

Good News

exchange

Our HEROES

Steve Carpenter

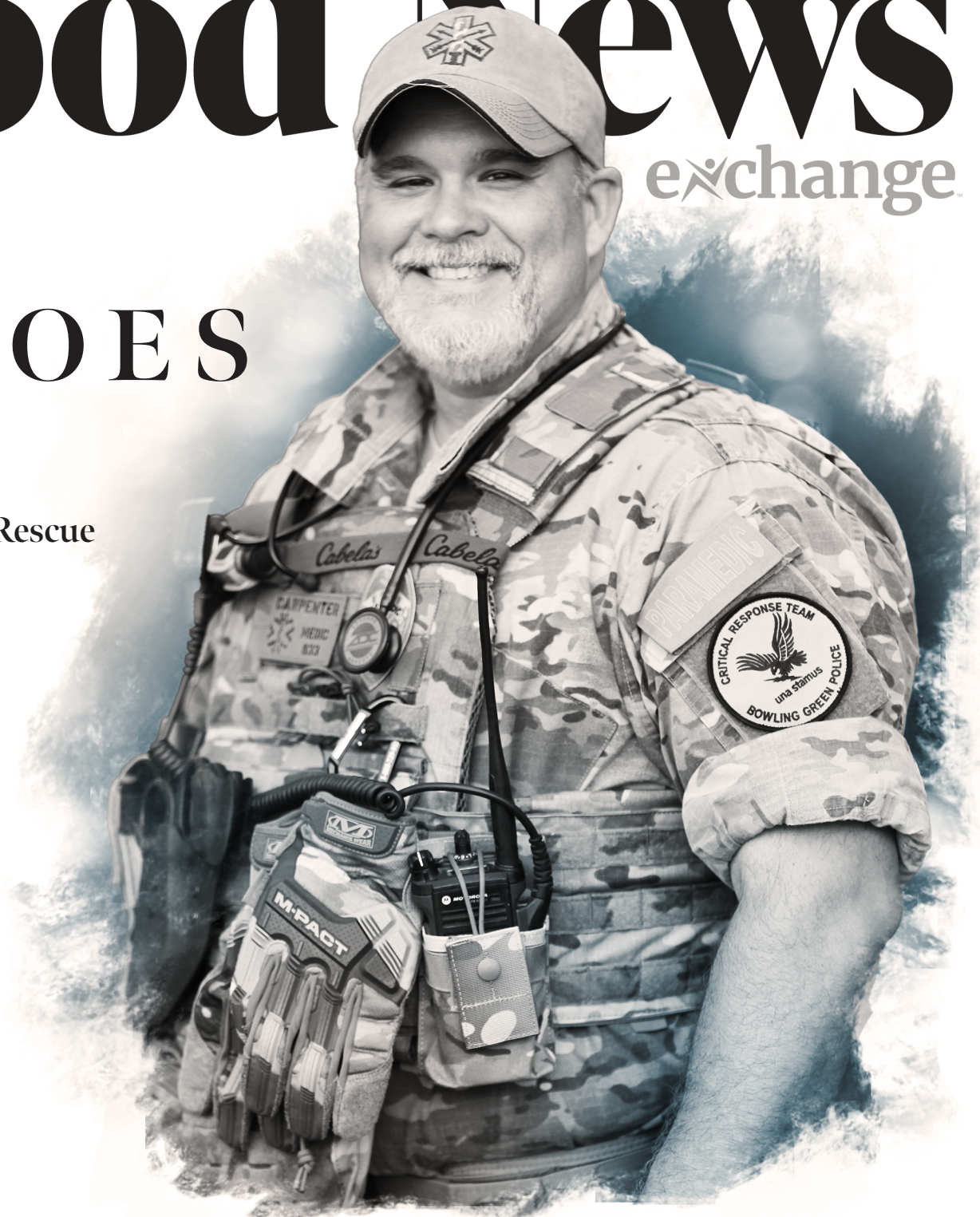
A Bowling Green
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Plus, Meet
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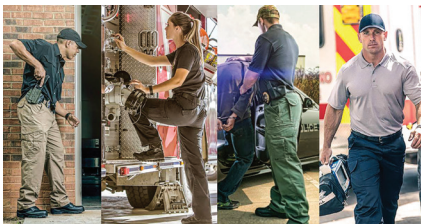
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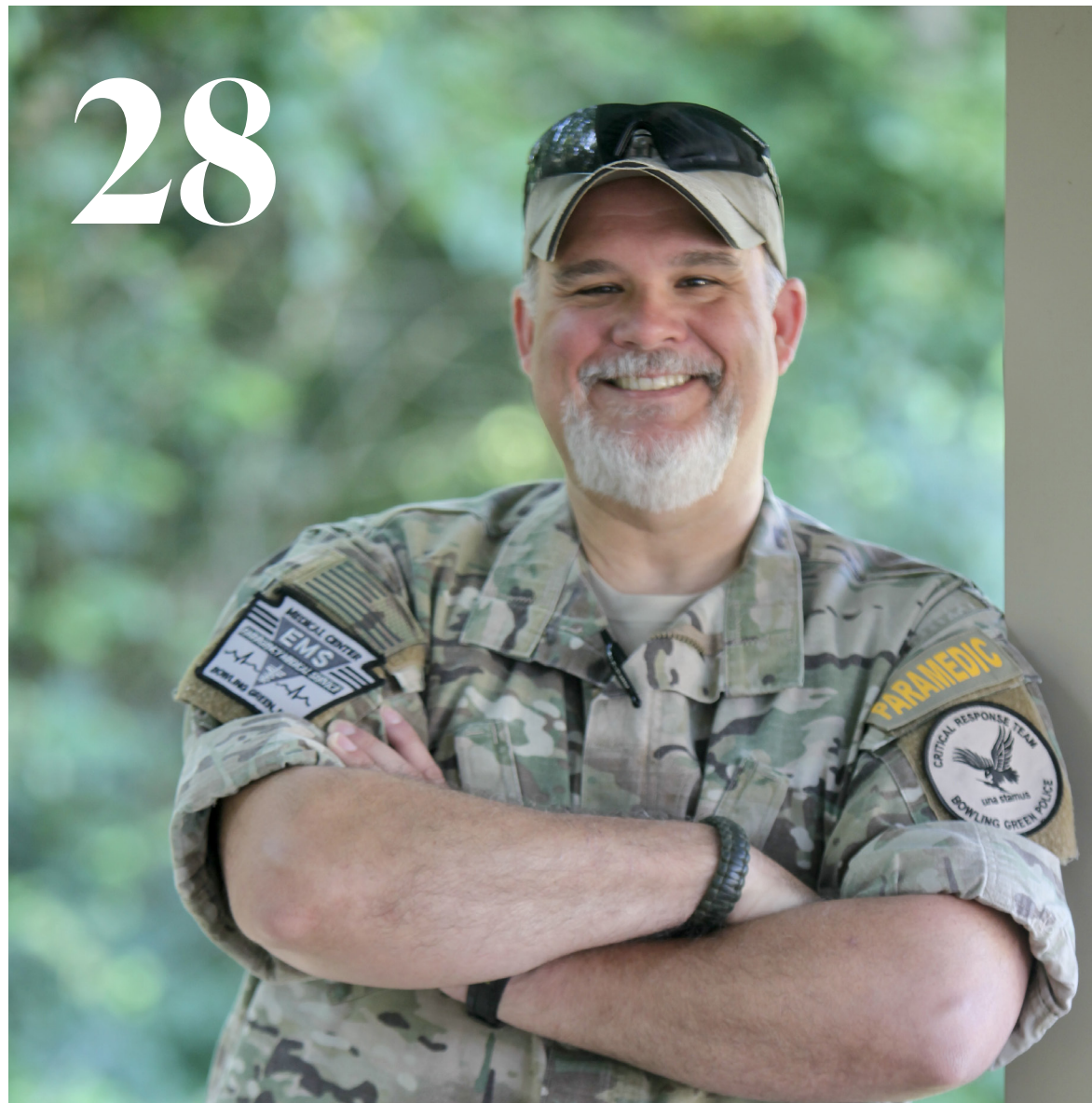
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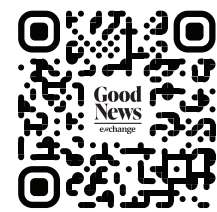
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Saluting Our Local Heroes

A Tribute to Courage and Community

WE ENCOUNTER unsung heroes who walk among us without recognition. They may not be wearing a cape and a mask, but they're a hero regardless. Their unwavering commitment to service and sacrifice makes our communities safer and more compassionate. They're the Batman to our Gotham and the Captain Marvel to our universe.

In these pages, you'll find stories that illuminate the courage, resilience, and selflessness of our local first responders and those who help them. These individuals are tirelessly dedicated to ensuring our well-being, often in the face of adversity. They are the reassuring voices on the other end of emergency calls, the steady hands that rush to accidents, and the compassionate hearts that offer solace in moments of crisis.


But this issue goes beyond spotlighting the heroes in uniform. It also sheds light on the incredible people who support and stand beside our first responders—the families, friends, and community members who pro-

vide the unwavering support and love that keep our heroes going.

The past few years have tested our communities and our country, but through it all, our local heroes have risen to the occasion, reminding us that hope and humanity will always prevail. They embody the true essence of community, where the well-being of one is the concern of all.

As you read through these stories of resilience, dedication, and unity, I hope you'll be as inspired as I am by the extraordinary individuals who call our community home. Our heroes don't wear capes, but their actions and unwavering commitment to the greater good make them shine brighter. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it Superman? No. It's someone better. It's our heroes, right here at home.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating "Our Heroes." May their stories serve as a beacon of hope and a reminder that even in challenging times, the strength of our community lies in the kindness and courage of its people. **GN**


Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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Photography by Amanda Guy

◀ Stephen Harmon

TRANSFORMING

LIVES

The visionary
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By Paige Cushman // Photography by Amanda Guy

REDUCING

RECIDIVISM



STEPHEN HARMON



FOR DECADES, the mentality around jails and criminal justice was “come in, serve your time, have ‘three hots and a cot,’” according to Warren County jailer Stephen Harmon. When it was time for an inmate’s release, regardless of what kind of financial, community, or family support they had, they were kicked out the door and expected to be successful.

“Go pay taxes, pay your child support, be employed, don’t break the law — all those things that society expects,” Harmon said. “But what we recognized is, we weren’t giving them any tools to help them do that.”

Thankfully, that mentality has shifted in the last seven to 10 years, Harmon said, especially to prepare inmates rather than just supervise and incarcerate. Harmon and his team are now on a mission to offer inmates in Southern Kentucky every tool to succeed.

At 18 years old, Harmon never intended on making law enforcement his career. It started as a part-time job as a sheriff’s office dispatcher in high school. Eventually, he climbed the ranks and, in 2017, was appointed Warren County Jailer. Since then, Harmon has become a driving force behind transformative programs aimed at reshaping the landscape of the criminal justice system.

“When I started here at the jail, there was one General Education Development program,” he said. “There were no other evidence-based programs. Nothing was really helping to prepare inmates for release.”

Recidivism is defined by the State Department of Corrections as a new felony committed within 24 months of release or a return to state custody based on a technical violation of supervision, according to the department. Harmon’s determination to reduce recidivism rates and provide inmates with opportunities for a better future led him to pitch the idea of Moral Recognition Therapy and other life skills programs for the Warren County Jail.

“Once I got in office and figured out, you know, what the job was and how many things that I was responsible for,” he said, “I started putting the plan in motion for some reentry efforts.”

Now, the jail offers six or seven evidence-based programs that get inmates time off their sentence and, more importantly, prepare them for reentry. Classes like anger management and parenting, moral recognition therapy, and new direction classes give them life skills to succeed outside of the confines of the correctional facility.

“We talk about barriers a lot — housing, employment, substance abuse, mental health, supportive or non-supportive family,” Harmon said. “We try to reduce the amount of those barriers as they make plans A, B, and C for reentering society. So that’s kind of what our mission is for reentry: to eliminate barriers that would bring you back into an incarcerated setting.”

This year, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that the state’s recidivism rate dropped to 27.15% — a historic

low. Now, over 1-in-4 people released from prison are committing new crimes. The reoffending rate back in 2017 was 44.56%, or almost 1-in-2.

"Our inmates come from all different life stories, and some of them are pretty tragic and horrific," Harmon said. "Obviously, we have to keep them safe and secure while they're here, but another responsibility of ours is to try and prepare them to be successful outside of these walls."

One of the most vital programs introduced by Harmon in 2017 was the inmate ID program, the first of its kind in Kentucky. The program has partnered with the circuit court clerk to provide inmates with identification documents, such as IDs, social security cards, and birth certificates. These documents may seem trivial to some, but they are critical tools for obtaining employment, housing, and societal stability for the formerly incarcerated.

"All those life documents that you and I take for granted, these folks may not have," Harmon said. "These are things you have to have to be employed — you have to rent a place and try and purchase a car."

Harmon actively pursued partnerships with second-chance employers, allowing eligible inmates to work in the community during the day and save money through a structured contract. This approach provides practical job experience and a source of income and instills a sense of responsibility and accountability.

Several inmates have been hired by second-chance employers and go to work in the community during the day. They have a contract requiring them to save money and are drug tested. They even partner with the bank to help them build savings accounts. Some inmates who aren't work-eligible yet work in the facility's laundry room or kitchen.

With the support of a dedicated team, Harmon and the Warren County Jail are actively transforming lives, one step at a time.

"It takes a lot of folks to make this place run, and certainly, I couldn't do anything without a great staff," Harmon said. "All of them together were able to make some big strides."

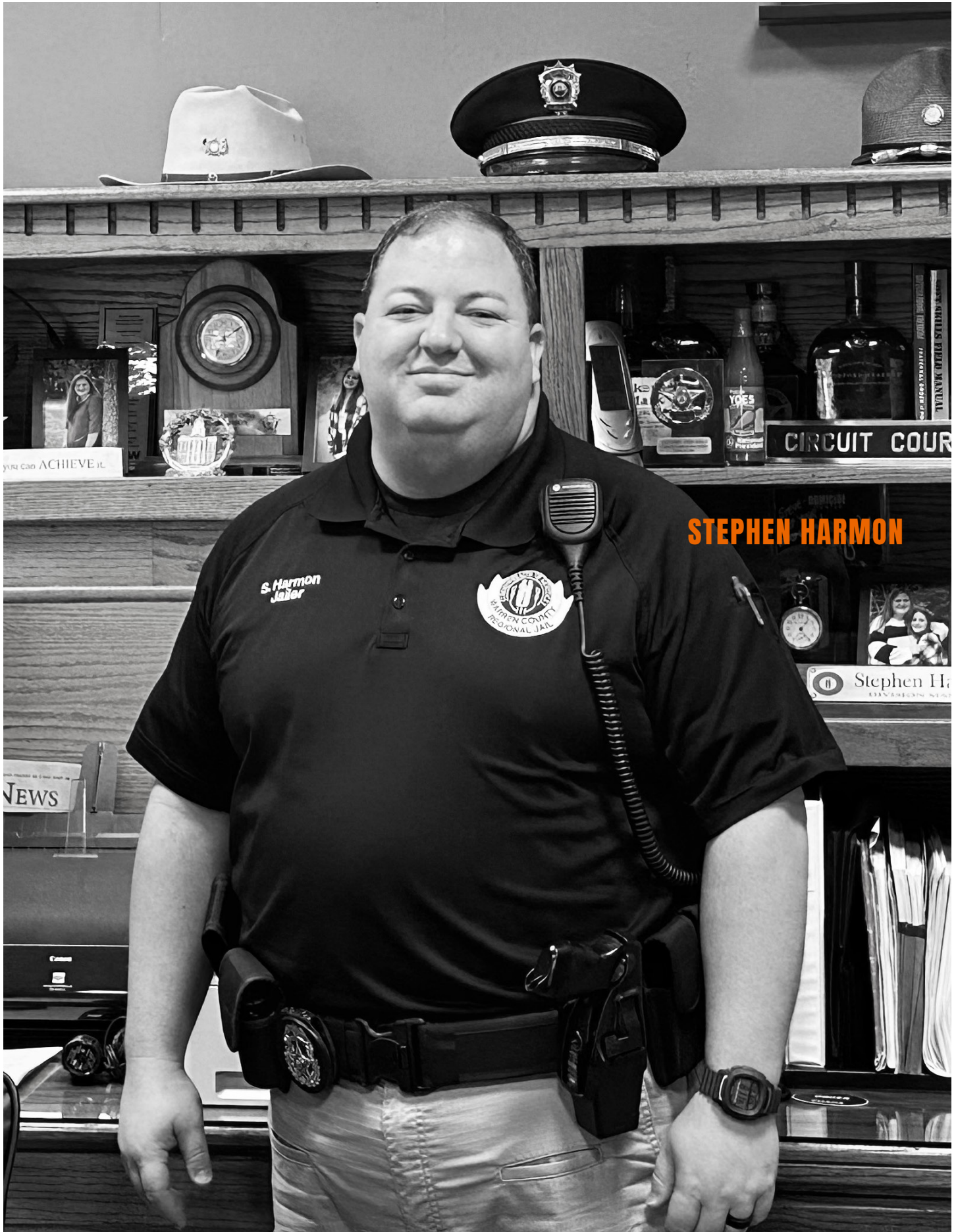
Governor Beshear highlighted that this year, the employment rate among those released from state incarceration has reached 57%, compared to 49% four years ago. Harmon's emphasis on equipping inmates with life skills and providing them with second-chance employment opportunities has contributed to that shift.

"In our business, sometimes you have to dig for the positive," Harmon said. "You have to dig a little deeper than in some other professions to find what keeps you going and motivating you. For me, I find it in the reentry efforts." **GN**

”

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-Stephen Harmon



STEPHEN HARMON

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▲ Aida Kurjack

AN UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT

A CAREGIVER'S JOURNEY FROM WAR-TORN BOSNIA TO BOWLING GREEN.

By Paige Cushman // Photography by Amanda Guy

IN THE midst of the Civil War, Aida Kurjack and her family left their war-torn homeland of Bosnia in the '90s, seeking refuge in Croatia before finding their way to the United States through Austria. Settling in Bowling Green, with virtually nothing, the Kurjack family faced an uphill battle, grappling with a new language, culture, and surroundings. Yet, they embraced the challenge with courage and determination.

When asked if she was afraid while moving to the United States, Kurjack's response is a testament to her indomitable spirit: "Scared for what? There was war [in Bosnia]. There was nothing. I lost everything. It was a new life here. I wish more people moving to the U.S. would think like me and my family."

Undeterred by the hardship, Kurjack and her family wasted no time getting to work. As she candidly puts it, "It was a very hard start, you know. But you have no choice."

Driven by a relentless pursuit of the American dream, they secured jobs and began intensively studying U.S. history, government systems, and the American culture. Their unwavering commitment bore fruit on May 21, 2004, when Aida, her husband, Mago, and their sons were granted American citizenship, a defining milestone in their journey.



▲ Aida Kurjack

Although she still carries a heavy Bosnian accent (it only adds to her charm), after 27 years here, Bowling Green is her home.

“I have nothing there since the war,” Aida said of Bosnia. “Bowling Green is home.”

Aida worked for Scott’s Tobacco Company and Morningside Assisted Living in Bowling Green for years before Scott’s Tobacco relocated, and she was referred to Charter Senior Living. It was easy for her supervisor at Morningside to give her a glowing referral.

“She doesn’t miss days, and she doesn’t get sick. She’s a machine,” Charter’s senior executive director, Jim Britt, said. “A wonderful, beautiful machine.”

Growing up in Bosnia, Aida lived with her grandparents, an experience that fostered a special bond with older adults.

“You know how it is with older people — like little kids, you know,” she said. “They’re close to my heart, like family.”

Aida works six days a week. If she takes a day off, she said she misses her residents. And

“CAREGIVER IS MORE THAN A JOB TITLE FOR AIDA; IT IS WHO SHE IS TO EVERYONE IN HER LIFE, AND TO BE IN HER LIFE IS A BLESSING FOR ALL OF US.”

JIM BRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHARTER SENIOR LIVING



▲ Aida Kurjack

she's never late to work, according to Britt. In fact, she's never late to anything. Why?

"I don't like people who are late," she said.

Not only punctual, resilient, and warm-hearted, Aida is fiercely loyal. As a caregiver, she forms close bonds with her residents, often staying with them until their passing. Even then, her care does not end.

"I always stay in touch with the family when a resident passes away," she said. "I get Christmas cards and birthday cards from the family saying they appreciate my care."

Aida's compassion extends far beyond the workplace; she quietly buys residents toiletries and gifts with her own money and visits people in the hospital during her personal time. She treats everyone like family — residents, colleagues, and even random writers calling for an interview.

You wouldn't know it by her warmth or contagious smile, but life's challenges have not spared Aida, even in the States. Two and a half years ago, her husband, Mago, affectionately known as "Big Man," passed away unexpectedly

from a massive heart attack. Despite the heartache, she was back at work seven days later, smiling through her tears and loving on coworkers and our residents, according to Britt.

"That's life," she said with a sigh. "I have my kids, my God-kids, and my grandkids. They're good kids."

Now blessed with two granddaughters and a grandson, Aida cherishes every moment spent with her family. One of her sons lives on the same street, and the other is just 12 miles away. She sees them almost every day. And beyond work hours, she devotes herself to caring for people, making food, delivering gifts, running errands, and showering her grandkids with love.

"I think the hardships in Aida Kurjack's life helped form her into the amazing woman she is today," Britt said before presenting Aida with the Kentucky Outstanding Caregiver of the Year award. "Caregiver is more than a job title for Aida; it is who she is to everyone in her life, and to be in her life is a blessing for all of us." **GN**



Emily Keeling, and her dog, Roscoe



Aida Kurjack and Jim Britt ▶



Laugh, love, and socialize

SKyPAC brings comedy and music for everyone to enjoy

By Sara Hook // Photography by Tommy Sprouse

A NEW CONCERT series is making waves in Bowling Green with the second edition of “Laugh and Love,” a night of R&B and comedy by The Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC). “Laugh and Love 2” brought the talent of “the comedian’s favorite comedian,” Earthquake, and platinum-selling recording artist Jon B to the community, as well as comedians Sweet Baby Kita and Zach Townsend as opening acts and Meech Dog as host.

The show is the creation of Horseman Entertainment owner Desmond Bell and SKyPAC Board of Directors member D.C. Clement. It started with just a few spon-

sored events, hosting comedian Rickey Smiley in April 2022 and Marvin Sapp this past January. With their success, they decided they wanted to make a series.

“The whole concept is to have comedy and music,” Clement said. “We want to bring somebody who’s up-and-coming in the comedy industry. We want an established comedian, and we want an established R&B person. So that’s kinda the blueprint for what we’re doing.”

The first “Laugh and Love” show featured comedians “Nephew” Tommy Miles and Bubba Dub and recording artist Lyfe Jennings. Clement said the second show diversified the performance.

“There’s been a lot of feeling that maybe the programming and things at The SKyPAC have not been as diverse in the past,” Clement said. “We’re just trying to change that mindset, and we’re also trying to bring [some] entertainment into this community that nobody else is bringing.”

Bell and Clement are well suited to organizing such an event, as Bell has been in the concert promotion and booking business for over 20 years, and Clement has worked with the campus activities board at Middle Tennessee State University. However, despite their experience, there is still no guarantee of success in organizing a new kind of entertainment in a community.

“It’s a big risk because these things do cost money,” Clement said. “But we, both of us, feel a responsibility to try and enhance our community.”

The community has supported the event in a big way, making it about more than just entertainment. Clement said it’s almost like a homecoming because so many people come.

“Before and after the show, it’s so cool to see people just kind of socializing and getting together,” Clement said. “It’s a great time to get out, socialize, and see your neighbors.”

Clement said you may see more than just your neighbors because people from other communities like Nashville, Glasgow, and Clarksville have come to enjoy the night as well. The large lobby and state-of-the-art auditorium that The SKyPAC boasts are perfect for that kind of community interaction, and the people who come get to see some of the art that Bowling Green has to offer.

“It is a beautiful facility and top-notch,” Clement said. “We want more people coming in there. We want more people to be exposed to the arts, and that’s really what we’re doing. Seeing that connection is always cool to see.”

The “Laugh and Love” show organizers are determined to keep bringing quality entertainment to Bowling Green in the future, with the simple hope that people will come out and have a great night.

“The success of the first one was good. We really hope each show gets better,” Clement said. “Hopefully, we’ll increase the level of talent we have in here.”

The SKyPAC will have plenty of opportunity to make that goal a reality as the “Laugh and Love” series continues. And it will continue as long as the community asks.

“We hope that people will keep supporting it,” Clement said. “If they keep supporting it, we’ll keep bringing it.” GN



“We hope that people will keep supporting it. If they keep supporting it, we’ll keep bringing it.”

-DC Clement

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Forget the scales. Get ready to plan your

holiday parties and dinners

By Tina Neeley

THANKSGIVING AND Christmas are getting closer, and it's time to plan for parties and get-togethers. Old standards served alongside new recipes on family buffets with family china, and finger foods and sweet treats on paper plates balanced on our knees are all welcome this time of year. The extra pounds, not so much. It's the closing months before New Year resolutions threaten our diets. Forget the scales and prepare for your next gathering with these seasonal favorites. **GN**



Easy Baked Turkey

Submitted by Martha Hemphill

1 turkey, dressed
salt, to taste
1/4 stick butter, softened
7 c. water
1/4 c. cooking oil

Rub salt over entire turkey inside and outside. Rub butter over entire surface. Place turkey in a roasting pan with water and cooking oil. Cover top with heavy foil and seal edges. Place in cold oven, turn heat to 500° and bake for 1 hour. At the end of the hour, turn heat off and leave turkey in oven overnight. Do not open oven door! By morning the turkey will be tender, and you will have enough broth for gravy and dressing.

Green Bean Casserole

Submitted by Emma Hardin

3 cans French style green beans
1 can water chestnuts
1 can cream of celery soup
1 pkg. sharp cheese, 8 oz., grated
1 can French fried onion rings

In a large mixing bowl, combine green beans, chestnuts, celery soup, and cheese. Pour into a casserole dish. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Top with onion rings before serving.

Pumpkin Pie

Submitted by Kristy Adams

3 c. pumpkin, cooked
3 lg. eggs
2 c. sugar
1/2 stick margarine
3/4 t. salt
2 t. nutmeg
1 t. butter flavoring
1 t. vanilla flavoring
2 pie shells, uncooked

In a mixing bowl, combine pumpkin, eggs, sugar, margarine, salt, nutmeg, butter flavoring, and vanilla flavoring; mix well. Pour into pie shells and bake at 350° for 1 hour.

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





Good Stories

CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 28** Our Heroes
- 30** Lifelong paramedic saves lives in Bowling Green
- 36** Taking care of our Veterans
- 42** Making a meaningful contribution

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Amanda Guy

◀ Dan Cherry



Our

HEROES



IN THIS edition of Good News Magazine, we proudly present a collection of stories that pay tribute to the unyielding courage and unwavering dedication of our local heroes — individuals who selflessly run toward danger, provide comfort in

times of crisis, and tirelessly give their all to protect and serve our communities. These are the stories of those who exemplify the true essence of heroism, whether it's offering a lifeline during emergencies, upholding the law, or simply lending a helping hand.

Join us as we shine a spotlight on their remarkable journeys and the selfless spirit that binds our communities together in times of need. These are the inspiring stories of our local heroes. We thank you for your contribution to our communities. **GN**

Lifelong paramedic saves lives in Bowling Green

STEVEN CARPENTER AND HIS TEAM WORK
IN THE AMBULANCE AND UNDER FIRE

PARAMEDICS ARE the heroes of every community, saving lives and providing care to patients and families across the country. In Bowling Green, one particular paramedic has gone above and beyond in his service to the community.

Tactical and community paramedic Steven Carpenter became a certified EMT in 1992 while working as a volunteer firefighter. Now, 31 years later, he is still doing the same job. For a paramedic, most of whom spend less than seven years in the field, this is particularly impressive. The reason, Carpenter said, is he sees paramedicine as a lifestyle.

“When I get a hold of something, I get really passionate about it, and I’ll live, eat, sleep, and breathe that thing,” Carpenter said. “That’s what happened with EMS.”

As a member of a volunteer service he could attend EMT classes for free and saw classes like vehicle extrication and confined space rescue as particularly fun. Eventually, he left the fire department to work full time as an EMT, but he and his co-workers still constantly found classes to take, so they attended one almost every free weekend.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEVEN CARPENTER

“Being in the EMS in Kentucky, we still had access to all the stuff that Kentucky Fire Rescue Training would offer,” Carpenter said. “We continued to take those classes and expand our knowledge and skill base.”

In 2002, he went to his first SWAT school in Virginia and became a board-certified tactical paramedic, encouraged by his supervisor at Med Center Health. It wasn’t only his love of learning that prompted that decision, however.



STEVE CARPENTER

"I felt like I needed to adapt my skill set to that new world that we were going to be living in."

- Steve Carpenter

"I'd already been in EMS for a while at that point and hadn't really given tactical medicine much of a thought, but after September 11, 2001, it's like, okay, the world has changed," Carpenter said. "I felt like I needed to adapt my skill set to that new world that we were going to be living in."

OUR HEROES



In fact, he is the only paramedic in Kentucky who is board certified as both a community paramedic and a tactical paramedic, as well as one of the few civilian tactical paramedics in the state.

"That's something I'm really proud of," Carpenter said. "I saw that opportunity to take those board examinations, and I was like, absolutely, I'm going to prove to myself that I know this job backwards and forwards, and I did that by passing those board exams."

While both tactical and community paramedicine fall under the umbrella of Emergency Medical Services, there are differences. The community paramedicine program works with patients with chronic illnesses, helping them manage their condition and keeping them out of the hospital.

With tactical medicine, Carpenter said the biggest difference is the environment. On a regular 911 call, a paramedic might sit with a patient, giving them treatment before or even instead of going to a hospital. Tactical paramedics, on the other hand, work in the field with law enforcement.

"We may not have that option to be able to sit where we are and get into in-depth patient care," Carpenter said. "We may have to just deal with immediate life threats at first, and then figure out how to get ourselves out [of] this situation that we're in and get this person to definitive medical care."

Now, Carpenter leads Medical Center EMS's Special Operations Medical Support Team as they work with local law enforcement, the Kentucky State Police, the FBI, and

OUR HEROES



viders,” Carpenter said. “The general public just doesn’t realize the capabilities that we have as paramedics.”

Carpenter said he hopes more service-minded people go into the business because there is a lot of good that comes from it.

“We’ve got a very serious job set that needs to be done, and there’s so much enjoyment that you can get from just helping people,” Carpenter said. “It’s been a wonderful thing to have that opportunity.”

While he doesn’t want to retire, Carpenter said the job takes a physical toll, and he knows his time on the street is limited. Currently, he is working on a bachelor’s in emergency and disaster management and plans to get a master’s in public health as well. Still, he doesn’t know what will happen when he leaves EMS.

“The future’s always changing. The only constant I see in it is me and my wife taking whatever that journey is together,” Carpenter said. “Wherever God leads us, that’s where we’re going to go.” GN

“The future’s always changing. The only constant I see in it is me and my wife taking whatever that journey is together. “Wherever God leads us, that’s where we’re going to go.”

- Steve Carpenter

the American Federation of Teachers. He said the best part of the job is the camaraderie he gets to build with that team, as well as the help he gets to provide to families every day.

“You work shoulder to shoulder with these folks during some very stressful times,” Carpenter said. “There’s nothing like forging relationships on that anvil of adversity.”

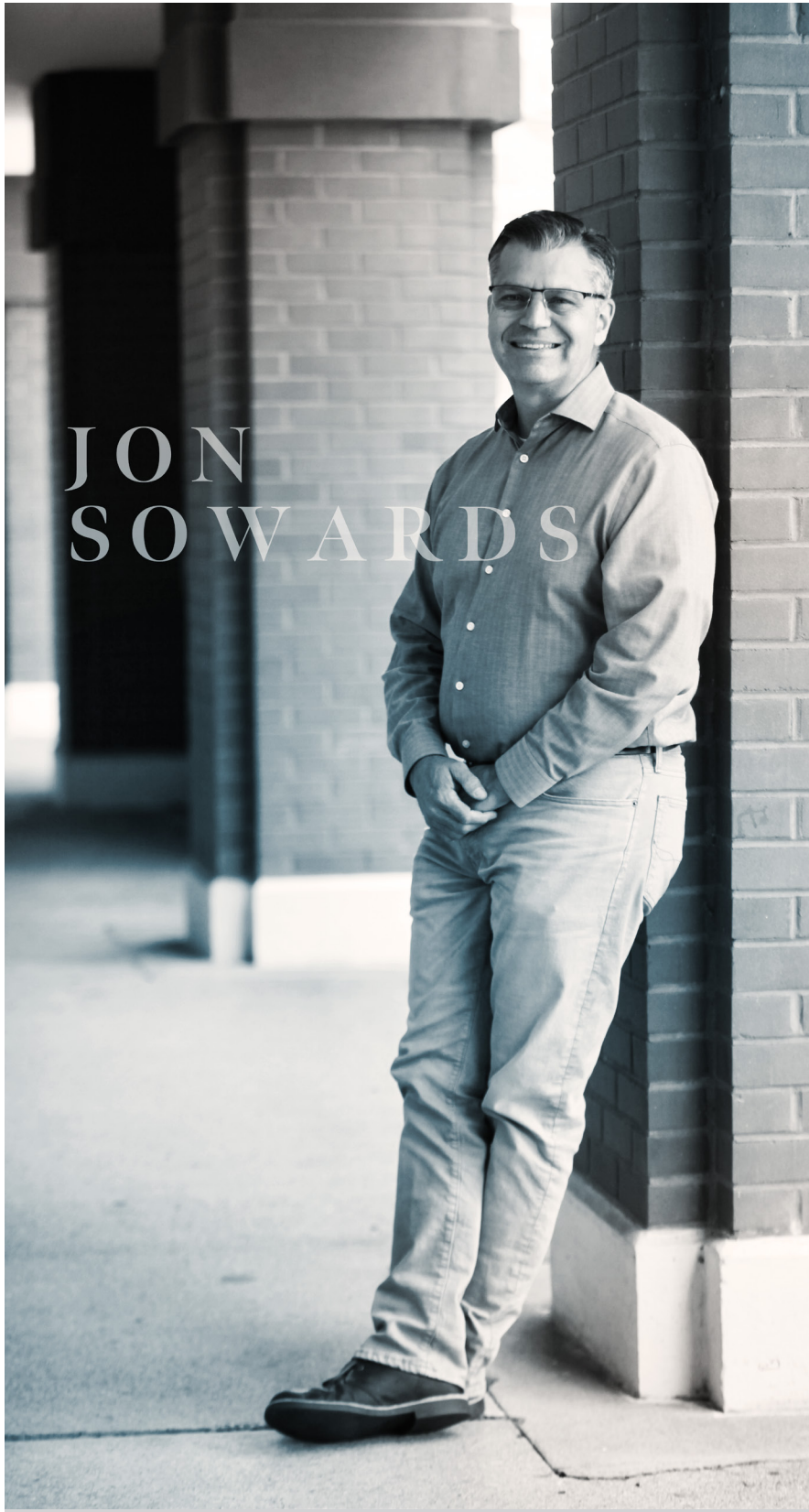
Carpenter’s team doesn’t just work with the police, however, as they are all paramedics first. They still run 911 calls, transfer patients between hospitals, take nursing home residents to doctor appointments, and work special events and sports games, among other things.

“We’re more than just a ride when we come on that 911 call. Paramedics are highly, highly skilled pre-hospital care pro-









Taking care of our Veterans

SUPPORTING VETERANS
IN BOWLING GREEN
AND BEYOND

SOMETIMES, POSITIVE change in a community starts with helping just one person. The South Central Workforce Development Board's new program, Kentucky Vet Connect, is a perfect example of this, as it works alongside service members at Fort Campbell and beyond, helping them transition to a civilian workforce after retiring or exiting the military.

The essence of the program is connecting veterans to employers in the Bowling Green area. Service members who get involved receive a profile and social media presence that Kentucky Vet Connect sends to employers in the area, and the employers reach out to connect with anyone they are interested in.

A program like this is essential, said development board CEO Jon Sowards, because many soldiers have been in the military since they were 18, and transitioning to a civilian workforce can be difficult and scary.

"These folks have all raised the right hand and given part of their lives to serving this country, and we owe it to them to help them transition back into civilian life," Sowards said. "We want to play our part and make sure that the employment aspect of that transition is as smooth as possible."

OUR HEROES

Sowards himself is a veteran, as is Michael Dailey, a member of the team stationed at Fort Campbell. Dailey said part of the job for him is paying forward the blessings he's had because he didn't have this kind of support when he retired.

"It was a little difficult for me to get back into the workforce and understand what it takes to transition from military to civilian work," Dailey said. "I'd rather see a soldier not struggle like I had to at one point in life."

Dailey is the one who sits down with transitioning soldiers, helping them with their resumes, interviews, or any questions they might have. At his office, they can upload information about themselves and any resume up to six months before their end date, so Kentucky Vet Connect can showcase them as best as possible.

"We're a one-stop shop for a transitioning soldier," Dailey said. "It's a fairly simple, quick, and easy process."

Once their information and resume are ready, the development board vice president, Leslie Witty, creates each client's profile. The profile shows civilian employers how highly qualified many soldiers are, as they often have degrees and certificate training alongside their varied skill sets. Witty was the one who came up with the program at the beginning and said the process was so simple to encourage both employers and veterans to get involved.

"They can start learning about career opportunities in this region because there are so many. And it's such a good place to live, [and] such a good place to work," Witty said.

Kentucky Vet Connect began this year, but it has already started to make a difference in people's lives. There is a tremendous benefit to the veterans coming to the Bowling Green area.

"It's going to help our employers; it's going to help our community," Sowards



"We're a one-stop shop for a transitioning soldier. It's a fairly simple, quick, and easy process."

- Michael Dailey

OUR HEROES



OUR HEROES



said. “We have thousands of job openings that need to be filled, and we want to tap into these very talented, exceptional service members.”

As part of a workforce development board, Kentucky Vet Connect has plenty of opportunities and connections available, and that number is continually growing. Witty said they hope to serve veterans across Kentucky long term, not just those coming from Fort Campbell.

“We were very intentional with calling it Kentucky Vet Connect, not just South Central Kentucky Vet Connect, because we think there’s potential to do this across the state,” Witty said. “There’s no reason why we couldn’t at some point.” **GN**

“It’s going to help our employers; it’s going to help our community. We have thousands of job openings that need to be filled.”

- Jon Sowards



Making a meaningful contribution

VETERAN DAN CHERRY: PRESERVING HISTORY AND IMPROVING BOWLING GREEN

IF YOU'VE been to the Kentucky Transpark, the Aviation Heritage Park, or the Railpark and Train Museum, you've seen the work of Dan Cherry. With his time as a veteran, his work with Operation PRIDE, and his drive to improve Bowling Green, Cherry can undoubtedly be labeled a hero of the community.

While he has an incredible family history, his grandfather being Henry Hardin Cherry and the founder of Western Kentucky University, Cherry's own history is impressive in its own right. Since he grew up with an aerospace engineer as a father, Cherry spent his childhood around military aircraft and airports.

"I just remember all of these really cool airplanes flying over our house all the time, and also all of the great airplanes that my dad worked on," Cherry said. "I knew which models of airplanes that he was concentrating on at the time, and it was all just fascinating to me."

His love of planes prompted Cherry to join the Air Force while in college, where he qualified as an aviation cadet and received his commission and wings a year later. He spent 29 years in the service, ending his time as a fighter pilot with the rank of brigadier general. After he retired and moved to Bowling Green, Cherry worked as an asset manager for Med Center, the Secretary of Justice under Governor Patton, and as one of the founders of the Kentucky Transpark, which has grown continually over the past several years.

OUR HEROES



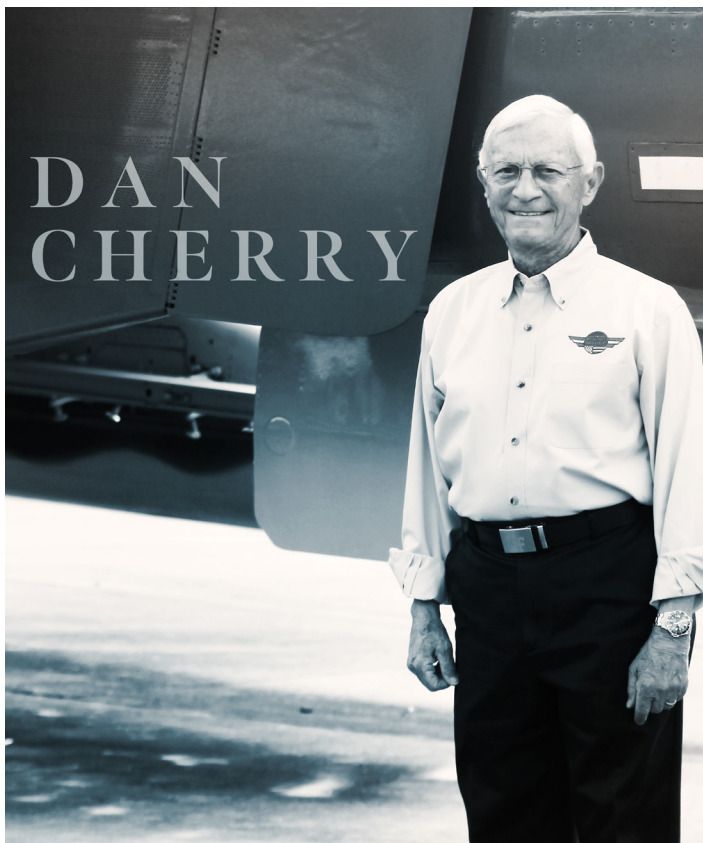
“That makes me proud right now to look out there and see what all has happened at the Kentucky Transpark,” Cherry said. “I’m very thankful that I had the opportunity to be on the ground floor of that.”

Cherry was an integral part of several programs and initiatives in Bowling Green, including the Aviation Heritage Park. As an Air Force veteran himself, it makes sense that he would be closely involved in the park’s construction, but the ties go deeper than that. One of the planes at the park happens to be Cher-

ry’s own F-4D Phantom II, which he flew in Vietnam. After a trip to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, Cherry and his friends found the plane by happenstance. The plane was sitting neglected outside a VFW club, and they were determined to find it a new home. Cherry said creating a home in Bowling Green was the last thing on their minds, but as they researched what they could do, they realized there was an excellent opportunity to share the city’s history.

“All these wonderful things weren’t accomplished by somebody from the other side of the world – they lived right here.”

- Dan Cherry





"We discovered that our little town of Bowling Green, Kentucky has an amazing aviation heritage."

- Dan Cherry

"We discovered that our little town of Bowling Green, Kentucky has an amazing aviation heritage, and most of those wonderful stories of those amazing people had been lost in history," Cherry said. "If we could get this plane, restore it, and put it on display somewhere, then it could kind of be the cornerstone of the educational facility to keep these stories alive and also to inspire the younger generation — and that's exactly what we've been able to do."

The park tells the stories of 10 pilots who went to Western Kentucky University, grew up in Bowling Green or the surrounding area, and displays several historical aircraft. With the opening of the museum, the space will become even more available for community use and enjoyment. Cherry said the hope is that the younger generation will learn that great things are possible for them.

"All these wonderful things weren't accomplished by somebody from the

other side of the world — they lived right here,” Cherry said. “Hopefully, learning more about them will be an inspiration to young people, realizing that yes, they need to shoot for their dreams too, just like these older folks.”

The park will continue to be an important asset for Bowling Green, and Cherry said he sees even greater things in its future.

“I think everybody will be proud of what they see, and I think all the citizens of Bowling Green who have supported Aviation Heritage Park over the years, everybody who’s attended our hanger parties annually... when they look at that building both inside and out they’re going to be proud of it, too.”

While those are large and impressive projects, Cherry was involved in many others under the banner of Operation PRIDE. Since its establishment in 1993, the organization has renovated the historic train depot, planted hundreds of trees, and established several programs and initiatives that continually improve the appearance of Bowling Green and Warren County. Cherry was an integral part of that initiative at the very beginning, as his experience in a similar role on an Air Force base allowed him to take on the role of executive director and run the day-to-day work. The depot, especially, has become a true community asset, and Cherry said he is thrilled at how much it has grown and how much it has become part of the community.

Cherry said he is proud of his service and accomplishments in Bowling Green.

“The thing I’m most positive about is being able to live in this great town and enjoy it and hopefully make a meaningful contribution to it and its future.” GN



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DAN CHERRY





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back to the community through nonprofits.*



How the Good News Magic Happens: From Submission to Print

How does a story get into Good News Magazine?

Nominate someone to be featured in Good News Magazine.

Since Good News launched, we have received hundreds of nominations for people to be covered. Ever wondered how a story finds its way into the pages of our magazine? Well, the answer is simple: it's all thanks to you! Not only are the stories about local people, but they come from other local people, too! Here's a glimpse into the journey of how stories come alive in Good News Magazine.



Step 1: The submission process: goodnewsmags.com

We believe that everyone has a story worth sharing, and we rely on our readers to help us discover these extraordinary individuals. Submissions are made through our website and include the following details:

- A nominee's name
- Contact information (phone and email)
- The reason for the submission, along with why they qualify as a "Good News" story. This may include their contributions to the community, impactful deeds, family life, occupation, and more.
- We're not looking for you to write the story or find a superstar. We believe everyone has a story, and we only need relevant information. Our writers will do the rest!

Step 2: Selection and theme assignment

We tell stories about local people and what they are doing to make a difference. We have told stories about charities, medical staff, volunteers, school staff, and your next-door neighbor. Again, everyone has a story. While we feature six remarkable individuals in each issue, keep in mind that our production schedule is planned months in advance. So, if someone isn't featured in the upcoming issue, there's still a chance they'll be highlighted in the future. We keep all submissions on file for potential use.

Step 3: Interviews and photo shoots

Once a story is selected, our talented writers and photographers swing into action. We continue to be inspired by the stories submitted to us, and we complete the interviews and photo shoots several months before the issue goes to print. Our writers may conduct interviews via phone or video chat, while others prefer in-person meetings with the individuals behind the stories.



What's next in Good News Magazine?

Currently, our dedicated team of magazine writers and editors is hard at work crafting stories under themes like “Home for the Holidays,” “Hometown Healing,” and “From the Heart.” We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is “Charity Spotlight.”

What we seek in Charity Spotlight stories:

Do you know a couple in your community who overcame adversity and decided to extend a helping hand to others facing similar challenges? Perhaps there's a group that stepped up to support local businesses during the pandemic. Or maybe you're aware of countless charities making a positive impact in the community. Behind each of these organizations, there are individuals who drive their mission, founded them, or have been profoundly touched by their work. These are the people and stories we're eager to showcase in our upcoming Charity Spotlight issue.

Do you know someone who deserves to be in Good News Magazine?

Let us know with a submission at www.GoodNewsMags.com or scan the QR code. Share your stories with us, and let's continue spreading the Good News together.







Good Times

CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

52 Community Events

56 Events Calendar

58 Advertiser Index

Submit a positive story
on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photo submitted by Bowling Green Chamber of
Commerce and White Squirrel Brewery

◀ White Squirrel Brewery re-opening

White Squirrel Brewery - Sept. 22



Photos submitted by Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce and White Squirrel Brewery

White Squirrel Brewery reopened its doors on September 22. Co-owners Sean Stevens and Brian Mefford, have breathed new life into the former Gasper Brewing space even incorporating salvaged wood from the tornado cleanup of 2021.



Chamber of Commerce “Let’s Do Lunch” - Oct. 3



Photos submitted by Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce

The event was held at Toro Bowling Green and left attendees with smiles and cherished memories. Community members turned out for the event, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere that emphasized the sense of togetherness that makes the “Let’s Do Lunch” gatherings a local favorite.



Fiesta Luncheon - Sept. 29



Photos submitted by Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce

The community's chamber of commerce came alive with vibrant colors, music, and a contagious spirit of gratitude as they hosted a fiesta luncheon to honor their dedicated volunteers. This event was a heartfelt celebration of the passion and commitment these volunteers bring to every chamber event, networking night, and community project.





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
exchange

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 21

10:00 am Reptile and Exotics Show
Sloan Convention Center
1021 Wilkinson Trace
Bowling Green

Vendors will be bringing a fantastic variety of beautiful animals! This is also a great place to stock up on feeders, supplies, and much more. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Age 4 and under are free.

1:00 pm BG Bourbon and Brewfest
Bowling Green Ballpark
300 8th Ave.
Bowling Green

The festival features numerous bourbons and craft beers to sample. Retail vendors set up pop-up shops and “brew” related items for visitors to purchase. This is a 21 and older event.

4:00 pm Disney Trunk or Treat
SOKY Fairgrounds
940 Morgantown Rd.
Bowling Green

5:30 pm Fall Festival
Lakeview Fellowship
4550 Smallhouse Rd.
Bowling Green

Games, pumpkin painting contest, and an outreach station where our kids will be making reverse trick-or-treat bags to give away.

October 22

1:00 pm Pumpkin Festival
Jackson's Orchard
1280 Slim Island Rd.
Bowling Green

Every weekend before Halloween. Wagon rides, pumpkin patch, corn maze, pick-your-own apples, petting zoo, pony rides, straw castle, face & hair painting, moonwalk, goat ranch, and the cider slider, our children's slide.



October 23

11:00 am **Storytime for All**

Lisa Rice Library
1225 State St.
Bowling Green

Your child will grow social, emotional, and motor skills while attending this weekly program designed for a wide range of ages.

October 27

9:00 pm **Illiterate Light Girl Tones**

Tidball's Sounds & Spirits
522 Morris Alley
Bowling Green

Tickets are \$7-\$10.
For tickets contact
www.eventbrite.com.

November 9

8:00 am **Corvette Experience**

NCM Motorsports Park
505 Kimberlee Dr.
Bowling Green

Must be 18 years or older with a valid drivers license. Call (270) 781-7973 for more information.

5:30 pm **Western Kentucky University – Hilltopper Excellence Awards**
Knically Conference Center
2355 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green

Celebrating the outstanding achievements of our esteemed WKU alumni and dedicated benefactors. \$100 individual ticket and \$1000 sponsored table of 8. Please register by November 1.

For more events and to submit an event visit:

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



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Firehouse Subs	60	Southern Lanes	5
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Home For The Holidays

ISSUE 4 2023

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The Learning Curve

ISSUE 3 2024

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Mailed to Homes.....	3/14/24



Hometown Healing

ISSUE 5 2023

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Advertising.....	12/7/23
Mailed to Homes.....	12/23/23



Shop Local

ISSUE 4 2024

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Mailed to Homes.....	4/18/24



From the Heart

ISSUE 1 2024

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Vacation in Bowling Green

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Charity Spotlight

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Advertising.....	2/1/24
Mailed to Homes.....	2/15/24



Independence

ISSUE 6 2024

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Advertising.....	6/6/24
Mailed to Homes.....	6/20/24



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Email me at mark@goodnewsmags.com

ation that comes celebrating. Dairy is father Steve, his and his wife Kim only earned dairy been in Tennessee milk is a way to celebrate the success. It's not many people average, high-performers do a lot of in terms of raising rate of cattle, being broken, and more.

is your daily The Nash family of 2020. "We'd d



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Sautéed steak with Provolone, topped with sautéed onions, bell peppers, mayo, mustard and a dill spear on the side.

ENGINEER®

S \$5.99 | M \$8.99 | L \$12.99

Smoked Turkey Breast with sautéed Mushrooms and melted Open-Eyed Swiss, served Fully Involved® (mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, deli mustard, and a pickle spear on the side).

FIREHOUSE HERO®

S \$6.19 | M \$9.16 | L \$13.19

Premium roast beef, smoked turkey breast, Virginia honey ham, and melted provolone, served Fully Involved® (mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, deli mustard, and a pickle spear on the side).

NEW YORK STEAMER®

S \$6.19 | M \$9.16 | L \$13.29

Corned beef brisket, pastrami, melted provolone, mustard, mayo, and Italian dressing.

SMOKEHOUSE BEEF & CHEDDAR BRISKET®

S \$6.95 | M \$10.95 | L \$13.99

Smoked beef brisket, melted cheddar, BBQ sauce & mayo with a dill pickle spear served on the side.

SPICY CAJUN CHICKEN

S \$6.39 | M \$8.99 | L \$12.99

Grilled, Cajun-seasoned chicken breast, jalapeños, melted pepper jack cheese, lettuce, onions, deli mustard, and our housemade Cajun mayo.

JAMAICAN JERK TURKEY

S \$5.99 | M \$8.99 | L \$12.89

Smoked Turkey Breast Topped with Jamaican Jerk seasoning, Pepper Jack Cheese, Mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, and Jamaican Jerk sweet mustard sauce

BUILD YOUR OWN SUB

Served hot, or make it cold.

Choose your protein, bread, cheese, veggies, and condiments.

Try it Fully Involved® with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo and deli mustard

SMOKED TURKEY BREAD

\$8.99

VIRGINIA HONEY HAM

\$8.69

GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST

\$8.99

PASTRAMI

\$8.99

ROAST BEEF

\$8.89

CORNED BEEF

\$8.89

TUNA SALAD

\$8.79

A blend of tuna, relish, mayo and black pepper with provolone. Served cold.

VEGGIE

\$8.79

Caramelized onions and green bell peppers savory mushrooms, Provolone, cheddar, Monterey Jack, lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, deli mustard, and Italian dressed

All subs and extras also available in small and large sizes.

EXTRAS

Extra Cheese 95¢

Add Bacon \$1.50

Add savory mushrooms 90¢

Gluten-free roll \$2.49

KIDS' COMBOS

Choose Meatball, Smoked Turkey Breast, or Virginia Honey Ham with Provolone, or Grilled Cheddar Cheese **\$5.99**

Served with 12 oz AHA! flavored water, dessert, and a kid-sized fire hat

SALADS

All salads start with Romaine; diced tomato, green bell pepper, and cucumber, Mozzarella; and choice of dressing

HOOK & LADDER SALAD®

Smoked turkey breast and Virginia honey ham **\$9.79**

ITALIAN WITH GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD®

Grilled chicken breast and Genoa salami **\$9.79**

FIREHOUSE SALAD®

Smoked turkey breast, Virginia honey ham, or grilled chicken breast **\$9.79**

NO MEAT

\$7.79



Tina Boling

Local Owner Operator



Thanks to supporters like you, FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION has awarded millions of dollars worth of lifesaving equipment and resources to fire, police and public safety organizations across the country.

Prices vary by location

www.firehousesubs.com

