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ISSUE 1 2024

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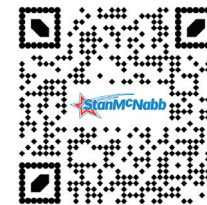
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# Tell us something good



...ation that comes celebrating Dairy is father Steve, his and his wife Kana mly started dairy been in Tennessee nth is a way to ob- behind the scenes, riculture. ght on many people -energy, high-per- farmers do a lot of in terms of raising care of cattle, being noblems, and west- ck goes into dairy s. The Nash family of 2020. "We'd al-

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Every Gesture of Love is from the Heart

Celebrating everyday love

IT'S HOLDING the door open for the person behind you. It's sending a sweet text when they cross your mind. It's stopping by to say "hi" when they've had a bad day. Showing up and showing love is like medicine for our souls. It lets us dance, sing, laugh, and cry together. It lets us know that someone is saving us a seat at every table. We know that – while we may be off-key – there is someone to sing backup from the passenger seat. And when we have those really bad days, we know there is a shoulder waiting like a therapeutic tissue. These moments, while they may feel

small, carry a heavy weight. It keeps the world from falling apart when it feels so fragile. It keeps our head above the water in the deepest, darkest oceans.

This issue of Good News is about celebrating our love. We're not just talking about romantic love, either. We're talking about the real love that can only come from the heart. Our community is full of actions that show love in every minute of every day. It can be as simple as a "Luv U" text or as kind as holding a door open.

We're proud to share stories of love to make the community a better place. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,  
MANAGING EDITOR

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strong, high-protein  
farmers do a lot of  
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# GOOD NEWS

## CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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- 20** Hearts lighter and hair brighter
- 26** Not in our town
- 32** Savor the sweetness of love

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Cheryl Hobbs



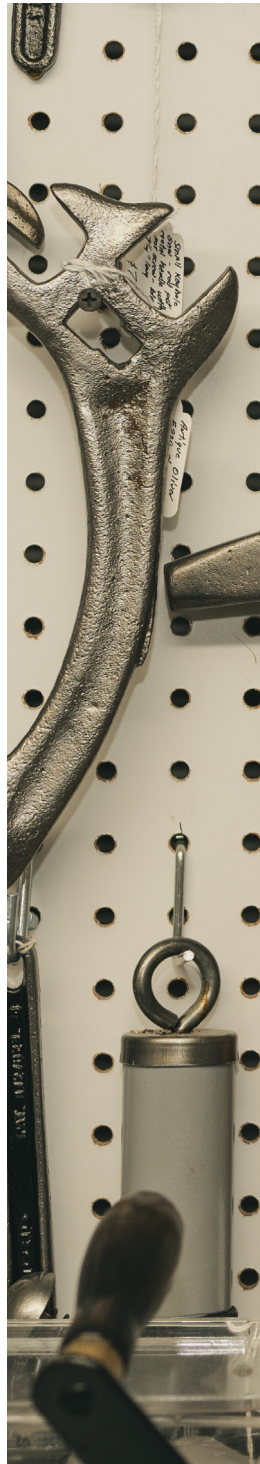
Katherine and Billy Hobbs

# Something Old, New, & Reimagined

Generations connects through the power of story.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

**T**HEY LOVE the thrill of the hunt. Cheryl Hobbs said she comes from a long line of women who sat up on Saturdays and sold their items at yard sales, auctions, and other events. The success of Saturday sales depended upon the diligence of the digger. A box of random junk holds a vintage cameo stickpin attached to a fading letter. A yard sale





on a rainy day yields a complete set of antique silverware, and an old dresser, drooping on from years of neglect, is buried under mismatched chipped china and abandoned tools.

A grandmother buys the cameo to add to her granddaughter's collection. The letter finds its way home with a writer intrigued by its content and anxious to create a story around it. The dresser isn't recognizable after paint and new hardware. The seller parcels out the mismatched china and abandoned tools over time, connecting buyers to their favorite memories.

But Hobbs saw another way of continuing the life of treasured items in The Browse House, a shop on the Huntsville Highway operated by her mother-in-law, Katherine Hobbs, who also ran The Mockingbird Antique Mall on the Fayetteville square.

"I fell in love with the stories behind the items she found to sell. Maybe that was part of my teaching background. My favorite story was of an old German shrunk she had purchased from a lady who had traveled the world with her spouse through the military. The beauty of it made me swoon, and the story absolutely sold me on selling and learning about furniture and history," said Hobbs.

According to reference.com, a German shrunk, or schrank, is a type of tall furniture that can be a combination of cabinetry, shelving, drawers, and closets, commonly made of highly decorated wood. Imagine the love the couple had for the shrunk since each time her husband was transferred, the massive piece was disassembled and

transported from station to station until they reached their new base.

Hobbs loved the stories so much that she opened her own shop when she retired from teaching. Generations, located on the Huntsville Highway in Fayetteville, caters to the next generation of furniture lovers in something new, old, and reimagined. It's where Hobbs connects vendors and buyers and where stories are shared.

*"They're all unique. They all have their own little niche in the things they do."*

- Cheryl Hobbs

"We have true, honest antiques throughout the store, and we also have things that meet the needs of your common everyday buyer. One of the things I think our customers enjoy is the fact that every vendor brings a different card to the table. They're all unique. They all have their own little niche in the things they do," said Hobbs.

Hobbs has a niche, too.

"I look for lots and lots of vintage. I look for substantial pieces of furniture that are solid and have withstood the test of time. I love vintage things from the '60s, '70s, and '80s market. Those three really have my heart," she said.





But where does she find those?

Hobbs said, "I love the dig. I love a good shop, mile-long yard sales, or finding a good yard sale on the side of the road where you can just dig and look."

And Fayetteville is full of good shops.

"I wish that people realized Fayetteville is more of a destination than others know. My store is the farthest from the square. But between here and the square, there are four other stores where people can shop. And that doesn't include all the other shops on the little side roads," Hobbs said. "You could

spend the whole day shopping from one end of Lincoln County to the other."

As the sun sets on another day at Generations, whispers of forgotten tales and the promise of new beginnings fill the air within the store. The carefully curated collections of vintage treasures, lovingly restored and repurposed, radiate a timeless charm that transcends generations.

The relics of the past find new life in buyers' hands, eager to weave their narratives into the tapestry of history. Each item holds a story, an untold chapter of a bygone

era, waiting to be discovered by the next curious soul who crosses the threshold. With her passion for the hunt and an eye for the timeless, Hobbs and her vendors craft a haven where the past and present intertwine seamlessly.

New generations of buyers discover their style and find their treasures in Hobbs' shop. Waiting to be discovered are items that might otherwise be gone forever and their stories with them. For the love of the story, make room on your calendar for a good hunt. You'll be glad you did! **GN**





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# Hearts lighter and hair brighter

Brimen's Hair Studio knows you deserve to feel beautiful.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

**A**T TRUVY'S Beauty Spot in "Steel Magnolias," kinship forms among the stylists and their clients while hair color processes and dries under the blower. The laughter and free therapy leave hearts lighter and hair brighter, and age and circumstances are no barrier. Truvy, Ouiser, Clairee, M'Lynn, Shelby, and Annelle forge an undergirding bond as they lean on each other through life's most challenging days.

The movie captivated Karmen Allen. Although she knew nothing about styling hair, she knew what she wanted to do in life after watching the movie.

Brian Gulley was a Motlow State Community College business student when his sister started cosmetology school. Gulley's interest in the business grew as his sister talked about all she was learning. After graduating from Motlow, he completed his beauty school training at the Fayetteville Beauty School of Cosmetology and became a sales rep for

Tressa, a major beauty product manufacturer. Tressa sent him for training in Cincinnati, and he traveled the country as an in-salon instructor for their product line.

Gulley said, "[After that], I worked for a couple of shops and was a partner in another before I met up with Karmen. Once I started teaching [at Fayetteville High School], I decided I didn't need partners because I couldn't be there. I just needed to be in a shop working with someone, so I went to Shear Frenzy."

Allen worked alone in her shop for years, but losing her lease twice to the sale of the building forced her to consider other options.

"I thought, 'I'll just do booth rental,' and the reason I chose to go to Shear Frenzy was because I knew Brian was there. I knew I'd have at least one friend there because I'd never worked with other hairdressers," said Allen.

Shear Frenzy's owner, Faron Campbell, passed away, and her son, Jacob Campbell, took over the shop. Allen and Gulley continued their work there, but when Jacob also passed away, it was time for them to consider their future.

"We loved it at Shear Frenzy, but we had a couple of hard losses. We needed to make our own memories — memories for us. We wanted to have more peace and not so much sadness looking around and seeing the loss we had at Shear Frenzy," Allen said.

Allen and Gulley's friendship was strong, and while they studied their next steps, an ideal location for a salon opened. They decided to draw on their compatibility and make new memories as partners.

"The shop we're in now kind of fell in our lap. We weren't looking, so it was meant to be. We took

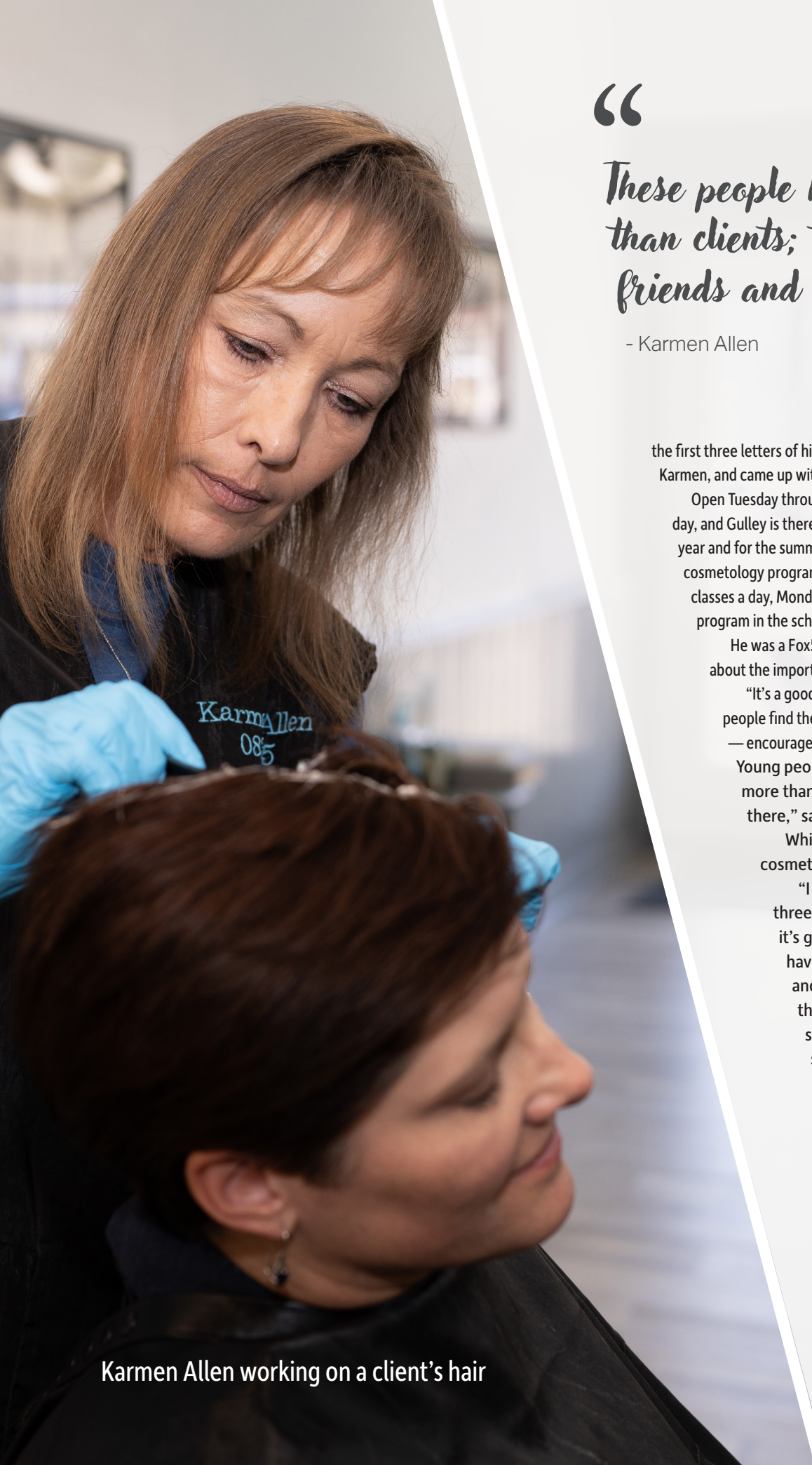




*Karmen A^n*  
*083985*

Brian Gulley and Karmen Allen





“

*These people become more than clients; they become friends and family.*

- Karmen Allen

the first three letters of his name and the last three of mine, Brian and Karmen, and came up with Brimen's Hair Studio,” said Allen.

Open Tuesday through Saturday, Allen is behind the chair each day, and Gulley is there Thursday through Saturday during the school year and for the summer. He's the founder and instructor of the cosmetology program at Fayetteville High School. With seven classes a day, Monday through Friday, Gulley said it's the largest program in the school's vocational program.

He was a Fox54 Top Teacher last October and is passionate about the importance of relationships with the students.

“It's a good feeling knowing you've helped young people find their direction and what they want to do in life — encourage and make those connections with them. Young people need encouragement today, probably more than ever, because it's a different world out there,” said Gulley.

While Gulley is busy training tomorrow's cosmetologists, Allen misses her partner.

“I watch the clock on Thursdays around three, waiting on Brian to get there because it's good to have him there,” said Allen. “We have the same personality, sense of humor, and work ethic and get along so well. In this industry, it's hard to get along with somebody the way you need to in order to stay together. We're so much alike.”

So much alike that remodeling the shop was a piece of cake, even during the supply shortages and restraints of the pandemic. Brimen's opened on June 10, 2021, and clients recognize the pair's seamless handprint upon the shop's look and feel, affirming their shared passions and personalities.

It's easy to see today that Allen has come full circle, back to Truvy and “Steel Magnolias.”

Karmen Allen working on a client's hair



## Brian Gulley working on a client's hair

"I love my people," she said. "I love how they might be in a bad or sad mood, and we can just talk and laugh and forget about the outside world while they're in the chair. Maybe I made them feel better for the rest of the day. I believe everybody deserves to have their hair done and feel good about themselves. Then, in return, they make me feel good. They lift me up, pray for me, and appreciate me."

Unsurprisingly, Gulley agrees. "It's the lifelong connections you make in the community. All these years, you've done (their hair), and then you're doing their children's (hair), and you've done their grandchildren's (hair). These people become more than clients; they become friends and family." At Brimen's, you're not just a name on an appointment book.

"We always want the people that come to see us to know they're just not people; they are important. When you come to see us, we're going to treat you like you want to be treated. You're not just a number; you're a client of ours," said Allen. "We want you to feel that connection. When you come to our salon, you're going to get the same treatment every time."

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*Follow Brimen's Hair Studio on Facebook. The salon is located at 105 Elk Ave. N., in Fayetteville, and can be reached at (931) 580-0885.*







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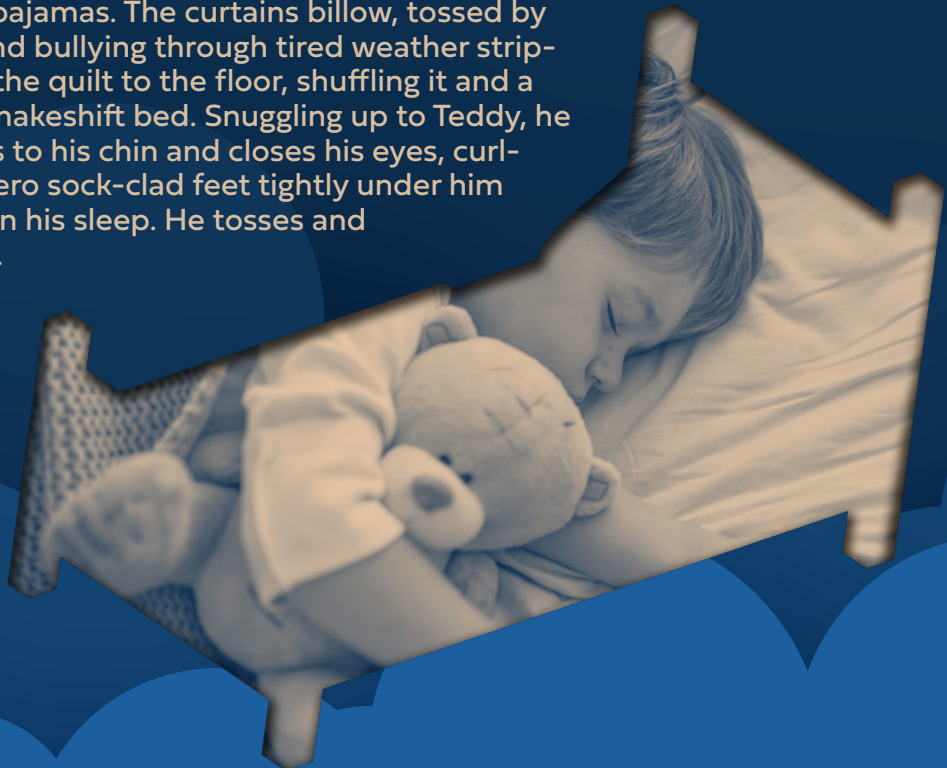
# Not in our town

A local team is working to end bedlessness in Lincoln County.

BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

**T**HE SILVER moon projects a light show of dancing branches upon the curtain, a winter waltz accompanied by the gentle hum of the heating unit. Pint-sized construction equipment and building blocks wait in the corner of the bedroom for the little worker cocooned in superhero bedding atop a racecar bed. The sandy-haired boy sleeps in peaceful dreams.

A block away, the blue-eyed boy pulls his teddy bear and jammies from a pillowcase, leaning on the couch as he puts on his pajamas. The curtains billow, tossed by the evening wind bullying through tired weather stripping. He drags the quilt to the floor, shuffling it and a blanket into a makeshift bed. Snuggling up to Teddy, he pulls the covers to his chin and closes his eyes, curling his super-hero sock-clad feet tightly under him to further soften his sleep. He tosses and turns restlessly.







▲ Tina Hudson

Both are realities in Lincoln County and communities throughout the country. According to Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), roughly 2-3% of American children are without beds. That number is astounding when you consider that America is one of the richest countries in the world.\* SHP is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that grew out of meeting the need for a single bed at Christmas for a struggling family. Leftover lumber sparked the idea of building one more bed. The response was countless donations and volunteers to continue the project. Today, SHP has over 270 chapters nationwide, including the South Pittsburg, Tennessee chapter. Their motto is “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!®”

The South Pittsburg chapter contacted the Hands of Mercy Outreach Center (HOMOC) about organizing a satellite chapter serving families in Lincoln County. Always looking for resources to assist the community, the answer was yes, and another ministry of HOMOC was born.

Johnny Collins, the co-build manager and installation manager for the local program, said HOMOC’s satellite chapter started locally in spring 2022, and from September 2022 through September 2023, teams have installed 205 beds for area children ages 3 to 17.

Tina Hudson of HOMOC and LC area coordinator for the satellite chapter said, “Sleep in Heavenly Peace has been a true eye-opener for me and the need in our community for a clean, safe bed for children to sleep in. It’s such a basic need, and many of us have several extra beds in our own homes, but to know that children are sleeping in such deplorable conditions in our own community has spurred me on to want to do more.”





“

That's what we're here for — to assist and to help and give that family a fresh start and a new perspective, letting them know that there is hope out there.

- Johnny Collins

Collins agrees. “I’ve been involved with children and youth for over 25 years through the church, ballparks, and other community outreach programs. It wasn’t until I got involved with SHP that I realized the need that was there. It’s just something we take for granted,” he said.

There are many ways to get involved in SHP. There are build days that provide opportunities for individuals, groups, and organizations to assist with the construction of the beds. On installation days, teams go into the child’s home and set up the bed, complete with a new mattress and bedding. HOMOC accepts donations of new twin bedding suitable for children and teens and monetary contributions at any time.

“I’m blessed to be able to work on the build team and the install team as the installation coordinator. Many of these children have never had a bed before, and seeing tears in their eyes and how they can’t speak sometimes is like the best Christmas ever. Even teenagers who have never had a bed get their own,” said Collins. “There are so many impacts of child sleep deprivation. It affects them socially, psychologically, and mainly academically. Basically, a child who doesn’t sleep can’t remember things in school. They get tired, struggle with behavioral issues, and are more prone to be sick. There are so many aspects of sleep deprivation. This goes way beyond the smile and the tears. It’s putting hope in those situations because a lot of these families are really trying, and they just can’t make it. It never cost more to live than today, and this is one way we can extend some hope to a family.”

Hudson and Collins are excited to share the program with area churches and organizations that want more information.

They welcome participation and donations. They also need your help spreading the word about the availability of beds through the program.

Collins said, “It’s not something that comes up in normal conversation. Pride plays a role in that because folks just don’t like to admit that they need help sometimes. But these days, it’s okay to say I need help, and I need a little assistance. That’s what we’re here for — to assist and to help and give that family a fresh start and a new perspective, letting them know that there is hope out there.”

It’s help and hope carried on the wings of your donations.

“I want to thank all our volunteers for giving up their time to come out and work on build days and completing the installs. This ministry couldn’t function without them,” said Collins.

Hudson said, “We can’t thank the community enough for their support of this ministry, whether through monetary donations, bedding/pillow drives, or hosting a build day. It’s just been great!” GN

*Call (931) 625-6600 to speak to Johnny Collins or email johnny.collins@frbc.org. Contact Tina Hudson at the Hands of Mercy Outreach Center to make a financial donation or donation of new bedding suitable for a child or teen. Call Hudson at (931) 433-4263 or (931) 625-0701 or visit [handsofmercycenter.com](http://handsofmercycenter.com). Requests for beds can be made at [shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org).*

*\*Sleep in Heavenly Peace, [shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org), 2023*





**Tina Hudson, Jeannie Collins, and Johnny Collins**





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# Discover cozy and delicious recipes to brighten your day

By Tina Neeley

IT'S TIME for embracing warmth, love, and the joy of sharing delicious meals with those closest to our hearts. As we endure the lingering winter days, here's a selection of recipes filled with heartfelt comfort. From delightful treats perfect for celebrating Valentine's Day to nourishing dishes that evoke feelings of love and togetherness, indulge in the flavors that bring people together and create lasting memories. Join us as we celebrate from the heart. **GN**



## Turtle Cheesecake

Submitted by Tammie Thorpe

1 1/2 c. chocolate wafer cookies, crushed  
3 T. butter, melted  
2 pkgs. cream cheese, 8 oz., softened  
1/2 c. sugar  
1 t. vanilla  
2 eggs, room temperature  
1/2 c. chocolate chips  
1/2 c. pecans, chopped  
1/2 c. caramel ice cream topping

In a medium mixing bowl, mix wafers and butter. Press into the bottom of a 9" pie pan. In a large mixing bowl, stir cream cheese until smooth. Stir in sugar and vanilla. Add eggs one at a time. Mix until batter is smooth. Pour mix into pie crust. Bake at 325° for 40 minutes or until slightly brown. Let cheesecake cool. While cake is baking, combine chocolate chips, pecans, and caramel topping in a medium bowl. When cake has baked, gently spread mixture over top of cake. Place in refrigerator until cool.

## Death by Chocolate

Submitted by Lisa Scott

2 pkgs. chocolate mousse mix  
1 lg. pkg. whipped topping  
1 pan baked brownies  
1/4 c. Kahlua®  
8 Heath® bars, crushed  
1 c. pecans, chopped

Prepare chocolate mousse as directed. Fold whipped topping into mousse and set aside. Crumble 1/2 of the brownies into a 9x13 baking dish. Sprinkle Kahlua® over brownies. Sprinkle 1/2 of the Heath® bars and the pecans over the brownies. Spread 1/2 chocolate mousse on top. Layer remaining brownies, Heath® bars, and mousse. Chill before serving.

## The Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookies

Submitted by Rose Hamner

1 1/2 c. shortening  
2 1/2 c. brown sugar  
4 T. milk  
2 t. vanilla  
2 eggs  
3 1/2 c. AP flour  
2 t. salt  
1 1/2 t. baking soda  
1 bag chocolate chips  
2 c. pecan pieces

In a large mixing bowl, beat shortening and brown sugar. Add milk, vanilla, and eggs. In a medium mixing bowl, sift together flour, salt, and baking soda. Add to the creamed mixture. Stir in chocolate chips and pecan pieces. Drop by spoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes.

*Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine and the Exchange Cookbook:  
[www.southernaprons.com](http://www.southernaprons.com)*





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# Good Stories

## CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 38 From the heart
- 40 A taste of love
- 44 For the love of the game
- 48 A conduit for a brighter future

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

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Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Chase Bowden



# From the Heart

**T**HE CONNECTION between humans — we call it love — is a profoundly beautiful thing. Our Creator built us to have different types of love. The Greek words for the three types are eros, agape, and philio.

Eros is the passionate and romantic love we often think of when picturing two people sharing an intimate bond. It's full of emotion, desire, and longing, and people find it every day.

Agape love is a love that is unconditional and selfless. It's love without expectation or demand, often seen among family members and friends who care deeply for one another.

Philio love is the love of friendship and community. It's about shared experiences and mutual understanding. We often see this type of love in close-knit groups of people who have a deep connection — just like Fayetteville.

No matter what type of love you experience, it's an essential part of the human experience. Love and connection bring us closer together, allowing us to share life's highs and lows with those we care about most. Good News is happy to share these one-of-a-kind stories from the heart. **GN**









Ruby Edde





# A Taste of Love

The Redbird serves  
Fayetteville, family style.

By Tina Neeley  
Photography by Brooke Snyder

**T**HE WARM aroma of garlic bread baking mingles with the spices simmering in the spaghetti sauce, enveloping the cozy space of the cafe. Soft morning light filters through the windows, casting a soft glow over the waiting tables. Every detail, meticulously chosen, bears the mark of a deeply cherished memory. Cardinals throughout the room pay tribute to the lifelong bond between a mother and her daughter.

For Ruby Edde, the cafe was only a dream as she waitressed for 15 years for others. The owner of The Caboose in Lynchburg, one of her former employers, recognized her potential and told her she needed her own restaurant. Although she prayed about it, she struggled to find the courage to follow her heart until she attended a women's conference in Pigeon Forge in 2022. As if talking directly to her, the speaker described her experience





▲ Charla Graham, Ruby Edde, Makenzie Widner, and Leah Jones

of hearing from God and encouraged the attendees who dreamed of opening their own businesses to seek a specific answer in prayer. She had her attention.

Not one to make such a decision without her husband's agreement, Edde and her husband, Mike, discussed it, and she prayed for direction.

"I think you can lose a lot of blessings by not going with what He tells you because there have been times I felt it but didn't follow through. I definitely think He was in this. Within two weeks, what I asked for happened. I told my husband, 'I believe God's in it.' So, you know if you get your husband to agree, you know God's in it," Edde said.

Her restaurant opened in March 2023 with a noticeable theme.

The brilliantly colored birds honor the memory of her mother, Jessie Dell Price, and the times they shared watching birds outside her mother's window. Edde and her mom connected with the cardinals that frequented the feeder, and naming the cafe The Redbird was an easy choice.

It may be that her cafe fulfills her mother's dream as well.

"When I was younger, she opened a little trailer and served breakfast. I think that might have been her dream, but she didn't really talk about it much. It didn't last very long, and I was young and don't remember much about it," she said. "I think my mom would have been proud of me."

The cafe connects Edde and her family in ways they might never otherwise experience. In addition to her husband, Edde's sisters helped get the building ready to open. Her three granddaughters eagerly tie on their aprons and work tirelessly taking care of customers and their orders, and her grandson helps, too. Her daughters and her niece will lend a hand as needed.

Edde said, "I get to spend time with the grandkids every day, making memories."

Open Tuesday through Saturday, The Redbird offers a variety of soups, sandwiches, wraps, hamburgers, and daily plate lunch specials. Irresistible homemade desserts sweeten the day.

"We have a big selection," she said. "I get a lot of compliments on my Reubens. We do hamburgers and patty melts, taco salads, chicken salad sandwiches, and club sandwiches, and we always have a pulled chicken plate and a pork plate. We do baked beans, salad coleslaw, potato salad, pasta salad, and chips. We cook fresh homemade chocolate pie, pecan pie, and Sundrop cake. We get great compliments on our food. All together, we've had nothing but positive [comments]."

Edde now knows firsthand the responsibilities and attention to detail of being a food establishment owner. As involved as it is, she prefers it over working in a factory, something she discovered was never for her.



“It feels good when  
your dream comes  
true. It feels good.  
You know God is in it”

- Ruby Edde

She said, “When I worked in factories, it was terrible. Working overtime every day, six days a week, people weren’t happy. They were stressed. And factory work is very, very stressful. I need to be with people, I guess. I’m a servant.”

Although there are stressful days, the stress connected to living your dream weighs differently. It confirms the fulfillment of years of dreaming and an answered call.

“It feels good when your dream comes true. It feels good. You know God is in it,” said Edde.

A God-fulfilled dream honoring a mother’s legacy sings a song of hope, welcoming Fayetteville residents to their family table. **GN**

*Visit The Redbird on the corner of the Fayetteville square at 101 Market St. E., (931) 224-2596. Daily specials are posted on Facebook.*







Tim, Sonya, and Will Ellis



# For the Love of ✨ the Game

A football family  
impacts souls in  
the game of life.

By Tina Neeley  
Photography by Brooke Snyder

**T**HE PLAYING field for high school football isn't a hundred yards; it's as large as the community's hearts as they rally for their team and each other. Fayetteville High School's Friday night lights spotlight a network of interconnected stories set in a small town against a backdrop of spirited marching bands, cheerleaders, concessions, players, and coaches. It's a place where Tim and Sonya Ellis found healing following the death of their son, Edward.

"He had Lennox Gastaut Syndrome and lived to be 12. Lennox Gastaut is a rare form of epilepsy," said Sonya. "May 15, 2010, we woke up to a new normal."

The new normal was void of 24/7 care for Edward, who couldn't walk or talk, although he could vocalize to demonstrate his emotions.

"Those 12 years were time-consuming. We look back now, and we thought we were busy, but you just went on with life. You did what you had to do," Sonya said.

Tim, Sonya, and their son, Will, grieved Edward's absence differently. Although present and parenting Will, a second-grader at the time, the parents weren't sure how to fill the time previously committed to Edward's care. Will can say today, though, that he knows Edward's influence on his life.





“Our job is to be nice to others because you don’t know their situation.”

- Will Ellis

“He made me realize there are more people out there [who] need help and are going through worse,” Will said. “Our job is to be nice to others because you don’t know their situation.”

When Will started playing football as a freshman at Fayetteville High School (FHS) in 2016, the family recognized that many players struggled to have everything they needed to play.

“The need was there. You had boys that didn’t have anything,” said Sonya.

With the coach’s approval, Tim and Sonya and two other couples founded the Tiger Touchdown Club, a football booster club whose mission is to provide players with equipment, supplies, jerseys, transportation to games over two hours away, pregame meals, and more. “If it touches the kid, that’s our whole focus,” said Tim. “Money is raised by the sale of banners, advertisements, and sponsorships.”

Chris Cagle, FHS offensive coordinator, attests to the club’s support of the players. “I wasn’t around when they developed the booster club, but [Fayetteville City’s football program] would have nothing without

the Ellis family. Tim and Sonya provide financial support by giving and raising money. They do this while Tim runs a business and Sonya has a full-time job. They have impacted the players’ lives by providing them with things they would not have if left up to them. [They treat] the players as their own without asking for anything in return,” he said.

The support the players receive compels them to achieve their best academically, too.

Tim said, “Seven players signed to play at the next level last year. One of the huge benefits we’ve had the last several years is that we’ve been able to help move a lot of kids from FHS into colleges and universities when they receive football scholarships.”

FHS head football coach Daniel Johnson said, “The [Ellis family is] the first family of Fayetteville football — the one constant throughout the years. Their tireless work has helped raise money that has supported the Tigers with pre and post-game meals, charter buses, purchasing socks, laundry detergent, and workout gear, among numerous other things that help run a successful program.”

A first family of football isn’t born overnight but birthed from generations of families who plan their lives around supporting their teams. Tim’s dad was Maurice Ellis, a former Fayetteville Junior High School principal. His uncle was coach Jimmy Ellis, a former athletic director at Lincoln County High School and a former football and basketball coach at Central High School. Sonya was a cheerleader, Tim played center for three years in high school, and Will’s earliest football memories are watching Tennessee Vols games with his dad. Even Edward was passionate about the Vols.

“He could definitely express his wants to us, and he loved hearing ‘Rocky Top,’” said Sonya.

Will attended Bethel University on a football scholarship. Inspired by his former teacher, Adam McCormick, and coach, Daniel Johnson, he was the student athletic trainer for the football team and graduated with a degree in biology education. He plans to coach football, continuing the family tradition and further steeping the Ellis family in high school football.





Sonya, Tim, and Will stay in contact with the players, making sure they know they can come to them if they need anything. They demonstrate their care and concern for them through their presence, day after day, putting hands and feet to their words.

“My mom and her friends are the biggest cheerleaders these young men have. If you look up in the stands on any given Friday night, there’s the same group of women standing up, cheering and hollering for these boys. Mom and Mrs. Kasey never sit down,” said Will.

Author J.K. Rowling wrote, “Things we lose have a way of coming back to us in the end, if not always in the way we expect.” The Ellis family knows it’s true.

“This is how I look at working with the football players,” said Sonya. “We are spending time every week with these young men, and maybe, just maybe, we are touching them and helping them in ways we don’t even realize. Every year, we gain around 50 new family members.”

Ultimately, the Ellis family’s commitment to the FHS football players isn’t

about recognition or praise. It’s about the genuine care and support they offer, day in and day out. Their unyielding dedication reflects their belief in the power of community and the impact of selfless giving. As the stadium lights fade, their legacy lives on, intertwined with the stories of those they have touched, forever etched in the heart of Tiger football.

“It’s not about us. We do it for the kids,” said Tim and Sonya simultaneously. “We love our son and Tiger football and everyone associated with it.” **GN**





Chase Bowden





# A Conduit for a Brighter Future

Chase Bowden's commitment to excellence in his job sets the foundation for a better life.

By Tina Neeley  
Photography by Brooke Snyder

**O**PERATIONAL EXCELLENCE is the mark for Chase Bowden in his position at Copperweld. This American bimetals manufacturer became a leader in the wire and cable industry by engineering wire differently. Bowden continues to engineer life differently, too. Similar to how Copperweld harnesses the capabilities of copper by evaluating its internal and external factors, Bowden's dedication to his family serves as the guiding force, representing the core of

his determination and resilience in the face of challenging circumstances.

Bowden's father set an example for him and his brothers, two older and one younger. His faithfulness in the little and big things in life set the bar for his boys. The brothers were competitive in all things and prone to fuss and fight at times — typical sibling rivalry. But the brothers always had each other's backs against the world.

"We were always there for each other growing up," said Bowden.

In addition to his father, sports set a foundation for future decisions.

"It's a big part of who I am today. I started organized sports at a young age — around 6 years old. I already had that competitive nature due to my relationships with my brothers," he said. "It doesn't matter if you are the most athletic person on the field; if you do the little things right, you'll be in the right spot and hopefully see the benefits of following instructions and doing what you were taught to do."







Bowden graduated from Lincoln County High School in 2016. After graduation, he attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to pursue a career as a physical therapist. His life with his girlfriend, Desirea, consisted of classes, studying, and part-time work at an area Vitamin Shoppe until circumstances shifted.

“I lost my father at the end of my sophomore year in college. Then, at the end of my junior year, I lost my stepmom, who was the mom of my younger brother, Dylan. I had to prioritize what’s important. It was no longer just me and my girlfriend (my wife now). We had to set a foundation for Dylan, to be there for him as much as we could with everything going on — losing two parents in less than a year and a half. He was 12 at the time, maybe just turned 13,” said Bowden.

Balancing the challenges of college life and the newfound role of legal guardian of his younger brother, graduating from college remained a priority, as did finding work to better provide for the family of three. He took a job as a warehouse worker at Amazon, working three 12-hour shifts. He worked Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 6 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. and attended classes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

His work at Amazon was on a temporary basis with hopes of transitioning to a full-time role. He became part of their Amazon Brand Analytics program with an eye on a managerial job. Despite uncertainties brought by the COVID pandemic and the potential pursuit of a doctorate program, he decided to continue with Amazon. He relocated to Memphis as part of the launch team for Tennessee’s first Amazon robotics facility.

A short while later, Bowden transferred to Amazon’s Huntsville facility to be clos-

er to his Lincoln County home and spend more time with his wife, who was expecting their first child, and his brother, Dylan. About a year later, Copperweld, where he worked as a high school senior, was hiring. He applied for both.

While he didn’t get the job for which he applied, Copperweld recognized him as a fit for a managerial position, operational excellence manager.

“My focus is [on] improving the process to better serve our customers from either a safety, quality, delivery, or cost side. That’s ultimately what it boils down to,” he said.

It’s his current position and can be attributed to his focused pursuit of excellence in his personal and professional life, setting an example for his son, Stephen, and Dylan, who’s now approaching his 18th birthday.

Bowden said, “I wanted to be the first in my family to graduate college, and I wanted to set an example for Dylan. I hope that between myself and my wife, we have given him the resources he needs to succeed and maybe [avoid] some of the challenges we had. We want him to find a career and do what most parents want their children to do — just be a successful and productive person in society.”

“...if you want something to come through, you have to put the work in to make it happen.”

- Chase Bowden

And what’s Bowden’s roadmap to success? “Do what you have to do to get where you want to go. Everybody has challenges, and everybody’s going to face adversity. At the end of the day, if you want something to come through, you have to put the work in to make it happen.”

Bowden’s commitment to operational excellence at Copperweld reflects his dedication to engineering wires and his life. Guided by his father’s example and the bond he shares with his brothers, Bowden’s journey is marked by resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering support. He has navigated life’s complexities with a focus on setting a solid foundation for his family, balancing personal challenges and professional aspirations, a testament to the power of resilience, and paving the way for a brighter future for his son and younger brother.

That’s a commitment to excellence and a conduit to power the future. **GN**







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for her story

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# 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](http://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?*

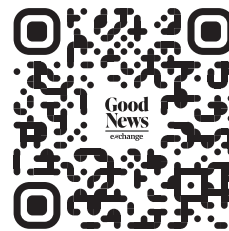
Currently, our dedicated team of magazine writers and editors is hard at work crafting stories under themes like “Charity Spotlight,” “The Learning Curve,” and “Shop Local.” We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is “**Independence.**”

### **What we seek in Independence stories:**

We are looking for local veterans in our community who are willing to share their stories. Do you know a veteran in your community who faced and overcame challenges? Or veterans who now use their experience to assist others? Or, you might know of charities led by veterans that positively impact the community. We're looking to highlight such veterans and their inspiring stories in our upcoming Independence issue.

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

Let us know with a submission at [www.GoodNewsMags.com](http://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.

**58** Community Events

**64** Events Calendar

**66** Advertiser Index

Submit a positive story on our website:



[goodnewsmags.com](http://goodnewsmags.com)

Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Fayetteville Christmas Parade 2023



# Fayetteville Christmas Parade - Dec. 3



Photography by Brooke Snyder

The annual Fayetteville Christmas Parade made its way down Main Avenue on Sunday, Dec. 3, starting at 5 p.m. This year's theme was "The Ultimate Sacrifice." People lined the streets to watch the many participants cruise by.











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# Riverside Play “The Emerald Heist” - Dec. 8



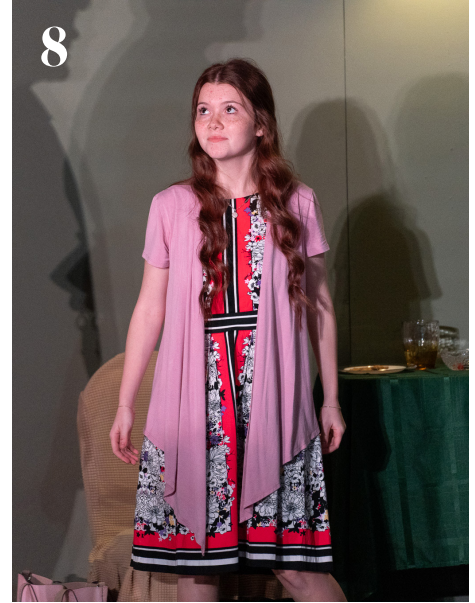
Photography by Brooke Snyder

Riverside Christian Academy hosted “The Emerald Heist,” a play performed by the 10th grade class. Friends and family came aboard to witness what they had worked so hard for. The play was on Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m.



1. Kailey Bates and Lacie Holder 2. Sierra Fairchild and Caleb Gleghorn 3. Caleb Gleghorn and Carson Tucker 4. Lacie Holder and Quinton Adams 5. Sierra Fairchild 6. Mitchell Fairchild, Carson Tucker, Sierra Fairchild, Kailey Bates, Lacie Holder, Caleb Gleghorn, Quinton Adams, and Caleb Student





7. Mitchell Fairchild 8. Lacie Holder 9. Caleb and Camille Gleghorn  
10. Kailey Bates 11. Caleb Gleghorn, Caleb Student, and Quinton Adams



# Honoring & Celebrating Every Life



- Advance Planning
- Educational Seminars & Workshops
- Funerals
- Burial
- Cremation
- Receptions
- Aftercare
- Grief Counseling & Support



GOOD TIMES

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### February 1

**6:00 pm Fayetteville-Lincoln County Public Library Book Club**  
306 Elk Ave. N.  
Fayetteville

The book club will discuss the novel "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.

### February 3

**5:00 pm Chocolate Walk**  
Main Street Office  
100 Main Ave. N.  
Suite 1A  
Fayetteville

Start at Main Street office for a self-guided tour with a paper bag, wristband, and map, and enjoy chocolate treats from participating merchants. This event is exclusively for ticket holders.

### February 10

**5:00 pm Art Show**  
Fayetteville-Lincoln County Arts Center  
521 Main Ave. S.  
Fayetteville

The art show will feature works by local artists and is open to the public for anyone in the community to attend and check out beautiful displays of art by local artists.

### February 22

**5:00 pm Love Thy Neighbor Merchant Mixer**  
Bumblebee Baby and Kids LLC  
109 Main Ave. S.  
Fayetteville

A mixer for merchants only. Refreshments will be served, and RSVP is required.





# EVENTS

## Bingo

Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> • 10:00 AM  
 Fayetteville-Lincoln County  
 Senior Citizen Center

## Beyond Sorrow Grief Support Group

Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> • 6:00 PM  
 Higgins Funeral Home

## Donuts with Dixie

Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> • 8:00 AM  
 Dunkin Donuts  
 RSVP Required  
[dixie@higginsfh.com](mailto:dixie@higginsfh.com)

### March 12

6:00 pm **Robin Shayne Concert**  
 Fayetteville Square  
 2000 College St. W.  
 Fayetteville

Robynn Shayne debuts her Courthouse Music Series. Open to anyone wanting to attend.

### March 28

5:00 pm **Love Thy Neighbor Merchant Mixer**  
 Mercantile on Market  
 123 Market St. E.  
 Fayetteville

A mixer for merchants only. Refreshments will be served, and RSVP is required.

### March 22

7:00 pm **Helping Healing Humor Mental Health Workshop**  
 Riverside Christian Academy  
 116 Riverside Ln.  
 Fayetteville

A mental health workshop for people in the Fayetteville community. This event is free of charge.

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

[www.GoodNewsMags.com/events](http://www.GoodNewsMags.com/events)  
 or call (800) 247-7318



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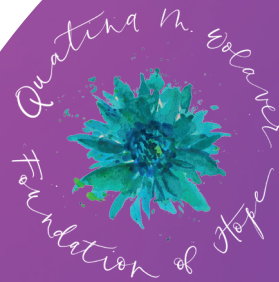
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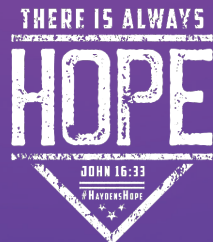
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