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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Savoring the Summer Delights

Embracing the Tastes of Connection and Joy

AS THE sun casts its golden glow upon our world, we find ourselves awakening to the delights of summer – the vibrant colors, the warm breezes, and the echoes of laughter and togetherness. With the arrival of this cherished season, we unpack our picnic baskets, dust off our grills, and embark on a culinary journey that celebrates the tastes of connection and joy. Picture yourself lounging on a sun-kissed beach, surrounded by loved ones, as the tantalizing aroma of sizzling barbecues and refreshing fruit salads fills the air. Each bite becomes a portal to shared memories and the bonds that make our summers truly special.

Within this symphony of flavors, taste reigns supreme, captivating our senses and igniting our palates with delight. It possesses the enchanting ability to transport us to cherished moments in time, where the sweetness of ice cream cones, the tang of grilled seafood, and the juiciness of summer fruits evoke the essence of carefree days and long-lasting friendships. Just as the sun embraces us with its warmth, taste weaves

together the threads of connection, uniting generations and cultures through the art of shared culinary experiences.

Food, once a simple means of sustenance, has blossomed into a catalyst for a deeper sense of togetherness and celebration. It serves as the foundation upon which we build lasting memories, uniting families, friends, and communities. From the lively neighborhood block parties to the lively chatter of farmers’ markets, summer is the season when local food establishments take center stage, showcasing their delectable offerings and embodying the spirit of our vibrant communities.

So, as the sun casts its warm embrace upon us, let us seize the summer moments. Immerse yourself in the delight of every bite. Embrace the joy of shared meals with loved ones, knowing that within those sun-kissed flavors lies the essence of togetherness. In the pages of Good News, we invite you to savor the stories that unite us through food, forging connections that nourish not only our bodies but also our souls. **GN**


Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

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GOOD NEWS

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



▲ Jim Steelman and Wayne Owens

Over 250 cemeteries documented

Wayne Owens and Jim Steelman are cemetery site investigators.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

IT'S A different world today. With a little spit or a swab of your cheek, a DNA test kit will promise to return details of your ancestors' country of origin, inform you of your health issues, and give you information on personal traits. But missing from these results are your great-great-grandparents' stories, treasured heirlooms, and information about their life and times. However, the kits spark more research and a second look at your family tree.

Death and burial records are essential in the genealogist's toolbox. Family cemeteries on private property were common in early settlements. Many have been lost to an overgrowth of trees and vegetation, and the graves and stories of those laid to rest there have gone silent.

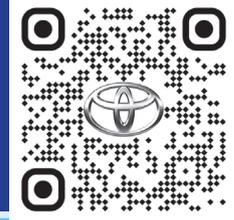
You might say Wayne Owens and Jim Steelman are a "CSI" team — cemetery site investigators. Friends and former classmates, the duo is passionate about locating old cemeteries and making them accessible in person and online to those searching for the details of their past.

Over the past 10 years, they have visited over 250 cemeteries, excavated many lost grave markers, and taken 7,000 photos. They have established 2,400 memorials, added 4,300 photos, and provided 471 photos in response to requests on findagrave.com.

Determining the most specific location of a cemetery is the first step, then identifying the property owner and obtaining permission to look for the cemetery.

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Many landowners have no idea a cemetery is within the boundaries of their property, and some don't know the cemetery is not theirs. Tennessee law excludes burial grounds from ownership and requires the landowner to allow public access to them.

A quest for unearthing a cemetery often becomes an appreciation for today's modern conveniences and medical advancements.

Steelman said, "At the Crawford Cemetery on March Mill Road are markers for four children in one family who died within a month and a half of each other in the late 1800s. In those days, there were epidemics, scarlet fever, and things that would come and wipe a family out. What really got me was the stones. They had engraved hearts, and the hearts were upside down."

Life in those times was hard and was sustained by land, water, and other natural resources.

We go by some of these cemeteries, and I look around for old house walls, and there's a small family cemetery,

and I wonder how in the world a family made a living on this property. It's rough; it's hilly. We're talking about some tough people here that were the forebears of our Lincoln County population."

Owens agrees. "We share a respect for the history and experiences of early residents here, especially those who were not prominent or in the public eye. Most lived in the hills and hollows off the beaten track."

Long, hard work preserves history for many generations to come.

"We're often asked why we do it. Some have called us crazy. Some are uncomfortable in cemeteries, especially doing excavations to raise buried markers. But the great majority appreciate what we're doing and help by telling us cemetery locations not widely known," said Steelman.

The cemetery site investigators leave things better than they found them, clearing the way for the stones to stand again and witness lives lived long ago that paved the way to the better lives we enjoy today. **GN**



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▲ Front row: Judy Mann, Cheryl Womack, Donna Vedock, Meredith Kowalski, Wanda House, JoAn Turner, Debra Jones, and Nona Reed
 Back row: Jet Roberts, Penny Ackerman, Charles Mann, Billy Womack, John Reed, David Jones, Carla Skinner, Phil Skinner, Richard Lloyd, Dave Kowalski, and Dennis Turner

Western square dance keeps Thursdays moving at the Fayetteville Recreation Center.

Promenade on over and check it out.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

THE FAMILIAR piano notes open “Walking in Memphis” as four couples form a square at the Fayetteville Recreation Center on Thursday night. But instead of “Put on my blue suede shoes and I boarded the plane,” Jet Roberts sings, “Form a ladies chain across town, roll away and circle left, you roll away and circle round today, now a little left and weave.... We were walking in Memphis, walking with our feet 10 feet off of Beale, walking in Memphis, but do I really feel the way I feel.”

No, he’s not forgotten the words. Roberts is the caller for the Denim Dusters Western Square Dance Club, which meets every Thursday at the rec center from 7-9 p.m. And it’s not your grandmother’s Saturday night with Ralph Sloan and the Tennessee Travelers, known as traditional or Appalachian square dancing. It’s modern Western square dancing, and the Denim Dusters (formed in 1983) are members of the Tennessee State Association of Square and Round Dance Clubs.

Club member Judy Mann said, “We took lessons in 1985, and we’ve danced ever since.”

With over 100 calls, Mann suggests that anyone wanting to learn modern Western square dancing experience it firsthand by watching one Thursday night. There are many moving parts, but you’re ready to square up once you’ve learned the calls. And don’t forget your manners.

Mann said, “One thing about square dancing is it promotes etiquette and manners. Eight people are in a square: two head

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▲ JoAn and Dennis Turner

couples and two side couples. When you finish a tip (that's when you're up dancing, and then the caller's finished), you always shake hands and thank everybody in that square."

It's great exercise and good clean fun.

"There's no alcohol whatsoever," she said. "You couldn't concentrate long if you'd been drinking because you have to pay attention and not let your mind wander. When one person messes up, it breaks down the whole square. Everybody's got to be in sync, and if you let your mind wander, bad things are going to happen."

Things move quickly, and you have to be ready to move with it.

"You have to pay attention," Mann said. "Usually, when he makes a call, there's a standard call behind it. But if you're not careful, sometimes the caller wants to make sure you're paying attention, and you'll need to do something different. If you've anticipated wrong, you've missed," said Mann.

For the most part, you can leave the flouncy dress and petticoat at home and dance in your jeans and polo shirt. The traditional

square dance costumes are generally reserved for exhibition dances and conventions. Lessons are available if you want to learn more and join the club.

She said, "A lot of people come for the exercise. It's fun, good exercise, and it's good fellowship. We've been dancing with some of these people for a while now."

Mann can't say enough about their caller's skills.

"Jet wants you to dance, and that's a good thing. He's so smooth with it that you don't want it to end. He keeps you going. He doesn't call a call and wait for everybody to get home and start and then call another. He's fluid," she said.

So chase your neighbor and scatter scoot on over to the Fayetteville Recreation Center some Thursday night and see for yourself. You'll be glad you did. **GN**

For more information on the Denim Dusters Western Square Dance Club, follow them on Facebook or contact Judy Mann at (931) 993-0234.





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▲ Jay Simms

Lincoln County High School 2023 graduate accepts Ivy League full scholarship.

The road to Yale is paved with positivity and overarching support.

By Tina Neeley // Photos submitted by Jay Simms

AN IVY League mentality is in Jay Simms' DNA. At home, college football helmets lined up on a table and hanging on the walls testify to his dad's love of the game. He impressed upon his son that the helmets of Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, and Brown represented the best of the best in academics.

Simms received "the best of the best" as a challenge and set his sights on admission to an Ivy League school in early middle school.

"I am so competitively driven; I can thank my mom for that. From that day forward, I believed if they're the best, then I am the best, and I'm going to be there," Simms said.

His maternal grandmother's support paved that path leading to the Ivy League. The dynamic mother/daughter duo taught Simms there is no shame in failure, never criticizing or berating him when things turned out differently than he expected.

He said, "They always made sure that I took the learning experience out of it. But they also always let me know that failure



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“I am so competitively driven; I can thank my mom for that.”

-Jay Simms



◀ Jay with his mom, Nancy Simms

wasn't the end of the road and that you could pave a new road out of it. They really helped shape my mindset into 'I can do whatever I put my mind to' through their positivity and overarching support."

The Lincoln County High School graduate received acceptance letters from Yale, Columbia, and the University of Pennsylvania.

"When it came down to it, Yale's considered one of the big three — Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. The name is recognized globally, and I just couldn't turn down a full, free-ride offer from Yale. I don't think anybody could have done that," said Simms.

Simms and his family moved from Central Alabama to Lincoln County when he was in middle school. He discovered that the tight-knit community around his new home differed from his early life, where he felt no one cared about his neighbor.

Simms said, "Here, everyone I've seen, especially the people who are actively doing things, care. That's not common outside of Lincoln County."

As soon as the pandemic allowed, Simms began to give back to the community through work with the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Animal Shelter and other area nonprofits.

"I started coordinating events and fundraisers [for the shelter], and that's where I began my community involvement," he said. "Then it extended with me actively taking a role in Lift LC at the high school. When I went back to school my junior year, I took on the role as the community lead, where I coordinated outreach to the feeder schools and nonprofits in the community to spread mental health awareness beyond the walls of the high school."

Simms' involvement in lifting up his community will transition naturally to Yale. He'll get an early start by moving to campus before the fall semester and is excited to begin the new chapter of his life and plans to major in neuroscience.

"After committing and learning more about them, I know that it's the exact place that I need to be because they're so community-based," said Simms. "I think everybody has their niche that gets into an Ivy. You don't get into an Ivy by doing 10,000 things. You have your one thing, and you're really good at it. My one thing has been community throughout the past four years, and Yale is such a community that I think I will fit right in." **GN**

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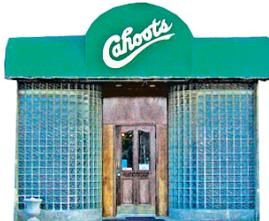
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Seated: Engineering Supervisor Dana Pollock. Standing, from left: Shawna Moore, Mellea Bradford and Crissy McAnally.

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Building a new home is one of the most exciting and rewarding decisions a person can make.

This decision is not one to take lightly and can consist of years of planning. In a lifetime, the average person will only build one or two homes, so most homeowners are not experts in the process. However, most know exactly what features they desire in a home. They want a house that suits their tastes and meets the needs of their families. Homes are unique reflections of the people who occupy them.

The process of building a home or adding to an existing structure begins long before the foundation is poured, and a well-planned

construction project should include Fayetteville Public Utilities (FPU). FPU's engineering department collaborates with homeowners, developers and contractors to meet all local, state and federal guidelines. The team assists customers in establishing a plan that is made to order and caters to their specific needs.

Depending on the location of the construction site, FPU provides a full menu of services including electricity, water, wastewater, natural gas, internet and phone. The engineering team can assist customers in navigating the choices and in coordinating the specific services needed for the project.

“Utilities are a big part of any construction project, and we are here to assist customers through the process.”

-FPU CEO/General Manager Britt Dye

“Fayetteville Public Utilities is your hometown utility provider,” said FPU CEO/General Manager Britt Dye. “We provide our customers with safe, affordable and reliable utility services today while helping them plan and prepare for the future. Utilities are a big part of any construction project, and we are here to assist customers through the process.”

Before beginning a construction project in Fayetteville or Lincoln County, contact FPU’s friendly, professional and responsive engineering team. They will discuss the plans and submit a service order to get the project started. Then, someone from the engineering team will contact the customer to schedule an onsite visit at the construction location. During the site visit, a team member will follow up with the customer, create necessary work orders, explain the remaining process and determine the Aid-to-Construction costs associated with the project.

Knox Smith and Michael Honey.



Seated: Michael Honey. Standing, from left: J.W. Brown, Ryan Raby and Knox Smith.

“When customers begin construction projects, they don’t always think about reaching out to Fayetteville Public Utilities for assistance,” added Dye. “By involving FPU from the beginning, we can maintain an open line of communication resulting in projects that are safer and experience fewer delays and interruptions. To ensure your projects meet your deadlines as well as current rules and regulations, include FPU from the early stages of planning.”

Fayetteville Public Utilities is committed to enhancing quality of life, supporting growth and development and making the community a better place to live, work and play. FPU’s engineering team realizes that no customer’s needs are the same. For this reason, they cater to customers’ specific tastes, offer an extensive menu of utilities and provide services that are made to order.

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GoodLiving

CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

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- 54** Recipes: Farmers Market
- 56** Faith: Embracing your “different”

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



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Photography by Brooke Snyder

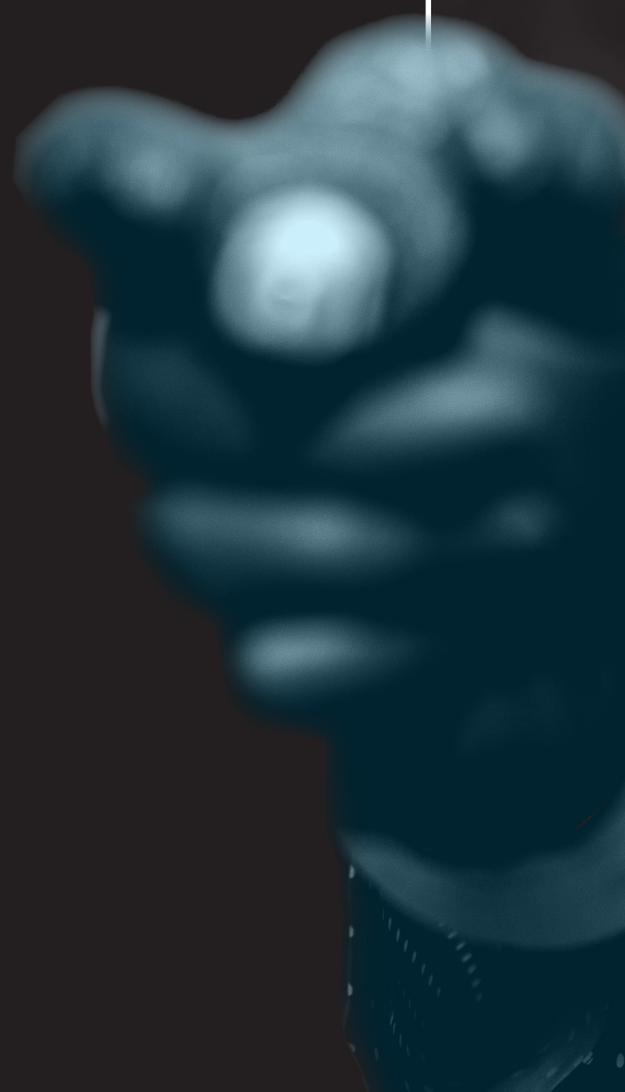
FOLLOW THE PATH OF THE PEN.

Heart and art intersect at Lost Highway Tattoo Studio.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder
Tattoo photos submitted by Keith Pierce

JOHNNY DEPP said, “My body is my journal, and my tattoos are my story.” American tattoo artist Kat Von D agreed when she said, “I am a canvas of my experiences; my story is etched in lines and shading, and you can read it on my arms, my legs, my shoulders, and my stomach.” And Michael Biondi, also a tattoo artist, said, “Our bodies were printed as blank pages to be filled with the ink of our hearts.”

A journal, blank pages, a canvas... stories, experiences, heart... Regardless of the mediums we choose to express our stories, the common thread is people.





Flintville's Keith "Booda" Pierce illustrates everything from great joy to the most profound sorrow on his customers' canvas of choice — their bodies.

Pierce's Lincoln County childhood included things common to everyone else's, except a love of drawing was always present.

He said, "No one's ever taught me how to draw. I've always just followed the path wherever the pen took me. I was way more interested in drawing and comic books than football, and my dad couldn't understand why I drew all the time. I told him it's just what I do."

Like most parents, his dad wanted the best for him and saw only a world full of starving artists and told him he'd end up as a tattoo artist if he didn't watch it.

"Today, my dad is my biggest fan. He shares my work all the time. He's awesome."

But the path of the pen didn't lead straight to Lost Highway Tattoo Studio and the space he shares with artist Jermain Simmons. Pierce worked several jobs following high school, one at a Fayetteville liquor store. When things slowed on his shifts there, he drew without thoughts or ultimate purpose beyond passing the time until the evening when a customer asked if he could keep his drawing.

"I went home, didn't think anything of it. I came back to work the next afternoon, and there was a business card from Addiction Tattoo, the first tattoo shop in Fayetteville. [The gentleman at the liquor store] had given my drawing to [the owner], Robert Wellman, and Robert called and asked if I'd like to come in and check it out and see what it was like," Pierce said.

He was 29 at the time, terrified and intimidated as he watched the artists use needles and ink to trace lines from which intricate designs emerged.

"It was weird to see. The customers weren't crying, and it freaked me out, seeing so much art put on people," he said. "I struggled with it for a long time but eventually just settled in, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

Following Addiction Tattoo, Pierce worked at Raining Ink in Columbia but dreamed of working for

himself. He opened Lost Highway in Pulaski in 2011, then the path of the pen etched his way home when he opened Lost Highway in Fayetteville in 2012.

It's an art that has grown in popularity and now spans generations and socioeconomic groups. Everywhere you go, you glimpse inked images engraved on canvases of skin representing love, loss, hobby, hope, fascination, and obsession. They are small and unseen on many you encounter daily and large and detailed on others. They are personal and often represent transition, growth, and revelation.

"When I started tattooing, I didn't tattoo as many older people. It did happen, don't get me wrong, but "Ink Masters" [reality show] hadn't started yet," he said. "Then, if you were tattooing older people, they were generally bikers, old cowboys, or old truckers. "Last Man Standing" was also a pretty good show. America loves competition. Those shows got really popular, and the next thing you know, we have little ladies coming in for butterflies on their feet, and it's gone from there."

Tattoos are more common today, but, like all art, they're not for everyone. However, unlike most art, they are sometimes viewed in a less than favorable light.

Pierce said, "Tattoos don't make you a bad person, and that's a big thing. There are doctors with sleeves and nurses with tattoos. Lawyers and teachers get tattooed."

And his favorite thing about his work is the people.

"Different people come in every day, and I get to talk to them and cut up with them in a different way," he said. "If somebody's sitting there, and they're not comfortable, or they're hurting, I can start talking to them. It will still hurt, but talking makes it better. Or if they're talking way too much and getting anxious, I can calm them down. The worst thing you can do when you come is be nervous."

If Pierce could go back today and speak to that little boy who loved drawing, he'd tell him, "It's gonna be okay. Yeah, you got this. Just keep being you. You're not weird."

Follow the path of the pen. GN

Follow Lost Highway Tattoo on Facebook for more information.
The studio is located at 2676 Huntsville Hwy., Suite B, Fayetteville.



No one's ever taught me how to draw. I've always just followed the path wherever the pen took me. I was way more interested in drawing and comic books than football, and my dad couldn't understand why I drew all the time. I told him it's just what I do.

-KEITH "BOODA" PIERCE





UNINCORPORATED

WILLIAMS GROCERY CONNECTS CAMARGO'S GENERATIONS.

By Tina Neeley // Photos submitted by Linda Pogue

IT WAS a time when small communities were more than a place you drive through memorialized by a highway road sign — the town's name was usually followed by “unincorporated.” Unincorporated is an interesting word meaning not chartered as a self-governing village or city, but these communities were more fortified than the self-governing kind.

Take Camargo, for example, and Bea Williams, more specifically. Her work ethic rivaled the field workers who dropped by Williams Grocery for fuel, a cold drink, and a bolo-

gna sandwich. As the screen door slapped the wooden frame behind you, the air conditioning brought immediate relief from the noon-day heat. Warm coffee and conversation with an old friend and gatekeeper chased away winter's chill.

She kept an eye on every kid who walked or rode their bicycle in for a NuGrape and a candy bar. When Mrs. Bea wasn't helping collect money to send flowers to a grieving family or restocking shelves, she could be found by the chest freezer cutting out her next quilt or clothing project.

Neighborhood kids weren't the only fans of a cold Coca-Cola. Moe, the orphaned groundhog, was happy to share your drink and bologna for a season.

Mark Colbert, who grew up near the store, knows Moe's history.

He said, “Groundhogs were stripping my dad's garden and tearing it all to pieces, so he shot the mother. Then about a week later, he found out there were three little ones. They'd come out of their den. We gave two away and kept one and raised it as a baby. Then he got big and kept hanging around.”



**“MISS BEA WAS “QUEEN”
OF THE COMMUNITY
FOR KEEPING THINGS
IN ORDER!” - JANICE MYERS**

He was hanging around Williams Grocery and under the front porch steps where he'd appear in the early spring, ready to con his neighbors out of their snacks for a season. And then he was gone.

Gone like the little country stores like Williams Grocery that were once vital to the communities they served. They were hubs for the latest news or gossip, hardware, fuel, lunch, ice, snacks for sinking stomachs, and air for sinking tires. Williams ran the store while her husband worked in fields that would yield a harvest that found its way to the store.

Linda Pogue and Joan Hardiman, Williams's daughters, and her son, Sam Franklin Williams Jr., said their mama was a very smart lady without a lazy bone in her body. Those bones opened the store early every Monday through Saturday for almost 50 years. She closed the store one month short of 50 years due to her declining health.

The building no longer stands, yet it invisibly unites all who passed in and out of its doors. Mrs. Bea, though no longer with us, remains a vivid memory.

Driving through Camargo, the store building may be gone, replaced by new structures, but the spirit of Williams Grocery lives on in the hearts of those who experienced its warmth and community spirit. Memories of laughter, shared stories, and the smell of freshly oiled floors linger, reminding the town's residents of a time when life was simpler and connections forged in the aisles of a small country store.

As the years pass, the Camargo community continues to cherish the legacy of Bea Williams and her grocery store. The memories shared by neighbors and friends preserve its spirit and serve as a reminder of the importance of documenting the history and traditions of these small-town communities.

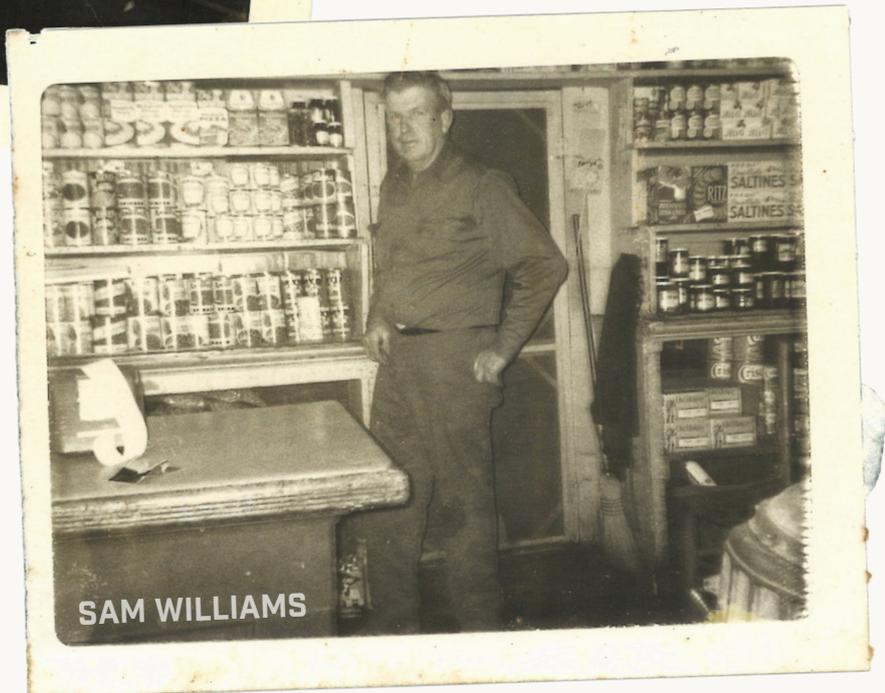
In a world that is moving faster every day, reflecting on the memories of Williams Grocery invites us to pause and appreciate the values and connections nurtured within its walls. It serves as a reminder that no matter how much time has passed, the impact of a small country store and the dedication of its owner is priceless. **GN**



MISS BEA

“THERE WERE ALWAYS TWO THINGS YOU GOT THERE, AND IT WAS A GREAT SANDWICH BUT MOST OF ALL THE ENJOYABLE CONVERSATIONS WITH MISS ‘B.’”

- STAN SPRAY



SAM WILLIAMS



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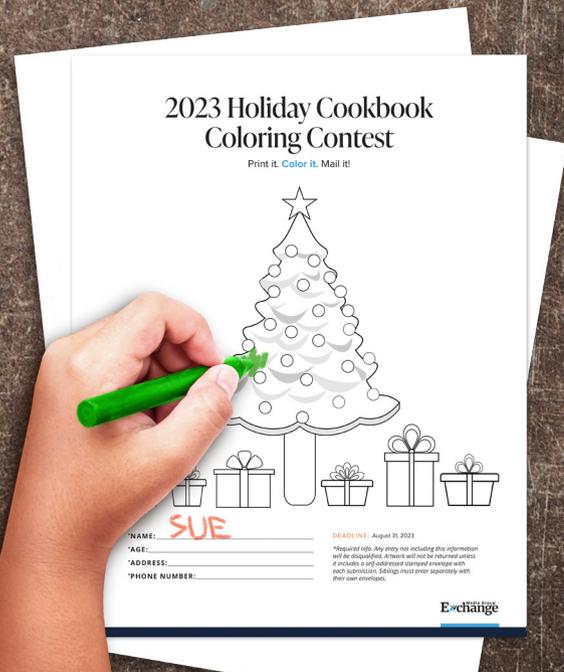
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THE FOOD ISSUE

**Local
restaurants
play a vital role
in our economy
and community.**

*NOURISH OUR
CONNECTIONS WITH FOOD.*

IN THE heart of our community, tucked away at familiar corners, lie vibrant havens: local restaurants. These culinary gems play an indispensable role in creating a healthy and robust economy while simultaneously weaving an intricate tapestry of connections that make our home truly feel like home. Beyond their delectable dishes and inviting ambiance, these establishments hold the power to unite us, fuel our sense of belonging, and contribute to the very fabric of our community.

Local restaurants serve as economic engines, driving growth and prosperity within our neighborhoods. They generate employment opportunities, providing livelihoods for a range of individuals and supporting the livelihoods of countless families. As we step through their doors, we become participants in a



virtuous cycle where our patronage directly fuels local economic development. The dollars we spend at these establishments ripple through the community, fostering increased job stability, tax revenue, and overall financial well-being. By choosing to dine locally, we actively contribute to the vitality of our economy, ensuring that our hometown thrives.

Yet, the impact of local restaurants extends far beyond economic prosperity. They hold the power to cultivate a profound sense of connection and belonging within our community. These establishments become the backdrop for cherished memories and shared experiences. We gather around tables, savoring meals that reflect our region's unique flavors and traditions. The local chef who pours their heart and soul into each dish becomes a familiar

face, a beacon of culinary artistry and community spirit. From celebratory gatherings to intimate conversations, these establishments become the stage upon which our stories unfold, forging bonds that transcend the transactional nature of a meal.

Let us embrace and champion the local restaurants that enrich our lives. By patronizing these establishments, we contribute to a healthy and thriving economy while fostering a sense of connection that makes our community strong. As we gather around tables, sharing laughter and breaking bread, we affirm our commitment to the values of community. Each bite we savor is a testament to the power of local restaurants to nourish both our bodies and our souls, forging bonds that make our home a place of warmth, unity, and endless culinary delights. **GN**



Jean Griffin

Here's Your Sign

*PETERSBURG SQUARE
RENOVATIONS ARE
ANSWERED PRAYERS.*

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Brooke Snyder

PETERSBURG HAS been a drive-through town for too long — not for lack of community, but for a shortage of places to shop, eat, and gather. Marsh's Department Store, Ed Scott's Grocery, W.W. Gill's Hardware Store, First National Bank of Petersburg, Ellis Drugstore, Bettie's Beauty Salon, and others once dotted the square. Then, for many years the four corners slept through most of the week and perked up on weekends within the walls of the few shops that refused to let hope die. Today, the square is waking up, aglow from years of beauty sleep.

The square plays a starring role in the memories of Petersburg native Jean Griffin, whose father worked at the post office and was the subsequent owner of the Ellis Drugstore.

Griffin said, "My dad always had some kind of business going. After Mr. Ellis retired, my dad bought the drugstore where the Pickin' & Grinnin' building

is now. I grew up dipping ice cream and making cokes. Then, my first real job was at the First National Bank of Petersburg, where the town hall is now.”

Griffin left Petersburg at 19, but she didn’t leave banking. A career in banking technology ultimately moved her to St. Simons Island, Georgia, where she worked from home until her husband, Taylor, passed away. Wanting to be near family, Griffin moved to Lewisburg and continued working until her employer required her to move to Charlotte.

“I said, ‘I’m not doing that.’ I decided to cut back and do nothing, which lasted two days,” Griffin said.

She dabbled with a booth at a Chapel Hill antique store and worked in its small cafe but often visited Cathey Fullerton at her Junk and Stuff store on Petersburg’s square. Only a few businesses were on the square, and Fullerton always encouraged Griffin to open a cafe nearby. Griffin was discouraged by the size of necessary renovation costs leaving little room for startup funds. Then, in early 2022, a door opened when Fullerton mentioned someone was purchasing and renovating buildings around the square with a vision of seeing life return.

“So that Sunday at church during silent prayer, I said, ‘Okay, God, if I’m supposed to do this, you need to give me a sign.’ And I’ve never asked for a sign in my life,” she said. “But after church, I asked my friend to go out to eat. I said, ‘Let’s go to Fayetteville, but I want to go to Petersburg first.’”

They looked in the store’s windows next to Fullerton’s on the deserted square, but Griffin noticed a man walking around nearby buildings. He was still walking around when they prepared to leave. Griffin suspected he was an investor.

She investigated further.

She said, “So we drove over, and I said, ‘Hey, you’re not from here, are you?’ He



I love the fact that God sent me some really, really good people. And I couldn't do it without them. I literally could not do it without them.

- JEAN GRIFFIN



laughed and said, ‘No, but I bought that building,’ pointing to the old theater, ‘and I’m attempting to buy these buildings to fix up to get businesses to come back to the square.’”

And they are coming back!

Miss Jean’s Sandwich and Ice Cream Shop now serves old and new memories in the former Lincoln Service Station building, from which she can see the old drug store and bank buildings of her childhood.

All menus and promotional materials extend the invitation. “Come share memories and make new ones,” it reads. And it’s more than good marketing; it’s a reality.

“I get the most joy looking at the square and seeing it so vital again. There are so many people here and so many cars out there,” Griffin said. “And God has sent the best people to work for me.”

Pick two from the soup and sandwich menu, enjoy fresh salads, or try the Petersburg, an Angus beef patty with grilled onions, bacon, Havarti cheese, and horseradish cream sauce on a grilled bun.

“Our best seller is our homemade chicken salad, and a close second is the red, white, and blue salad, which is regular blueberries, strawberries, pecans, and feta cheese with our Fuji apple salad dressing on fresh arugula greens. The thing that



▲ Miss Jean greets her customers with a warm smile.

makes our sandwiches so good is the homemade bread. All of our sandwiches, including the hamburger buns, are homemade. We grill one side with a little bit of olive oil, and then the other side is left soft, so it’s kind of crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside,” said Griffin. “Our fruit tea is homemade, and all our sodas are bottled. We have eight different kinds of ice cream, and we can make a milkshake or a sundae with it.”

Griffin treasures seeing the rejuvenation of Petersburg outside her shop window with a team that feels like family already.

“I love the fact that God sent me some really, really good people. And I couldn’t do it without them. I literally could not do it without them,” she said. GN



Visit Miss Jean’s Sandwich and Ice Cream Shop at 106 S. High St., Petersburg, (931) 652-5552. Follow on Facebook for daily specials and the main menu.



Raegan Grace Scarfone, Susan Ragsdale, Jean Griffin, Ella Claire Ragsdale, Dana Brown, and Shelby Bates



Byron Chism

What Really Lights You Up?

BYRON CHISM FOUND HIS ANSWER.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Brooke Snyder



CHECK YOUR pantry's seasonings, and you may very well find a bottle with a perky, pantless pig smiling back at you. The journey of Bad Byron's Butt Rub to a place at your table is seasoned with seeking, stretching, and serendipity.

Dictionary.com defines serendipity as an aptitude for making desirable discoveries by accident. Byron Chism's desirable discoveries came as he followed his heart.

"I trusted God for my future and learned to trust and follow my heart. I think my heart and intuition are God talking if you believe that. The odds were not for me to be successful; for me to get off the ground is like the Hindenburg," said Chism.

An in-depth 2023 YouTube documentary, "Barbecue Dreams...The Butt Rub Story," follows Chism from his boyhood Texas home to his corporate headquarters in Florida and his Mulberry, Tennessee second home.

He arrived at the University of South Alabama without a dream of his own. Unsure of what he wanted to do with his life, he graduated with only one hint

of his future direction — his love of cooking.

"I didn't even realize I liked to cook, but by the time I graduated college, I was a pretty good cook," Chism said.

Looking for direction, he silenced the outside voices and paid attention to his own.

"All I knew was what I didn't want to do," he said. "There was a big list of things. Then one day, I asked, 'What really lights you up?' I saw I had a short list: dancing, cooking, and the beach. I love to two-step, but I had to do something for a living, so I decided to move to the beach and try my hand at cooking."

The ingredients in Chism's recipe for success began in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

"When I got settled in and started going to church there, I knew I was where I was supposed to be. Soon, I started cooking and knew I was on the right track. I never regretted my journey from that point on," he said.

His next-door neighbor there, Jim Norton, introduced him to barbecue.



“He taught me how to barbecue, and as we got into it, I wanted my own cooker. We went to a scrap yard and got all the pieces — an old propane tank and wheels off a lawn mower — for 11 cents a pound. I’d work 12 hours a day in the restaurant and come home and fire that thing up. I’d spend all day with three chickens and a stack of wood,” Chism said.

As his culinary skills grew, so did his fascination with barbecue and its history, ultimately leading to the creation of his own seasoning, now available in over 8,000 stores.

Follow the video as Bad Byron’s Butt Rub weaves its way around the country and the world through barbecue cook-off championships. The cook-off trail often led through Franklin, Lincoln, and Moore Counties, and Chism needed a home base for his equipment. Finding the perfect spot in the Mulberry community in Lincoln County, the Butt Ranch Barbecue Theme Park became his second home.

“Lincoln County is always fresh. I’m here three or four weeks at a time, and then I choose to go to the office [in Florida],” Chism said. “My mother lives in Mobile, Alabama, and I spend some time with her, then I just like to circle back here. I’m refreshed, renewed, and recharged, and I never really get bogged down here. I keep rebooting.”

Chism knew when he got to Lincoln County that he wanted a new dog after losing his dog of 17 years, Jake. At the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Animal Shelter, Chism met Sadie, who was about to be put down. The shelter workers were heartbroken at the thought and thrilled when Chism took her home.

He said, “They all loved her and didn’t want to see her get put down, so I saved her. She’s been such an incredible dog, and



I always felt like the animal shelter gave me such a great thing. I learned enough to know their biggest challenge is funding, so I started raising money through Brisket & Bluegrass, and it's been a good relationship. We got dogs adopted to different places and raised some good money for them. It feels good. It's such a great setting [here] with the great outdoors, food, music, and a good cause."

The next Brisket & Bluegrass is September 23 at Chism's Butt Ranch Barbecue Theme Park. The annual event is the

perfect blend of everything important in Chism's life.

This year, Chism will be inducted into the American Royal Barbecue Hall of Fame®. According to americanroyal.com, the ceremony will honor three individuals who, by extraordinary achievement and service, have made outstanding and significant contributions to barbecue. Induction into the Barbecue Hall of Fame is barbecue's top honor and recognizes the substantial influence on the advancement of barbecue.

While it appears to be the pinnacle of Chism's success, he knows there will always be more to the story.

"It's never where you're going; it's the journey because there's no one place where you just arrive. It's a false, imaginative place," he said. "I was truly lost trying to find what I was supposed to be doing, and it was very uncomfortable. When I stopped listening to everybody's advice and started following my heart and trusting God, the ship started sailing in the right direction. And I think that's probably the most important thing to think about."

But where does he go from here?

"For the future, I see no big changes, just more of the same. I'm where I want to be, and I think I'll just continue along the path," said Chism. **GN**

For more information and to watch the documentary, visit buttrub.com and follow Bad Byron's Butt Rub on Facebook. Tickets for Brisket & Bluegrass on September 23 are available at the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Animal Shelter at 1718 Pulaski Hwy., Fayetteville, (931) 433-3726.

If Walls Could Talk

*114 W. MARKET ST. IS MORE
THAN JUST A BUILDING.*

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Brooke Snyder



OH, IF walls could talk! The building at 114 W. Market St. has served the public in one form or another since the 1860s when jail cells encased in limestone housed the city's inmates. The walls were pages etched with doodles and scribbles to pass the time of those doing time. They were silent witnesses to whispered stories of shenanigans and truths withheld on a witness stand. They heard the sighs and moans of new intakes and the whoops and hollers of those on their way out.

After a fire destroyed the wooden fire station addition to the jail, the city added a cinderblock firetruck garage behind the cells. The fire station walls tell a different story — stories of late-night alarms, exhausted firefighters, and fellowship around the dining table. Stories of loss and reconstruction were told within them, testifying to the strength and fortitude of the close-knit community.

When the city vacated the building on fire hall hill in 1970, only silence remained until it answered a call to service to the public. With a sigh of relief, in 1987, the walls warmly welcomed the first customers who came hungry for good food and conversation at Cahoots.

Cahoot's owner, Flo Williams said, "My dad, William R. Carter, bought the building in the late '60s when they built the new fire station right down the street. My dad loved buildings, dirt, and land. He was a contractor with his own construction company. The greatest thing about it is that it's a historic building. It was our fire station even back when there were horse-drawn carriages. It's really neat to think a horse stood where you're now eating."

Committed customer service from dedicated employees shines a positive light on the role played by the old building for more than 36 years.



Beth Brown and Flo Williams



“No one can run a restaurant by themselves. You have to have good people, and I have good people; some have been there for 25 years or more. When you work in a business like this, you, along with your people, miss a whole lot of things in life, so you have to have the support of your family. My two girls know my love for it, and they’ve been great. Working Tuesday through Saturday, most of us can’t move our bodies by Sunday,” Williams said.

Williams and her team help us celebrate the things they often miss, much like the public servants of the jail and fire hall, years ago.

“From reunions to birthday parties, receptions, getting to see old friends, everything, and I love seeing that,” she said. “We’re another place in town for everybody to get together, and that’s what we do; we provide that space and hopefully good food.”

Returning customers affirm the work of Williams and her staff. Williams knows repeat business is confirmation they’re doing things right. True success comes from connecting with people you have yet to meet, in addition to your friends and family. The friends made along the way are part of Cahoot’s most significant success.

Williams said, “Several customers come twice a week, every week. And if they don’t come, we’ll call and make sure they’re okay. Our customers become family.”



Cahoot’s history draws customers from near and far.

“We have the tourists, too, because we’re a little unique. We have people that come from out of town; great people that have been coming back for 30 years. That’s what Cahoot’s does. It just brings us all together,” she said.

Customers share their own stories and memories of the building with Williams, some of which begin with, “Don’t you dare tell Mama, but ...” As we make new memories, there will be more stories to share and more secrets to keep within the walls.

While “cahoots” often denotes a conspiracy, according to dictionary.com, the

word also means “in partnership.” What better word for a building and the people who work within its walls to make Fayetteville safe and satisfied with good food for good times? It’s a conspiracy of community.

A hundred years from now, who knows what other service partnership will exist in the space that has stood watch over the city for more than a century? **GN**

If you’re not already one of their returning customers, stop by Cahoots at 114 W. Market St., and discover firsthand the history on the hill. Follow Cahoots on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.



Lacey Metcalf

Fresh from the

Farmers Market

Experience the best the season has to offer.

By Tina Neeley



A S THE lazy days of summer drift into the warm embrace of August, our taste buds welcome the vibrant flavors offered by nature. The richness of the harvest season arrives as farmers markets brim with an array of colorful produce, and nature rewards us with sun-kissed fruits, hardy vegetables, and fragrant herbs that inspire us to create dishes that celebrate the very essence of summer.

From juicy heirloom tomatoes and succulent peaches to crisp cucumbers and fragrant basil, explore the endless possibilities of these seasonal treasures.

Whether you're seeking refreshing salads to beat the summer heat, indulgent grilled delicacies for backyard gatherings, or luscious desserts that capture the essence of the season, prepare to be captivated by the symphony of flavors that August brings. **GN**



Grilled Chicken & Vegetable Kabobs

Submitted by Hayley Cowan

4 c. assorted vegetable pieces
1/4 c. olive oil
2 T. white wine vinegar
2 t. Montreal chicken seasoning
1/2 t. Italian seasoning
1 lb. chicken breasts, boneless, skinless, and cubed

Combine vegetables, olive oil, vinegar, and seasonings in a large, self-closing plastic bag or glass bowl; add chicken. Marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes or longer for extra flavor. Remove chicken and vegetables from marinade; discard marinade. Spear chicken and vegetables on metal skewers. Lightly sprinkle skewers with additional Montreal seasoning. Grill kabobs 10-15 minutes or until chicken is done, turning frequently.

Fresh Salsa

Submitted by Esther Dahnke

10 tomatoes
1 can tomato paste, 6 oz.
2 white onions
1 lg. green pepper
1 lg. red pepper
1 lg. yellow pepper
3 t. salt
2 T. garlic, minced
6 T. cider vinegar
fresh cilantro, to taste
corn chips
jalepeño peppers or hot sauce, optional

Cut tomatoes, onions & peppers into quarters & place in blender or food processor. Add tomato paste, salt, garlic & vinegar. Take leaves off stems of the cilantro & place in blender. Chop until fine. Place in bowl and serve with corn chips. Great to make in summer with fresh garden tomatoes and vegetables.

Summer Salad

Submitted by Cindy Raybern

1 pkg. zesty garlic salad dressing mix
1 T. red cooking wine
1 cucumber, sliced
1 tomato, sliced
1 red onion, sliced
1 green pepper, sliced

Combine salad dressing by directions on package, but substitute 1 tablespoon red cooking wine for the water. Pour over cucumber, tomato, onion, and green pepper. Toss lightly before serving.

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





Embracing your “different.”

Discovering your unique purpose through the lens of faith

By Jeriah Brumfield

AS A member of a group of people that only make up about 14% of the country’s population, and as a woman, I have faced unique challenges and experiences that have shaped my identity and journey of faith. I often find it difficult to embrace my “different.”

In the eyes of our Creator, each one of us is unique and created for a purpose. Embracing our “different” — those qualities that set us apart from others — is not only a journey of self-discovery but also an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and fulfill the plans He has for our lives.

Our Heavenly Father has given us the opportunity to impact our environment and, ultimately, our world by embracing what makes us all inherently unique.

Throughout the Bible, we find numerous examples of individuals who embraced their “different” and, through faith, made a significant impact on the world. From Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egypt despite his speech impediment, to Esther, who used her position as queen to save her people, these inspiring figures teach us the importance of embracing our unique qualities and trusting God’s plan.

As an African American woman, I draw strength from these biblical stories and the countless women of color who have broken barriers and made a difference in the world. So, how can we learn to embrace our “different” through the lens of faith?

REFLECT ON YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS AND TALENTS.

Take some time to consider the abilities and passions that God has instilled in you. These might include your resilience, creativity, leadership skills, empathy, or a strong sense of community. By recognizing these gifts, you’ll develop a deeper understanding of how God has uniquely equipped you to positively impact the world.

SEEK GUIDANCE THROUGH PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE.

As you embrace your “different,” turn to God for guidance and wisdom. Spend time in prayer, asking Him to reveal the purpose behind your unique qualities. Additionally, delve into scripture to discover stories of individuals who overcame challenges and embraced their differences to fulfill God’s plan.

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH A SUPPORTIVE FAITH COMMUNITY

Finding a supportive network of fellow believers, particularly those who share your experiences, is crucial for your spiritual growth and journey toward embracing your “different.” A faith community will not only encourage you in your walk with God but also provide a safe space to explore and celebrate your unique qualities.

USE YOUR “DIFFERENT” TO SERVE OTHERS.

Jesus taught us the importance of serving others, and embracing your “different” provides an opportunity to do just that. Consider how you can use your unique gifts and talents to bless those around you — whether volunteering at your local church, mentoring a younger believer, or using your creative skills to uplift and inspire others, which so many people are already doing within our community.

TRUST THE JOURNEY

Embracing your “different” may sometimes be challenging, especially when faced with societal pressures, timelines, and expectations. Remember to submit to and trust your journey in these moments and draw strength from God’s love and promises. As Jeremiah 29:11 states, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Embracing our “different” is a vital aspect of our spiritual journey and an opportunity to discover and fulfill our unique purpose. By reflecting on our God-given gifts, seeking guidance through prayer and scripture, surrounding ourselves with a supportive faith community, using our differences to serve others, and trusting in God’s plan, we can learn to celebrate our individuality and make a lasting impact on the world, all while deepening our relationship with our Creator. **GN**





Good Times

CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

- 60 Annual Firecracker Chase raises funds for local organizations
- 62 Community Events
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Submit a positive story on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Contestants for the annual Firecracker Chase

ANNUAL FIRECRACKER CHASE



**RAISES FUNDS
FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Brooke Snyder



THE ENERGY in the air was palpable as participants stretched their legs, bounced up and down, and took a competitive glance around at their fellow participants. Some were neighbors, and others were out-of-towners. The horn sounded, and the mass of runners moved forward as one looking to take on the rolling hills of Lincoln County. While a good-humored competition, for this race in particular, there was an infectious sense of camaraderie that created a feeling of unity and shared purpose that raised awareness and funds for two worthy causes.

These dedicated runners and walkers came out for the annual Firecracker Chase on Saturday, June 24. The race consists of a 5.1 or 10.2-mile course that runners and walkers can take on. Participants braved the hilly and challenging course to raise funds for two local nonprofits, The Quatina M. Wolaver Foundation of Hope and Hayden's Hope.

The Quatina M. Wolaver Foundation of Hope was established in 2018. Our mission is to raise awareness and funds for research on ovarian cancer. All funds raised through the Firecracker Chase are used to raise local awareness, primarily in Lincoln County, and the remainder is donated to larger research organizations with the hope that one day a test can be brought to the market so women will have a fighting chance with early diagnosis.

Hayden's Hope is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in early 2019 by Amy Harwell and her family after the death of her son, Hayden Hammons, by suicide in October 2018.

The organization provides scholarships to local area youth in our community and surrounding areas. They also talk to youth in the classrooms, locker rooms, and church youth groups to encourage open

conversations about the real-life issues they face while also talking about Jesus and the plan of salvation. Hayden's Hope's mission and goal is to spread the message and meaning of "there is always HOPE."

Along with the race, Hayden's Hope also sponsors several community events during the year, which include the South Lincoln Middle School Color Run, Hayden's Hope Craft Fair that takes place on Sept. 9 at The Farmhouse at Two Trees, and a 5k Turkey Trot held on Thanksgiving morning on the campus of Lincoln County High School.

Southern said she was glad to see the race back for a fourth year.

"I always look forward to seeing some growth in the number of participants and having our runners back out. We were glad to have the folks who have been out the last few years to come back and take on the challenge again," she said.

Harwell hopes the race will become a community mainstay event in its fourth year.

"We want it to be a legacy race where when people think of this time of the year, they think of the Firecracker Chase," she said.

Southern added that she and Harwell are proud to create an event where the community can unite.

"We love it," she said. "I have fun directing the race and love seeing communities come together. They really rally around and take care of each other. I love being a part of putting something on that brings the whole community together in a fun way." **GN**

For information on the Quatina M. Wolaver Foundation of Hope, visit online at qmwfoundation.com. For more details about Hayden's Hope, email haydenshope44@gmail.com.

Flintville Fish Fry and Music Festival - April 22, 2023



Photos submitted by Velva Walker

The event was held at The Rock Fayetteville Campus to raise money and awareness. Featured were car, truck, and motorcycle shows, music, crafts, vendors, food trucks, and more.



1. Randy Waller 2. Crehton Caldwell, Jacob Caldwell, Caleb Caldwell, Joslyn Meek, Kristian Young, Jonathan Smith, Travis Jubin, Shannon Sims, Tory Clark, and Don Counts 3. Tull Malone, Katrina Baldwin, and Jacob Campbell 4. Don Counts 5. Joy Young and Christina Jubin 6. Ardmore Pickers

Cruising for a Cure for Huntington's Disease - April 22, 2023



Photos submitted by Velva Walker

The 8th annual Cruising for a Cure for Huntington's Disease was held at The Rock Fayetteville Campus to raise money and awareness. The event featured a car, truck, and motorcycle show, music, crafts and product vendors, food trucks, and door prizes.



1. Tommy Hanes 2. Mike Parker
3. One of the many entries for the car show 4. Contestant with his car show entry

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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

July 15

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.

July 15

**5:00 pm Two Trees DIY Class:
Wooden Stained
Glass Door Hanger**
The Farmhouse
at Two Trees
439 Smith Mill Rd.
Fayetteville

Join us for an exciting
do-it-yourself class
where you can create
your own stained glass
door hanger from wood.
Cost is \$55.

July 22

**8:00 am 2 Day
Advanced Formula
Driving School**
Polecat Training Center
1054 Polecat Hollow Rd.
Fayetteville

This is as close to actual
racing as you can do
in any commercially
available school. You
will be ready to enter
our race series after
successfully completing
this class.

July 28

**12:01 am Tax-Free
Holiday Begins**
State of Tennessee

No taxes on clothing,
school supplies, or
computers July 28-30.

For more information
visit tn.gov.



July 29

**8:00 pm Steel 6 Rocks
Mickey's Garage**
Mickey's Garage
Bar & Grill
207 Edison St. W.
Fayetteville

August 5

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

There will be something for everyone, from handmade jewelry and custom woodwork to fresh produce and food trucks.

For more information contact Fayetteville Main Street at (931) 557-5150.

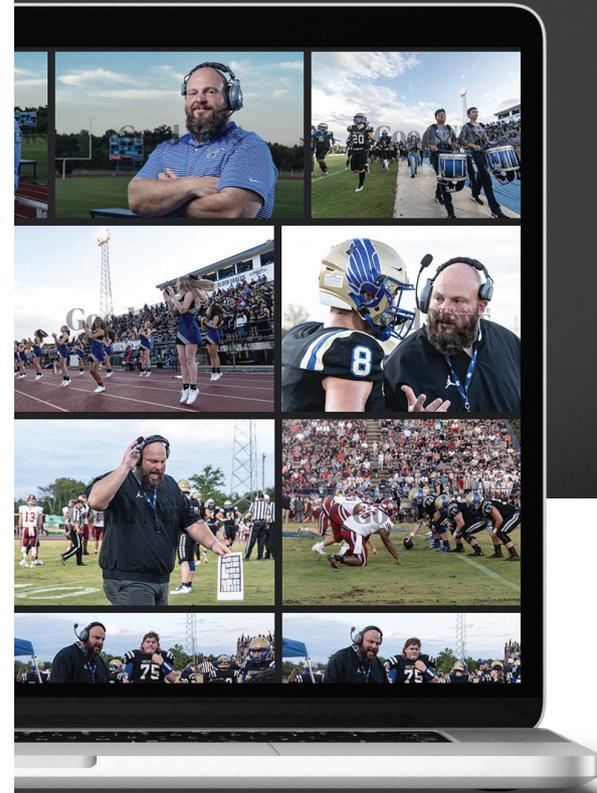
August 8

6:00 pm Junk Journalists Meeting
Classroom (Downstairs)
303 Main Ave. S.
Fayetteville

This monthly creative workshop is open to all.

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

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



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Fayetteville Public Utilities.....	26	Stan McNabb Chevrolet Buick GMC.....	5
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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
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Gastroenterologist

Mallipeddi, Dayaker	931-388-8302
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General Surgery

Crump, David B.	931-433-0892
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Hospitalist

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

Internal Medicine

Kidd, Charles A.	931-433-2551
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Neurology

Capps, Raymond	931-240-0001
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Obstetrics & Gynecology

Nobles, Michael	931-433-1105
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Orthopedics

Bryant, Ginger	931-433-1102
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Pediatrics

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

Podiatry

Mitchell, Jeffery	615-814-0885
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Pulmonary/Sleep Medicine

Patel, Prakashchandra	931-536-4149
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Urology

Selph, Patrick	615-622-5047
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Lincoln Medical Center	931-438-1100
Donalson Care Center & Short Stay Rehab	931-433-7156
Patrick Rehab - Wellness Center	931-433-0273
Lincoln Medical Home Health and Hospice	931-433-8088
Lincoln Ambulance Services	931-438-7407

In the case of an emergency, dial 911

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*Whether it's grilling at the 4-H Horseshow
or helping you secure a loan...*

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Bank of Lincoln County

Where Your Money Makes A Difference

