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Mariah Hughes

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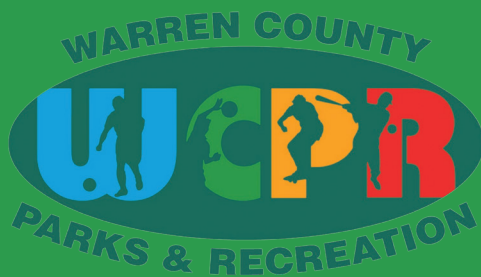
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	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## 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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publishing  
partner



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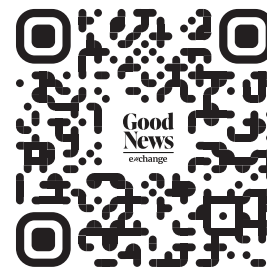
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# Good Living

## CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

- 14 Triumph over trials
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Submit a positive story  
on our website:



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Photography by Amanda Guy

◀ Christina Wynne, Jeramie Briscoe,  
and their daughter, Samara, with Anubis

# TRIUMPH OVER TRIALS



**Jeramie  
Briscoe**



**Anubis**

## The inspirational journey of an EMT and hero

By Amanda E. West

Photography by Amanda Guy

**J**ERAMIE BRISCOE is a full-time EMT, a doting father to five girls and one son, a former firefighter, and the owner of a highly acclaimed 4-year-old German shepherd named “Anubis.” With no formal K-9 Search and Rescue training, Briscoe painstakingly trained Anubis and was named a “hometown hero.” He later received a valor award from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Ever since he was a young boy, Briscoe dreamed of becoming a firefighter. His mother, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2017, pushed and motivated him to be a respectable and well-mannered young man who always did his best no matter what he set his mind to. This advice and determination by Briscoe’s beloved mother helped him begin his journey. At 16, he was Franklin’s first and only junior firefighter.



Briscoe also earned a Class A Commercial Drivers License and, through the years, has alternated between driving a big rig, working with emergency medical services, and volunteering at two different departments: Warren County and Browning Fire. He also served as a lieutenant at the Barren River Fire Department and spent eight years with the City of Franklin Fire Department.

“I was blessed to be trained and mentored by many veterans within the fire service who made sure I was trained to the highest standards and integrity,” said Briscoe. “In this field, you have to understand that you’ll see people at their worst, and their emergency may not be your emergency, but you must take into consideration how they feel and put their feelings above yours.”

While working as a firefighter in 2004, Briscoe encountered a stranger who

was trapped inside his burning home, unconscious and dying. Briscoe took no thought for his own safety when he arrived on the scene. Instead, he dashed into the flames and carried the man from the home, where he and other firefighters revived him.

In his free time, Briscoe began training his German shepherd, Anubis, to search for missing people.

“I had no idea how or where to begin. But through persistence, dedication, long hours of training, tears, sweat, and blood, he passed the required test to become a certified search dog, along with me, a certified handler. This is very special because some had no faith that I would achieve this goal, which I persevered, and my faith was strong to never give up.”

Sometime later, a fellow firefighter requested help from Anubis and Briscoe for a search and rescue in Smiths Grove for a missing man.

“We set out that Sunday with no clue where to go from where he was last seen, but we followed the nose of Anubis. He gave us many signs that were pertinent to the recovery of the missing man. After about four hours of searching, reading Anubis’ behavior, and using the signs Mother Nature and the wildlife presented to us, we found exactly what we set out to find. It was a different outcome than we’d hoped, but it gave the family closure, knowing he [had been] found. To this day, I still can’t believe how far Anubis has come and that he works so proficiently at any job I give him to do.”

Briscoe’s work schedule as an EMT changed from working 24-hour shifts with 72 hours off to 12-hour shifts 4-5 days a week when stage 3 breast cancer struck the mother of his youngest daughter, his girlfriend Christina Wynne. Wynne’s mother lost her battle with the BRCA



*“Keep striving  
for your goals,  
never stop living,  
always be kind,  
and never stop  
believing in  
yourself.”*

*—Jeramie Briscoe*

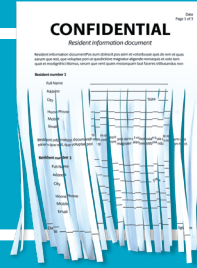
hereditary gene at 44, so Wynne and Briscoe made up their minds to face this battle together. After witnessing Wynne undergo a double mastectomy, damaged self-esteem, hair loss, and sickness from the chemotherapy, Briscoe said it's been a rough six months. However, this isn't the first battle he's faced, so he works hard to keep a smile on his face, especially when he thinks of what others have endured themselves.

“I look up to a lot of different people in this world, specifically to those who have endured hardships in life yet have prevailed and turned their life around. I commend those people. I, too, have had some unfathomable storms. I've tried to turn my mess into a message for others, to motivate them so they can see that they can get through anything. Just keep moving forward, and things will fall into place accordingly. I try to motivate everyone [and remind them] that they are somebody, they are needed, and they are loved. It's also important to keep striving for your goals, never stop living, always be kind, and never stop believing in yourself.” GN



**Jeramie Briscoe, Christina Wynne,  
and their daughter, Samara, with Anubis**

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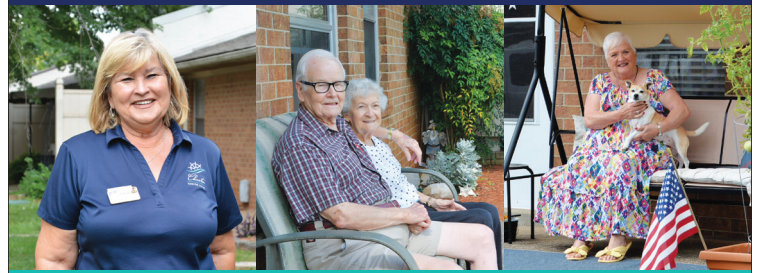
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FROM  
BOOKS

to blooms





WILD ONES SOUTHERN KENTUCKY  
PROVIDES NATIVE SEEDS TO PATRONS

BY AMANDA E. WEST // PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMANDA GUY



ALL FIVE Warren County Public Library locations offer more than endless rows of books. The libraries give patrons access to computers and the internet, printers, copiers, notaries, book clubs, free and low-cost events, engaging activities for all ages, as well as access to genealogy records, music CDs, audiobooks, streaming movies through Hoopla and Kanopy, and magazines — without ever paying for a subscription. Patrons can also borrow telescopes, STEM kits, jewelry-making equipment, sewing machines, cake pans, beach toys, and even ukeleles, all recently added by the Warren County Public Library.

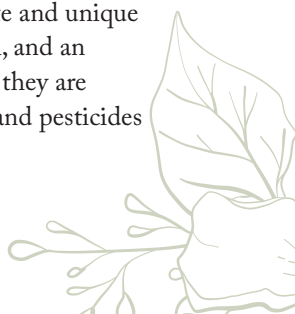
The Bob Kirby branch offers an “idea lab” for crafts and various hobbies. Unbelievably, this location provides a pottery wheel and a kiln, a 3D carving machine called a Carvey CNC router, a printer for posters, an embroidery machine, a 3D printer, button makers, a vinyl cutter, a heat press, and more! The Smiths Grove branch has a heat press and a Cricut. The virtual libraries offer access to



various programs to learn foreign languages, receive help with your homework, access encyclopedias and links to research medical and legal help, along with business, finance, and career opportunities.

Benjamin Franklin opened the first public library in 1731, and ever since, librarians have been planting seeds in the minds of their patrons and vastly expanding the knowledge and imaginations of everyone who holds a library card. These seeds are no longer just theoretical, as the Warren County Public Library has partnered with several seed companies to offer everything from arugula to zucchini. Now, patrons will find seeds for native perennials thanks to a new partnership with the Wild Ones Southern Kentucky Chapter (Wild Ones SOKY). This organization donated over 600 seed packets to help residents regain access to native plants, benefitting local habitats.

Seeds such as the purple coneflower, Eastern red columbine, and several milkweed species are available with limits of five packs per day. Native seeds adapt to our local climate and unique soil conditions, and the plants provide nectar, pollen, and an abundance of seeds that feed local wildlife. Because they are native to our area, they require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides





and help prevent erosion and flooding. Saving seeds after planting is also essential, as patrons can donate seeds back to the Seed Library, ensuring a never-ending supply.

The Wild Ones SOKY Chapter began in March 2020 and serves Southern Kentucky and Northern Tennessee. According to Katie Marquardt, the chapter's president, Bowling Green is at the heart of her service area. Its goal is to “connect people and native plants for a healthy planet,” and they work to accomplish this through education, advocacy, and collaborative action, such as their connection with the Warren County Public Library.

“Our chapter is a community of knowledgeable and passionate people with a shared vision — native plants and natural landscapes thriving in our yards, gardens, community spaces, and wild areas,” said Marquardt. “We learn and grow together, sharing experiences and resources to create a movement of local gardeners growing healthier landscapes. We are dedicated to making an impact in our region with community gardens, habitat restoration projects, engaging the community with meetings and events, and hosting educational opportunities for youth.”

Members of the chapter frequently host events at the River Birch Room at Lost River Cave, which include exciting lectures on biodiversity and updates on the meadow restoration at the Lost River Cave. The chapter also co-organized the annual four-day global bioblitz in April in their City Nature Challenge for Bowling Green and South Central Kentucky.

Saturday, May 11, Wild Ones SOKY will host its annual Spring Native Plant Sale at the community farmers market. Locals will have the chance to purchase affordable native plants provided by members. All proceeds benefit the chapter and fund its ongoing efforts within the community.

“Many locals have already realized we’ve lost too many acres of diverse habitats in South Central Kentucky. It’s negatively impacting our insects, birds, and other wildlife. The good news is, everyone has the opportunity to embrace native planting practices, create spaces that welcome and sustain wildlife, and contribute to a healthy ecosystem,” said Marquardt. “Personally, I love working outdoors as a way of staying active. It’s beneficial for my physical and mental well-being. It helps me feel connected to my land and the wildlife it supports. Simply seeing and spending time around trees and plants makes me feel happy, but making an effort to help them grow makes it even better!” GN

*To become a patron of the Warren County Public Library, go to [www.warrenpl.org](http://www.warrenpl.org) and check out Wild Ones at [www.soky.wildones.org](http://www.soky.wildones.org).*



# HOMELESS NO MORE

St. Gianna offers hope to expectant mothers.

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Amanda Guy

**B**ORN IN Italy in 1922, Gianna Francesca Beretta had an abundance of love for children and, as a devout Catholic, believed in the power of prayer. After she married the love of her life, Pietro Molla, the couple had three children before Gianna tragically suffered two miscarriages. During her next pregnancy, doctors discovered a large tumor and recommended she undergo a hysterectomy, thus terminating her unborn child. Opting for a riskier surgery that ultimately traded her own life for that of her daughter, Gianna Emanuela, she died seven days later. On May 16, 2004, Pope John Paul canonized Gianna Molla as a modern saint.

In honor of this patron saint of the unborn, Doctors Michael

and Katharyn Byrne have recently birthed the St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home (SGCPH) for unhoused expectant mothers. As a retired pediatrician who has lived in Bowling Green for 23 years, Katharyn is a faithful member of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church. She is also involved in several outreach ministries, including Myanmar Humanitarian Charities and Good Samaritan Ministry, which provide services such as building ramps for physically disabled individuals, cleaning homes, making minor home repairs, and providing transportation.

“Several years ago, my husband brought up the idea of opening a home for women in crisis. We began investigating whether there was indeed a need for a residential facility for unhoused





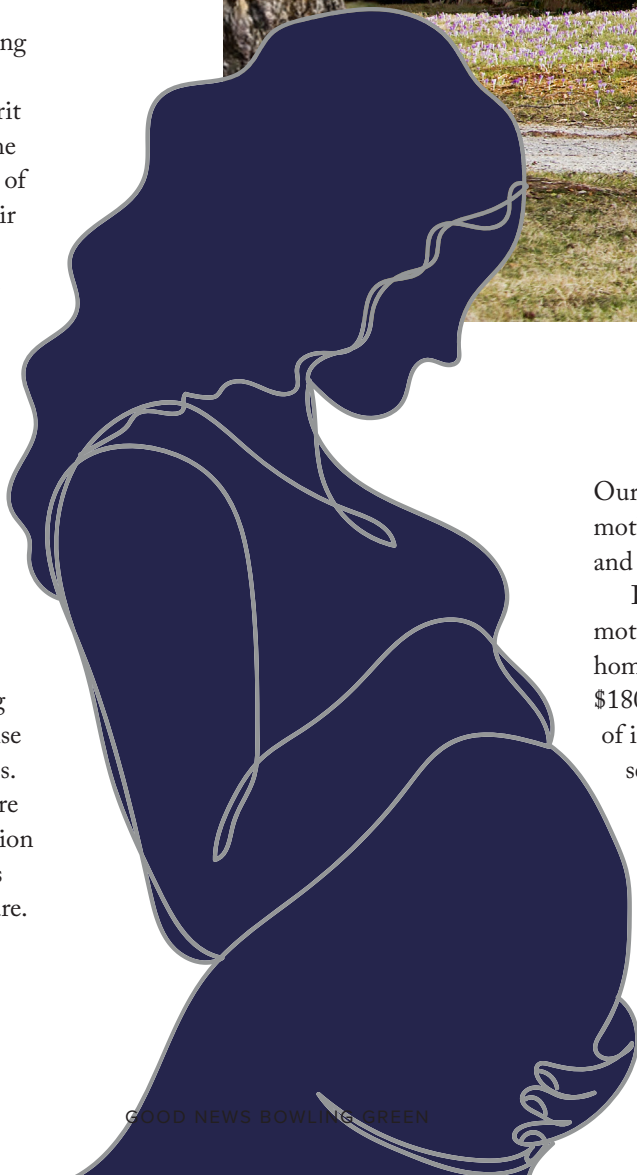
Katharyn Byrne and Missy Monroe

pregnant women in this area, and we began visiting homes in other cities to look at their programs,” said Katharyn. “Local agencies such as LifeSkills, the Salvation Army, and the Family Resource Center told us they knew of pregnant women locally who were sleeping in cars or couch surfing. Women using the Salvation Army’s shelter must leave each morning and can’t return till evening. They have high-risk pregnancies because they have no regular shelter or meals during the day and often no transportation to medical appointments. While initially, I had doubts about our ability to take on such an enormous project, prayer and discernment led a group of us to realize that others had faced the same obstacles and succeeded, and with God’s help, we could, too.”

By faith, they secured a location and began an addition that will serve as a dining room and a classroom for the occupants. To date, 50 volunteers from the Holy Spirit and St. Joseph Catholic Church have come forward to teach various classes, take care of maintenance, and drive the women to their prenatal appointments. They plan to hold a Mass of Commitment where volunteers can solidify their time and talent commitments for the year, along with a reception honoring benefactors.

The motto of SGCPH is “defending life with love,” and its mission is twofold. First, to offer unhoused pregnant women a safe and nurturing place where they can achieve a healthy pregnancy, and second, to provide support and resources to help them as they move toward independence.

“We hope to assist women in breaking the cycle of poverty and ready them to raise their families in more stable circumstances. A nurtured mother is better able to nurture her child. Helping women achieve education and career goals will hopefully lead to less need for government subsidies in the future.



Our whole community benefits from mothers who are better able to parent and provide for their families.”

In order to fully support six mothers and their babies in this home, SGCPH will need to raise \$180,000 in the first year. As part of its “180 Campaign,” it is actively seeking individuals to help raise 1,000 shares of \$180 for the next three years to ensure budget needs are adequately met. These funds will ensure that



previously homeless mothers “do a 180” and turn their lives around for the better.

“Members of the community can assist our organization by volunteering their time and talents. We will also have an ongoing need for consumables such as diapers, baby items, and maternity clothing, as we expect women will come to us with few possessions of their own. As each resident graduates from SGCPH, we would like to help them get set up

with their baby in what is likely to be subsidized housing. When members of our community no longer need their baby items, such as cribs, or if they have spare housewares or small furnishings that the women might need for their own homes, they can contribute those items to the mothers. We will post immediate needs on our website.” GN

*For more information, go to [www.stgiannacph.org](http://www.stgiannacph.org).*

“  
We hope to assist women in breaking the cycle of poverty and ready them to raise their families in more stable circumstances. A nurtured mother is better able to nurture her child.

- Dr. Katharyn Byrne

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# Griff's Deli

*Your ultimate destination for delicious dining*

## **GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!**

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Bowling Green. This month Eve Vawter visited Griff's Deli.

### **Griff's Deli**

1640 Scottsville Rd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42103  
(270) 904-4743  
griffsdeli.com

**T**UCKED AWAY in a strip mall off of Scottsville Road is Griff's Deli, established in 2009 by owners and spouses Ed and Micha Griffin. The restaurant is adorned with airplane graphics and has ample seating inside and out. The menu is extensive and includes typical deli fare like paninis, wraps, salads, baked potatoes, and various other sandwiches, sides, and bakery items.

The "extensive" part is the problem because everything we sampled was unbelievably delicious. And the portions were gigantic. Sadly, one can only eat so much in one sitting, and we would have felt sort of ridiculous returning twice in one day. But it was very hard not to.

The charming cashier behind the counter, Mikayla, suggested the "Pick Any 2" with a loaded broccoli cheese baked potato and a chicken salad melt. Full disclosure — I don't even like chicken salad. I was fully expecting to politely sample a bite and be done with it.

I must confess I dreamt about this chicken salad! With apple slices, walnuts, and, I believe, dried cranberries, it has

to be one of the best sandwiches I have ever had. The baked potato was loaded with cheese and fresh broccoli. It was absolutely delicious.

My companion had the chipotle chicken panini and then proceeded to complain the entire way home that they didn't order another identical sandwich to go.

We purchased the last three cookies available, a clear indication of how good the bakery items are. We had a frosted sugar cookie and a white chocolate chip cookie. The third, some sort of cookie that I heard angels singing while eating, had salted caramel, toffee, and chocolate chips.

Griff's has a fantastic kid's menu. The restaurant says it serves macaroni and cheese in a dinosaur bowl that you can take home, and how great is that? The place is obviously very kid-friendly.

The menu also has vegetarian options and sides that include potato salad, pasta salad, broccoli salad, and fresh fruit.

Griff's Deli is great. I just have to remember to order to-go items, so I'm not sad when I realize I'm no longer eating its yummy food. **GN**





# Good Stories

## CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 36 Advancing education and fostering community
- 40 Behind the wheel: Educating through the National Corvette Museum
- 44 To educate and prepare

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



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

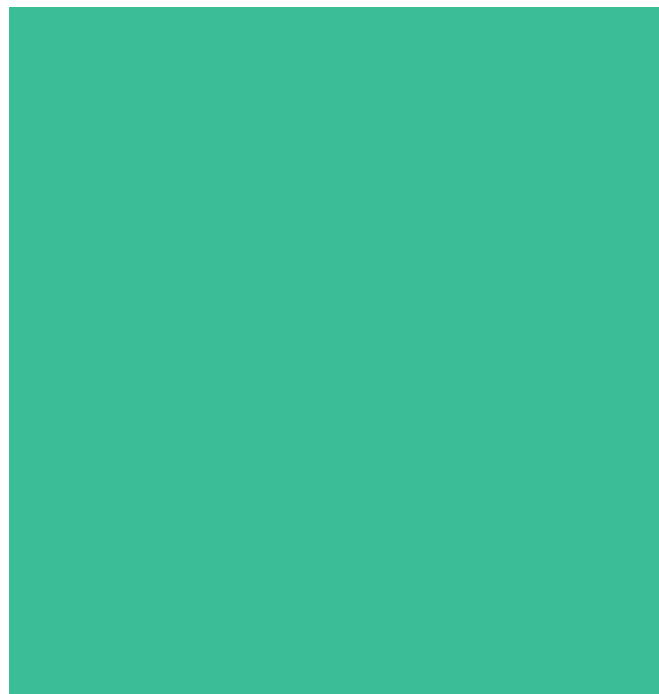
Photography by Amanda Guy

◀ Mariah Hughes



# LEARNING curve





# ADVANCING EDUCATION AND FOSTERING COMMUNITY

## THE GATTON ACADEMY BRINGS YOUNG STEM ENTHUSIASTS TO BOWLING GREEN.

By Sara Hook // Photos submitted by Kari Lynn Somers

**Y**OUNG SCIENTISTS and mathematicians are often driven to learn and ready for class material far above their peers. To challenge themselves and prepare for post-secondary education, they can take dual credit or Advanced Placement classes, but they are often limited by what is available at their school or in their region. Fortunately, Bowling Green is home to a residential program that may be the answer for those who are itching to do more.

The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science is a two-year residential program for high school juniors and seniors. Based at Western Kentucky University, the program allows young STEM (science, technology, engineering and

math) enthusiasts a chance to advance their education alongside like-minded individuals. Assistant Director Kari Lynn Somers said that this opportunity exists because of the work of legislatures and citizens from across the state of Kentucky.

“It’s been a long time standing,” Somers said. “Dr. Julia Roberts worked with a team of folks who were passionate about making sure that Kentucky’s brightest students had opportunities to accelerate their learning and find challenge in the classroom.”

Since its establishment in 2007, The Gatton Academy has graduated 16 classes and over 1,000 students. Students can take between 60 and 72 credit hours in their two years of attendance, study abroad in England or Costa Rica, and conduct faculty-mentored research.



“Gatton students’ research experiences often lead to them presenting at professional conferences, which can be at the local, state, national, or international level,” Somers said. “Some of our students’ research has even been published with their names listed alongside their faculty mentors.”

The most significant benefit, however, is the community formed by the students. Somers said many are known as “the smart kids” at their local schools, and Gatton offers somewhere they don’t feel so out of place. Students who may be quiet and keep their heads down in their home communities are able to find out who they are.

“It’s phenomenal to see Gatton students get to be everything they want to be and

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**It’s phenomenal to see Gatton students get to be everything they want to be and not only be the ‘smart kid.’**

– Kari Lynn Somers

not only be the ‘smart kid,’” Somers said. “They get to meet other people who think like them, want to solve problems, and have similar interests. They really encourage each other and come out of their shells.”

While such an experience would generally cost quite a bit, thanks to funding from the Kentucky Legislature, tuition and room and board are offered at no cost. Other scholarships are also available for incidental living expenses, meaning any Kentucky resident can apply without concern for cost. However, there is only room for about 95 students per class, so getting accepted is an achievement.

“Students have to apply during their sophomore year in high school and have to have completed Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra 2 by the end of that year. This will most likely be students who had access to Algebra 1 in eighth grade,” Somers said. “We have a minimum required ACT score of 22 on the math section; that’s a 540 on the SAT.”

The application process itself is meant to allow staff to get to know students in a well-rounded way. Students need to have a passion for STEM and the maturity to succeed in a residential program.

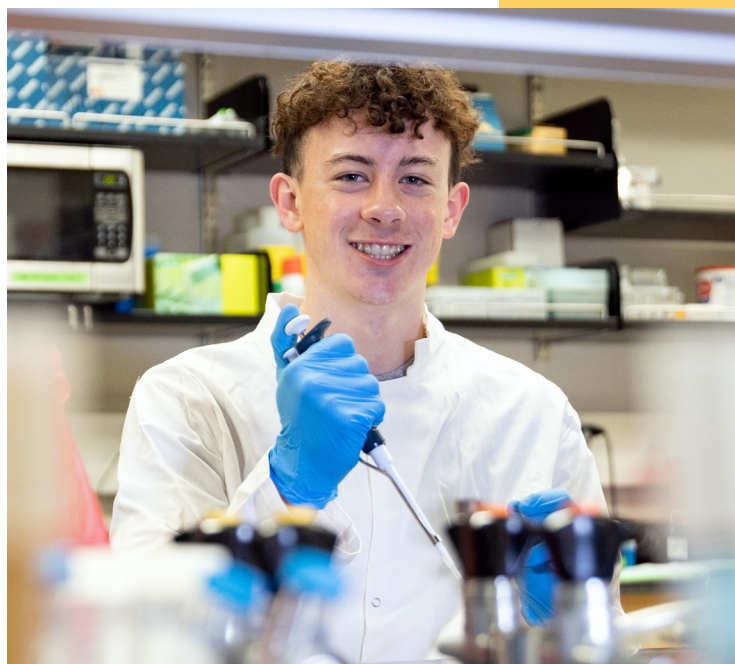
Getting accepted does not mean giving up the chance to graduate with neighbors and friends. Gatton students remain enrolled in their home high schools and can walk across the stage with their peers when the time comes.

“You kind of get the best of both worlds,” Somers said. “You’re going to get this prestigious diploma from The Gatton Academy, but you have that connection to your hometown.”

Still, sending a high schooler to a residential program can be daunting. For that reason, interested parents are encouraged to visit the academy in person, talk to parents of currently enrolled students, and see what the school has to offer.

“We have opportunities throughout the year for families to be able to come visit us,” Somers said. “Those preview days are a great opportunity to really be able to see whether or not this is something that your child wants or you as a student want to pursue. But I always tell people, ‘Just go for it. Apply and go through the process and see.’

As the saying goes, “You miss 100 % of the shots you don’t take.” GN





# BEHIND THE WHEEL: EDUCATING THROUGH THE NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

## SHOWCASING THE ICONIC CAR'S TIMELESS TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE EXCELLENCE

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Amanda Guy  
and submitted by Mariah Hughes

**T**HE CHEVROLET Corvette isn't just a car; it's a love story. One that has evolved over the last 70 years, fueled by passion, speed, and an indelible connection to this iconic sports car. Since its debut in 1953, the Corvette has captured hearts across the nation, becoming a symbol of American ingenuity and freedom.

Celebrating this bond year-round for the last 30 years is the National Corvette Museum. Built in 1994 and opened to the public in September of that year, the museum is located near General Motors' Bowling Green Assembly Plant, where Corvettes are manufactured.

Since day one, the museum has proudly showcased the iconic and internationally recognized sports car along with educating its visitors from around the world on "the evolution of the Corvette – America's Sports Car – through collection, preservation, and celebration of its legacy," according to the museum's website.

Mariah Hughes serves as the media relations and marketing production manager for the National Corvette Museum. A Kentucky native, she grew up understanding the love the community has for the Corvette.

"I visited it several times on field trips and events that were held in our event spaces," she said.

Hughes has a special history with the museum. She began working for the museum as a student at Western Kentucky University (WKU). Starting as an admissions associate and tour guide, Hughes joined the museum's marketing department, where she would quickly learn the ropes. Following graduating from WKU in 2019, she joined full time in marketing and is now celebrating her sixth year with the museum.

"The museum is truly one of a kind, and there is no other museum in the country dedicated to a single model of vehicle," explained Hughes.





**Mariah Hughes**

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**Whether you are an art lover or automotive lover, from not just cars but even motorcycles, this is an exhibit that you will not want to miss.**

– Mariah Hughes

“You have the Peterson Museum in Los Angeles, Henry Ford Museum in Detroit — but none of those are dedicated to a true individual model. Whereas the National Corvette Museum is dedicated to educating worldwide audiences on ‘America’s Sports Car,’ which is the Corvette. It is a one-of-a-kind institution.”

The museum’s website states that it offers visitors “captivating exhibits, immersive experiences, Corvette manufacturing plant tours, and unique offerings that engage visitors of all ages and backgrounds in the history of Corvette.”

“One of our strategic objectives is to be a cherished community asset,” explained Hughes. “One way that we do that is through our different education initiatives. Most recently, in 2023, we opened the McMichael Family Education Gallery, which is a space for even the youngest Corvette enthusiast, or someone who just likes to get out there and explore and learn more — to someone who may be really invested in the Corvette and want to learn more about it.”

Hughes added that the 2500-square-foot education space showcases STREAM education: science, technology, robotics, engineering, art, and mathematics.

“We have drawing tablets for visitors to draw their own Corvette and take inspiration from aquatic life as well as fighter jets to design their own Corvette,” said Hughes. “So, we’re not only fostering the next generation of Corvette

enthusiasts, but we’re also hoping to inspire the next generation of Corvette owners, engineers, designers, builders, marketers, and more.”

In 2024, the museum will unveil a new exhibition, “LUSTER: Realism and Hyperrealism in Contemporary Automobile and Motorcycle Painting.” The traveling museum exhibition is comprised of over 55 paintings by 15 realists and hyperrealists who specialize in automobiles and motorcycles as their primary subjects.

“This showcase of high-end art is the first ever in the museum. Whether you are an art lover or automotive lover, from not just cars but even motorcycles, this is an exhibit that you will not want to miss,” enthused Hughes.

She added that exhibitions are just one of the many things visitors can enjoy in 2024. She and the dedicated crew at the museum welcome people of all ages and backgrounds to come out





and fall in love with the Corvette for the first time or all over again.

“We always say that people come for the car, but they stay for the people and the friendships that are made at the museum and across the country,” expressed Hughes. “We are one big happy family, and the one thing that we have in common is the love and appreciation for ‘America’s Sports Car.’

Whether you’re a sports car [or] automotive fan, history lover, or someone who likes the work that goes into industry and engineering, the National Corvette Museum has something for everyone. We hope that when you leave here, you take away just a little bit of an appreciation for ‘America’s Sports Car’ and all the dedication that’s gone into it.” GN

*To plan your trip, visit [www.corvettemuseum.org](http://www.corvettemuseum.org).*



# TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE

## A BOWLING GREEN NURSING PROGRAM TAKES STEPS TO INCREASE THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSES.

By Sara Hook // Photos submitted by SKYCTC

**N**URSES ARE some of the most important members of our society. They work in hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics, schools, prisons, and even homes. Without them, the health care system would be less effective and be able to reach fewer people. More nurses will always be needed, and Bowling Green's Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC) is working hard to educate and prepare the next generation.

The Allied Health and Nursing Program at SKYCTC Bowling Green began in 2008 as an offshoot of the school's Glasgow Nursing Program. The first classes were geared toward licensed practical nurses (LPNs), but in 2013, the program began training registered nurses (RNs). Angie Harlan, dean of the program, said while many nursing programs have similar outcomes, Bowling Green offers something unique. The first two semesters focus on LPN content, allowing students to sit for the LPN license exam, while





the last two semesters focus on RN content and prepare students to sit for the RN license exam.

“We use what we call an ‘academic/career mobility’ curriculum,” Harlan said. “Because the program uses this curriculum, we can also accept current practicing LPNs to join that program and only have to do the last two semesters.”

Harlan said that if a student successfully completes the first two semesters, they can sit for the LPN license exam even if life forces them to drop out after those two semesters. Those who continue in the program can work as an LPN while still in school and working toward their RN license, and those LPNs already in the workforce can more easily return to school for more training.

Those nurses are in high demand, and the nursing program has stepped up to meet that need. Whereas in the past, the Bowling Green campus would take a new class every other year, it has recently increased its enrollment to accommodate a full class every other year and a smaller class in between. The result is an enrollment that has nearly doubled: 62 students are set to graduate this December, which Harlan said is the biggest graduating class to date.

The Allied Health and Nursing Program has also become more active in local high schools to help students prepare for their nursing path.

“If they can take their prerequisite courses that are required to get into the nursing program while they’re in high school, that allows them to apply directly to our programs coming out of high school so they can begin the program sooner,” Harlan said. “If they begin the program sooner, then they finish earlier, thus entering the workforce quicker.”

High school students can also come to SKYCTC for Future Health Care Hero camps in the spring, where they experience all of the Allied Health programs, from radiography and respiratory programs to paramedic programs. This kind of camp also allows students to see the wide variety of career options for a nurse once they have their general nursing degree.

“There’s always so many opportunities with nursing. You can work with geriatrics, you can work with newborns, you can work with mental health patients, you can work with maternity patients, you can go into teaching,” Harlan said. “A person has many different opportunities with a nursing degree.”

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**If they begin the program sooner, then they finish earlier, thus entering the workforce quicker.**

– Angie Harlan

Expanding a nursing program like this is hard work because it requires more than just nursing faculty. Nursing students have to go to clinicals for hands-on experience, so the program must partner with hospitals and medical centers for that clinical space. While the Future Health Care Hero Camp is new, and the initiative’s effects are unclear, Harlan said they are seeing some changes.

“We’re just now starting to see an increase in high school students’ interest in taking those prerequisite courses in high school,” Harlan said. “We’re also starting to see some high school graduates being accepted to the nursing programs upon graduation.”

Those students will be the future of nursing. In Bowling Green, that future is looking bright. **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](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 “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](http://www.GoodNewsMags.com) or scan the QR code. Share your stories with us, and let's continue spreading the Good News together.





# GoodTimes

## CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

- 52 Community Events
- 56 Charity Listings
- 58 Advertiser Index

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on our website:

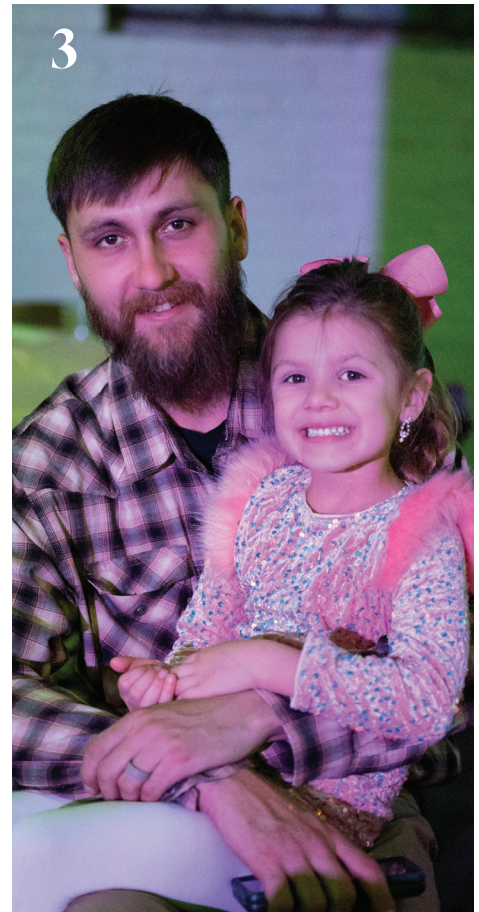


[goodnewsmags.com](http://goodnewsmags.com)

Photography by Gretchen Clark

< Carie Wright

# The Father And Daughters Ball - Feb. 9



Photography by Gretchen Clark

Under the soft glow of the venue's lights, little girls confidently entered the ball hand in hand with their fathers. Laughter, joy, and the scent of a feast filled the air. Hosted annually by Craig and Heather Bitterling with Arts Alive, a nonprofit Christian arts organization, the event featured words of encouragement from a local pastor, emphasizing the importance of a father's role in his daughter's life. The crowd prayed as fathers spoke words of blessing over their daughters. It was a beautiful display of daughters leaning on their fathers' unwavering foundation.

1. Mitch, Paisley, and Amelia Webster 2. Gracie and Charlie Zuccarell  
3. Tyler and Lainey McGuffey 4. Eric and Amerie Self 5. Andrew, Reagon, and Riley Dale

# Science Night - Feb. 13



Photography by Gretchen Clark

Emily Calandrelli, a passionate science communicator, captured hearts of all ages with her curiosity and enthusiasm for space exploration at the Van Meter Hall on the campus of Western Kentucky University. Emily emerged as a dynamic host of the Netflix series “Emily’s Wonder Lab,” where she ignited young minds with captivating experiments. Known as “The Space Gal,” she dedicated herself to making complex scientific concepts accessible to all. Her contagious energy and commitment to demystifying science continue to inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers, leaving an indelible mark.

1. Emily Calandrelli  
2. Kim and Anne Phelps 3. Alyse Combs

# The Lone Star Rodeo Championship - Feb. 9



Photography by Gretchen Clark

The Lone Star Rodeo Championship epitomizes the rugged spirit of the American West, drawing crowds with its electrifying blend of tradition and adrenaline. The mastery of daring cowboys and cowgirls was shown in intense competitions like horse and bull riding, barrel racing, and roping. Thunderous cheers echoed as riders and their equine partners demonstrated skill and courage, embodying the legacy of cowboy culture. The Lone Star Rodeo transcends sport, becoming a vibrant celebration of grit, tenacity, and the timeless connection between humans and the untamed spirit of the West.



1. Mash Phillips  
2. Mike Wentworth and Reid Arnold



3. Vanessa Madison  
4. Zoey Goodwin

# INSPIRE MORE GOOD

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.

## **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Bowling Green**

Provides support, education, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions.

270-883-0036  
[www.bowlinggreennami.org](http://www.bowlinggreennami.org)

## **Hospice of Southern Kentucky Inc.**

Provides compassionate end-of-life care and support for patients and their families.

(270) 746-9300  
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## **Sky Science Festival Inc.**

Promotes science education and engagement through events and conversations.

[info@skyscifest.com](mailto:info@skyscifest.com)  
[www.skyscifest.com](http://www.skyscifest.com)

## **Barren River Area Safe Space Inc.**

Offers shelter and programs for survivors of domestic violence.

Office: (270) 781-9334  
Crisis line: (800) 928-1183  
[www.brassinc.org](http://www.brassinc.org)

## **Boys & Girls Club of Bowling Green**

Enables all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

(270) 843-6466  
[www.bgcbg.org](http://www.bgcbg.org)

## **Centers for Hope**

Provides information on pregnancy, motherhood, and overall health as a Biblical counseling center.

(270) 202-2808  
[www.centersforhope.org](http://www.centersforhope.org)

## **Refuge Bowling Green**

Empowers local churches to embrace those seeking refuge as their neighbors with the love of Christ, operating as a nonprofit intra-church organization.

(270) 418-2648  
[www.refugebg.com](http://www.refugebg.com)

## **AMVETS (American Veterans) Post 130**

Enhances and safeguards the entitlements of all veterans who have served honorably.

(270) 535-5236  
[www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)

## **American Legion Post 23**

Conducts monthly visits to veterans, organizes dinner meetings, and provides support to veterans in need.

(270) 781-4046  
[www.legionpost23.com](http://www.legionpost23.com)

## **College Heights Foundation**

Administers scholarships and aids worthy students enrolled at Western Kentucky University.

(270) 745-4597  
[www.wku.edu/chf](http://www.wku.edu/chf)





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[www.grrec.org](http://www.grrec.org)

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

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

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\$8.89

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

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

## EXTRAS

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Add Bacon \$1.50

Add savory mushrooms 90¢

Gluten-free roll \$2.49

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

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### HOOK & LADDER SALAD®

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