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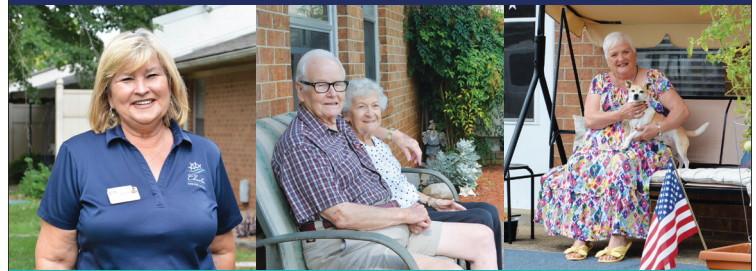
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Heartwarming stories at home

Experience the good this holiday season

LIKE THE cozy warmth of a heated blanket, Good News and the holidays are in the air once again. The season of festive lights, crackling fireplaces, and familiar carols is upon us, inviting a sense of togetherness that warms the soul. As the vintage Christmas record spins on the player and marshmallows swirl in steaming hot chocolate, it's a time when family and friends gather to create lasting memories.

Home for the holidays is a special feeling. It's the time when loved ones from far and wide journey back home, coming together to share in the glow of holiday decorations. Volunteers wrap gifts for those in need, schools close their doors, and students anticipate a well-deserved break. Whether or not the snow graces our Christmas Day, the spirit of peace and love is ever-present.

In this holiday season, we want to celebrate those who elevate the holiday experience for everyone. Our community is filled with stories of love, generosity, and second chances, and Good News is here to share them. As you navigate your own traditions this season, we encourage you to share the love, positivity, and good news with our community. It's the best gift we can give one another. Grab the blanket, start the fire, and pour the hot coffee. It's time to go home for the holidays.

From all of us at Good News Magazine and Exchange Media Group, we extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. May your year conclude with joy, and together, let's spread happiness and goodwill throughout the world. GN


Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

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Good Living

CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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The perfect mix
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BG OnStage
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cared for
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Photography by Tommy Sprouse

◀ Natasha Neely





Duncan Hines and

‘Dolly.’

The perfect mix.

‘I believe in spreading joy and happiness.’

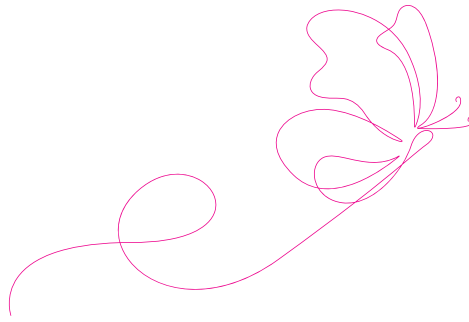
By Amanda E. West // Photography by Tommy Sprouse

NATASHA NEELY doesn't just work "9 to 5" to make a living. And like most of us, she didn't start her first job at 15. Neely was 3!

“There was a hometown country music show in Owensboro, where I grew up, called Goldie's Best Little Opryhouse in Kentucky. My parents signed me up to sing on a Friday open mic night, and I was hooked! I was asked by Goldie, the owner, emcee, and star of the show, to be part of the regular cast, and I performed every weekend until she closed the Opryhouse in 2008.”

Neely has performed at prestigious locations, including The Country Tonite Theater in Pigeon Forge, Dollywood, Hersheypark, and Music City on Stage at Barbara Mandrell's former home, The Fontanel Mansion. She spent eight years cruising the Cumberland River and entertaining guests on the General Jackson Showboat. She opened twice as an accomplished singer, dancer, and emcee for country legend George Jones. Neely even shared the stage with Louise Mandrell in her Christmas show at Gaylord Opryland Resort. With this impressive resume, Neely also finds time to perform regularly at the Music City staple, The Nashville Palace, and the world-famous Wildhorse Saloon.

Natasha Neely



Everything Neely has set her mind to, she has achieved. As a native of Owensboro, she graduated valedictorian of her high school before relocating to Nashville for a degree in music business from Belmont University.

“I try to set an example,” said Neely. “I always want to be a good person and encourage others to embrace who they are with zero judgment. I just love people for who they are, and I wish in today’s society, people would learn to do more of that. I believe in spreading joy and happiness because there’s so much sadness in our world today.”

As a child, Neely said she wanted to grow up to become a famous country singer.

“Although it looks slightly different than I would have predicted, I never dreamed I’d be doing it dressed up like Dolly and sharing her songs with the world.” When asked who she admires the most, Neely said, “Well, Dolly, of course! She is a businesswoman and someone everybody likes. Dolly never fails to give back to the community — well, the world, really — and do things for others. Goldie Payne is also someone I admire, as she gave me my start in show business. If it weren’t for her, I truly believe I wouldn’t be who I am today. She taught me how to perform in front of a crowd, how to tease my hair, and how to wear lashes and red lipstick!”

Neely donned her tallest pair of heels, a “Dolly Parton” wig, and that infamous red lipstick for Duncan Hines Days this past June. This event attracted 16,000 visitors from 28 states to our community. The city of Bowling Green (BG) and Warren County estimate this first festival, which celebrated the life and legacy of native Duncan Hines, brought in over \$2.28 million

to our local economy. Neely, showcasing her talents as “Dolly” at the Capitol Theatre, sharing her “Tribute to Dolly,” which she personally wrote, and taking part in Uncle Duncan’s Walk ‘n Wheels Parade played a big role in the overall success of the weeklong festivities. Neely also participated in a “Baking with Dolly and the Pie Queen” class hosted by the Pie Queen of BG herself, Brie Gollhofer.

Duncan Hines Days involved three downtown BG parks run by the city, plus Warren County Public Library’s Capitol Theatre and SoKY Marketplace. The Kentucky Museum, Historic RailPark & Train Museum, BG Trolley, National Corvette Museum, Traveler’s Cellar Winery, a score of restaurants and food trucks, and private businesses partnered to ensure this successful inauguration.

“Bowling Green doesn’t have a signature event,” said Telia Butler of the Downtown Development Division of the City of BG. “The Duncan Hines Days event offers a seat for everyone at the community table, a celebration of good food, good fun, and good entertainment.”

Look for Natasha Neely as “Dolly” during the second annual Duncan Hines Days, June 3-9, 2024. Until then, find her traveling with The Downtown Band Entertainment and a country band called Rodeo Disco this Christmas season. Neely will also be traveling with the Nashville Merry Country Christmas tour, traveling north to south on the east side of the States. For more information regarding tickets for upcoming performances, visit www.natashaneely.com. **GN**

For more information on Duncan Hines Days, go to www.duncanhinesdays.com





Elise Charny and BG OnStage:
**NURTURING
THE STARS
OF TOMORROW**
in Bowling Green

By Haley Potter // Photography by Amanda Guy

IN THE heart of Bowling Green, the stage is set for a journey through the world of theatre, guided by the vision of BG OnStage's artistic director, Elise Charny.

As the resident community theatre reveals its eagerly anticipated 2023-2024 season, Charny's passion for nurturing young talent takes center stage.

"By the time we close the show, we've got kids crying because they know how special that nugget of time was for them," she said. "No two casts are ever the same, and these shows are so special for everyone in the cast."



Elise Charny

THE 2023-24 LINEUP

The season is set to open with the enchanting "Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens," which will come alive on stage on Dec. 1, 2023. This adaptation is based on book No. 44 from Mary Pope Osborne's internationally beloved "Magic Tree House" series and has a cast of 24 local kids.

Charny described the production as "a very cute Christmas-centered story." In the holiday-themed narrative, Jack and Annie's treehouse whisks them away to Victorian London, where they form a deep connection with the legendary author Charles Dickens, learning the values of charity and kindness.

Charny said the "Magic Tree House" books are very popular.

"I never read them as a kid, but I know they are very popular in the schools," she said. "My daughter is 3, and I know they read those books to them during nap time."

She said even if you have never read the "Magic Tree House" books, it is still an adorable story.

Following the magical Christmas tale, "The Rainbow Fish" takes center stage on March 29, 2024.

Charny noted that "Rainbow Fish" is actually a play.

She explained that it is intentionally designed to accommodate young performers who may not be comfortable with musicals, ensuring inclusivity for children of all backgrounds. The play conveys a touching message about the importance of kindness and the true nature of beauty.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BG OnStage's commitment to community involvement is made very clear. Charny, who has been directing for the company for a decade, highlighted the unique spark she witnesses in every new cast.

"I love to see each new cast because there's never the same cast of kids ever," she said.

Charny went on to describe the transformation she witnesses as young actors come out of their shells and blossom during rehearsals.

"Seeing that growth in the kids is what really gives me that spark every day," she shared.

NURTURING ASPIRING TALENT

The company's collaboration with Western Kentucky University (WKU) students is a crucial element of its success. Charny said these students participate in directing, stage managing, and choreographing the productions, and they play a vital role in running the show. BG OnStage opens its doors to college students from WKU's theatre and dance department, providing them with opportunities to gain valuable experience and build their resumes in the theatre world.

"They cast the shows, and it is pretty much theirs," Charny said. "It is amazing the connections they are building with the kiddos."

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Charny expressed her enthusiasm for the new season and emphasized the importance of enriching the cultural landscape of Southern Kentucky. With a blend of musicals and plays, BG OnStage aims to provide a platform for talent of all ages and interests, creating a vibrant and inclusive community of performers and artists. GN

BG OnStage's 2023-24 season promises to be an unforgettable journey through the world of theatre, offering heartwarming stories that leave a lasting impact on audiences of all ages. For more information and ticket bookings, visit their website at www.theskypac.com or call (270) 904-1880. Tickets are also available in person at 601 College St. in downtown Bowling Green.





“BY THE TIME WE CLOSE THE SHOW, WE’VE GOT KIDS CRYING BECAUSE THEY KNOW HOW SPECIAL THAT NUGGET OF TIME WAS FOR THEM. NO TWO CASTS ARE EVER THE SAME, AND THESE SHOWS ARE SO SPECIAL FOR EVERYONE IN THE CAST.”

-ELISE CHARNY





Loved, Valued, & Cared For



HILLVUE CHURCH'S ANNUAL CAR CARE EVENT OFFERS HOPE TO SINGLE MOMS.

By Amanda E. West
Photography by Tommy Sprouse

IT WASN'T the car she'd always dreamed of, but with a colicky 6-month-old, unpaid medical bills piling up on the counter of their tiny apartment, and her college thesis inching her anxiety level higher, she was grateful it cranked and got them safely from point A to point B. The light blue paint was being overtaken by rust, and the check engine light had been blinking yellow for quite some time. The passenger side tire always seemed to need air at the most inopportune times, and she had to be extremely careful when it rained because all four bald tires lost traction. Not only was her car not what she'd planned, but neither was anything else in her life. Her breath caught in her throat — she never planned to be a single mom.

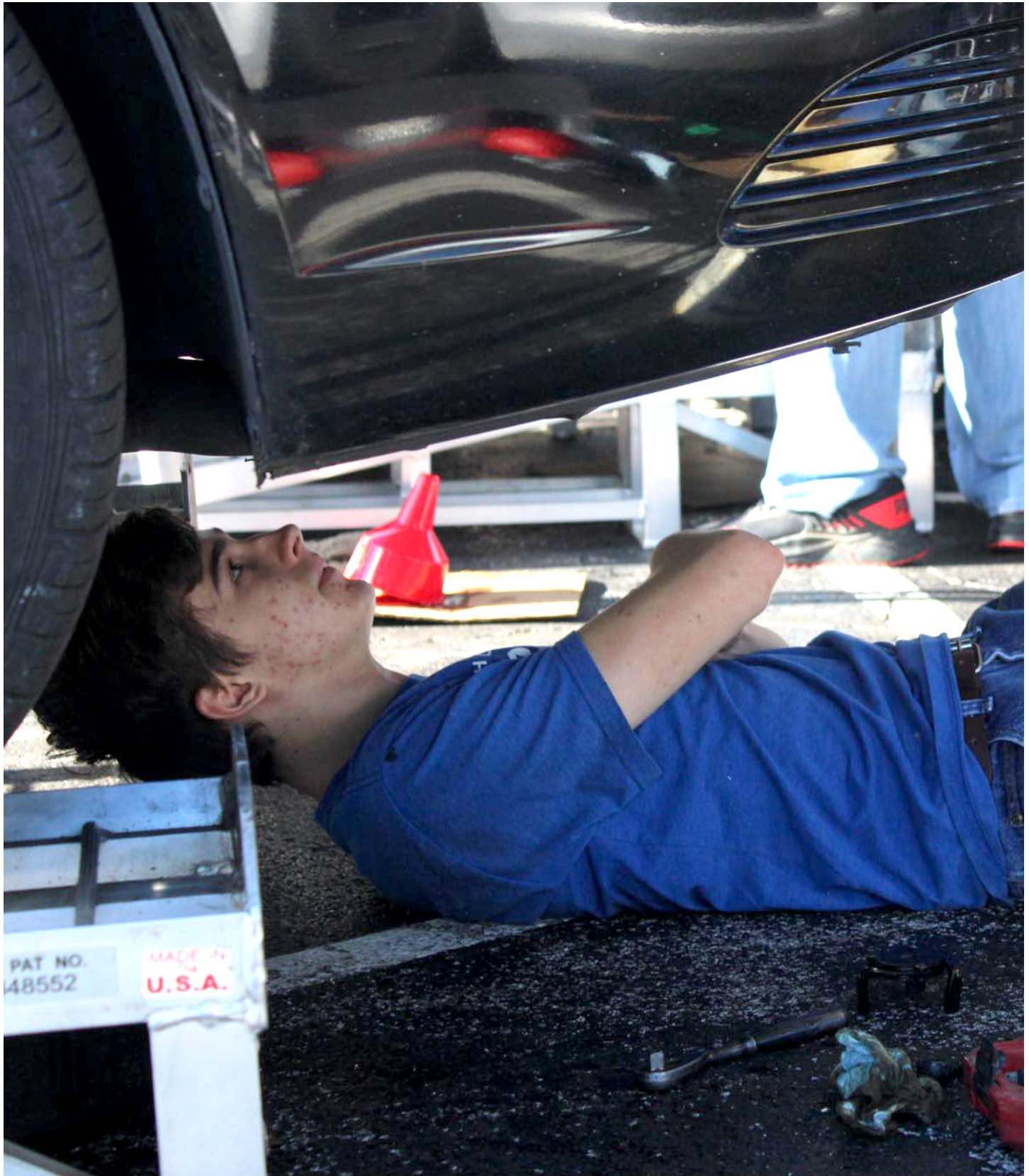
As she swiped her hand over her cheek, mopping away the salty tears, she glanced lovingly into the hazel eyes of her daughter. To her, she was perfect. It didn't matter if she had an extra copy of chromosome 21 and a hole in her heart, making her medically fragile. Those rounded eyes and chubby cheeks meant more to her than driving the most expensive vehicle off the showroom floor. Even though she'd had a few months to make plans after doctors gave her the news, the diagnosis still felt surreal. But the toughest decision she made wasn't choosing to raise a special

needs child all by herself. Regret had never even crossed her mind.

With no family to turn to for help and most of her friends busy with their own lives, this was a journey she'd have to learn to walk alone. In a few years, when she finally received her college degree and landed a better-paying job, life for both of them would get easier. She looked at her daughter, buckled safely in her infant car seat, cooing and gnawing at her chubby fists.

Suddenly, her car started making a strange clicking sound in the engine, so she coasted into the nearest parking lot and came to a stop beside the Hillvue Heights Church sign. Someone knocked on her window, startling her. "You here for our single mom's oil change today?" an older gentleman asked, grinning.

When was the last time she'd had an oil change? Maybe that was exactly what her old car needed. With funds low, plus all the recent trips they'd made to the children's hospital, an oil change or any maintenance had completely slipped her mind. "Yes. I guess so," she hesitantly replied. He motioned for her to join the line of idling cars and soon stood by her window again with his palm extended. "If you'll give me your keys, I'll take good care of it for you, ma'am. You and the little one there go right on inside the church. Make yourself



“Our Single Mom’s Oil Change event connects ladies to Jesus while meeting a practical need.”

- BEN BREWSTER

at home.” Scratching his head, he added, “Let’s see. They’ve got food, worship, music, games, and even a short devotion for all of you ladies. You and your young’un go and enjoy yourselves. I’ll let you know when your car is back in tiptop shape.”

The moment she crossed the threshold leading into the building, she felt genuinely loved, valued, and cared for. Perhaps she didn’t have to walk this road alone after all. She hugged her daughter against her chest and the heaviness she’d been carrying lifted.

That fictional example is a glimpse at how Hillvue Heights Church is changing lives. Stories like this one happen every time a single mother pulls into the parking lot. They get to take a breath. Hillvue Heights Church has provided oil changes, replaced oil filters, checked tire pressure, and even washed the cars of single moms for the past 20 years.

“Participants arrive and get checked in. Their kids head to the kids’ area while the ladies head to a devotion time where the Gospel is shared, and they have the opportunity to talk and pray with someone. Then we have food, conversation, and music while they wait for their cars to be finished,” said Connections Pastor Ben Brewster. “Our Single Mom’s Oil Change event connects ladies to Jesus while meeting a practical need. We also get to pray and fellowship with each woman that attends, and we have games and activities for their children.”

Brewster said they average between 150-200 women and provide 300-400 volunteers each year. “It really is a group effort. The Single Mom’s Oil Change event is part of our REACH week, which was held Oct. 18-22. We served our community in a focused manner. There is never a cost to attend, and all single moms are welcomed with open arms.” GN



Pillars of the arts

Jody Richards and Judge Mike Buchanon's impact on SKyPAC's legacy

By Haley Potter // Photography by Tommy Sprouse

THE SOUTHERN Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) stands as a testament to the power of dedicated individuals who believe in the transformative nature of the arts. Two key figures, Jody Richards and Judge Mike Buchanon, have played pivotal roles in the center's history, ensuring its success and continued growth.

Jody Richards, an advocate for the arts, is not only the visionary who secured the initial state grant for the funding of the SKyPAC building but also serves as the Arts Advocacy Committee Chair. His relentless commitment to the arts has been a driving force behind SKyPAC's enduring success.

"Before this, we had not had a first-class venue for the arts," Richards said. "A couple of other communities in Kentucky had gotten some state help for their performing arts centers, and I happened to be Speaker of the Kentucky House at that time, and it became a major initiative of mine to get the money to build a first-class performing arts center for Southern Kentucky in Bowling Green. And it's been so successful since then."

Richards said SKyPAC was designed perfectly because the location is great in the downtown area. It's not tucked away like some other performing arts centers in the state.

A significant moment in Richards' journey was when he received an honorary plaque of recognition for his contributions. This recognition is a testament to the profound impact he has had on the arts in Southern Kentucky.

"It is just amazing," Richards said. "Programming is better now, and we are on better financial footing, so I am really excited about where SKyPAC is now and where it's going in the future."

He said SKyPAC is doing exactly what they set out and intended for it to do: "providing good arts and entertainment to the people in Bowling Green and beyond."

He also mentioned that SKyPAC reaches its entertainment and educational goals by giving opportunities to high school, elementary, and college students wanting to take part in the arts.

Richards said it wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous help from Judge Mike Buchanon.

"The people who never thought they'd see an opportunity in artistic expression are getting an opportunity because of SKyPAC and because of the Arts of Southern Kentucky," Buchanon said.

Buchanon, along with the Warren County Fiscal Court, played a pivotal role in SKyPAC's early financial struggles. Their unwavering support ensured that the center remained open and continued to be a beacon for the arts in the region.

"I'm very proud to have been a small part of it," Buchanon admitted.

He has wanted to play a role in something like this for many years, ever since he was the president of the Capital Arts Association in 1989.

"I always had the desire and need for a larger theatre for Broadway plays and many

musical events," he said. "We talked about it for many, many years."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SKyPAC, like many arts centers across the country, faced the grim prospect of closure. However, Judge Buchanon's leadership was instrumental in preventing this unfortunate outcome, preserving the heart of the local art scene.

Buchanon chairs Arts of Southern Kentucky's Public Arts Committee, which is spearheading a public arts initiative in the community. SKyPAC is proud to be one of the first places to bring this initiative to life, with a 12-foot bronze sculpture to be displayed on the plaza.

Judge Buchanon's role in merging Orchestra Kentucky and SKyPAC in 2020 was a pivotal moment that led to the creation of a new organization, The Arts of Southern Kentucky. This expansion also included the acquisition of BG OnStage, Orchestra Kentucky, and the establishment of Ramsey Theatre Company, all under the umbrella of Arts of Southern Kentucky.

Under Judge Buchanon's leadership, there is a new life breathed into the performing arts center, securing a promising future.

Recently, Buchanon was among the distinguished individuals recognized by Governor Andy Beshear for their outstanding contributions to Kentucky's rich arts heritage. During the announcement of the 2023 Governor's Awards in the Arts recipients, Governor Beshear expressed his pride in honoring artists who passionately share



“The people who never thought they’d see an opportunity in artistic expression are getting an opportunity because of SKyPAC and because of the Arts of Southern Kentucky.”

- Mike Buchanon

the arts with Kentuckians across the state. The ceremony held in October celebrated Buchanon and eight other recipients for their integral contributions to Kentucky’s thriving arts industry.

The Kentucky Arts Council coordinates these awards on behalf of the Governor, and this year, Buchanon is acknowledged for his significant achievements in government arts contributions.

Jody Richards and Judge Mike Buchanon are undeniably significant arts advo-

cates for our community. Their unwavering dedication has left a mark on SKyPAC’s history and fostered the growth of the arts in Southern Kentucky.

The success of SKyPAC is a result of the combined efforts of passionate individuals like Jody Richards and Judge Mike Buchanon. The vision, dedication, and unwavering support of these local heroes have been instrumental in transforming SKyPAC into the thriving cultural hub we cherish today. GN



Good Stories

CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 30 Home for the holidays
- 32 A bicycle for every child
- 36 Educate. Encourage. Empower.
- 40 Celebrate the magic of the season

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Amanda Guy

◀ Stacy Schilling

A warm and inviting living room scene. In the background, a light-colored wooden bookshelf is filled with books and decorative items, including a small figurine of a horse and some dried floral arrangements. In the foreground, a white sofa is draped with a thick, textured grey blanket. Several pillows with various patterns, including stripes and plaid, are scattered on the sofa. To the right, a low wooden coffee table holds a small cup and some decorative pumpkins. The overall atmosphere is cozy and comfortable, perfect for the holidays.

Home for
the
Holidays





LISA MARTENS

A bicycle for every child

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Tommy Sprouse

Nat's Outdoor Sports celebrates 29 years of providing wheels of happiness to kids in need.



THE STUB of a royal blue crayon protruded from his fist. It was half-used and missing the Crayola wrapper. Right there in the middle of the glossy page was the red and black bicycle he'd been dreaming about for months. After scribbling three circles around the picture, he rolled up the magazine and shoved it inside the back pocket of his jeans.

Slipping into another daydream, he imagined buckling his safety helmet and tugging on a pair of knee pads so he could sail free as an eagle on his very own bicycle. With the holidays right around the corner and the promise of presents from Santa Claus, it was the perfect time to ask — no, beg — one more time. He ascended the stairs, the stiff magazine pressed against his back. “Mom, look what came in the mail today.” Opening the crinkled, dog-eared page, he offered his best snaggle-toothed grin. “It’s a bike like the one I’ve been telling you about. Remember?”

He begged and begged, but she said, “Now you know we don’t have extra money in our budget.” When tears pooled in her eyes, he felt simply awful, especially when he noticed how weary she looked from waiting tables at the diner. “I’m working extra hours as it is, but it’s all I can do to pay the rent and put food on our table. I’d like to buy you a bike, but it’s impossible.” She kissed him gently on the head. “Maybe next year, son.”

That’s a story that may be true for several families, but that’s where Nat’s Outdoor Sports steps in.. Nat’s Bikes for Kids program started 29 years ago, and since then, 5,000 children have received

“

We have a passion for a life outdoors and the gear we use. We strive for perfection and unmatched customer service. If it can be hiked, biked, climbed, or paddled, we want to help you achieve your goals.

- NAT'S OUTDOOR SPORTS



bikes. Nat's accepts gently used bikes from the community the first week of November and makes any necessary repairs to them. In the past, donated bikes were also supplemented with new ones. This program runs through Dec. 10, and the bikes are generally distributed the week before Christmas.

"We accept donations for all sizes of bikes, from kids just learning to ride to adult-sized bikes for teenagers. After Nat's repairs and rebuilds the bikes, the Bowling Green Jaycees work with local groups to distribute them. Al Kaelin, with the Jaycees, has been coordinating this process for several years. We have also worked alongside the Boys and Girls Club, Baron River Area Safe Space, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, and local elementary school resource centers," said Lisa Martens. "We also have business sponsors that support this program. Recent sponsors include Owl's Head Alloys, Independence Bank, Scott Waste, and our local McDonald's. Advertising sponsors include WUHU 107 and WNKY. This program would not be possible without the help of these sponsors."

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, bicycles disappeared from store shelves in record numbers. "There were a couple of years we couldn't make it happen because of the shortage of bikes, but last year, we were excited to bring this program back to our community! We love putting a smile on these kids' faces!"

Nat's Outdoor Sports said, "We have a passion for a life outdoors and the gear we use. We strive for perfection and unmatched customer service. If it can be hiked, biked, climbed, or paddled, we want to help you achieve your goals. Whenever possible, we support the community that has so graciously supported us since 1973."

So, whatever happened to the boy who so desperately longed for a bike of his own?

Nat's Outdoor Sports received this letter from a recipient:

"I got my first bike through this program when I was 7 years old. I remember everything about that day and what my bike looked like. I lived in poverty most of my childhood until I got put into foster care when I was 11. Our Christmas presents came through donations like this, and I can't tell you how much it means. I'm now 32 years old, have three children of my own, and am the first in my family to graduate from college. I can remember leaving my house and riding my bike when my parents were fighting and I needed to get away. In the rain, snow, or summer heat, you could find me riding. It's one of my fondest memories. There is so much more I could say, but I will leave it at this: for a local business to be doing this, and doing it for 25 years straight, is something to be proud of. I would just like to say thank you!" GN



▲ Inside Nat's Outdoor Sports





STACY SCHILLING

*Educate. Encourage.
Empower.*

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Amanda Guy

Stacy Schilling and 'The Frizz Girls'

WHEN YOU meet Stacy Schilling, author, illustrator, and creator of a brand new line of children's books titled "The Frizz Girls," you immediately notice her abundance of bouncy curls. "As someone who grew up with wavy hair," said Schilling, "my mom never showed me how to take care of it and convinced me to cut mine off at 9 years old. I did and hated it."

Schilling earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from Northern Kentucky University. As an artist and designer for the last 25 years, Schilling has designed logos, brochures, catalogs, and websites. "My design work has been featured on bus stop signs, magazines, billboards, books, and puzzles. I have won competitions and have been on television speaking about graphic design. Artistically, I've done almost everything in the art world since I was a child, but mostly, I concentrate on drawing, painting, and photography. Nobody was teaching kids how to take care of their wavy or curly hair, and since I was a teacher with wavy hair myself, I felt I could do it."

When the idea hit Schilling to combine her love of art and design with the journey she'd been on for the last four years to tame her curls, she wrote ferociously until she completed her manuscript. "After the first two books were written, the next six books wrote



▲ Stacy's Frizz Girls books

themselves without me even thinking about it,” said Schilling. “I decided someone has to teach kids how to take care of their wavy or curly hair because there are no books on the market for this. I named the book series “The Frizz Girls,” which teaches girls ages 5-13 how to take care of their wavy or curly hair. I want to educate, encourage, and empower them to be able to have confidence in themselves and their hair.”

Schilling believes her books fill an untapped niche in the children’s book market and has witnessed the power of her series firsthand. “In July, I drove to Brentwood, Tennessee, to meet with other children’s book authors at the Brentwood Library. Afterward, I decided to use my time wisely and spoke to as many managers and employees at bookstores in the area as I could. I shared with them about myself and “The Frizz Girls.” An employee of a children’s bookstore told me about an upcoming hair event for kids at the end of July and sent me an invitation. It was the first Back-to-School Kid’s Hair Event, offering students free haircuts and styles. I reached out to Pastor Tracie with Kingdom Love Ministries about participating. I shared a link to my website, and she welcomed me with open arms. The kids didn’t know what to expect, but the adults were ecstatic when they found out about my series teaching kids how to tame their curls.”

After the event, they invited Schilling to present her books and exciting new merchandise again next year. Besides her book series, Schilling is creating a coloring and activity book that will be available in her online Etsy shop. She has designed T-shirts that feature “The Frizz Girls” and their unique hair types. Schilling also offers a product called “The Hair Chronicles Journal” that allows users to document their journey from frizz to fab. “I’ve gotten great support from the curly hair community. I’ve reached out to the owners of a few hair care brands I use and tagged them in my social media posts. Their response has been extremely supportive. I’m hoping we can team up on future projects, as a few books will teach about hair products, and I want to share their brand with my readers.”

“

I decided someone has to teach kids how to take care of their wavy or curly hair because there are no books on the market for this. I named the book series “The Frizz Girls,” which teaches girls ages 5-13 how to take care of their wavy or curly hair.

- STACY SCHILLING





“Frizzy hair is *not* the problem. It’s probably wavy or curly, and you just need to learn how to take care of it. I want to help girls learn to care for their hidden waves and curls alongside “The Frizz Girls.” The more people who know my books exist, the more exposure the series has to reach a wider audience, especially those who want help but don’t know where to look for it.”

Schilling plans to expand, offering satin hair scrunchies, pillowcases, bonnets, and dolls to represent her original “Frizz Girls.”

“The plan is to empower girls with wavy or curly hair and support them on their unique hair journey,” said Schilling. GN





MARY-JOHN CARMON

Celebrate the Magic of the Season

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Tommy Sprouse



From Christmas lights to Santa's Village, it's a winter wonderland for all ages.

I GREW UP in Bowling Green (BG) and have lived my whole life here,” said Downtown Development Coordinator Telia Butler. “My generation hung out at the mall, not in downtown. I don’t have memories of going shopping downtown and looking through store windows for Christmas gifts, but I love seeing children and their parents doing that for Downtown Bowling Green Lights Up [Downtown BGKY]. I enjoy inviting friends whose parents do have those Christmas memories, and it’s exciting to see them bringing their children for the first time. It’s really something special.”

“A city’s downtown is its heart, which beats to keep the community alive,” said Butler. “It’s great to see the community visiting the heart of our city, which breathes more life into the Downtown BGKY scene. The people who host these events and those who attend are turning Downtown BG into something of a winter wonderland — a holiday village — a true destination that can be visited over and over. The spirit of the holidays rings true in the way these events bring goodwill and positivity to the heart of the city.”

Light Up BGKY runs Nov. 27-Dec. 3 and is a community-driven week of holiday lightings to kick off the season, giving locals and visitors the opportunity to find holiday lights to explore throughout the entire season. Locations include Western Kentucky University’s Cherry Hall, Med

““

The Christmas Parade is one of my favorite memories as a child. I always loved the excitement of the event. My committee truly enjoys the opportunity to continue this nearly 70 year tradition.

- **MARY-JOHN CARMON**



Center Health Foundation's Hospitality House, Riverview Holiday Market, and the historic RailPark L&N Depot, where a Christmas choir, hot chocolate, flag presentation, and plenty of food trucks will make your spirit bright.

Friday, Dec. 1, Christmas on College Street returns for the first time in three years. Come by and greet city officials and tour city hall. Enjoy chocolates, candy, and treats, and pick up a complimentary 2024 wall calendar. Drop by the capitol for Storytime with the Grinch. Enjoy Downtown BGKY Lights Up, where the lighting of Fountain and Circus Squares will be staggered with the SKyPAC Community Christmas Tree. Unseen BG will begin their holiday-themed walking tour. Mistletoe Market at SoKY Marketplace will open, and you can enjoy "A Christmas Carol" by BG Onstage at SKyPAC.

Hop on and off the trolley into a nostalgic wonderland as you stroll the window displays at Fountain Square and cast a vote for your favorite. Circus Square Park will host children's events and activities, including the brand-new Santa's Village, where the big guy himself will be visiting Fountain Square from the North Pole. SoKY Ice Rink will offer specials and host food trucks, and the restaurants and bars on Fountain Row will also join in the holiday celebration.

"These events bring BG and Warren County residents closer to the heart of the city, make elected officials accessible, and provide free programming for our community," said Butler. "Not everyone has the chance, or means, to drive through Christmas lights or attend Christmas concerts and shows. This brings joy to the community and breathes more life into the Downtown BGKY scene for our businesses, restaurants, and bars. Over 5,000 people attend the lighting events annually, making core memories and creating a deeper sense of community.

Saturday, Dec. 2, lace up your running shoes for the Life's Better Together annual "Miracle on College Street." The 1-mile run begins at 9 a.m., followed by the 67th annual Jaycees Christmas Parade at 9:30 a.m. The parade route will start on College Street by the square. The theme is "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child."

"The Christmas Parade is one of my favorite memories as a child. I always loved the excitement of the event. My committee truly enjoys the opportunity to continue this nearly 70-year tradition and hopes it starts off the Christmas season for our community," said parade chairman Mary-John Carmon. "All funds from this event go back into our community through community projects and events. This year, we are so thrilled to have music artist and BG native Trevor Martin as our Grand Marshal."

Martin is a 2019 graduate of Belmont University and has performed for Country Music Television, as well as some of the best venues in Nashville. He is also a successful actor, and in 2022, his song, "Keeper," went viral, launching Martin's thrilling career to over 3 million streams on platforms online. **GN**



Improvement Project
Lane S, 1999
Diamond City Bank

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 is hard at work crafting stories under themes like “Hometown Healing,” “From The Heart,” and “Charity Spotlight.” We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is **“The Learning Curve.”**

Submit local educators online:

Do you know local educators who have made a significant impact on your life and the community? Whether it's teachers who have overcome challenges to inspire their students or those who promote lifelong learning, we want to spotlight these individuals and their stories in our upcoming “The Learning Curve” 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.

48 Community Events

54 Events Calendar

58 Advertiser Index

Submit a positive story
on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Gretchen Clark

◀ Veronica Barron and Diane Moats

The Breast Cancer Awareness Bike Ride - Oct. 14



Photography by Gretchen Clark

The Breast Cancer Awareness Bike Ride united people to fight breast cancer, raising awareness and funds for research and support. Participants embarked on a beautiful ride through the city, adorned in pink and serving as a powerful symbol of hope and togetherness. The event also honored survivors and provided support for chemo patients through nonprofit programs like My Pink Navigator. Veronica Barron and Diane Moats played a pivotal role in organizing the event by raising funds for these programs.



1



1. Diane Moats

Harvest Festival - Oct. 14



Photography by Gretchen Clark

This year's local harvest festival in Bowling Green was a vibrant celebration of autumn, showcasing the bountiful harvest and bringing the community together. The festival featured an array of fall-themed decorations, local vendors selling fresh produce and handmade crafts, and a strong sense of community spirit. Ginger Knight and Sarah Cline organized the SoKY Farmers Market event, while Kimberly Houston, Jeremy and Kristina Moram, and other vendors contributed to the festival's success.



1. Jeremy Moran 2. Ginger Knight and Sarah Cline

3



3. Kimberly Houston

education that comes
celebrating Dairy
his father Steve, his
and his wife Kara
family started dairy
been in Tennessee
month is a way to ob-
behind the scenes,
agriculture.
right on many people
energy, high-pro-
farmers do a lot of
in terms of raising
care of cattle, being
problems, and wear-

work goes into dairy
n. The Nash family
of 2020. "We'd al-



Let the good 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.



goodnewsmags.com/events

EVENTS CALENDAR

Get a good look



November 18

9:00 am Gingerbread Homes for the Arts
SKyPAC
601 College St.
Bowling Green

Visit the Goodwin Gallery to see the winning entries from SKyPAC's gingerbread house contest.

November 22

12:00 pm Thanksgiving Meal Market
The Status Crowe
486 Veterans Memorial Hwy.
Bowling Green

Status Crowe and Hogue Farms team up to bring you delicious and locally sourced, hand-crafted Thanksgiving sides and desserts.

November 25

1:00 pm Thanksgiving Meal Market
Buchanon Park
9222 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green

YVNG's fourth annual Inflatable Carnival returns with free activities for all ages, including bounce houses, inflatable sports areas, obstacle courses, face painting, food vendors, prizes, and contests.

December 1

5:00 pm Downtown BGKY Lights Up 2023
Fountain Square Park
445 E. Main Ave.
Bowling Green

Downtown BGKY Lights Up returns with lightings at various venues, festivities at Circus and Fountain Square Parks, Santa, trolley rides, ice skating, and food trucks.

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

e×change



December 2

9:00 am **Miracle on College Street Mile Run/Walk**

Fountain Square Park
445 E. Main Ave.
Bowling Green

The ninth annual Miracle on College Street Mile Run/Walk kicks off the Jaycee's Bowling Green Christmas Parade!

December 5

6:00 pm **Shakes with Santa**

BG Shakery
2800 Scottsville Rd. #8
Bowling Green

Shakes with Santa features milkshakes, photos, games, crafts, and giveaways for \$20. Children under 2 don't need a ticket. Get tickets and more information at bgshakery.simplertix.com.

December 7

4:00 pm **Santa is coming to Wright Implement!**

Wright Implement
1330 Plano Rd.
Bowling Green

Santa stops by Wright Implement from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for photos, refreshments, giveaways, and 20% off all toys!



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

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



Scan for Photos



goodnewsmags.com/photos



Junior Theater Festival
 If you're looking for that perfect event to showcase your group's talents, you won't want to miss the Junior Theater Festival (JTF) - the biggest festival of its kind dedicated to young people performing musical theater and feature adaptations, workshops for directors, teachers and students, technical theater workshops for students, professional development opportunities, a showcase of new works, and tab-stands with celebrities! The festival happens only once a year so check out Theatrics.com for more information.

Logo T-shirts
 Our t-shirts feature full color, official show logos on black t-shirts and are perfect for your actors and technicians. Our shirts ship in as few as three days and make a great fundraiser or cost gift. Ask your director or check out our website for more information.

Hey Kids! Student Rehearsal CDs
 Now you can have your own rehearsal CD Practice at home, on the bus, in the car, anywhere! Each CD features all of the songs from your show performed by young performers, making learning the music as easy as singing along. Impress your director by being extra prepared for rehearsal and retain memories after the final curtain falls!

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL
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back to the community through nonprofits.*



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Bowling Green Municipal Utilities	5	Southern Lanes	2
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TURKEY BACON RANCH™

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

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Smoked turkey breast and Virginia honey ham \$9.79

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Tina Boling
Local Owner Operator

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