilities' customers visit or call the utility, their first stop is the customer service department where representatives provide electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, internet and phone customers with individualized support. If customers call to report a problem, find an internet plan that best suits their needs, ask a question about new construction or determine if natural gas is a good option for their families, FPU's customer service team will be able to help. Their dedicated representatives possess the knowledge and resources to assist customers with all aspects of the utility.

"Our approach to customer service is simple yet effective," said FPU CEO/General Manager Britt Dye. "We are local people serving local people. FPU employees live, work and raise families in Fayetteville and Lincoln County, too. Alongside our customers, we shop at local businesses, attend neighborhood churches, coach little league teams and make a difference in this community. When customers contact FPU, they interact directly with someone who is a friend and neighbor. We want to provide our community with the best service possible." FPU customers desire options to accommodate their unique lifestyles and preferences. Some consumers enjoy the convenience of drive-throughs and digital services like FPU's SmartHub app, which provides account management at the customers' fingertips. Other consumers prefer oneon-one interaction and traditional experiences. FPU offers the best of both worlds. Some questions can be addressed with a straight-forward reply, but many requests need a personalized answer from a person who can address the customer's unique needs. FPU representatives provide live help and an individualized experience.

"The next time you contact FPU, know that the person across the desk or on the line appreciates the opportunity to serve you better," added Dye. "Our customers are our foundation and the reason we exist. For generations, FPU has served this area with reliable and affordable electric, natural gas, water, wastewater and telecommunication services. Like you, our children and grandchildren call Fayetteville and Lincoln County their home, and we desire to improve the quality of life and see this community grow and flourish for generations to come."



Tammy Ogle and Shawna Moore prepare to serve a customer.

CONTACT US

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Front L-R: Easton Satterfield, Kelci Mitchell, Everett Welch, Nolan Satterfield, Sloane Jean, Josey Corder, Jett Whitehead, Slayton Roland, and Kenley Hopkins Back L-R: Iggy, Emma Holt, Reese Manderson, Brier Roland, Cason Holt, Silas Hardiman, Wilson Clark, Kaiden Satterfield, Rivers Shelton, Coy Corder, and LaGay Horton

Bank of Lincoln County invests in the next generation.

In-school savings program plants seeds of financial literacy.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

J IM RYUN said, "Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going."

The Bank of Lincoln County (BOLC) motivates Lincoln County students with School Bank, its student savings program, which enables students to create a habit of saving.

Gay Dempsey oversees the BOLC program and said, "We know firsthand the importance of saving, whether for a large purchase like a car or home, but also for those unplanned purchases like new tires or a refrigerator. If we can begin the habit of saving at an early age, we will be more likely to continue saving in our adult lives."

The student response since the program's inception in 2011 has been rewarding, both to the students and BOLC employees that assist them. The bank helps further motivate the students to save by giving them a chance to spin the wheel and add to their deposit or win other prizes.

Once a week at each school, before the school bell rings in the morning, you'll find K-5 students holding childsized bank bags waiting excitedly for their time with the "bank lady" (or gentleman). Handing over their deposit and savings booklet, the students eagerly spin the wheel and see how much more their deposit will increase. As a bonus, the BOLC mascot, Iggy, is sometimes present to cheer them on.

"They spin [the wheel] and land on anything from 50 cents to \$5, and the bank will add the additional amount to their deposit. It's fun to see them get exMeeting the next generation of tomorrow...today.

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cited. Some will bring in checks, maybe a birthday or Christmas gift they received, or they'll bring in coins or any amount of money. There is no minimum deposit amount," said Dempsey.

Upping the ante are Super Saver Awards for students with the most deposits during the year. Basing it on the number of transactions instead of the total deposits focuses on rewarding the habit of saving.

Dempsey said, "Our passion for children and our community is to try and instill in them the habit of saving money because that will benefit them their whole life."

Students can open an account at any of the seven participating schools at any time during the school year, and every student can participate. No matter the financial situation at home, the school bank program welcomes the smallest deposit.

Dempsey said, "Our staff volunteers their time to get up early and be at the schools by 7:15 a.m. each week to bring the bank to the schools and receive the students' deposits. It is truly a blessing to get to know the students and celebrate their savings success stories and their other achievements at school."

Kelsie Repasky with BOLC said, "I think starting at a young age and making it exciting for them to save teaches them that it can be a good thing; it can be fun, and it can be an exciting thing. I feel like we can help build a solid foundation for their futures."

Building a solid foundation for students' futures what a great investment! GN

For more information on the student savings program, contact Gay Dempsey at the Bank of Lincoln County (931) 433-1708.

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A Shane, Cailey, and Nix Warren

Defining normal

The Warren Family shares their journey of their son's invisible medical condition.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Freeman and Co Photography LLC

N INE MONTHS of excitement and anticipation preceded his birth. The first-time parents checked all the boxes of preparation. They asked about the most used baby items, were showered with love and gifts, and the nursery was decorated and well-stocked. The maternity photos captured the essence of this season of their lives.

Shane and Cailey Warren welcomed their newborn son, Nix, following a normal delivery. For nine days, they lived the normal, happy, chaotic life of first-time parents. On the 10th day, normal would be redefined.

Cailey said, "They called us on Thursday and said his newborn screening in the hospital flagged for Cystic Fibrosis (CF). They said this can mean it's because he's just a carrier or he actually has CF."

The first step was a trip to Birmingham the next day for tests.

Friday, as they rushed to leave for Birmingham, Cailey knocked off a stack of cards with various Bible verses. Her first thought was to clean up later, but she returned to tidy them up instead.

"The card that I [randomly] put on the front was Jeremiah 1:5. It read, 'Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you are born, I set you apart for a special work.' I had to take a picture of that card," Cailey said. "I told my husband I've never had such a God-speaking moment in my life. I know that this is Him telling me what we are going to find out today. And four hours later, we found out he has CF. You read something, and you think, 'No. No, God,



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Nix Warren

that's not what you're telling me. It's just a coincidence. It's not going to happen.' At that moment, I knew this was not something we would be able to do ourselves. God was telling us we better get our minds back where they need to be because we wouldn't be able to go through this alone."

And she was right.

The sweat test confirmed Nix has CF, and bloodwork determined his second mutation. A few days later, the couple returned to Birmingham for all-day training.

"So it was boom, boom, boom. Nix has around five oral medications throughout the day. He has doses before he eats every time. There are chest therapies that we have to do. It was nonstop from there," she said.

The training and medication schedules left little time to process everything happening to them.

"It was terrifying. We were angry and mad," said Cailey. "As a parent, there's nothing we can ever do that's going to take this away from him. That's a feeling no parent wants to feel. It's so hard to get to that complete acceptance when you know there's just nothing you can do to take that away. It's a gut-wrenching feeling." So what do you do when you feel there's nothing you can do? You do what you can. You do all you can to ensure that CF does not define your child. You do all you can to raise awareness about a condition that is life-changing but invisible on the outside to the casual observer. You celebrate the same milestones and good things that other parents and children celebrate, but you do so with an even deeper appreciation. You look for strength from above and accept the help offered on earth. You take one minute at a time.

Cailey said, "This diagnosis doesn't define our family. We're raising Nix to know that CF is going to be a representation of strength and tenacity and not one of weakness and imperfection. You always wonder if you're making that decision for your children, but the awareness we've been able to raise and the families and friends we've met is a constant reminder that this isn't something you can do by yourself. You have to have that community to make it through something like this every day."

The decision to share their journey has not been easy, but the support they've received through it has affirmed they're on the right track. The importance of helping others understand CF benefits all families living with the condition.

Earlier this year, Cailey began posting about their life with CF on Instagram and Facebook. It's not easy being vulnerable, but the payoff has been priceless. They connect with others farther along than they are and can relate their experiences to families just being diagnosed. It's like a coin. Families living with CF are on one side, and the community that does not live with CF is on the other. Each side contributes value to the life of someone with CF.

Cailey said we can help. "Share a post that you see, or, if you're out and about, and you hear that someone has CF, give them our contact information."

That's the currency of community. Let's pass it around and invest in hope and encouragement for a future where no one lives with CF because there is finally a cure. **GN**

To learn more about Cystic Fibrosis and support the search for a cure, visit cff.org.



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GOOD NEWS FAYETTEVILLE





CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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



Finding the good

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



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

< Gracie Pineda

finding the

Tami Schumacher refuses to surrender to chronic health issues.

By Tina Neeley Photography by Brooke Snyder

S

URROUNDED BY her pre-K students, Tami Schumacher is exactly where she always wanted to be.

As a child of a stay-at-home mom, she played school and knew she wanted

to be a teacher and a mama. Working at daycares as soon as she was old enough affirmed her heart's desires. She loved children and the idea of being surrounded by them for life. She set her career path at an early age, but her journey to the head of the classroom would not be easy.

Schumacher's normal childhood was interrupted by a lupus diagnosis when she was 16. Many high school events that bookmark our memories are absent from hers, replaced with homebound lessons and half days in the classroom. But what was not missing was the dream and desire to become a teacher.

Schumacher said, "After I was diagnosed, and I knew that it was more severe because it was affecting

my organs, we sat down and talked about what the doctor said, and my parents told me, 'You're still going to be able to do what you want to do; you're going to get through this. You might have to find a different way to do things, and it may not look like you thought, but you're strong enough to do it. You're going to find a way to become a teacher, and you're going to find a way to have the things you want in your life.' And they never let me feel sorry for myself."





With the support of her parents and older sister, Schumacher pushed ahead through college and obtained the early education degree that opened the door to her teaching dream. It's the door of Ralph Askins Elementary, and she has walked through it countless times in her 16 years as a pre-K teacher.

Schumacher's life is filled with home and everything that makes Fayetteville home — students, staff, community, her family, and friends. It is especially filled with children to love and nurture, fulfilling her dream of becoming a mama.

"I always wanted to do the littles. Then, as I got a bit older and realized that I wouldn't be able to have children, I got that mommy role a little bit. When you're in pre-K, all learning gets to be fun. I think that's what drew me to it, being able to nurture and have that kind of relationship

with them. They're just happy and love learning," she said.

However, Schumacher became very sick during her first few years of teaching. Chemo was necessary to help her immune system get back on track, but she showed up for class through it.

"I came to work, and that always helps more than anything — having a purpose, coming in, and having that distraction," she said. "It's all about the kids because when they're 4 and 5, they don't really understand [you're sick], so you can't sit around and dwell on it. I think that was the biggest thing."

Motherhood came in due time as a foster mom.

Schumacher said, "We had a little girl for two years. She was 3 when she came to us, and she was almost 6 when she had to go back home. That was very rewarding, but it was very hard when she left."

She also spends quality time with her two nieces and nephews, fulfilling her love of children.



Despite the challenges of lupus and fibromyalgia, she looks forward to being there for her students. It's all possible thanks to the support of her family, friends, co-workers, and her faith.

"I feel I've been able to do all these things because of my faith in God. Even at your darkest times, He can get you through anything," Schumacher said. "I really try to look for the joy and blessings in everything. I've learned that from getting sick at such a young age. Even when it's

not good, there's always good things around you. That, and finding something I love to do, has been a blessing."

Schumacher is doing what she loves, where she loves to be. She's home.

She said, "I've always felt very loved here. It's a very loving community. Anytime I got sick, they were always

Tami Schumacher and her pre-K students

there to help in any way they could. One of the people in pre-K was there when I started student teaching, and we've been teaching buddies since I got here. And she's such a support. And I've had wonderful aides that have been such a support. One of the great things about pre-K is I have an aide with me. Because I get tired so easily and have many doctor's appointments, it's really nice to have people I know I can depend on who love me."

While life may have turned out a little differently than she imagined, her eyes of faith see God has blessed, strengthened, and fulfilled her.

"I credit my parents for pushing me, for not letting me sit in my feelings or feel sorry for myself because I think that can be a real detriment. You can't push through when you have that kind of attitude," said Schumacher.

> She is pushing through one day at a time, surrounded by her sweet students and the good she finds around her. There's no place like home. **GN**



LEMONADE STANDS AND BEYOND

Six of Lincoln County's smallest business owners are thriving with the support of the Fayetteville Main Street Kid Business Membership program.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

AYETTEVILLE'S MAIN Street is more than brick-and-mortar storefronts and festivals. It's more than area business owners, leaders, shoppers, and nonprofits. It's about raising up generations of members with a heart for their hometown.

The Fayetteville Main Street (FMS) Kid Business Membership program is about supporting local youth in their entrepreneurial adventures and planting seeds for future success for everyone involved. The program positively impacts six young business owners, greatly multiplying their \$1 investment.

FMS Executive Director Aimee Byrd said, "I wanted to engage those younger than teenagers, too, because you give them an opportunity to feel like they're contributing to the community, even at 5 or 6 years old. We don't have to wait until they're 18 years old or voting age to get them involved in making an impact. We can promote them and get them excited at such a young age and try to give these kids just starting out a platform."

Ladd Caldwell's Lemon Squeezy at last year's First Fridays sparked the idea of a way to support the work of Lincoln County's youngest entrepreneurs. It has now grown to six members, with everyone offering something different and meaningful to them. And their work today is accomplishing much more than they have yet to realize, and exposure for their business through FMS is priceless.

Byrd said, "We share their business on social media, which is huge. Over the past year, we had over 172,000 people in our audience that we had reached, and it grows each day."







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Lemon Squeezy offered special pricing for purchasing lemonade in a cup that shoppers can return for refills. Repeat customers inspire Caldwell.

He said, "I wanted to start the lemonade stand to make my own money. I get excited when people come back each month with their yellow cup."

Consider supporting the dreams of our youngest business owners and expect them to greatly impact the community now and in the not-so-distant future.

From the Fayetteville Main Street website, members are:

RUBY FRU-TEA

At just 10 years old, Ruby Murdock is funneling her creativity into bringing a sweet Southern fruit tea to Fayetteville and possibly some other sweets! She said she loves living in our small town and will be set up at First Saturdays this season. Follow her on Instagram @ruby.frutea and Ruby-Fru-Tea on Facebook.

GRACIE'S CUPCAKES

Gracie's love for baking started by helping her grandmother in the kitchen at a young age. Two years ago, she started selling her cupcakes to make and save her own money. Since then, her business has grown more than she could have ever imagined. She has made cupcakes for birthdays, baby showers, and even weddings. Be sure to like her Gracie's Cupcakes Facebook page.

HANNAH'S HENS FARM FRESH EGGS

Hannah offers a healthier option with her farm-fresh, free-range eggs. Orders are taken on Sunday, and deliveries are made on Monday. Call or text for orders (931) 808-6261 or order on her Facebook page, which can be found by searching for Hannah's Hens Farm Fresh Eggs

LEMON SQUEEZY

If you attended First Fridays last year, hopefully, you stopped by Mr. Ladd Caldwell's lemonade stand on the northeast






corner of the square! This 7-year-old entrepreneur had a dream, and he sold out almost every time! More of his signature yellow cups are on the way, and he is brainstorming ideas on how to build his business this season! Be sure to join his Facebook group, Lemon Squeezy, to see where Ladd will be set up this year.

LINCOLN'S FARM

Lincoln's Farm is a small farm located in Lincoln County and run by the smiliest little guy, Lincoln Ogle. Lincoln takes care of his animals on his farm and collects eggs from his chickens, guineas, and ducks. Lincoln also raises and sells chicks, Guinea hens, and ducklings. Lincoln sells eggs and chicks to teach him how to start and run a farm while saving his money. All of Lincoln's proceeds go into his savings account for his future farm! Follow Lincoln's Farm on Facebook. **GN**

For more information on kid membership with Fayetteville Main Street, visit fayettevillemainstreet.com or call or stop by the office at 100 Main Ave. N., Suite 1A, (931) 557-5150.

THE LITTLE FARM

The Little Farm is a cut-flower farm run by two of Fayetteville's youngest entrepreneurs, Mr. Cohen Welch and Miss Ava Monks! They have arranged mason jar bouquets and produce daily in the summer and pumpkins in the fall at their roadside stand! You'll find their stand at 220 McDougal Road. — on the corner of McDougal Road and Huntsville Highway in Park City! More information is on facebook.com/thelittlefarm.tn and Instagram thelittlefarm.tn.

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CERERATION



The future is bright.

N A world that often grapples with uncertainty and challenges, there exists a fountain of hope and inspiration: the next generation. These young adults, poised to become the leaders of tomorrow, are a testament to the strength and power that lie within them. Their unwavering determination, compassion, and innovative thinking assure us that the world is in good hands. As we witness their remarkable potential, it becomes clear that our communities are better, brighter, and filled with promise.

The next generation embodies resilience in the face of adversity. They possess an innate ability to adapt to changing circumstances, and their unwavering belief in a brighter future serves as a guiding light. These young leaders refuse to be defined by the challenges that precede them; instead, they transform obstacles into opportunities. Armed with an unwavering sense of purpose, they forge ahead, breaking barriers and redefining what is possible. Their visionary thinking and capacity to tackle complex issues with fresh perspectives instill confidence that they will navigate the intricacies of the world with poise and wisdom.

The next generation represents a beacon of hope and inspiration. With their resilience, visionary thinking, collective empowerment, and unwavering commitment to shaping a brighter tomorrow, they instill a sense of confidence and assurance. The world is in good hands as these young leaders emerge, poised to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. Their strength, power, and unyielding determination serve as a testament to the incredible potential within each of us. As we embrace their passion and support their endeavors, we forge a path forward marked by hope, progress, and a better future for all. **GN**

BUILDING BRIDGES

By Tina Neeley Photography by Brooke Snyder

Karen McCulloch is a connector.



AMILY IS full of ups and downs, but it's also where we leave from and go back to. At its best, it's where we belong. At its worst, it's where we wish to go or return to — that place of belonging.

Karen McCulloch has a heart for family. But when she and her husband, Wheeler, returned to Fayetteville to be close to their families, following college, she also returned to be a part of other families.

A job in Shelbyville was the nearest one she could get in a position serving young families. Karen, who is bilingual, took the kid care coordinator position at the Bedford County Health Department. She assisted low-poverty families by providing resources and education to many of whom were Hispanic. But the drive to Shelbyville from her Lincoln County home added hours to her workday.

When their son was born, Karen knew the drive to Shelbyville burned up precious time she would rather spend with her family, but a new opportunity opened at the perfect time. Junior's House, a nonprofit organization providing free services and advocacy to child abuse and neglect victims in Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties, needed a Court Appointed Child Advocate





(CASA) volunteer supervisor. Four days a week in the Fayetteville office and one day a week in Lewisburg would shorten Karen's drive considerably, adding more family time and enabling her to help other area families.

She said, "I have always wanted to work at Junior's House. I feel like it helps so many kids. Even though I don't deal with families all the time, I help the volunteers provide resources for them."

Karen attends court in Marshall and Lincoln Counties to offer an immediate connection to Junior's House for abuse and neglect cases. She coordinates new cases, assists and coordinates the volunteers, and manages the Junior's House volunteer program in these counties. Working with abused children can be emotionally challenging, but helping them and their families is her priority.

"It's hard to hear that a kid is going through something, so I separate my emotions because I know that my emotions aren't the most important thing," Karen said. "They're trying to figure out what their emotions are. I have to think clearly to help that family get through what they're about to go through. We just want to know their thoughts, so we have to push our emotions back and be there for the family first."

Helping is what Karen loves to do.

"When I got my first job at the health department, I realized this is what I was meant to do," she said. "Because I'm bilingual, I felt I had to help someone who's not understanding, even in the grocery store. I've always known I'd be someone who helps. I grew up knowing I wanted to be someone they knew would have information to help them through a tough time."

Her ultimate goal was to become a helper to her community in Lincoln County.

"I've always loved helping families and children. I love being around children. That's what I always wanted to do, and I wanted to be able to give back to my community," Karen said.

It's a family circle made up of community and birth families.

She said, "I wanted to be closer to my son when I'm working; I don't want to be so far away from him. My family is important to me, and working at Junior's House is important; you're helping a family go through tough times. I wanted to put all that I've learned back into the community that I grew up in and be a role model to my son."

Karen is a connector.

"I'm building bridges in the community I live in with the volunteers and the people they serve. I'm helping our volunteers build that family back up and giving them everything they need to be a good family and help them raise their children correctly, and I love that," Karen said.

She knows that family at its best means being there for each other, a safe place to share things. Every family is different and far from perfect, but we all need to feel we have a place to belong. Karen wants to support and build up those places in the lives of others.

Family is where we leave and go back to, and Karen has done both. At Junior's House or in the grocery store, this helper is indeed at home. **GN**

For more information on Junior's House, visit juniorshouseac.org. The offices are at 704 Maple St. W., Fayetteville. (931) 438-3233.



"I wanted to put all that I've learned back into the community that I grew up in and be a role model to my son."

- Karen McCulloch

RUNNING WITH HISTORY

By Tina Neeley Photos submitted by Rujena Dotson

Fayetteville's Eli Dotson runs on the field and through open doors.

MID A sea of orange and white on a clear, crisp fall Saturday afternoon created for college football, the crowd snaps to its feet as the ball crosses the end zone. The band and the fans launch into Rocky Top as the Tri-Star and Power T flags wave across the field. Davy Crockett carries one of the flags as Smokey and the spirit team cheer. No game would be the same without these iconic traditions.

In frontier clothing beneath the flag is Fayetteville's own Eli Dotson. And it's more than appearances at football games; it's a full training schedule for the University of Tennessee sporting events and appearances.

What began as an application to walk the famous Smokey became an inside look at the heart of Vols fans. It became a memorable part of his college career. Having advanced to the interview final four stages for the Smokey handler position, the mascot coach and head coach of the spirit program noticed that Dotson would make a great Davy Crockett. While he didn't get the handler's position, he did get a call.

"It was a lot different. I wondered if this was what I really wanted to do and thought it didn't seem to fit me, and I knew I'd be a lot more busy. I just wanted to walk with the dog. And looking at it then, I was very uncertain, and I didn't think I would enjoy it that much. But looking at it now, I think it was one of the best opportunities I've ever taken," said Dotson.

Dotson, who played sports in high school, appreciates that athletic background as he runs under the weight of the flags.

"It's a lot of running," he said. "But the running isn't the hard part; it's definitely the flag. When the flag is out and the wind



blows, it's about 40-45 pounds. It gets really heavy and tiring. I do Vol walk, straight into band walk, straight into pregame, and straight into running the team out. After every touchdown, I run the field and wave the flag. So it can get pretty tiring pretty quick," said Dotson.

Fridays in the fall mean appearances at Food City spirit events, which draw loads of devoted fans. Food, inflatables, and Vols mascots rally the crowds ahead of Saturday's games. These events have broadened Dotson's appreciation for Tennessee fans.

He said, "Many at Food City and even at the orange and white game where it costs \$5 are a whole different fan base than what you would see at the games. But at the same time, they're just as much fun. When you can go out and really see how big the fan base is and how amazing it is from every walk of life, it just makes it that much cooler."

Driving between Knoxville and Fayetteville, it's not lost on Dotson that he travels the Davy Crockett Parkway. The mascot role has naturally caused him to think more about Crockett's historical impact.

"I didn't expect this many Davy fans. When I thought of Davy before, I thought he was just the guy that ran the flag out. But I see it's so much more than that. Being from Fayetteville and [the home of] Camp Blount has definitely made me feel closer to the history and heritage of Davy Crockett," Dotson said. "You don't necessarily get to spread the history of Davy Crockett, but you get to hear the history. A lot of history buffs talk to me about it, and I love that, especially at football games. They like that there's an actual Tennessee-based mascot character at the games."

Dotson said there's no better place to raise your kids than Lincoln County. When he thinks about home, the community's support in times of tragedy immediately comes to mind.

"I was really good friends with Tate Tuten. Having a community around you when a tragedy like that hits makes it special. And like when the tornadoes came through, the community immediately came together," he said. "That's something I've always loved about Lincoln County. No matter who it is or your differences, when [the community needs] to come together, we're always going to come together."

Dotson sees his work as a priceless opportunity even though the mascot role was different from the one he was seeking. He's learning to take advantage of opportunities as they come without fear of taking a chance.

"There was a little voice in the back of my head when I was thinking about doing this that my friends would make fun of me; it would be weird. But I ended up just going for it. You never know what you'll love or what these opportunities may create," he said.

It's good to see a familiar face under that running flag. Ignoring that little discouraging voice gave us that connection and opened the door to priceless experiences for Dotson.

That's a win we can all get behind. GN



"I didn't expect this many Davy fans. When I thought of Davy before, I thought he was just the guy that ran the flag out. But I see it's so much more than that."

- Eli Dotson







HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

By Tina Neeley Photography by Brooke Snyder

Caragan Treola's perspective encourages students.

S OMETIMES THINGS aren't what they appear to be. After the class bell has sounded, she's mistaken for a student remaining in the halls. She's often asked to point out the head coach of the boys soccer team. At 23, Caragan Treola easily recalls roaming the Lincoln County High School (LCHS) halls and hitting its soccer field, but today she sits on the other side of the desk and stands on the sideline. Treola is home.

Home, where her parents encouraged her to play soccer and pursue a career in education through a soccer scholarship at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee. Home, where Fayetteville's close-knit community puts its arms around you during hard times and warmly greets you in all seasons. Home, at LCHS, where many were once her teachers but are now her co-workers. Home, where she invests in her students and athletes like her teachers and coaches did for her.







Treola said, "I had so many people that poured into me over the years in the education side of things, especially through sports. Many of them I still talk to regularly. I have people, especially a few college coaches, I can call anytime, and they would walk me through anything, not just sports. They were mentors. And that's the side that I've really enjoyed about coaching. Now I'm able to pour into these kids."

Treola teaches world history, a subject she loves, thanks to her history teachers.

"History is history. At the nitty gritty, you can't change history, and that's what I was drawn to. My sixth and ninthgrade history teachers were the ones who made me love it at an early age. Put me in a math class, and I'm over it. But I love history," she said.

As assistant coach of the girls soccer team and head coach of the boys soccer team, Treola has many opportunities to influence young lives.

"This generation is different from mine, and it's so funny to say that because I'm only five to 10 years removed from these kids. I've had to understand and accept that. I've had to adjust my teaching or coaching style to what helps them,"Treola said. "I try to understand what fits them best and how to meet their needs, not just in the history classroom, but in life. I hope to help them grow as a person, not just a student or a player. I



want these kids to leave here and impact society in some way. I want them to find something they're passionate about and go for it. Why not?"

Treola returned to LCHS as the assistant coach of the girls soccer team, assisting head coach Roger LaPlant who coached her as a student. When the head coach position for the boys team became available for her consideration, she knew the position was male-dominated.

She said, "I decided to think about it. I went back and forth. I talked to my parents. I wondered what's the worst I might do. Finally, I decided this was something I could put my heart into and roll with it. It's been crazy this first year, but seeing these boys growing as soccer players and young men is so much fun. I'm loving that they're developing their game, and they're developing as human beings."

But she still doesn't look like your typical high school boys head soccer coach.

"It's really funny when people walk up to me, and they're like, 'Oh, where's your coach?' And I say, 'Hi, that's me.' I think I've only met one other [high school boys soccer] female head coach, and she was in Alabama. I don't know what the numbers look like in our area, but I have rarely met one," Treola said.

Despite her youth, she strives to make a difference on and off the field.

"I'm a young person. I don't just want to be somebody that graduated from and works at Lincoln County High School," she said." I really want to be someone that impacts [the students]. Maybe it's not in the classroom, or maybe it's not on this field, but I impact them in a way that helps them succeed in life somewhere along the lines."

From encouraging students to follow their dreams to supporting them in their daily life struggles, Treola sees their needs and struggles firsthand.

"It has been eye-opening. You hear little rumblings of what someone's dealing with at home when you're a student, but it's different being on the flip side of it as an educator," she said. "Hearing from the guidance counselor or the student about their situation at home or the reality they're living in, you feel for them, but you also look at them and realize they're doing so good considering their situation. You want to be that support system, tell them they can do this, and remind them they don't have to stay in the little box people put them in. Being their cheerleader and helping them along the way instead of breaking them down is my goal."

She's already discovered it's a challenging but rewarding journey.

"I feel like I've been teaching forever, but then I realize I've only been teaching for two years. I've just finished my second year, but it's really fun," Treola said.

And doing what you love while making an impact at home makes it even sweeter.

"Going away to college showed me there's a lot more out there than just Fayetteville, Tennessee, and there are definitely things you should experience in life," she said. "But it also brought me back down to Earth; home is home. You can't change it; you accept it for what it is. But you also love it for what it is."

Treola is home. GN

"I try to understand what fits them best and how to meet their needs, not just in the history classroom, but in life.

- Caragan Treola

SAVOR SUMMER'S



Family and friends sweeten the season.

By Tina Neeley



S SUMMER heats up, so do our grills and smokers, giving our kitchens a well-deserved break. Casual worknight dinners, weekend celebrations, and holiday parties bring

together families for good food and, sometimes, fireworks. Plates filled with barbecue, burgers, and dogs, joined by potato salad, cole slaw, chips, and dips, are balanced as we gather in lawn chairs or sit by the pool. Homemade ice cream and cookies sweeten the occasion. Summer living — and its foods — are easy! GN



TANGY GRILLED BEEF

Submitted by Rosalind Lindsey

1 can tomato soup 1 t. Worcestershire sauce 1 t. garlic powder 1/4 t. dried thyme leaves, crushed 2 t. packed brown sugar 2 t. lemon juice 2 t. vegetable oil 1 1/2 lbs. boneless beef sirloin steak, cut 3/4" thick

In a large bowl, mix soup, sugar, lemon juice, oil, Worcestershire, garlic and thyme. Brush mixture on both sides of steak.Place steak on hot grill and cook until golden brown and slightly charred. Turn steak over and continue to cook until desired level of doneness. Bring remaining soup mixture to a boil and serve with steak.

ROASTED CORN ON THE COB

Submitted by Betty Pirtle

8 ears fresh corn in husks 1/3 c. Italian dressing 2 1/2 T. water 1T. chili powder 1/8 t. ground red pepper

Carefully peel back husks, exposing corn. Leave husks attached. Remove and discard silks. Combine Italian dressing, water, chili powder, and red pepper in a small mixing bowl. Stir well and brush over corn. Return husk to original position and tie the tips with wire twist-ties. Grill corn over medium hot coals for 30 minutes or until the corn is tender. Turn corn every 5 minutes.

OLD FASHIONED ICE CREAM

Submitted by Keith Hamner

6 eggs 2 c. sugar 2 qts. whipping cream 2 T. vanilla approx 1 qt. milk

In a large mixing bowl, beat eggs. Add sugar and beat until creamy. Stir in whipping cream and vanilla. Pour into ice cream freezer. Fill container with milk to reach 3-4 inches from the top. Cover and place in freezer bucket. Fill bucket with alternating layers of crushed ice and rock salt. Freeze according to freezer directions.



Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com



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FDIC



The power of perspective

Consider a larger view.

By Tina Neeley

W E SAW the sky but little else through the window in the room where we sat. The gray and white clouds marched briskly by as blues and grays traded places.

She was convinced the clouds would bring rain later in the day and said so every few minutes.

"No, I think they're moving out, not in. That blue sky peeking through is going to bring sunshine," I said, and for a minute, it seemed we'd settled the forecast.

Turning her eyes back to the clouds, she said, "I think it's going to rain later today."

"It looks like it, but I think they're moving out, not in," I said, as if for the first time.

Our seats in the memory care facility limited our view. Walls and locked doors stood between her and a larger view. I had the benefit of the morning's forecast — a different perspective based on the training of a meteorologist, an authority in the field. Her ability to grasp the good news of improving conditions was limited by more than the walls and doors of the facility. Dementia had stolen her ability to hold on — even for more than a minute — to reassurance that a brighter day was promised and the blue in the morning sky would spread, not diminish.

Aren't we often the same?

So many times, life's circumstances feel like they should come with storm warnings announcing their arrival and promising their departure. Struggles, as numerous as the clouds, obscure our view. Weariness from the realities of the weight of parenting, caring for others, paying bills in today's economy, and responsibilities at work and home distract and overwhelm us. Grief, anxiety, and depression can also block the light of hope.

We can't always trust what we see. We have an enemy who loves to see our busyness confuse our thinking like the clouds of dementia. We are not his prisoners, confined to the locked doors and walls of this world. The devil hopes we forget our direct access to the true authority and the truths of His Word. We are beloved children of the one who fulfills His purposes for us and provides rest and strength for our next steps.

He who sits above the clouds sees the beauty and promise of our days, our moments. He loves us. He is with us.

Isn't the sun always shining despite the clouds?

Now, that's worth repeating! GN

AFTERTHOUGHTS:

"In the shadow of your wings, I will take refuge till the storms of destruction pass by. I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me." -Psalm 57:1-2





CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY FAYETTEVILLE MAIN STREET

 Crystal, Jeremiah, Charlie, Bryson, and Emree English



Tractor Day promotes the National FFA Organization through a day of celebration.

By Kali Bradford // Photos submitted by Paul Henry







S THE sun breaks the horizon to begin the day, many can hear the rough but rhythmic sounds of a tractor approaching the parking lot of Lincoln County High CHS).

Its appearance is a sign to those awaiting that the day's festivities for the annual Lincoln County Tractor Day are underway. For the last 44 years, this unique event has taken place to showcase the school's National FFA Organization (FFA) and offer a fun way to recruit future members.

For the day's events, tractors begin to roll into the LCHS parking lot around 5:30 a.m. All tractors are on-site at 6:45 a.m. to avoid the school and work traffic and to get lined up. According to Julie Burnum, the agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor, the event is shared area-wide thanks to the local radio station and Hunstville-based television station, WHNT, which is on-site to air the day's festivities.

"The local radio station was here, as well as Channel 19, to start broadcasting from the high school at 5:30 a.m.," she explained. "Once everyone is lined up, they head off for the parade. When they are back and parked, group pictures with everyone are taken — from FFA members old and new, the community, to whoever has come out to share the day with us. We also have breakfast and then judging."

Award categories include: first to arrive, longest drive, oldest tractor, newest tractor, cleanest tractor, dirtiest tractor, and largest horsepower. A \$500 scholarship is also awarded thanks to Will Scott with Scott's Orchard.

"Every year, he likes to use Tractor Day to give a scholarship to a student. This year's recipient was Hillary Heffington. She's our tractor president," said Burnum.

Burnum added that students are ecstatic to participate in the parade.

"For some of them, it's the main reason they take an [agriculture] class," she said. "For others, they've watched their aunts, uncles, grandparents, and parents drive. It's following in those footsteps and knowing that they're doing something that their parents or grandparents did."

The event began over four decades ago with Stan Golden and Tim Redd.

"We invite them every year, and they often come back and celebrate with us," she said. "They help us judge our tractors and hand out awards. They are great guys, and we enjoy them participating with us."

Burnum said that the event takes place each year during FFA week, which celebrates the National FFA organization throughout the nation.

"We always plan for it to be the Friday of National FFA Week," she explained. "This year, we had [over] 250 members. Every student that sits in an agriculture classroom is able to



participate and drive a tractor. We had between 25 and 30 tractors this year. We also opened the event to LCHS [alum]. [Any] former member could come back and drive this year."

New this year was the addition of an invitation for local producers to participate in the parade and festivities.

"Our reasoning behind that was to show just how diverse the agriculture industry is in the county and around the country," said Burnum.

Through events such as Tractor Day, Burnum hopes to educate students and the community that FFA is more than just being a farmer. While farming is an essential aspect of the organization, one can gain so much more through involvement.

"I was an FFA member, and I know full well what this program can do for kids," she explained. "People like to think of it as Future Farmers of America. In 1988 that name changed, and it's just the letters now. While we continue to recognize our history with FFA, the number one thing our students are doing by being involved in FFA is that they're building leadership skills. They're not necessarily going into farming. Agriculture is a hugely diverse industry. So the biggest thing we can offer our community is the development of leadership skills that these students can build and use in their careers, families, businesses, and our community. We want students to walk away with an appreciation of where their food, clothing, and housing come from and how all those necessities funnel back to the agricultural industry in some form or fashion."

To learn more about Lincoln County's FFA Chapter, email Burnum at jburnum@lcdoe.org. GN

COMMUNITY **EVENTS**



Out and about!

Holcomb

Photos submitted by Fayetteville Main Street

Fayetteville Main Street recently held its monthly event, Fayetteville's First Saturday. The event promotes all things local and features a variety of vendors selling locally-grown produce, handmade crafts, baked goods, and other artisanal products. Food trucks were also on hand with handcrafted cuisine of all kinds. The event is held each month in downtown Fayetteville.







Charlie Stubblefield and Ethan Pruett

Cary Sullivan, Claire, Mac, and Molly



Becky Lyndsey and Natalie York

> ≺ Aleah Shelton

Art for a cause

Photography by Brooke Snyder

Local arts and crafts store, The Farmhouse at Two Trees, hosted a door-hanging class with proceeds benefiting a local family. Participants could choose from various materials to make a beautifully handcrafted piece to adorn their homes. Two Trees hosts a variety of arts and crafts classes available for all ages and artistic levels.



Justin and Karen Crabtree



► Christal Taylor



 ≺
 Aleah Shelton and
 Dorothy Taylor

Get a **good** look



We wish we could publish all the photos we have, but we have too many! Browse our online gallery for free or purchase photos to be mailed to your home. All proceeds from photos go to local nonprofits.

Good News

EVENTS CALENDAR

June 17

9:00 am Rose Hill Cemetery Clean-up Rose Hill Cemetery 615 College St. W. Fayetteville

Removing brush and cleaning stones at RIngo and Rose Hill Cemeteries.

10:00 am DIY Class: Patriotic Town Scene

The Farmhouse at Two Trees 439 Smith Mill Rd. Fayetteville

Each piece is layered giving it a 3D effect. Super simple to assemble. Make your piece one-of-a-kind.

8:00 pm Crooked Souf Album Release Party Old Town

Music will feature Haystak and O.G.

June 18

8:00 am Camp Joy

Walter Hill Church of Christ Campground 119 Polecat Hollow Rd. Fayetteville

Camp starts June 18 at 8 a.m. and ends July 23 at 5 p.m.

June 24

7:00 am Fayetteville Firecracker Chase 10 mile and 5K

Race starting location: 1203 Winchester Hwy. Fayetteville

You must be 12 years or older to enter the 10.2 mile race. Due to insurance purposes, unregistered runners, strollers, baby joggers, and animals are strictly prohibited from the race. Showers are available at the race site.



July 1

10:00 am First Saturdays Fayetteville Main Street 100 Main Ave. N. Suite 1B, Fayetteville

July 6

6:00 pm Shadow Valley Gospel Music Festival 54 Warden Rd. Fayetteville July 6-July 8

> Concert held rain or shine. Concessions will be available and campers are welcome.

For more information call Greg Brady (931) 433-5956 or (931) 580-5956 or visit www.shadow valleyproductions.com/ events.

July 7

6:00 pm The Blackwood Brothers Quartet Shadow Valley Gospel Music Festival 54 Warden Rd. Fayetteville

July 8

6:30 pm The Guardians Quartet Shadow Valley Gospel Music Festival 54 Warden Rd.

Fayetteville

For more events and to submit an event visit:

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









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