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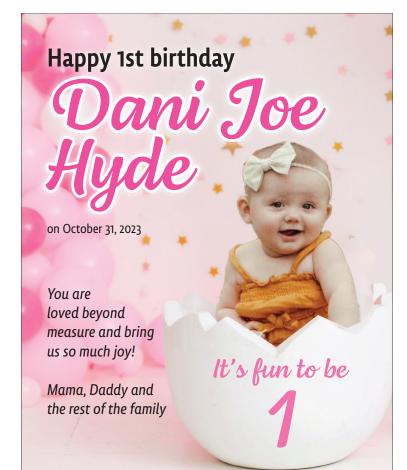
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**ISSUE 9 2023** 

- LETTER FROM 10 THE EDITOR: Autumn Harvest

#### Good News

- 'THE TRAILER PARK' 14 GRAND OPENING: A CREATIVE HUB FOR ART, FOOD, AND MUSIC IN LINCOLN COUNTY
- FAYETTEVILLE 16 SCHOOL NUTRITION DIRECTOR AWARDED GRANT FOR EQUIPMENT UPGRADES, ENHANCING STUDENT MEALS
  - DUNKIN' DONUTS IS READY TO FULFILL YOUR SWEET-TOOTH CRAVINGS
- ARDMORE BASE FOR 20 SURVIVAL NOW SERVES LINCOLN COUNTY
- FAYETTEVILLE 22 MAIN STREET AND PROOF INCUBATOR COLLABORATE TO EMPOWER LOCAL RESTAURANT ENTREPRENEURS



#### Good Living

- 28 ONE CHILD AT A TIME Doors are opening for House of Hope
- 34 UNMATCHED SERVICE AND TEAMWORK DEFINE FAYETTEVILLE OUTDOOR SPORTS Local business goes above and beyond to become

your one-stop outdoor sports dealer

40 AUTUMN HARVEST

54 A TASTE OF THE HARVEST Fall brings sweet treats and savory favorites

#### Good Times

- **60** COMMUNITY EVENTS
- 64 EVENTS CALENDAR
- 66 ADVERTISER INDEX



PRESENTS AGEING IN OUR COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

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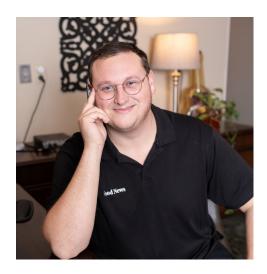
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OTHING EXCITES me more than the idea of autumn. The trees are beautiful and never fail to take your breath away and then give it back to you. The perfect Saturday is a cool breeze coming in from the open window, classic slashers like John Carpenter's Halloween playing on the TV, and a pumpkin-scented candle dancing shadows to the corners of the room. Every autumn brings families together as the holidays sneak up on us once again. While we may jump into fun at local farm attractions and get lost in corn mazes, the season brings much more than hay rides and jump scares. It's a time of year when we're allowed to take a breath. The breakneck speed of summer is finally coming to an end. Now's the time to relax with an iced coffee and nostalgia.

As the vibrant colors of autumn begin to paint the world around us, we find ourselves immersed in a season of both beauty and togetherness. The golden hues of falling leaves and the warm embrace of cozy sweaters evoke a sense of nostalgia and comfort that warms the soul. Just as the trees shed their leaves, we, too, shed the worries of yes-

Wesley Bryant, MANAGING EDITOR

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

#### A Breath of Fresh Air

Autumn reminds us that every end is a new beginning

terday, basking in the promise that each new day brings.

The crisp air seems to carry with it a sense of unity, reminding us of the importance of coming together, of finding solace in one another's company. Whether it's around a dinner table or a crackling bonfire, these moments of connection remind us of the power of community and the joy that flourishes when we share our lives with those we hold dear.

Each step we take in the crunching leaves serves as a reminder that even in the midst of change, there is an opportunity for renewal and growth. The autumn harvest is a testament to the cycle of life, to the assurance that every ending is merely the start of a new beginning.

Cherish the moments of togetherness that warm our hearts, and let us embrace the hope that blossoms with each passing day. As the world around us transforms, may we, too, find the courage to shed what no longer serves us and make space for the beautiful possibilities that lie ahead.

This issue of Good News focuses on the autumn harvest — when our communities harvest not just crops... but love, positivity, and Good News. **GN** 

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# Let the **good** i times roll



We want to build stronger communities through positive, local stories. If you have an upcoming event, please submit it online. We will add it to your community's online calendar, and it could be featured in the magazine.



#### Richardson Waste Removal & Richardson Waste Solution







#### CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

- 'The Trailer Park' GrandOpening: A Creative Hubfor Art, Food, and Music inLincoln County
- 16 Fayetteville School Nutrition Director Awarded Grant for Equipment Upgrades, Enhancing Student Meals
- 18 Dunkin' Donuts Is ReadyTo Fulfill Your Sweet-ToothCravings

Submit a positive story on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Brooke Snyder



#### 'The Trailer Park' Grand Opening: A Creative Hub for Art, Food, and Music in Lincoln County

In July, Jennie Roles-Walter, an artist, teacher, county commissioner, and mom, launched 'The Trailer Park' as a new venue for art, food, and music. The event showcased food trucks like The FryBox and The Chunky Monkey, while DJ Brad Bolles provided music. The site offers opportunities for other small businesses and will host future art-oriented events, with a welllit art studio open on Saturdays featuring Roles-Walter's colorful art. The lot also includes vintage vehicles that local high school students will transform. Vendors interested in participating can contact Roles-Walter for more information. **GN** 

#### Honoring a Vietnam War Veteran: Jack Raby Receives a Quilt of Valor

Jack Raby, a Vietnam War veteran, was recently honored for his bravery and sacrifice with a heartfelt Quilt of Valor. Inspired by his father's heroism in WWII, Raby served as a helicopter pilot in a special operations unit, enduring classified missions in Cambodia, Laos, and North Vietnam. The heartfelt tribute of a Quilt of Valor recognizes his service and sacrifice with deep appreciation.**GN** 



#### "Love Thy Neighbor": Fayetteville Main Street's Monthly Mixer Fosters Local Business Connections.

A monthly business mixer, Love Thy Neighbor, organized by Fayetteville Main Street, offers area business owners the opportunity to connect and explore member business locations where the event is hosted on a rotating monthly basis. While there may be little time to shop with member merchants or get to know each other better, Love Thy Neighbor makes both possible. The event is usually held on the third Thursday of each month. **GN** 





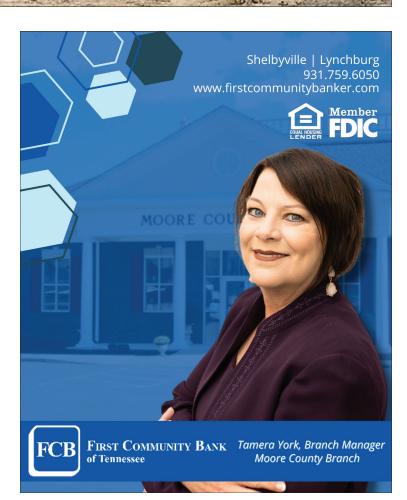
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#### Fayetteville School Nutrition Director Awarded Grant for Equipment Upgrades, Enhancing Student Meals

Megan Hall, school nutrition director at Fayetteville City Schools, secured the Food Warming Equipment (FWE) grant from the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF). The grant addresses challenges in staffing and supplies, enabling equipment upgrades for better meal services. Fayetteville High School's urgent need for improved freezing and refrigeration conditions is a priority. The grant, supported by partners like Food Warming Equipment, aids school nutrition professionals in providing healthier student meals. Up to \$25,000 worth of FWE equipment will enhance Fayetteville's program. **GN** 

#### Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Goes Above and Beyond

Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Doug Allen was recently recognized for his exceptional service to a local resident. When a motorist faced vehicle trouble, Allen arranged for a tow truck and went beyond his duty by driving the stranded citizen and two small children safely home. The Sheriff's Department commended Allen's dedication to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the community. The grateful citizen expressed their appreciation for his extraordinary efforts.**GN** 



#### Fayetteville Fire Department Receives Grant to Enhance Fire Prevention Efforts

The Fayetteville Fire Department was awarded a \$3,003 grant from FM Global to acquire a Sparky the Fire Dog costume. FM Global, a major commercial property insurer, recognized the department's standout application among hundreds of others. The additional funding aims to strengthen fire prevention efforts and reduce property destruction caused by fires, aligning with FM Global's philosophy that most property loss is preventable. **GN** 



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#### Dunkin' Donuts is Ready to Fulfill Your Sweet-Tooth Cravings

Blake Robinson, co-founder and owner of Southern Food Services, officially opened Southern Food's first Dunkin' Donuts location in Tennessee at 1109 Huntsville Highway in Fayetteville. The grand opening was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Dunkin' VIPs, store managers, employees from Alabama, general contractor Barry Brown of Brown Construction, and members of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce. With 12 existing Dunkin' Donuts locations in North Alabama, this expansion into Tennessee represents a significant milestone for Southern Food Services and offers local residents a new destination for their favorite Dunkin' treats. **GN** 

#### Petersburg's Abby Santini Dominates Pole Bending, Achieves Global Recognition in Rodeo

Abby Santini, a Petersburg resident, clinched consecutive 2023 Tennessee State Champion in Pole Bending titles. Qualifying for the National High School Finals Rodeo, she shines globally in the top 20 in the world. Aided by her dedicated partnership with rescue horse Alex, Abby's determination and family support fuel her achievements. Her aspirations extend to blacksmithing and an agricultural business degree following homeschool graduation. **GN** 



#### Unity Lady Lions Claim Victory at 10th Annual Middle School Volleyball Tournament

Unity Lady Lions emerged as champions in the 10th annual Lady Falcon Volleyball Preseason Middle School Tournament at Lincoln County High School. After defeating Tullahoma Middle School in the first match, both teams met in the final. Despite a win by the Lady Wildcats, Unity triumphed in the subsequent games 25-20 and 15-8, securing victory. **GN** 

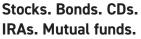


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GOOD NEWS FAYETTEVILLE



#### Ardmore Base For Survival Now Serves Lincoln County

Survival Flight has established a base in Ardmore, expanding its emergency critical care services to Lincoln County. The base includes helicopters and the region's first fixed-wing plane, with essential medical equipment. Survival Flight will collaborate with other medical airlift agencies to transport citizens, assist first responders, and support Lincoln Medical Center, a critical access hospital. The agencies will alternate responses in a 12-county area, ensuring continuous coverage. This expansion is seen as a significant benefit for the community, enhancing emergency medical transportation capabilities **GN** 

#### Fayetteville High School Names Coach Fitz Hopkins as Head Coach for Lady Tigers Basketball Team

Coach Fitz Hopkins, a dedicated and experienced coach, has been appointed the head coach of the Fayetteville High School Lady Tigers basketball team. With over a decade of coaching expertise and a strong passion for developing student-athletes, Hopkins is eager to lead the team and help them reach their fullest potential on and off the court. Excitement grows as the Lady Tigers anticipate a promising season under his guidance. **GN** 



#### Community Cleanup Crew Makes A Strong Start, Collecting Nearly 1,000 Pounds Of Trash

The Community Cleanup Crew in Fayetteville began their first cleanup project in June, focusing on the streets and alleys surrounding the old hospital. With the help of dedicated volunteers, they successfully gathered close to 1,000 pounds of trash, which the Public Works Department promptly removed. The program received support from local pastors, the Fayetteville Housing Authority, and several businesses contributing resources and sponsorship. The crew continued their monthly cleanup projects throughout the city until September and intends to expand the program in the spring of 2024. **GN** 

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#### Fayetteville Main Street and Proof Incubator Collaborate To Empower Local Restaurant Entrepreneurs

Fayetteville Main Street joined forces with Proof Incubator to launch a food and beverage program to support local restaurant operators. The partnership included training sessions and open discussions to address common challenges in the industry and foster sustainable business growth. The events aimed to provide participants with valuable insights, tools, and networking opportunities. **GN** 

#### Lincoln County High School Students Bring "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical" To The Stage

The electrifying Broadway musical adaptation of Rick Riordan's bestselling book, "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical," arrived at Lincoln County High School (LCHS). Teenager Percy Jackson and his friends took center stage as they embarked on a thrilling quest to find Zeus's missing lightning bolt and prevent a war among the gods. LCHS drama instructor Lydia Marshall expressed the students' excitement to showcase their hard work to the community in their summer performance.. **GN** 



#### Fayetteville City Schools Recognized as National Beta District of Distinction

Fayetteville City Schools has been honored as a 2022-2023 National Beta District of Distinction, making it one of only 42 districts nationwide to receive this prestigious award. The recognition is bestowed upon districts that offer National Beta in all their schools, induct qualifying students from grades 4-12, and demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence, leadership development, and service involvement. The remarkable efforts of the administration, club sponsors, and dedicated beta club members have propelled Fayetteville City to this achievement, highlighting their dedication to preparing students for college and career readiness. Their commitment to leadership and service sets an inspiring example for others. **GN** 



### Fayetteville Lumber & Supply, Inc.

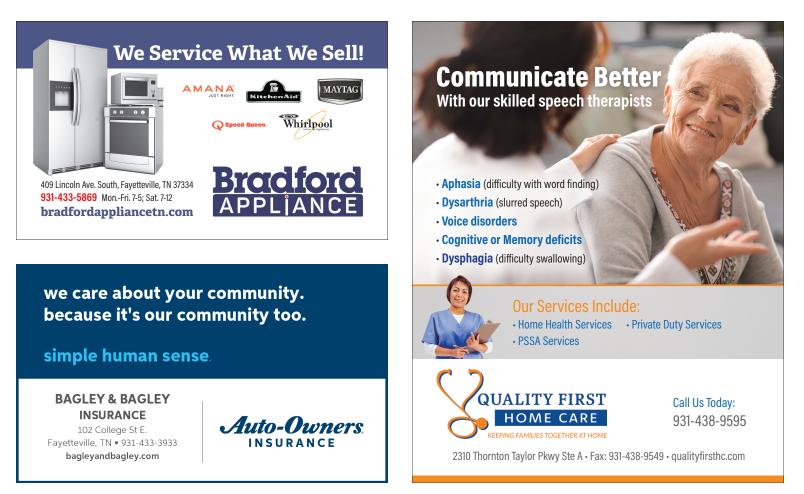
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931-433-9126

1100 Winchester Hwy. Fayetteville, TN 37334

Monday - Saturday - 7:00 А.м. - 5:00 Р.м.





#### Fayetteville Welcomes New VFW Auxiliary

A new Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary was recently established in Fayetteville. This new group will work to give back to local veterans and their families in the community. Relatives of those who served overseas in combat are welcome to join VFW Auxiliary Post 2167. The new VFW Auxiliary is taking on new members to join them and a group of more than 470,000 members across the nation in helping the community through service work, volunteering, patriotic programs, and more. All of these projects and activities directly support the veterans, service men and women, and their families. **GN** 

#### Hills Power Pro Holds Grand Opening Event in Fayetteville

Owners of Hills Power Pro and the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce held an official ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome the new business to the downtown area. Owners Nathan and Linda Hill have 35 models of lawn mowers to choose from at their store and have been in the business for over 23 years. They also sell weed-eaters, leaf blowers, parts and accessories. **GN** 



#### Police Foundation of Fayetteville Donate Trauma Resources to School Resource Officers

The new school year is in full swing and now school resource officers in the Fayetteville City School district are fully prepared and equipped thanks to the Fayetteville Police Foundation. The organization donated a trauma bag to each school resource officer in the district. The bag will be kept in every school and will be used to assist in giving first aid to anyone at the schools who may need it. These bags will ensure the safety and well-being of the students and faculty throughout the school district. **GN** 

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CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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



One child at a time

- 34 Unmatched service and teamwork define Fayetteville Outdoor Sports
- 40 Autumn Harvest
- 54 A taste of the harvest

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



#### goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Brooke Snyder

Corey, Bella, and Brittany Buckner

#### Doors are opening for House of Hope.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

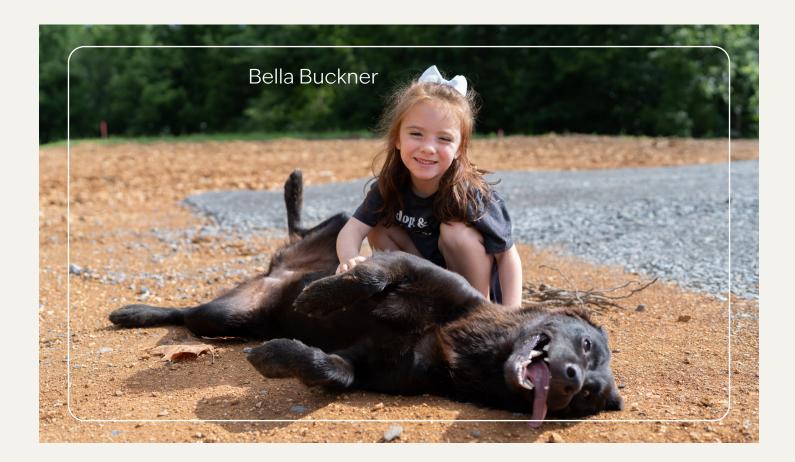
C HILDHOOD SHOULD be a careless time filled with love, comfort, and security, like a favorite snuggle blanket. But too many times, things look terribly different in some children's lives. Neglect or abuse steal these and much more from them. Suddenly, everything they knew, including what they deemed good and comforting, is ripped away, leaving them without anything familiar. A few necessities shoved into a grocery or garbage bag are all they have to call their own, and they sleep on the floor of the social worker's office until placement

with a foster family. When the placement occurs, there's still a void and profound loss. Adjustment is difficult because we all long for our idea of normal.

Always Endure's House of Hope is their response to the interim needs of these children in foster care. Our community's heart for children continues to grow, as seen in its support of Junior's House, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Clothe our Kids, and other local resources serving children in need. Local help for this project reflects Lincoln County's commitment to hope and healing. adopt & foster & mentor & advocate & volunteer r & pray.

ate & tee**r &** 

#### Corey and Brittany Buckner



Always Endure CEO and Corey Buckner Founder Always Endure with his wife, Brittany, to remove barriers for families enduring major medical diagnoses and added adoptive family and foster children support, both in response to the outpouring of help and support they received during their journey through cancer and adoption.

Corey said, "What makes Lincoln County so special is that you have support, and people are here for you. It's a special place to live."

In July 2022, the Always Endure board voted to expand into foster care and prayed God would give direction and provide the resources. House of Hope was the answer. "In less than a year, we had God's answer to many specific prayers for the land, a builder, and even fundraising and community support. Our community is so generous and supportive. Out of a \$250,000 goal, we only lack \$76,000. And that's not even counting the support of people who are already committed to helping us with their expertise and donated time, materials, and resources — things that will help offset that cost. It's been tremendous to see God move in all these people," said Corey.

House of Hope will be a safe place for children in the foster care system to stay while awaiting placement. Their social workers will accompany them at all times, and trained volunteers will assist them by playing with the children, cooking meals, retrieving needed supplies, and offering a warm, homely environment. It will provide a safe place for the social worker to keep an eye on each child while giving the worker resources, such as Wi-Fi and an extra set of eyes and hands to assist the children. It's a program that not only helps the foster child; it also benefits the foster family.

Corey said, "We want to help assist with all that. Compared to the office [where they've been staying and sleeping], our prayer is that they come in and feel like, 'Wow, this is a different place!"

Rather than being cooped up in an office all day, the home will offer more room and freedom to carry on normally with a playground and an area to watch TV and read books. Some will be in the home longer than others, but the goal is the same for every child entering the House of Hope doors.

"Our prayer is that we can just instill some hope into what may seem like a hopeless situation. We'll have kids who are newly removed from some type of awful situation, and we may also have children who have had a disruption in their care, and their social workers must find a different home for them," said Corey. "Regardless of the situation, we just want them to know that they're loved, they're cared for, and that we see hope for them. Every story is going to be different."

There are many ways to help House of Hope fulfill its mission. Everyone can do something. Trained volunteers are needed to serve at the house, but that's one of many ways to get involved. There is always a shortage of foster families, but if you don't feel led to serve in that capacity, consider your other gifts and talents. Also needed are ongoing financial contributions to sustain the house, as are your prayers, which are free but priceless. Pray for the home's completion, ongoing work, and the workers, children, and families they will serve. "We're trying to change the culture of foster care. It's really cool to see all that God has done in a year or less; it's just really incredible. And it's all Him. We can't take any credit. We're vessels and instruments that He uses, and we give Him the glory and the praise. He has to stir in people's hearts and open those doors," said Corey.

He's stirring and opening. How can you support House of Hope today? GN

"We've been in hard seasons, but God has used them to grow us and bring so many good things out of it."

For more information or to volunteer, contact Corey Buckner at (931) 625-1861, corey@alwaysendure.com, or visit alwaysendure.com.

Carey Buckner



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Pictured from left to right: Justin Pendergrass, Jane Pendergrass, Jerry Pendergrass, grandson Jake Pendergrass, and daughter Jackie Bloxham.

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#### Unmatched customer service and teamwork define

# Fayetteville Outdoor Sports.

## Local business goes above and beyond to become your one-stop outdoor sports dealer.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

AYETTEVILLE OUTDOOR Sports (FOS), formerly Fayetteville Cycle, has been serving Lincoln County and surrounding communities for over 40 years, the last of which has been under the ownership of David Norris and Kerry Norman. The partners are committed to providing exceptional customer service and fostering a strong sense of team within their business.

Norris said, "We changed the name to Fayetteville Outdoor Sports and kept "Fayetteville," of course, because of the community and the heritage of it being Fayetteville Cycle. Then the word "outdoor" was more reflective of the tractors, zeroturns, and the equipment, which is the Bobcat. And then "sports" reflects some of the things they already had, which were the ATVs, the side-by-sides, the



Emmett Thomas



Kerry Norman and David Norris

RZRs, and the motorcycles. So that was our thinking in tweaking the name just a little so people wouldn't think we're just a cycle shop."

With brands like Honda, Polaris, Bobcat, Landmaster, ARGO, and Kawasaki engines, FOS offers a diverse range of recreational vehicles and outdoor equipment. When the pandemic confined people to their homes, the demand for outdoor activities skyrocketed, leading to increased sales. However, as the pandemic disrupted the supply chain, obtaining inventory became challenging. Still, FOS has offered varied selections and top-notch customer service to meet most outdoor needs.

FOS aims to distinguish itself in the industry through its after-the-sale service. While some dealerships struggle to find qualified mechanics, they have built a strong service department. Their dedication to providing top-notch service leads the way in all they do.

Continuous growth feeds their success. They have expanded their product lines, adding tractors, zeroturn mowers, and equipment through the Bobcat brand. The Bobcat brand line includes tractors, zeroturn mowers, and equipment, including the Kawasaki engines that power Bobcat's zero-turn mowers. By diversifying their offerings, they can cater to a broader range of customers' outdoor needs. In addition, they are considering adding boats and watercraft in the future, further expanding their inventory.

Recognizing the paramount importance of customer service, FOS is determined to set itself apart in the industry.

FOS is investing in upgrades and renovations to accommodate growth. The partners have plans to expand their showroom and build a new state-ofthe-art service shop. Future expansions will double the parking lot, providing customers a more enjoyable shopping experience. These improvements benefit the customers and create a comfortable and efficient work environment for their team members.

Norris and Norman take pride in their team, referring to them as "team members" rather than employees. They have fostered a work culture that emphasizes both productivity and enjoyment. They believe a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere contributes to better performance and job satisfaction. As the



We have been blessed with an opportunity to operate a great business, meet fine people, and make a difference, and the community's support has been tremendous.

-David Norris







Emmett Thomas, Dalton Shelton, and Gracen Womack



business continues to flourish, they have increased their team to 17 members and plan to expand further in the coming months.

"Our service shop is attached to the main building, and we've just outgrown it. With the addition of the new lines and the bigger equipment, it's harder to get the bigger things into the current shop. So we're going to add a new state-of-the-art service shop because we feel like it's hard to find good service these days. That's one thing we want to hang our hat on — service. We want to be known for our service, and we want to do a good job," Norris said.

Fayetteville holds a special place in the owners' hearts, who appreciate the town's rich history.

"I love the history of Lincoln County, and I love the town square and frequently eat lunch there. I love the old-time feeling, what our ancestors might have experienced back in the day," said Norris. Although I live in Alabama, just across the state line, I still feel like Lincoln County is a big part of my life. Even before I bought this building, I spent a lot of time and formed a lot of friendships in the Fayetteville area because it was just as easy to come to Fayetteville as it was to go to Huntsville and with less hustle and bustle."

The community's response to the new ownership has been outstanding.

"We have been blessed with an opportunity to operate a great business, meet fine people, and make a difference, and the community's support has been tremendous," said Norris.

You really can't overstate the importance of customer service and their commitment to it.

"We want to be different from the multi-store conglomerates. At FOS, you can still talk to the owners. I try to be the first person or the last to greet each customer, thank them for their business, and give them my contact card. We believe customer service still matters," said Norris.

Go by and experience firsthand that customer service is still alive. It's alive and well at FOS. GN

Visit Fayetteville Outdoor Sports, 2908 Huntsville Hwy., Fayetteville, (931) 433–0006, or online at fayettevillecycle.com, and follow them on Facebook.

Everyone has a story. We would love to hear yours.

SINCE GOOD News launched, we have received more than 400 nominations for people to be covered. We're often asked how or why a story would get coverage in the magazine. The answer: YOU! Not only are the stories about local people, but they come from other local people, too! We base our magazine on submissions from our website.

#### How does a story get into Good News Magazine?

Nominate someone to be featured in Good News Magazine.

#### Step 1:

#### A reader submits a story idea on our website.

We're not looking for superstars or outlandish stories. We're looking for everyday people. We believe everyone has a story. A perfect submission includes a name, contact information, and a testimony on the person's character. Include what they do for work, the community, or their impact on family and friends.

#### Step 2:

#### We select stories based on relevance to our many themes.

We tell stories about local people. We've told stories about people ranging from first responders to school staff, including local officials, charities, volunteers, and others who have impacted our community. We cover about five people per magazine every month. Just because someone wasn't covered immediately doesn't mean they won't be covered in the near future.

#### Step 3:

#### Our team of writers and photographers reach out to plan a photo shoot and conduct the interview.

The Good News team continues to be inspired by the submissions and the stories we're given the opportunity to tell. In order to stay ahead of the volume of stories, we complete the story and photos several months before we go to print for that issue.

We believe that everyone has a story. Our writers are trained to find the good in everyone and are experts at telling positive stories. If we choose to include your story, a writer and photographer will be in touch! We read and review every submission! We thank you for your submission, and we can't wait to tell your story.

#### Do you know someone we should include in Good News Magazine?

Let us know with a submission at www.GoodNewsMags.com Or scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera:





As autumn's gentle embrace envelops the land, it's easy to find yourself drawn to the mesmerizing symphony of colors that unfold during the harvest season. The vibrant oranges, deep reds, and golden yellows of the falling leaves mirror the warmth of love within the community. Walk through local farms and smell the crisp air that carries hints of earthy sweetness. With each corn plucked and pumpkin gathered, we are reminded of the bountiful rewards that patience and nurturing can bring, and feel a deep connection of community growth and renewal.



## A harvest of

Richard and Shelley Lyon love setting the stage for your fall traditions and memories.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder and submitted by Lyon Family Farms

HE LOWER humidity and gentle breezes hint at the return of one of our favorite seasons. The earliest change in the leaves turns our thoughts to pumpkin patches, corn mazes, flannel shirts, and boots. These signs mark the return of autumn and the fall festival at Lyon Family Farms, but the memories we make there begin much earlier in the year.

Richard and Shelley Lyon begin preparations long before the first pumpkins grace the fields. A January trip to the Atlanta market to pick out gift shop items kicks off the work for each year's festival. While we're celebrating the summer holidays, the market order is coming in, and the gift shop is transforming for the changing season.

The Lyons are also busy during the early months of the year building new attractions for the coming festival during this time.



Shelley and Richard Lyon

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Tuck, Elizabeth, Scarlett, Georgia Rae, and Luke Lyon

Richard said, "We're doing this year-round. When we're down for regular farming, we try to make our additions to the pumpkin patch. We try to always go around the middle of March and take farm tours to get new ideas so we can try to have something new every year for the customers when they come back."

The fall festival is in its 18th year and continues to look for ways to provide things to do for all ages. Look for a new nine-hole putt-putt golf course this year.

"This year, we've also added a party barn for people to rent out a private space for birthday parties, church groups, and small groups. We have all the traditional things," he said. "We added a huge corn barn last year with 5000 square feet of corn. We're always trying to add new things to our gift shop [and] little things around the farm, such as Gaga ball, chicken trucks, and especially the animal pens. About 55 to 60 attractions are available at the farm, and all are included with your admission ticket. You don't pay anything extra when you come in except for your pumpkins, souvenirs, and food."

It takes a staff of around 150 people to keep things running smoothly for the event, including those necessary to operate the nine food stations. Many local students find seasonal employment throughout the year on the farm, adding to the value offered by the Lyon family.

Although it's hard work year-round when added to the working farm, the couple loves what they do.

"I like seeing people spending time with their families. I think we're both host persons at heart. Instead of being the one out there in the middle of everything, we want to be behind the scenes so that everybody else can have fun and provide a place for extra time with their families," said Richard.



BY JULY

Shelley adds another perspective.

"I love what Richard said, but my favorite thing is getting there before everybody else if I can, early in the morning, and just looking out over everything; how peaceful and quiet. It's in such a beautiful setting with the sun coming up over the farm, and everything is absolutely gorgeous. I love the outside — the trees, the ground, the grass — nature," Shelley said. "And I love seeing how everything comes together because I know what it came from when it started and how it started. It can be kind of a wreck right before we open, but within two or three days, everything just gets where it's supposed to be, and it's absolutely beautiful."

From families to school and church groups and everything in between, the fall festival is a staple in our memories, something we look forward to year after year. Being part of something that creates traditions is meaningful to the Lyons.

Richard said, "Part of what makes it rewarding is hearing those people saying, 'This is our fifth year to come camp here.' The kids are asking about it right now during the summer. That gives you a lot of good positive feedback. It helps when things aren't going right, something's broken, or somebody's not happy. That definitely helps."

Each year, the venue grows, and there's always more in store next year.

"We would love to be able to host larger events in the future. We have a stage at the farm and have had live entertainment on the weekends, and we've hosted some church events for youth groups. We've had multiple fundraisers at the farm and small youth revivals, and we really like that atmosphere where we can try to bless those around us with what God has blessed us with," Richard said.

The fall festival at Lyon Family Farms is more than a pumpkin patch; it's an autumn blessing! GN

This year's fall festival runs Sept 22-Oct 30. Follow Lyon Family Farms on Facebook for more information, or visit lyonfamilyfarms.com, call (931) 438-9938, or email info@lyonfamilyfarms.com.











# Honoring

The Lincoln County Fair and Emily Pitcock promote a legacy and life steeped in agriculture.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

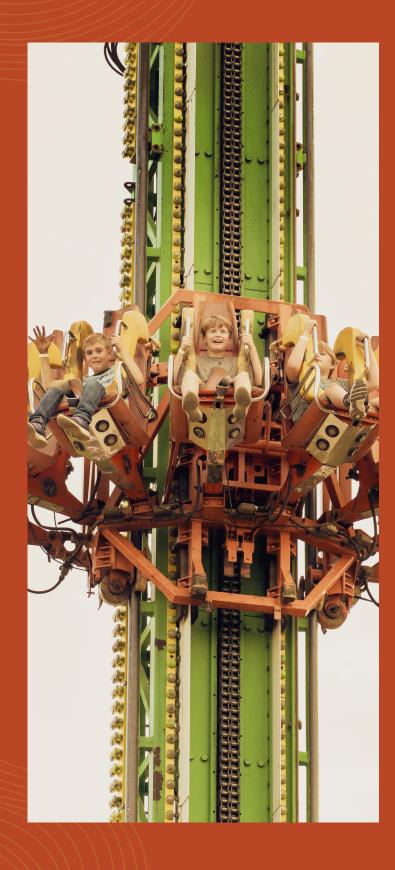
S SUMMER slowly surrenders to fall, the Lincoln County Fairgrounds welcomes the return of competition, community, and colorful midway excitement. Red, white, and blue buntings flutter as funnel cakes, cotton candy, and popcorn lure us in their direction. "Watch the top of the stretch, ladies and gentlemen... The starting gate heads this way... and heeeerrrrrrrre they come!" rings out from the harness racetrack. The Lincoln County Fair stands proudly as a bookend to summer and the return of fall.

The fair represents so much more than changing seasons for Emily Pitcock, who grew up attending the fair.

"My dad was a dairy farmer, and my sister and I showed Jersey cattle. We showed cattle in front of the grandstands, not in the barn," said Pitcock.

It's one reason she takes great pride in the livestock building.

"Our 4-H building has outgrown itself over the years. It's unreal how many entries are in that particular building and how many kids exhibit," Pitcock said.



"As a matter of fact, Lincoln County probably has the most 4-H and FFA exhibits other than the State Fair that's coming along now [in Wilson County]. There are usually 4-5,000 entries in the exhibit building."

There's a livestock legacy, with Lincoln County among the state's top livestockproducing counties. Young exhibitioners compete for cash prizes that they reinvest, ultimately creating funds for their future education and farms.

Pitcock said, "The fair promotes agriculture in Lincoln County, and it's a good wholesome event. Years ago, we weren't competing with anything, but there's so much that you're competing with in this day and time, and you have to be on your p's and q's to make sure you've got something for the 4-H'ers and FFA kids to participate in. It gives them something to look forward to, and they receive premium money."

Agriculture is a way of life for many, and the fair celebrates that legacy. It's thriving here while it's diminishing in other areas. Several factors contribute to the Lincoln County Fair's success. It thrives due to the involvement of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about creating a positive experience for the community. Additionally, the fair has a rich history dating back to 1904. Over the years, the fairgrounds have become a symbol of tradition and heritage, preserving our agricultural roots.

"I think it's a tradition. We are a farming area with so many farms in different communities. [Other areas in Tennessee] are going to suburban fairs; they're not actually in the county, and they don't have the agriculture and the livestock involved in a county fair," said Pitcock.

Pitcock's work with the fair began in 1967 as a front gate worker. She realized the fair



was a vacation for many families that could hardly afford the admittance, but less a trip away from home. Knowing they saved all year for the fair impressed upon her its value and place in the community's hearts.

She said, "I stayed at the gates until 1978 when I was asked to be secretary/treasurer of the [fair] association. From there, I was vice president and then moved to president."

Her passion for agriculture and the fair took her to the Tennessee Association of Fairs in 1992, where she was president in 1997 and executive secretary since 1999. She retired from the association this year. Today, she remains on the board of the Lincoln County Fair.

"The fair has been the main priority in my life, other than my family. It's a tradition that's been here year after year, and I can't imagine life without the Lincoln County Fair. There are a lot of people who don't realize what goes into putting on a fair. It's not just the week of the fair or cleaning up the week after; the planning and everything that goes into it." The Lincoln County Fair represents more than just a week-long event; it symbolizes the dedication to agriculture and the deep-rooted traditions of the community. Pitcock's lifelong commitment to the fair exemplifies the importance of preserving and celebrating our agricultural heritage. Her lifelong work inspires future generations to carry forward the fair's legacy, ensuring that it remains an integral part of the community for years to come. **GN** 





# in community

Pea Ridge Farm sows seeds of tradition and togetherness.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder





A Garrett Monks and Blake Bassham

S WARM summer days linger, thoughts and plans for returning fall traditions cool us, if only in our minds. We plan decorative porches with corn stalk bundles, pumpkin piles, and mums. We dream of lawns with skittering leaves of gold, red, and orange. We long for smores and hayrides bundled in flannel and hoodies. We can practically smell the woodsmoke and feel the firepit's warming flames as they light the faces of friends and family gathered around it.

These moments and memories are possible thanks to local producers like Pea Ridge Farm (PRF).

Blake Bassham and Garrett Monks partnered in 2019 and began their operations on 10 acres. Those 10 acres expanded to nearly 50 and are planted three or four times a year with farm-fresh produce nourishing the Lincoln County community.

Bassham said, "We started with farmers markets and had about five we would go to through the week. In 2021, we opened the market in Fayetteville."

PRF always offered delivery, but the pandemic created a demand for deliveries that nearly exceeded the staffing available. Deliveries skyrocketed from 50 per week to 600 and



sustained the business when the farmers markets could not open. In 2021, PRF opened a pavilion market, and they enclosed it later to create an indoor farmers market shopping experience.

"In spring of '23, we were given an opportunity to join forces with Ayers Farm Farmers Market in Huntsville, which has a very large clientele and has been open for [more than] 50 years, so we've rapidly grown over the past five years," said Bassham.

Their growth and availability of labor influence the availability of home deliveries, but the market is open about nine months out of the year for walk-in shopping. The goods offered change with the seasons, and each season is filled with the things that define the rhythm of our days. Spring brings hope on petals of fresh blooms and in the strawberries' sweetness. Summer's tomatoes, corn, squash, onions, and watermelon add freshness and nutrition to our meals. Fall's sweet potatoes will find their way into our holiday celebrations. And then Christmas opens an evergreenwreathed door to winter.



Bassham said, "Finally, you get to fall, and the weather starts calming down. You notice that it seems like everything calms down. You're not as pressed for everything, and we both really enjoy the fall time. We sell a lot of mums and sweet potatoes. Last year we did about six acres of sweet potatoes, and this year we cut it back to about 3 1/2. We'll grow about eight acres of pumpkins, and there will be a huge pumpkin display this year with pumpkins from the size of a golf ball to 200 pounds for purchase."

Our plans ease from fall into Christmas like slipping on a favorite sweater. Again, PRF is ready to supply us with everything we need for our traditional decorations and celebrations. Live Christmas trees, evergreen wreaths, and greenery bring an aroma home that is absent at all other times of the year. And both fall and winter at PRF offer great photo ops — another tradition that documents our lives.

"A lot of families come in year after year to get a Christmas tree. They do it because their parents took them to get a Christmas tree, so now their little children are experiencing the tradition of coming to pick out their Christmas tree to put in the house every year. So that's neat. We've done that for five years, so we've seen these kids grow older. That's what we hoped — to build a tradition that would stick for generations," said Bassham.

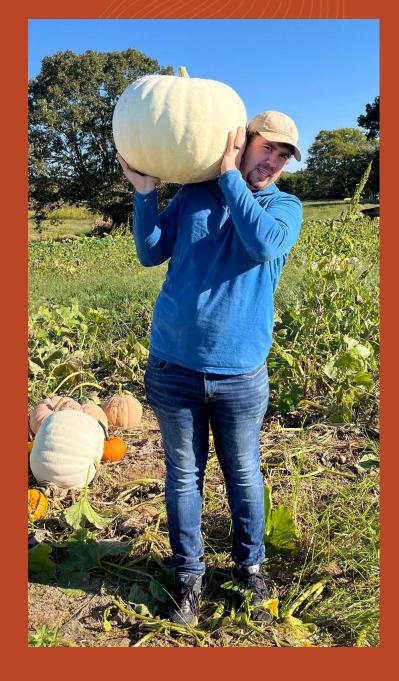
Bassham and Monks, and their staff work year-round to stock our pantries and provide our seasonal decorations.

"It's a very difficult lifestyle," said Bassham. "We work 80hour weeks a lot of times, especially during the middle of the year. It's a challenge sometimes."

The market is closed in January, February, and most of March, but they're still hard at work preparing for spring. They love what they do, and they love the Lincoln County community.

"We love Fayetteville. Fayetteville is just an awesome little place."

PRF serves as a thread, connecting the seasons and fostering a sense of community. These cherished traditions remind us of the simple pleasures found in the changing seasons and the joy that comes from coming together. PRF is more than just a place to buy produce; it's a symbol of resilience, unity, and the enduring spirit that makes Lincoln County home. **GN** 



FOF MOFE information: Follow Pea Ridge Farm on Facebook, or shop at 250 E. Prospect Rd., Fayetteville, (931) 993-7191.



## A taste of the harvest

#### Fall brings sweet treats and savory favorites

By Kali Bradford

UTUMN BRINGS a bounty of delicious foods to enjoy as the weather cools down. From sweet to savory, there are plenty of flavors to savor during the fall season. Nothing quite beats a warm apple cider doughnut or pumpkin spice latte for breakfast. As lunchtime rolls around, hearty soups and stews, like butternut squash soup or beef chili, become go-to options. Roasted root vegetables and savory pot pies are comforting and filling for dinner. Of course, no fall meal would be complete without a slice of warm apple pie or a pumpkin-spiced dessert. Indulging in these seasonal treats is one of the best ways to truly embrace the flavors of autumn. GN

#### Deep Dish Apple Pie Submitted by Virginia Campbell

6 tart cooking apples, peeled, cut in eighths 1c. sugar 1 stick butter, softened 1c. flour 1/4 c. brown sugar scoop of vanilla ice cream, optional

Place apple slices into a casserole dish. Cover apples with sugar. In a medium mixing bowl, blend together butter, flour, and brown sugar until it looks like meal. Spread this mixture over apples in the casserole dish. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Remove from oven and add a scoop of vanilla ice cream to hot pie if desired.

#### Wonderful Butternut Squash Soup Submitted by Nancy Morrison

2 lg. butternut squash, remove ends, cut in half lengthwise, remove seeds 6 slices bacon 2 onions, chopped 2 T. butter 3 c. chicken broth salt & pepper, to taste

Place cut side down on baking sheet and bake at 350° for about an hour. Fry bacon in a skillet, remove bacon, add onions to bacon grease. Add butter, saute until lightly brown. Blend all ingredients, cooked squash minus the skin, bacon, onions, and chicken broth in a blender. Heat in large pot or Crock-Pot, add salt and pepper and more chicken broth to get to the consistency that you prefer.



#### Hot Mulled Apple Cider

Submitted by Johnnie Baker

1/2 c. brown sugar 1t. whole allspice 1t. whole cloves 1/4 t. salt dash of nutmeg 1 cinnamon stick, 3 inches 2 gts. apple cider 8-10 orange wedges

In a saucepan, combine brown sugar, allspice, cloves, salt, nutmeg, cinnamon sticks, and cider. Bring to a boil. Remove all spices. In a large serving bowl, pour cider over orange wedges. Serve in mugs and place an orange wedge in each one for garnish.

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

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and his wife Kara mily started dairy been in Tennessee

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CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.





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Photography by Brooke Snyder

Davey Hines and Hannah Mathey

#### Riverside Christian Academy Varsity Volleyball Game - August 7







Photography by Brooke Snyder

On August 7, Riverside Christian Academy took on Boyd Christian School for the first varsity volleyball home game of the season for Riverside Christian Academy.







 1. Lacie Holder
 2. Livia Ragland and Jessica Peele
 3. Livia Ragland and Jessica Peele
 4. Livia Ragland and Jessica Peele

 5. Livia Ragland
 6. Greta David

#### Flower Arrangement Class - August 13





Photography by Brooke Snyder

Community members gathered in the the Fayetteville Arts Center classroom to learn the art of putting together beautiful floral arrangements. Hannah Faulkner, the co-owner of Roma Petals, hosted the workshop for anyone interested in making their own flower arrangements.





Hannah Faulkner and Cindi Bagley
 Flo Lewter
 Carla Johnson
 Theresa Currin, Laura Brown, Angelica Lightfoot, Bonnie Hereford, Cyndi Bagley, Carla Johnson, Amy Constantine, Hannah Faulkner, and Flo Lewter

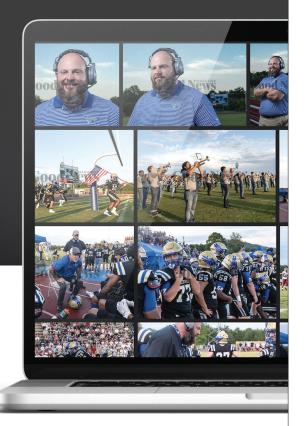
Scan the QR Code with your smart phone to see more photos from Good News. 100% of profits from purchased prints are donated back to the community through nonprofits.



**Jessica** Peele



## 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

#### September 16

10:00 am Next Steps: A Peek into Foster Care The Rock Family Worship Center 2626 Huntsville Hwy. Fayetteville

> This free informational meeting is for anyone interested in supporting foster families and children in foster care in one of many different ways.

The Rock Family Worship Center is providing childcare for up to 30 children who are 5 years old and under.

We ask everyone who plans to attend to register at alwaysendure. com/upcomingevents

#### 10:00 am Bank of Lincoln County Celebrating 20 Years Bank of Lincoln County 307 College St. E. Fayetteville

#### September 29

#### 9:00 am Camp Blount Volunteer Days

Camp Blount Historic Site 1124 Huntsville Hwy. Fayetteville

Free event. Student day is Friday, and public day is Saturday - historic demonstrations, period music, cannon firings, rifles, pistols, local archaeologist, and historic impressions.

#### October 7

#### 10:00 am First Saturdays

Fayetteville Main Street 100 Main Ave. N. Suite 1B Fayetteville

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



#### October 9

5:00 pm Bimonthly

Membership Meeting Fayetteville Lincoln

County Arts Center

303 Main Ave. S.

For current and

We socialize and network at 5 p.m. and handle light business

prospective members.

Fayetteville

at 5:30 p.m.

#### 10:00 am Recovery Fest

Stonebridge Park 44 Diemer Rd. Fayetteville

Come celebrate with the recovery court graduates. Vendors, food trucks, silent auction, attendance prizes, bounce house, and face painting.

#### October 14

9:00 am Creekside Fall Festival and Market McBurg Community Center 81 McBurg Rd. Frankewing

> Free event includes festival activities, vendors, and food trucks. Fun for the entire family.

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

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







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