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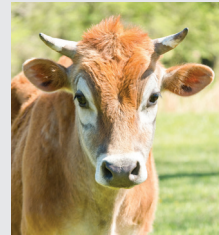


Vacation in Manchester

ISSUE 5 2024

Deadlines

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From Farm to Table

ISSUE 9 2024

Deadlines

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Independence

ISSUE 6 2024

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ISSUE 10 2024

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Dreams Come True

ISSUE 7 2024

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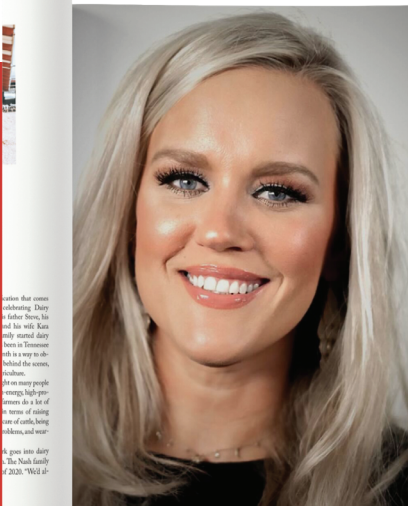


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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Ahead of the Curve

The thrill of the learning curve coaster makes the ride to the future worth it.

THE METAL beams *tick, tick, tick* with every inch the cart climbs to the top of the hill. The experienced thrill-seekers in the front cart raise their hands as the coaster inches toward the climax of the ride. Experienced or not, every heart on the ride starts beating faster. *Click.* And the cart takes a dive. The winds move fast, but your stomach drops faster. The speed reaches new levels, then slows with a squeaking halt. The heart rate may still be elevated, but it will come down in due time. The curve may be scary, but mastering it is worth it.

Like turning in a test, the scary part is over. Now all you can do is wait.


“Please raise your hands,” the conductor in uniform announces over the ride’s speaker system.

Our educators are the conductors of this exhilarating ride, guiding our children over the peaks and through the valleys with wisdom, patience, and an unwavering commitment to progress. To be “ahead of the curve” is to lead, to innovate, to blaze trails where others will follow. It’s a place where our local educators stand not just by profession but by calling. With each lesson they teach and every question they encourage, they’re not only transferring knowledge — they’re transforming the future, one curious mind at a time.

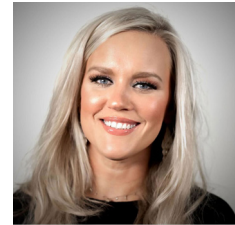
In this issue, we celebrate the torchbearers of the classroom, who keep the flame of enlightenment dancing even in the strongest winds of change. They map the topography of young minds and chart courses that will navigate them through life’s myriad complexities. These are the mentors who recognize that the steepest part of the curve is often where the most learning takes place, where character is built, and where perseverance is learned.

Thank you, educators, for every moment spent drafting the blueprint of intellect and character within the halls of learning. You are the architects who draw out the talents within our youth, nurturing not just scholars, but citizens of the world. Your classrooms are incubators for innovation, where “ahead of the curve” isn’t just a measure of academic pace, but a holistic approach to fostering leaders, thinkers, and dreamers.

With gratitude and admiration, we dedicate this issue to you — may you always lead the charge, and may your students always be inspired to stay ahead of the curve. **GN**


Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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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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HEALTH OCCUP

Don't be afraid to

Deana Crosslin



Empowering tomorrow's health care professionals

Nurse-turned-educator
inspires students to reach new heights

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



“

I think just being able to work with others — get out of your comfort zone, collaborate, and observe — that’s really helpful, and it’ll make you a better teacher in the long run.

—Deana Crosslin

“**N**EVER SAY never.” If you had asked nurse education teacher Deana Crosslin 21 years ago if she would end up being a teacher, she would have simply told you, “No way.”

Four years as a school nurse were just a dip in the educational pool. Diving headfirst into dissecting complex medical terms for teenagers felt like crossing into a parallel universe. Trading in Band-Aids and sniffles for complex dissections and fascinating young minds was a homecoming to a passion she never knew existed.

“This is my fifth year as a teacher in the classroom, and I love it. I absolutely love my job. I get to teach students who are, as seniors, most likely going into the health care field of some sort. I also get to teach students who want to take anatomy and physiology.”

In her days spent working in the coronary care and intensive care units, Crosslin always considered herself an

educator of sorts, especially when dealing with patients in their most stressful times.

Crosslin said talking to people was never a problem as a nurse, but teaching the content in a classroom posed a challenge. Years later, she realized that all her years of educating those within the medical field led her to where she is today.

Crosslin’s teaching journey comes with many lessons, one of which is to simply meet students where they are. Recognizing the diversity among Coffee County Central High School’s students, Crosslin adapts her classroom to different walks of life, educational backgrounds, and cultures. She understands the impact of creating a trusting and welcoming environment on their growth and development.

Being a school nurse for four years and a mother of three opened her eyes to the uniqueness of each student, helping her tailor her styles of engagement with their needs and differences.

In teaching her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class, Crosslin takes the high school education experience to new heights, providing students with clinical experience. The experience includes traveling to local long-term care facilities and partnering with Unity Medical Center for real-world exposure, fostering community relationships beyond the hospital walls.

“We also have health care in general that needs work. It’s not just at a hospital, and health care is run by not just nurses. We’ve got radiology and respiratory, and we have laboratory



technicians. We have all these people who make a facility work, and we need to expose our students to all of that."

Crosslin's commitment goes beyond the traditional curriculum. She secured a grant for a classroom dissection, emphasizing the importance of exposing students to various facets of health care and the ever-changing world of technology.

Crosslin aims to change students' perspectives on education, encouraging them to view it as an opportunity rather than a mundane obligation. She emphasizes the priceless value of education, urging students to see it as an investment in their future.

A significant part of Crosslin's approach is building trust and being someone students can depend on. Treating every CNA student as her own child, she blends care with guidance, recognizing the importance of being transparent and honest with them.

"I think just being able to work with others — get out of your comfort zone, collaborate, and observe — that's really helpful, and it'll make you a better teacher in the long run."

Crosslin is constantly growing and evolving as an educator, finding innovative

ways to engage students outside the classroom. She brings in former graduates, such as a sophomore in college, to share experiences, validating the importance of post-secondary education.

On the mission to become more inclusive, Coffee County Central High School strives to make every student feel seen and heard. Crosslin's dedication is mirrored by the entire Coffee County and Manchester community, contributing to a special environment within and beyond the school walls.

Crosslin admits that teaching is challenging, but it's a challenge she embraces. She wishes for more time with her students and adapts to the block schedule, finding ways to engage them beyond class hours. Her commitment extends to collaborating with local businesses and organizations to provide students with opportunities outside the school building.

In Crosslin's classroom, education is not confined to textbooks; it's an evolving journey of discovery and growth. This journey, inspired by her years as a nurse, has led her to a place where she's not just teaching students; she's shaping future health care professionals and community leaders. **GN**





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Softball coach and full-time nurse
builds bonds and instills passion
in local youth.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes
and submitted by Marybeth Byers

A SUN-DRENCHED FIELD shimmers in the morning light, crisp air crackles with anticipation, and a joyous symphony of cheers erupt as a young girl rounds the bases, pure triumph etched on her face. This is the world that Marybeth, her husband Doug Byers, and Matthew Wild inhabit. It's a world where softball is more than a sport. It becomes a platform for building character, forging friendships, and igniting a spark that surpasses the boundaries of the field.

Marybeth's journey into the world of softball began with her childhood fascination. Growing up, she admired legendary figures like Pat Summitt, drawing inspiration from their coaching styles and

the teams they led. However, her passion evolved into something more profound once she had her three children.

"I started out loving softball when I was a child, and it evolved from there. And then when I had my children, we got them playing, and then I just loved it even more," Marybeth enthuses.

Originally from Ohio, the Byers family relocated to Tennessee about a decade ago. The move resulted from Doug's military service, and the family discovered a welcoming community in Middle Tennessee.

Marybeth, a nurse by profession, got involved in the local community to connect with others and found her passion in coaching softball.



Marybeth Byers



▲ 12-14U All Girls Softball Rec Team: Hailey Delong, Matt Wild, Abby Wild, Kiera Byers, Doug Byers, Emma Ralston, Cloiee Floyd, Kalli Byers, Marybeth Byers, Annabelle Mullins, Taley Harden, Elly Wild, Tessie Harden, and Bamm Rolefson

“Some of our best friends down here are people that we celebrate relationships with through softball,” she explained.

Finding personal fulfillment and a sense of belonging within the community, Marybeth channeled her passion for forming connections into building a supportive environment for her players.

Marybeth’s parents coached her during her formative years. Their inside jokes, infectious laughter, and victorious gestures have impacted the trajectory of her own coaching career, leading her to make softball a memorable experience for young athletes.

“I remember my mom and dad coaching me and making it fun, doing silly dances on the field with us. If we got home runs, they’d lay on the ground and roll around,” she remembered fondly.

Marybeth translated the lessons of the diamond into a philosophy that prioritizes growth and inclusivity.

As the president of the Fastpitch League, Marybeth aims to go beyond the conventional boundaries of sports. Her goal is to provide an outlet for children who may not have the means to participate in travel leagues. The league organizes various events, from movie nights to equipment swaps, creating a space where every child has an opportunity to play and flourish.

One of the league’s largest assets is the tournaments it hosts, which are not exclusively held for elite travel teams. It’s for those who may not have experienced competitive play before.

Events like these allow children to build friendships, create memories, and discover their passion for the game.

“This is something that we can give them, two times a year, that keeps them out of trouble and gives them a focus. And then they can have fun and make friends. The Fastpitch League serves to get kids off the couch and give them a passion,” she explained.



It's so much more than 'just softball.' It's about trying to influence their lives, to make better decisions to be better humans.

-Marybeth Byers

Challenges are inevitable, even for this multifaceted coach, from supporting girls who are dealing with personal hardships to ensuring that every child, regardless of financial constraints, can participate.

"There [are] obviously girls [who] are dealing with difficult times in their lives. It's about 'how can I get them through that?' Or we may have kids who cannot get to practice, and we pick them up."

Time and energy are also significant barriers, but immense support from Doug, Wild, the board, and volunteer coaches propel her forward.

Looking back on her journey, Marybeth advises her younger self and young girls to find what they're passionate about and pursue it endlessly.

"Find a love and a passion, whether that be sports or something else."

The community has found a dedicated leader in Marybeth, whose love for softball positively impacts the lives of young athletes and forges community bonds that last beyond the field.



▲ Kalli, Marybeth, and Kiera Byers

"There are times when we don't practice. We might play games, or my husband might take a player who's going through a hard time and walk laps around the field talking about whatever they're going through. It's so much more than 'just softball.' It's about trying to influence their lives, to make better decisions to be better humans. And you can use softball to emphasize teamwork and make better employees and better people in the future."

Community involvement is crucial for the league's success. They encourage locals to support upgrades to the local park and get involved in various capacities, from coaching to volunteering. **GN**

Visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CoffeeCountyFastPitchAssociation to get involved.





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College Street Elementary is hitting the mark.

Bull's-eye! College Street's archery program empowers students with focus and teamwork.

By Jeriah Brumfield
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes
and submitted by Andrea Schwer

THE AIR crackles with a mix of nervous anticipation and focused determination as a line of fifth graders stand at the ready, bows drawn, arrows notched. Each release unleashes a glimmer of anticipation, followed by the satisfying *thunk* of an arrow meeting its mark. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at College Street Elementary School, a unique archery program aids students in developing one bull's-eye at a time.

Coach Lora Selvog, a former college athlete and current gym teacher, is no stranger to the thrill of sports. Andrea Schwer, an art teacher with a passion for

nurturing creativity, found something unexpectedly therapeutic in the precision of archery. Together, they lit arrows of ambition within the school's archery program, creating a haven for students to develop skills and confidence.

Each archery session is an expedition into discipline, patience, precision, respect, and teamwork. Selvog and Schwer, though from different realms of academia, have seamlessly blended their expertise to shape an inclusive environment. With bows in hand, students learn the art of hitting a target and the importance of skills that extend beyond the archery range.

"The academic part of archery also helps the students improve their maths skills."

The elementary school's archery program creates an environment of camaraderie and accomplishment that radiates from the students. As Selvog guides them through the 11 steps of archery, students find a rhythm that transcends the sport itself. Schwer adds her artistic touch to the program,





LORA SELVOG

drawing parallels between the patience required in art and archery.

Beyond the tangible skills of archery, the program imparts valuable life skills. The discipline required to draw a bow mirrors the concentration needed for academic success.

“You’ve got to have patience in archery. I see them being patient with themselves and others around them, making sure to pay attention to what’s happening around them. I have standards for safely using art tools in class and archery. They have to be mindful of



YOU’VE GOT TO HAVE PATIENCE IN ARCHERY.
I see them being patient with themselves and others around them, **MAKING SURE TO PAY ATTENTION** to what’s happening around them.

- LORA SELVOG



what their bows and arrows are knocked and how to use them properly.”

The National Archery in the Schools Program and the Manchester community help the team persevere through financial challenges fueled by their belief in the power of the program.

Local businesses, parents, and community members rally behind the archers, ensuring that financial constraints never hinder a student’s journey toward self-discovery.

Salvog shared, “We’ve had businesses reach out to us, asking if we needed any sponsors for our shirts that we wear to the tournament, if they could provide arrows to a student, or if we needed bows worked on or replaced. They’re more than willing to go to the local archery shop and take care of that bill. We overcome those financial burdens because of our community support.”



▲ Andrea Schwer and Lora Selvog



▲ Team practice

The College Street Elementary School’s archery program is a compilation of skills and life lessons. As the students notch their arrows and take aim, they are hitting targets and milestones in their personal growth.

The unique blend of Selvog’s athletic prowess and Schwer’s artistic sensibility has crafted an environment where every student has a place, every skill is valued, and every shot fired is a step toward empowerment.

The archery range mimics life itself. There are moments of triumph as arrows find their mark, moments of setback when a shot goes astray, and moments of teamwork when students encourage each other. Selvog and Schwer reassure the students that success is about learning from misses and embracing improvement.

The determination, patience, and success found in this program permeate the community. Parents beam with pride at their offspring’s laser-focused efforts, clapping loudly with each bull’s-eye. High-fives kindle a spark in the archers’ eyes, the energy fueling their next shot. In every clatter of a fallen arrow, a community resounds, applauding victory and the journey that led them there.

“We get a lot of compliments when we go to tournaments because of how our students work together as a

team. They’re polite, and they’re very respectful,” Schwer said.

College Street Elementary School gives its students an inclusive environment to engage in a transformative experience that shapes their character, hones their skills, and instills a lifelong love for learning.

If you notice your child drawn to archery or any other activity, consider nurturing that spark. The program welcomes students of all skill levels and provides a safe, supportive environment to explore their potential. **GN**

FUEL

FOR FOCUS



UNLEASH POTENTIAL IN EVERY BITE

RISE AND shine to breakfasts that fuel minds and bodies alike! Celebrate the power of wholesome, delicious meals to kickstart learning and energize young students. We'll dish up recipes packed with nutrients and flavor, designed to nourish brains, boost focus, and set the stage for successful days. Get ready to explore the incredible connection between good food and great education, one bite at a time! **GN**



Yogurt Parfait

Submitted by Rosina Eicher

1 pkg. cream cheese, 8 oz., softened
1/2 c. powdered sugar
1 box white chocolate pudding mix, 4 oz.
1 c. milk
32 oz. plain yogurt
1 tub whipped topping, 8 oz.
fresh fruit, strawberries, blueberries, etc.
granola, desired amount

In a bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar. Add pudding and milk; mix well. Add yogurt and whipped topping. Layer with fresh fruit and granola in individual clear cups or in 9x13" pan.

Breakfast Pizza

Submitted by Freddie Stewart

1 pkg. crescent rolls, 8 oz.
1 lb. sausage, cooked, crumbled, drained
6 eggs, beaten
1/4 c. milk
2 c. Cheddar cheese, shredded
salt to taste
pepper to taste

Line a pizza pan with crescent rolls. Sprinkle sausage on the dough. In a small mixing bowl, combine eggs and milk. Pour on top of sausage. Top with cheese. Add salt and pepper. Bake at 400° for 18-20 minutes.

Orange Smoothie

Submitted by Mary Mastin

1 c. plain or vanilla yogurt
1/2 c. orange juice
2 T. honey
1 c. fresh fruit, sliced
1/2 c. crushed ice


Place yogurt in a blender. Add orange juice, honey, fruit, and ice. Blend until mixture is smooth. Pour into a tall glass garnished with an orange slice and serve.

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



Savoring authentic flavors

Explore a taste of Mexico at El Molcajete.



NOTING THE comfortable thrum of chatter behind the veil of sizzling meats and spices, I walked through the doorway and was greeted by multiple cheery hosts who led me to a well-lit booth on the left side of the spacious restaurant. Waiters and waitresses flitted around until one dropped two colorful menus on our table. The menu had as many options as you would expect from a booming business. Dotted with dozens of pictures, it is not an understatement when I say that I wanted to try a bit of everything.

For starters, the choriqueso — a superbly seasoned, creamy cheese dip topped with spicy chorizo — held its spot as the leader of the show. I dipped every fresh, hot chip into the choriqueso, alternating between it and the deliciously tangy salsa that appeared alongside it.

Before long, a steaming hot plate of birria tacos sat below my vision. My fingers were dripping with strikingly red consommé as I ate in a rhythm: open the taco, cover it in as much onion and cilantro as possible, hit it with a squeeze of lime, and dunk it in the steaming broth on the side. Each taco spilled over with strips of melt-in-your-mouth beef and gooey cheese. Nothing could break the connection between a girl and her taco at that moment.





Eventually, I broke contact with the birria tacos and decided to taste the taco salad fajita across from me. With its contents of perfectly seasoned chicken and steak, lettuce, tomato, sour cream, guacamole, and cheese sauce all inside a crispy flour tortilla, those bites of the taco salad were a fresh break from the steaming heat of the birria tacos.

Whether you're a local resident or a traveler passing through, a visit to El Molcajete is an experience not to be missed. **GN**

GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Manchester. This month Shellymar Repollet visited El Molcajete Mexican Restaurant.

Shellymar Repollet
shellyscribbles@gmail.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.

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- 46 Building strong brains, building hope

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



goodnewsmags.com

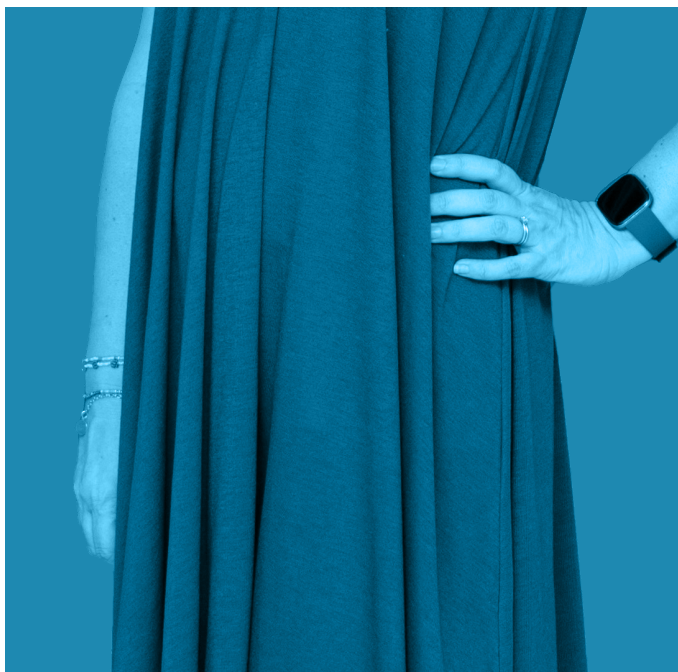
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Dixon Keele, Julie Bobo, and Jada Robertson



LEARNING
curve





SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS AT HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY

A FOURTH-GRADE TEACHER AND CHEERLEADING COACH TRANSFORMS CLASSROOMS INTO AN OASIS OF GROWTH AND CAMARADERIE.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

ENTER THE doors of Hillsboro Elementary, and you'll find more than mere classrooms. You'll discover a lively and inviting oasis crafted by the hands of remarkable educators like Julie Bobo. As an educator, exceptional cheerleading coach, and mentor, Bobo immerses her students in a nurturing environment that emanates warmth and camaraderie.

As you enter her classroom, you'll find it adorned with personalized educational decorations, math and science charts, and an atmosphere that breathes comfort and breeds imagination. You'll soon realize Hillsboro Elementary's former substitute, now fourth-grade teacher, has masterfully transformed it into a retreat for learning, development, and growth.

The cheerful voices of fourth-grade students reverberate through the classroom as they engage in partner work, group projects, and interactive activities, transforming their school days into an educational experience where every voice is heard, and every individual journey is celebrated.

As the dismissal bell rings and students disperse for extracurricular activities or home at the end of the day, Bobo transitions into "coach mode" and prepares for cheerleading practice.

The gym is alive with energy. You can hear the rhythm of chants and the squeak of sneakers on the shiny floor. It's like the close-knit feeling she creates in her classroom. With her leading the way, a real sense of team spirit starts to spark.



Julie Bobo

For Bobo, taking on the role of cheerleading coach wasn't just about sideline routines; it was about building another layer of trust and connection with her students, allowing her to interact with them in a different light and provide support beyond academics.

"I was a cheerleader in high school. I always loved it," she said.

As a cheerleading coach, Bobo bridges the gap between academics and the community, cultivating a sense of school spirit that reverberates beyond textbooks.

She isn't just a teacher; she's a mentor, a confidante, and a pillar of the Hillsboro Elementary community. She sets clear expectations for her students and cultivates

66

My philosophy is helping each kid gain confidence in themselves and grow in some way through the year.

– Julie Bobo

a classroom culture built on mutual respect. This translates to both her academic and coaching roles, creating a space where students feel safe to learn and grow.

“The classroom management is probably one thing that I’m the most proud of in my room, and so that definitely carries into coaching.”

Keeping the students engaged is a highlight of her efforts; helping them develop problem-solving skills in the classroom and on the court is one of her proudest achievements.

Bobo’s dedication has touched countless lives, from helping students overcome academic challenges to providing a much-needed emotional support system. Her stories, like one of a young boy who found a safe space in her classroom, represent the value of refreshing mentorship in education.

The young student came to school with baggage, but Bobo met him with a clean slate. Years later, his connection endures, proving it wasn’t just about academics but creating a haven for a kid who needed it most.

“I told him at the beginning of the year, ‘I’ve heard from past teachers that we may have some struggles this year, but hey — new year, clean slate. Let’s start fresh,’” she remarked.

“He tested me for the first probably nine weeks to see if I would hold true to that. And we just developed a really good bond. He got probably the best grades he had ever gotten that year. And even though he’s in middle school now, I still get emails from him every now and then just checking in.”

Other stories trace back to special holiday memories that gave her students that special touch of home.

“We had a Jewish student this year, so I decorated my classroom [for] Hanukkah. Everything that we did Christmas-wise, I made sure that she had the Hanukkah equivalent and things like that.”

She cultivates a warm and inviting classroom environment, treating her students with the same care and attention she gives her own children.

Juggling teaching and coaching alongside full-time motherhood isn’t always easy. Long days spent at work and coaching cheer often



▲ Julie Bobo, and Jada Robertson

make fun times with family harder to come by. Still, Bobo persists, finding small moments to breathe and recover from eventful days while spending much-needed time with her family.

While academic success is important, Bobo prioritizes individual growth and celebrates each student’s journey. Her goal is to help every child reach their full potential, regardless of their starting point.

“You always have those kids with disabilities, difficulties, and struggles. They won’t all be in the same place at the end of the year. But my philosophy is helping each kid gain confidence in themselves and grow in some way through the year.”

Julie Bobo is more than just a teacher or a coach; she is one of many leaders in the Hillsboro Elementary community. She’s an individual whose story resonates far beyond the confines of the school, illustrating the transformative power of one person in the lives of many. **GN**



A FULL CIRCLE MOMENT

THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF AN EDUCATOR'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

By Jeriah Brumfield// Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

A YOUNG GIRL named Lesli Yates eagerly steps into her first day of kindergarten. The air is warm, the sun is shining, and Westwood Elementary School is buzzing with excitement as young Yates, with her backpack almost as big as she is, walks through the doors into the world of education.

The classroom beams with colorful posters, tiny chairs, and the chatter of curious 5-year-olds. Her kind kindergarten teacher stands at the front of the room, welcoming the children with a warm voice as soothing as honey.

The teacher drifts through the air like a cool breeze as her luminous words leave a lasting impression on the children hanging on to her every word. She listens in awe, imagining a world full of adventure as her teacher speaks passionately and gracefully. This humble beginning planted the seeds of a lifelong journey in education.

As a teenager, Yates found inspiration in her ninth grade English teacher, Mrs. Myers, at Coffee County Junior High. She was tall and full of wisdom. Her passion for teaching shone brightly. She had a knack for captivating her students' attention for the entirety of the class period.

She lit in them a flame for continuous learning that the strongest winds could never extinguish. Myers' genuine love for her students set hope ablaze in Yates's heart.

"When I went in there, I knew that she loved us. It felt very genuine," Yates recalls.

This unforgettable experience fueled Yates's passion for teaching and set her on a path that would eventually bring her back to Westwood Elementary School.

Fast forward, and we find Lesli Sherrill (Yates) back at Westwood Elementary School. This time, however, she's not the eager kindergartener; she's the dedicated



Lesli Sherrill

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When students speak of me, I want them to say, 'I know she loves me.'

- Lesli Sherrill

kindergarten teacher who has spent most of her life transforming the Westwood Elementary School community with her warm, optimistic approach to children's education.

She began her career in education side-by-side with some of her former elementary teachers, their familiar smiles cheering her on each step of the way. Their steady hand helped her navigate her formative teaching years, guiding her to mentor her own students and closing the circle that had begun in the same halls years prior.

"It is such an awesome place to work. I've spent 42 years of my life in this building," Sherrill shared, reflecting on the school that shaped her childhood and later her career.

Sherrill's upbringing in Coffee County illuminated a new path destined for education. Influenced by her innate caregiver spirit, she started her nursing career, quickly shifting to education, where she found her calling, instilling the same love, warmth, and empowerment in her kindergartners as she felt in school.

As a self-contained kindergarten teacher for over a decade, Sherrill has relentlessly navigated the evolving realm of education. From the times of half-day kindergarten to the current demands of a rigorous curriculum, she has adapted modern and traditional teaching styles while staying true to her teaching



philosophy and creating a safe learning environment for all learners.

Despite the challenges teachers face today, with adapting to curriculums and very seldom having time for more hands-on activities, Sherrill remains dedicated to creating an inclusive and positive atmosphere for her precious students. She recognizes that equity, which may not always mean "fair" for everyone, creates a more positive learning environment.

Flexibility and connection with students are at the top of her priority list.

"You have to be flexible with students' needs, and you have to connect with them on a personal level," she explains.



▲ Griffin Hibdon, Gracie Fann, Lesli Sherrill, and Venus Aldana

Sherrill’s approach involves understanding her students’ backgrounds, interests, and personal dynamics. This strategy has become increasingly crucial in the face of changing family structures and technology’s impact on interpersonal skills.

While some of her students might be more visual learners, exploring math and reading activities on their interactive boards, others might be audible learners, immersing themselves in engaging audio lessons on their Chromebooks. Every student feels valued and supported through Sherrill’s diverse teaching strategies.

Sherrill joins Manchester City Schools, educators, parents, and the community to enhance the overall learning experience through curriculum meetings, Student of the Month

programs, sponsored Family Reading Nights, and organizational fundraisers, giving children and families a sense of connection.

Sherrill’s legacy as a teacher is not just about imparting knowledge but ensuring her students know they are loved.

“When students speak of me, I want them to say, ‘I know she loves me,’” she said.

As Sherrill nears the end of her educational career, she leaves behind a legacy of dedication, love, and a genuine connection with her students. The small-town girl who once stepped into kindergarten at Westwood Elementary has come full circle, inspiring generations of compassionate and critical thinkers and shifting the atmosphere of the school she calls home. **GN**

BUILDING STRONG BRAINS, BUILDING HOPE

PARTNERSHIPS FUEL REAL-WORLD LEARNING AT NORTH COFFEE ELEMENTARY

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

NORTH COFFEE Elementary is a living legacy. Its weathered brick walls reverberate with the voices of generations past, each footstep leaving an imprint on the path to the future. Children walk the same hallowed halls as their parents once did.

The scent of warm cookies from the cafeteria mingles with the tang of dry-erase markers, a timeless blend of childhood comfort and intellectual wonder. The scent of fresh paint beckons, hinting at classrooms where creativity bursts into bloom. Faces, as diverse as the books lining the library shelves, flash by. Laughter erupts from a huddle of children.

And then, a bell rings, interrupting the momentary stillness. A flurry of backpacks zip closed, and feet shuffle in eager anticipation. The buzz resumes, amplified, as classroom doors swing open and the learning commences.

For Principal Adam Clark “education” is synonymous with “legacy.” Growing up in Coffee County, with his mother as a dedicated North Coffee Elementary teacher, lent Clark insight into the world of educators. His experiences as a student instilled in him a deep understanding of the power of education and the community’s unique needs.





Adam Clark

“I learned pretty quickly that I understood math well enough to explain it in a way my friends would understand it. It frustrated me that kids had trouble with math. And I took it as something I was designed to do.”

This foundation paved the way for Clark’s return to North Coffee Elementary as the school’s principal, guiding the next generation of students with the same passion that shaped his path.

When making decisions for the school, Clark asks himself, “What is best for the kids?”

One of the school’s key initiatives is the Building Strong Brains program. This statewide initiative equips educators with the tools to understand and address the impact of trauma on learning. This aids in understanding what hinders or helps the students, creating a space where every child can heal, grow, and reach their full potential.

“We, as educators, have to be sensitive to those things. It’s not the end of the road for them because they’ve had these things happen to them.”

The impact of this approach is evident in North Coffee Elementary’s achievements. Last year, the school was designated as a Reward School by the state, representing its commitment to both high achievement and growth. The school wouldn’t be successful without dedicated teachers, whom Clark describes as “top-notch” and “committed to educating kids.”

Partnerships with local businesses, like the Sportsmen & Businessmen’s Charitable Organization, provide essential resources and opportunities for students. Initiatives like the Lemonade Day program, where fifth graders interact with businesses and community members, fuel them with valuable real-world learning experiences.

Technology is another area where North Coffee Elementary embraces innovation. With one-to-one access to Chromebooks and iPads, students have the tools they need to thrive in the digital age. However, school faculty and staff recognize the importance of balance, ensuring that technology complements — not replaces — traditional learning methods.

Looking ahead, Clark is focused on building literacy equity, ensuring all students have access to the resources needed to succeed. This includes initiatives like the National Institute of Excellence in Teaching grant program, which focuses on building background knowledge through reading and literacy.

66

A kid doesn’t care what you know until they know that you care.

– Adam Clark

“You might have a student in class who’s traveled to Yellowstone, New York, or overseas and experienced things. So whenever you discuss it in class, that kid’s got a picture in their head of what that looks like. I may have another student in class who has never left Coffee County. Their experiences are vastly different,” he said.

“We have to help develop and build knowledge amongst all kids. The kids who may not have a wide variety of experiences struggle because they don’t have the background knowledge, and we have to be responsible for leveling the playing field for all students.”

Clark’s advice for aspiring educators is to “simply love children.”

“If you don’t love kids and educating, don’t get into it,” he reiterated.

Genuine passion and building strong relationships with students, parents, and the community are keys to success in education.

“A kid doesn’t care what you know until they know that you care,” he said, expressing that love and support are the foundation for any successful learning environment.

North Coffee Elementary is a family, a community, and a glimmer of hope for the future.

“This [school] is really just a neat atmosphere and environment to be a part of.”

With a focus on trauma-informed education, strong social connections, and innovative learning approaches, the school is paving the way for its students to thrive academically and as well-rounded individuals ready to face the world with confidence and compassion. **GN**



How the Good News Magic Happens: From Submission to Print

How does a story get into Good News Magazine?

Nominate someone to be featured in Good News Magazine.

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



Step 1: The submission process: goodnewsmags.com

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

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

Step 2: Selection and theme assignment

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

Step 3: Interviews and photo shoots

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



What's next in Good News Magazine?

Currently, our dedicated team of magazine writers and editors is hard at work crafting stories under themes like “Shop Local,” “Independence,” and “Dreams Come True.” We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is **“Where Champions are Made.”**

What we seek in Where Champions are Made stories:

We are looking for local athletes with inspiring stories. Do you have a family member or friend who shines on the court or field? We want to tell your story! Our next sports issue will include players, coaches, and those who lift our athletes to new heights.

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.

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Submit a positive story
on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Bryce Reeg

Bryce Reeg at Common John Brewing - Feb. 16



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

A lively Friday night on Feb. 16, at Common John Brewing Company, listening to the talented Bryce Reeg perform.



1. Allison Downie and Brandon Nicholls 2. Brandy and Matt Vinson and Josh Peterson 3. Maddi Machart and Zach Taylor
4. Steve Egee and Renee Haggard 5. Rhonda and Troy Gray 6. Danny Guibor and Nick McCreery

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7. Bryce Reeg 8. Patrick and Amy Beaudoin

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Donate or volunteer at your local charities and nonprofits.

Good News Magazine's mission is to build stronger communities through positive stories. We encourage you to donate and volunteer at local nonprofits to spread more good in your community.

Coffee County Humane Society

Promoting the public interest in the general welfare and humane treatment of animals to prevent suffering, neglect, and abuse.

(931) 728-0903
www.coffeehumane.org

Coffee County Anti-Drug Coalition

Focusing on substance abuse prevention and education, and collaborates with schools, community groups, and law enforcement to raise awareness and provide resources.

(931) 570-4484
www.ccantidrug.org

Coffee County Historical Society

Seeking to preserve and record the history of the county and its people.

(931) 728-0145
www.cctnhs.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Coffee County

Enhancing the lives of those affected by mental illness. Monthly support groups the first Thursday of each month.

(931) 952-6871
Facebook: NAMI Coffee County

Family Counseling Center of Middle Tennessee

Counseling center that provides faith-based professional counseling services for both individuals and families. Also sanctions the Access Hope Hotline, which has certified facilitators available 24/7 to answer calls from adults and teens.

Office: (931) 723-0380
Hotline: (844) 269-4673
www.victory4families.org

Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center

Offering free pregnancy tests, family planning education, and confidential support for those with an unexpected pregnancy.

(931) 954-5381
www.lifechoicestn.org

Millennium Repertory Company

Creating, designing, directing, building, painting, managing, and performing all done by volunteers as a nonprofit community theater organization based at the Manchester Arts Center.

(931) 570-4489
www.millenniumrep.org

Partners for Healing

Providing free primary health care to low-income individuals, who are working but uninsured.

(931) 455-5014
www.partnersforhealing

Community Table

Serving through outreach programs including clothing, food, and hygiene distributions.

(931) 450-4870
Facebook: Community Table



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Good News
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Coffee County Rescue Squad

A group of dedicated volunteers providing essential rescue services in Coffee County.

(931) 728-1785
www.coffeecountyrescuesquad.org

Storehouse Food Pantry

Alleviating food insecurity in Manchester and surrounding areas.

(931) 409-6040
www.storehousefoodpantry.com

Coffee County Historical Society

Seeking to preserve and record the history of the county and its people.

(931) 728-0145
www.cctnhs.org

See more options or
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8 Flavors changing weekly.

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- Ice Cream Float
- Banana Split
- Hot Fudge Cake
- Sorbet

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- Bag
- Box

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NOVELTIES

- Big Bopper
- Ice Cream Sandwich
- Big Alaska
- Bomb Pop
- Chocolate/Vanilla Twist Cone
- Fudge Brownie Bar
- Nerd Bomb Pops

NOVELTY & NOSTALGIC CANDIES

BAKERY

- Oatmeal Cream Pie
- Macarons
- No Bake Cookies
- Jumbo Peanut Butter Cups
- Brownies
- Chess Squares
- Mudslides
- More



BREAKFAST

Serving Light Breakfast Items

SPECIALTY DRINKS

- Pumpkin Spice Latte
- Toasted Marshmallow Mocha
- Cinnamon Churro
- Espresso
- Cappuccino
- Latte
- Hot chocolate
- Hot tea



Menu is subject to change.



Café, Bakery & Gift Shop

Wed. & Thurs.: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
 Fri.: 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
 Sat.: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Sunday: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lunch 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Dinner 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Cafe located at: 210 N. Irwin St., Manchester, TN - (931) 723-2491

Our Coffee/Ice Cream Shop is located at: 109 W High St., Manchester, TN (Right around the corner from the Cafe)