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LEARNING
curve



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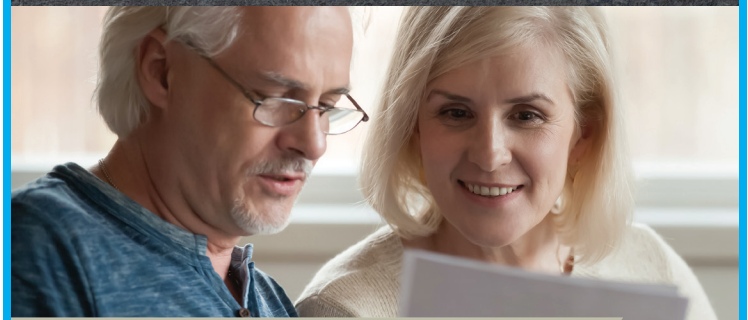
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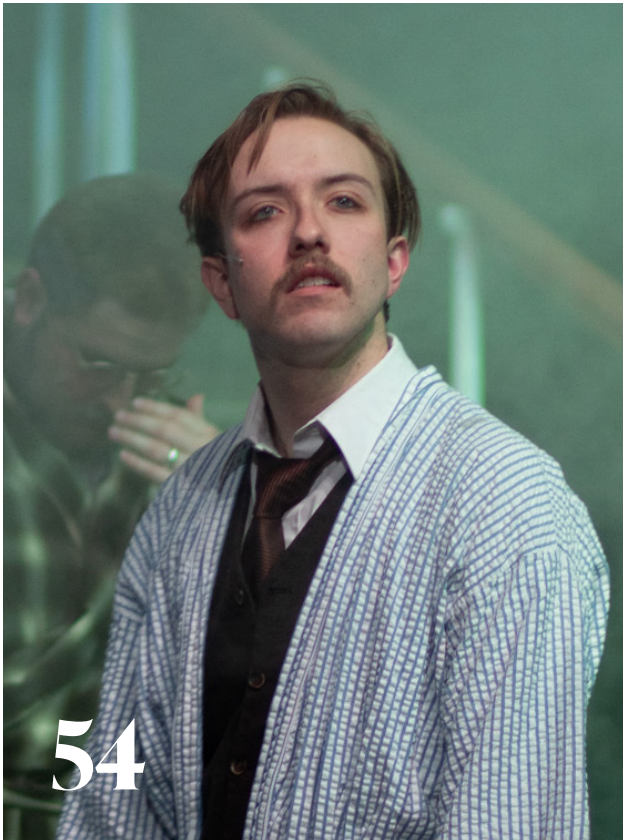
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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

From our
publishing
partner



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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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Photography by Sarah Bussard

◀ Peggy Nolley and Libby Fitzgerald

CHANGE for CHANGE



Refurbished parking meters
collect coins to support
local nonprofits

By Sara Hook // Photography by Sarah Bussard



“ **A** LITTLE CHANGE goes a long way” is the motto of the fundraising organization Change for Change Caring Meters, and the saying has proven true. Since September 2020, 10 lime green parking meters around Lynchburg have been collecting pocket change to distribute to local nonprofits – and the amount of money collected has reached the thousands.

Peggy Nolley and Libby Fitzgerald founded Change for Change. The two Lynchburg residents are known for their charitable work. The idea for the parking



“

This is a very giving community. We're friendly, we are concerned about our citizens, and I felt like it was a no-brainer that we could bring this to Lynchburg.

-Peggy Nolley

◀ Peggy Nolley and Libby Fitzgerald

meters, Nolley said, came from a vacation to the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. The city of Charlottetown used the meters to help its less fortunate population, and Nolley thought the idea was perfect for her city.

“I didn't think of it as something that Lynchburg needs, as much as it's something that Lynchburg would do,” Nolley said. “This is a very giving community. We're friendly, we are concerned about our citizens, and I felt like it was a no-brainer that we could bring this to Lynchburg.”

While she had experience with nonprofits like Beacon of Hope, Nolley had never coordinated a city-wide effort like this. Installing parking meters would require official city permits – something Fitzgerald knew from coordinating a public piano project, Hill City Keys.

“She knew how to navigate the city to get those permits,” Nolley said. “She jumped right on board and said, ‘Yes, I'll help you.’ And so the two of us have been together doing this project since then.”

The city supported the initiative and installed seven refurbished parking

meters downtown, while local builder John Vincent installed three around the Boonsboro area.

Nolley and Fitzgerald collect change from the meters until the total reaches \$1,000. Then the pair reach out to their current matching business partners: Bank of the James; Schewels Home; NB Handy; Davidson, Doyle, and Hilton LLP; Pettyjohn, Wood, and White Inc.; Truist Bank; Truist Wealth; and CapTrust.

“The partners don't have to match the amount collected, but each pitches in something. They have been so very

“

We're making a difference for people who really need it — in small ways, not huge, but small ways.

-Libby Fitzgerald



generous and, cumulatively, they have given \$3,000 to add to our \$1,000, so we are deeply grateful to them all,” expressed Fitzgerald.

In the three and a half years since placing the meters, Change for Change has distributed its funds eight times, totaling \$32,000. All donations went to small, local charities chosen by a committee of community members.

“There are so many efforts in this community doing wonderful things that aren’t well known and well funded,” Fitzgerald said. “That’s what we look for, those groups who don’t receive grants and can really use the extra \$4,000 for their good work.”

So far, Change for Change has given to Interfaith Outreach Association, One Community One Voice, Red Truck Ministries, Lynchburg Area Youth Sports Initiative, IRON Lives Inc., Kuumba Dance and Drum Ensemble Inc., Lynchburg Daily Bread, and Parkview Community Mission’s Food for Thought backpack program.

The donations helped buy hygiene products for teens, pay rent and electric bills, send children to competitions, and so much more. Change for Change’s next contribution will go to Isaiah 117 House, which provides a safe place for children to stay while awaiting foster care placement.

“We’re making a difference for people who really need it — in small ways, not huge, but small ways,” Fitzgerald said.

Nolley and Fitzgerald have encouraged the community to help them beyond donating pocket change. Each meter has a Venmo sticker. Additionally, the organization welcomes cans and bags of change.

In one case, Nolley and Fitzgerald accepted three buckets of change totaling around \$800. In another instance, two preschools in downtown Lynchburg, St. John’s Day School and Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center, collected coins in a classroom jug and organized a school-wide field trip that allowed students to put money in the meters.

“That’s been a great opportunity for them to visually instill in the children the importance of helping those in need in their community — those who don’t have what they have,” emphasized Fitzgerald.

Change for Change is officially under the umbrella of United Way and was previously under the Lynchburg Community Foundation. Officially, it qualifies as a nonprofit organization. Since there is no overhead cost, every cent that goes into a meter is donated to a local charity. Nolley said she hopes people “spread the love,” and maybe one day, every town will have something similar.

“It’s just such a wonderful feeling when you know that you can help somebody else,” Nolley said. “It doesn’t take much to give in order to make a change; just a little bit can go a long way.” **GN**



▲ Libby Fitzgerald and Peggy Nolley



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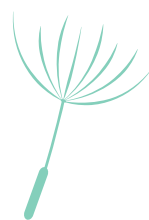
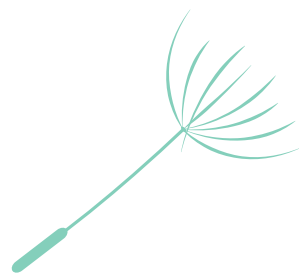
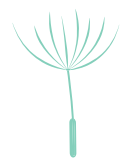
Recycling

H O P E



Turning trash into treasure
and heartache into hope

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Chad Barrett



// | NEVER KNEW you did so much,” is a statement Jeane Smiley-Mason hears often as president and chief operating officer of Gleaning for the World. Founded in 1998 in Concord, Gleaning for the World has provided emergency help internationally to 78 countries and 38 states across our nation, plus Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. The aid distributed exceeds \$725 million and includes a whopping 101 million pounds of “corporate surplus” previously earmarked for the landfill. The materials were repurposed, giving modern meaning to the old adage, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

“Items that are still useful but no longer desirable in our country could make a significant difference to someone in need,” said Smiley-Mason. “With that knowledge and passion, Gleaning for the World was birthed! As a result, this ministry has grown to include not only local partners but national and international partners as well.”

Gleaning for the World steps in to help displaced families living in refugee camps or that have faced a natural disaster such as a hurricane, earthquake, or devastating tornado. The organization provides resources to churches, stocks the shelves of food pantries, and provides supplies to long-term disaster recovery groups.

“The in-kind donations Gleaning for the World accesses and then provides to partners is varied and can include items like medical supplies and durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, etc.; perishable and non-perishable food; personal care and hygiene supplies; household items; stuffed animals and toys; cloth feminine hygiene kits

and much, much more! With a focus on in-kind donations, coupled with our years of experience in logistics, we can usually get humanitarian aid to most places in the world.”

A network of faithful volunteers helps collect, sort, and pack supplies to be shipped nationally and internationally; others work in the sewing center to sew towels, washcloths, baby blankets, lap blankets, and assemble cloth feminine hygiene kits. Gleaning for the World estimates it receives donations of over 34,000 plush toys annually, which it rehomes through its Teddy Bear Brigade.



▲ Sandy Burke



▲ Carla Lewis

“We hear stories about how stuffed animals provided to children living through a natural disaster or a war can light up faces and bring smiles. We know these ‘plushies’ bring comfort during troubled times and that a child intuitively reaches out to get his or her very own.”

From day one, Smiley-Mason said the mission of Gleaning for the World has been to “share the love of God at home and around the world through the efficient delivery of high quality, life-saving supplies to victims of poverty and devastation by connecting corporate surplus to critical needs.”

In 2005, Smiley-Mason came across an advertisement for a position of volunteer coordinator and was impressed with all that Gleaning for the World had accomplished, so she applied. Over the years, she’s worked faithfully in various positions, so in January 2018, after founder Ron Davidson retired, she stepped into her current position as president and chief operating officer. Davidson was a local pastor with a burden for those in need who learned about the retail surplus heading for the landfill and knew these items could make a significant impact all over the world.

“Working at Gleaning for the World has greatly expanded my knowledge and awareness about the extreme difficulties individuals and families can face,” said Smiley-Mason. “It doesn’t matter where you live. Tragic



▲ Bob Burke, Sandy Burke, Carla Lewis, and Stephen Parke

events occur everywhere — both natural and man-made — which can leave behind victims whose lives are absolutely devastated and torn apart.

“With so much information in the news every single day, tragic events can quickly fall from the headlines, yet there are those committed to seeing that help continues to get to those who are struggling and to those who are suffering. Partnering with Gleaning for the World is rewarding and brings ‘tangible hope’ along with ‘eternal hope’ to those in need.”

Smiley-Mason said there’s a growing awareness of the increase of people all over the world who are suffering more than ever, and this brings a level of stress because the heart of Gleaning for the World is to quench



▲ Jeane Smiley-Mason

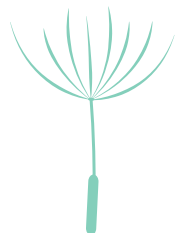
these rising needs and concerns. With this in mind, the call for volunteers is also greater than ever and echoes across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“We love to give tours of our facility and to share some of the projects we are working on. Our experience is that when someone visits us in person or virtually, they might learn more than what they believe they know about us. Ron Davidson wrote a book titled ‘I Did It His Way,’ which is the story about how Gleaning for the World was founded. We’re happy to provide anyone interested in learning more a copy of this book, simply for the asking.” GN

To learn more, call (434) 993-3600 or email info@gftw.org.

“We love to give tours of our facility and to share some of the projects we are working on. Our experience is that when someone visits us in person, or virtually, they might learn more than what they believe they know about us.”

—Jeane Smiley-Mason





Oliver Kuttner

Edison2 *and the* Very Light Car

Lynchburg entrepreneurs look to efficiency improve the world.

By Sara Hook
Photography by
Sarah Bussard

RECORD-BREAKING INVENTIONS are not common, and Lynchburg is proud to be home to one such invention: the Edison2 Very Light Car. Nearly 15 years ago, Lynchburg found itself on the national stage during the Progressive Insurance Automotive X Prize, a competition where the mission was to inspire a new generation of super-efficient vehicles.

Lynchburg's automotive design company, Edison2, joined the competition, beating out 111 other teams in the mainstream category and constructing a 4-passenger car that boasted over 100 MPGe of fuel economy. Founder and CEO Oliver Kuttner said his interest was caught by both the prize money – \$5 million – as well as the chance to invent something that benefits the world.

“Rather than all these people who talk about it and have their opinions, I sat down with my engineers,” Kuttner said. “I very much believe that the only real solution is really smart thinking about how we use our resources and efficiency.”

The Very Light Car was built on that same principle of efficiency and the foundation of basic engineering principles. Chief of Aerodynamics Barnaby Wainfan said the reason the team succeeded was their refusal to start with an existing car design.

“Almost everyone else was looking in the wrong direction,” Wainfan said. “They were looking for the magic drivetrain to drive an otherwise conventional car — hybrid, electric, diesel, flux capacitor, whatever it was — and we realized that that wasn't going to work. And the primary reason that wasn't going to work — when you just step back and look at it — was just the total energy it actually took to make a conventional car move down the road.”

“I very much believe that the only real solution is really smart thinking about how we use our resources and efficiency.”

–Oliver Kuttner

The resulting vehicle was built to be light and aerodynamic, and with the experience of Chief of Design Ron Mathis, it had all the handling of a race car along with the ability to withstand a crash.

“You had a race car engineer with free rein to design a chassis,” Wainfan said. “It was a fun, fun car to drive.”

The results were obvious. The two finalists in the mainstream competition were both Edison2 cars, as every other team had either dropped out, broken down, or failed to achieve the MPGe requirements. The Very Light Car even beat out the electric cars in the competition.

“Electricity is in our future, and being able to put electricity into cars ... is a very good thing,” Kuttner said. “So, I’m in favor of electric cars, but the missing ingredient is to make cars more efficient.”

Wainfan said the Edison2 team achieved something many believed impossible. At the time, 100 MPGe was about twice as fuel efficient as the best car on the market. While the Edison2 car didn’t make it to full production, he said, they proved such a car was possible in a straightforward, practical engineering way.

“You don’t get many chances in life to write your name in the record books,” Wainfan said. “The first time somebody does something technological that is otherwise believed to be impossible, you fundamentally change the conversation.”

Still, Kuttner has not given up on the Very Light Car. The prototype that won the competition nearly 15 years ago is still being improved, Kuttner said, and the thousands of hours he and his team have spent on it have made their mark. Even if it is not an Edison2 car, he said, the X Prize team has made an impact.

“You’re going to see cars that look like the Edison2 cars,” Kuttner said. “They’re not going to do it because Oliver did it, they’re just going to do it because that’s the only way to do it.”

To Kuttner, improving the world for future generations is incredibly important. Increasing the efficiency of current technology is one of the easiest ways to do that, and it is his goal to make it happen.

“You cannot build your future around things that might happen. You have to work with what exists,” Kuttner said. “I just keep trying to make the world a little bit of a better place.” **GN**

“You cannot build your future around things that might happen. You have to work with what exists.”

-Oliver Kuttner



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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*



Brews and bites

at Corduroy Coffee + Kitchen



LOCATED INSIDE Givens Books and Little Dickens, Lynchburg's oldest bookstore, is a little coffee shop with a surprisingly large menu. After shopping around for books and board games, we made our way to the counter at the back of the store.

At the barista's recommendation, we ordered the avocado toast and the mozzarella caprese panini. With our bottomless house coffee (in the perfect mug) in hand, we sat down to take in the walls of countless books surrounding us. Though we were in Corduroy Coffee + Kitchen's section of the store, the quiet and peaceful environment was the perfect place to sip our coffee and for the students around us to study.

The house coffee was so good we had to ask the barista where the coffee shop gets its beans. She was happy to share

that Corduroy Coffee + Kitchen supports a local business — Crucible Coffee Roasters, located in Staunton, Virginia.

The avocado toast was covered with well-seasoned eggs, fresh tomatoes, and feta cheese. The feta cheese added a great element that I wasn't expecting. It was an elevated version of the trendy meal that I didn't know I needed. The mozzarella caprese panini was my favorite. It delivered the perfect bite of melted mozzarella, sweet basil pesto, and fresh tomato on grilled sourdough bread.

My time at Corduroy Coffee + Kitchen exceeded my expectations. Take a trip to Lakeside Drive. Order a caprese panini and a bottomless coffee, bring (or buy) a good book, and enjoy this little corner of town and the peaceful environment waiting for you at the back of Lynchburg's oldest bookstore. **GN**

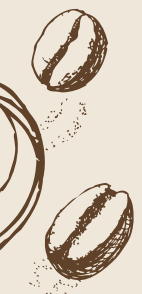
GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Lynchburg. This month Grace Mallory Hayes visited Corduroy Coffee + Kitchen.

Corduroy Coffee + Kitchen

2236 Lakeside Dr., Lynchburg
 Instagram: [corduroycoffeekitchen](#)
 Facebook: [corduroycoffeekitchen](#)
 Website: [corduroycoffeekitchen.com](#)





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

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



Let the good times roll

We want to build stronger communities through positive, local stories. If you have an upcoming event, please submit it online. We will add it to your community's online calendar, and it could be featured in the magazine.



goodnewsmags.com/events



Good Stories

CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 38 Brilliance at Boonsboro
- 42 Bridging us and our surroundings
- 46 Going beyond teaching

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



goodnewsmags.com

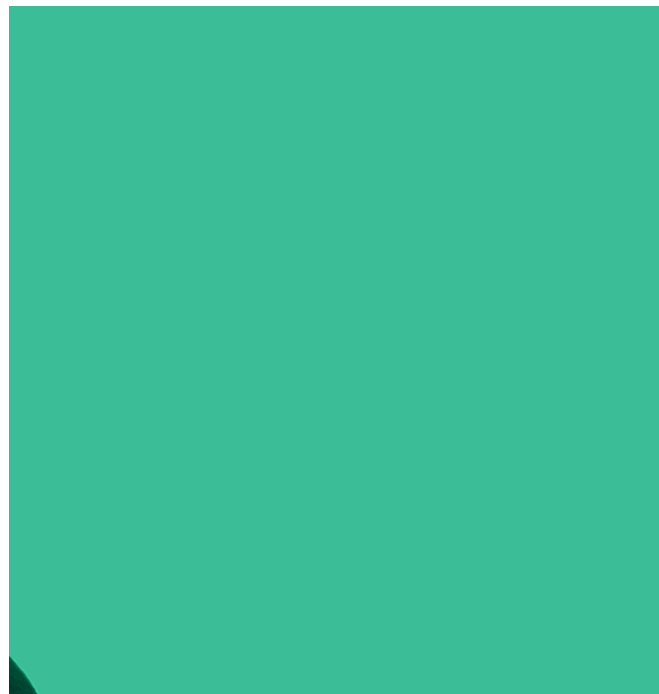
Photography by Sarah Bussard

◀ Sarah Davis



LEARNING curve





BRILLIANCE AT BOONSBORO

AVA RUPERT'S LEGACY OF INSPIRATION AT BOONSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Belle Butler and Kaitlin Rettig
Photography by Chad Barrett

AVA RUPERT stands as a stable figure in the corridors of Boonsboro Elementary School. Her presence is a testament to a lifelong dedication to education. With nine years of service at Boonsboro Elementary and a cumulative teaching and coaching experience spanning over a quarter-century, Rupert's commitment to shaping young minds resonates deeply within the school's community. She has taught kindergarten and first grade and is currently the fourth-grade Virginia studies and science teacher. The 2024 Boonsboro Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award is in safe, deserving hands.

During her college years, she sowed the seeds of her passion for teaching, beginning her journey into the realm of education.

After teaching in a small private school for some time, life's path diverged when Rupert's daughter was born. She embraced motherhood, stepping away from the classroom for eight years. However, the yearning to teach persisted, leading her back to the profession she cherished. Initially returning to teach pre-K, Rupert eventually found herself guiding kindergarteners through their formative years.

Rupert's career trajectory pivoted last summer when her principal extended the opportunity to teach fourth-grade Virginia studies and science. Many of these students had once graced her kindergarten classroom before the upheavals of the COVID-19 pandemic forced a hiatus. Rupert's transition to instructing older students was seamless,



Ava Rupert

fueled by the trust and rapport she had built with students and parents over the years.

“I knew these kids and their parents, and they trusted me and knew I was competent. Now, I look at some of these students, and I feel like they are my children because of the relationships established with them and their parents. I’ve had some of these kids two or three times. I’ve gotten to know them on so many levels — a perk of the small school.”

In a small school, classmates and educators feel like family.

“We see kids all the way through their elementary experience. If there are 60-70 kids in one kindergarten class, typically, they stay in one school since there isn’t a big transient population here. At the end of the year, we do

“**I don’t know anything else. I’ve always coached and taught. It’s become a way of life for me.**”

– Ava Rupert

what's called a 'fifth-grade clap out.' We have flashbacks like, 'Oh wow, I remember you in kindergarten!' Whereas in bigger schools, you may not ever see kids again."

Rupert's dedication extends beyond the walls of the classroom. From mentoring student teachers to coaching sports teams and contributing to school committees, her multifaceted contributions prove she is a cornerstone of Boonsboro Elementary.

Something as small as an interaction with a former student at the grocery store serves as a reminder of her purpose. Such moments, she believes, embody the enduring impact of education.

"I remember my students, and they remember me. I think in these smaller schools, it's easier to remember all the kids. It's amazing! We have kids at our school whose parents or grandparents went to Boonesboro, and we have a principal who retired a few years ago — she taught their parents and then became their children's principal. Once an Eagle, always an Eagle."

Looking to the future, Rupert's commitment to teaching remains unwavering.

"I don't know anything else. I've always coached and taught. It's become a way of life for me. I know that during the time when I wasn't teaching, I would see the buses go by and think, 'I should be in school.' I'm looking to stay in school as long as I can handle the rigor of it. I've had to dig deep into the reserves and remember what I was taught 30 years ago. I am going to continue to teach until I can't."

For Rupert, the prospect of continuing to inspire young minds is not merely a profession. It's a calling. Teaching defines a fundamental aspect of her character.

In the halls of Boonsboro Elementary, Rupert's heart resonates with the palpable legacy that clings to every surface. Her reverence for the school's history shines like a beacon, illuminating the hallways with a sense of nostalgia and awe. Boonsboro Elementary's storied past, coupled with its role as a cornerstone of the Lynchburg community, underscores its significance as a place where generations of minds have been shaped and nurtured.

"I think since Boonsboro is one of the older schools in the county, there's history as you walk through the building. You have plaques on the walls from graduating classes from the '40s and '50s — just right there in the



heart of where people who would have lived years ago. And it was a small community school then, too. There are third generations of students attending schools for families who have lived in the Lynchburg area."

As Rupert graciously accepts being named 2024 Boonsboro Elementary School Teacher of the Year, it's evident that her gratitude towards Boonsboro Elementary is reciprocated by the school and its community. Rupert's dedication and her enthusiasm for education continue to uplift and inspire generations of students, leaving a lasting legacy at Boonsboro Elementary School. **GN**



BRIDGING US AND OUR SURROUNDINGS

RANDOLPH COLLEGE PROFESSOR'S QUEST TO HELP WRITERS SEE BEYOND THE OBVIOUS

By Dave Lenehan // Photography by Sarah Bussard

NATURE IS no stranger to poetry. Writers for centuries have used poems to picture the flora and fauna around us, often expressing it in near-romantic terms. For Professor Laura-Gray Street, surface descriptions of nature, while certainly stirring and emotional, may not go far enough.

Street is an English professor at Lynchburg's Randolph College, where she directs the Creative Writing program and coordinates the college's Visiting Writers program. Her love for writing poetry didn't start until her college years.

"People always said I should write. I mostly wanted to read, so that's been an interesting tension for me as a writer," she shared.

Street explained that in college, she applied for a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in poetry, thinking, "Anything I learn in poetry, I can apply to fiction writing." However, Street pointed out that she fell in love with poetry during her MFA studies. As

she put it, "It fits me more than the plot and character development of fiction."

More specifically, Street's passion is for ecopoetry, a form of poetry focused on our interaction with nature, its interaction with us, and all of the facets of our world beyond just writing about tall trees, rippling brooks, and majestic mountains. According to Street, ecopoetry is a shift in thinking, promoting the idea that "we are part of the larger picture of nature that surrounds us, that we are companions in and have effects on nature."

According to Street, a key aspect of teaching her creative writing students is "getting students to think about setting as more than just a stage." She wants students to see more than face value — to include in their poetry energy use, technology use, and to incorporate how different aspects of the setting they're describing interact with one another. As an example, Street points out that if a student wanted to write a



Laura-Gray Street

66

It's just a pleasure to see those students who take what you say and take it further than you thought that they would.

– Laura-Gray Street

poem about downtown Lynchburg, they could include in their observations the wildlife downtown, the impact of the James River, and the city's people and history.

Street emphasizes that getting her students to pay attention to the world around them gives them a more complete picture to express in their poetry. She encourages them to use better word pictures and to find the relation between the subject and its surroundings.

Street's efforts since becoming a professor at Randolph College in 1997 have paid off.

"It's just a pleasure to see those students who take what you say and take it further than you thought that they would," she reflects.

Now, Street wants to allow other young Lynchburg residents to have their creative poetic voices heard. Street is a Fellow with the Black Earth Institute in Wisconsin. One of her assignments in that fellowship was to create a project involving poetry. Street coordinated the James River Watershed Poetry Contest, in partnership with Black Earth Institute and Randolph College. Young people ages 14-23 who live or attend school in the greater Lynchburg area could submit poems about the James River or the James River Watershed.

Street points out that the James River is much more of a recreational space than it was seen as in previous

decades, thanks to several efforts to clean up the river and its tributaries. With the opening of the new Upper James River Education Center in Amherst County's Riveredge Park last November, the interest in the area continues to grow. Street hopes the contest will continue and include other waterways in Virginia. She would also like to see the contest lead the way to a youth poet-in-residence to help build an artistic engagement with this area of Virginia.

It's evident that Street is not slowing down in her writing and editing or as a professor. She recently helped develop an undergraduate editing minor at Randolph College. Street has





numerous editing credits to her name, including co-editor of “The Eco-poetry Anthology.” So, establishing the minor was a natural decision.

“This is a very practical, marketable skill,” Street acknowledges. She affirms that being able to write clearly and express thoughts clearly is critical in any field.

Street returned prior to this semester from a sabbatical that focused on editing. In a few months, she will travel to Alaska for an intensive time of writing. Street also has some parting advice for aspiring writers: “Read. The more you read, the more you are internalizing language.”

Good advice for us all. GN



ADOBE STOCK

GOING BEYOND TEACHING

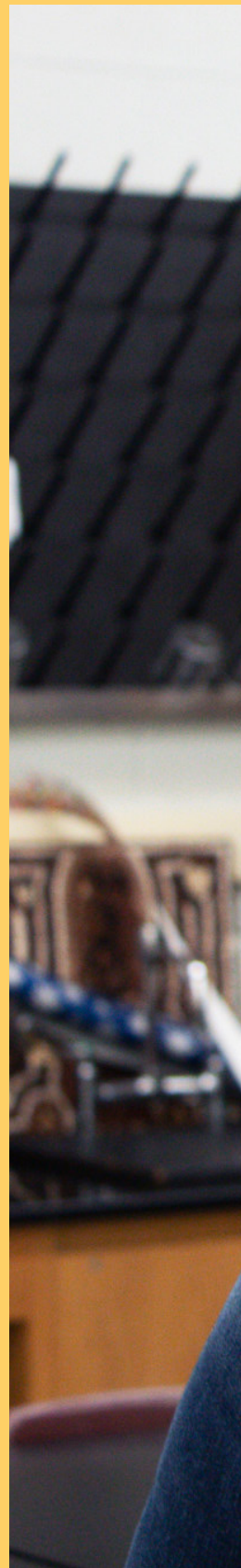
A LOCAL TEACHER BRINGS STUDENTS TOGETHER THROUGH CREATIVE INTERACTION.

By Dave Lenehan // Photography by Sarah Bussard

TAKE A moment to reflect. Can you pinpoint one person who made such a significant impact on you that it molded the trajectory of your future? For Sarah Davis, that person was her sixth-grade teacher, who told Davis that she was special. She believed it, and that belief propelled her into the educational realm.

“If I can make another student feel that way, I can’t think of a better job,” she stated, carrying with her the influence of the teacher who inspired her.

Davis has taught for 22 years, with 18 of them being at Brookville High School. After instructing subjects such as biology and Earth science, Davis, serving as chair of the science department, now teaches astronomy. But she doesn’t stop there — Davis also teaches a class for emerging leaders. The goal is to foster connections between students interested in leadership and





Sarah Davis

others on campus. As she developed the leadership program, she noticed a group of students who would benefit from forming those connections: students with disabilities.

When Davis took a break from teaching after her first year, she went to work for an organization where she had co-workers with disabilities.

“Adults with disabilities worked every bit as hard — even harder — and were every bit as reliable and encouraging as any other worker in the facility. [Co-workers] taught me a lot about compassion, loving each other, teamwork, and encouraging each other.”

When Davis began the class, she wanted leadership students to create connections with students with disabilities at the school. The leadership students embraced the idea.

The student leaders create and facilitate three to four events during the academic year to bring students together. The events usually have a holiday theme and involve games, art activities, and food — three essential elements for any high school interaction. At the end of the year, her leadership students host a field day. The fun-filled day is attended by Brookville High School students with disabilities and students from several other Campbell County schools. Water is available throughout the day, and the event ends with students eating lunch together.

While the events are impactful, Davis has seen much more manifest from those connections — the students greet each other in the hallways and spend time together outside their required class or recreational time.

66

Adults with disabilities worked every bit as hard — even harder — and were every bit as reliable and encouraging as any other worker in the facility.

– Sarah Davis

The influence of Davis’ sixth-grade teacher hasn’t escaped her other efforts. In conjunction with the University of Lynchburg, Davis teaches a dual enrollment course for high school students interested in pursuing a teaching career. Davis says the class, titled Teachers for Tomorrow, is “essentially Education 101” and includes 25 practical teaching hours, similar to university requirements.

Davis’ passion for teaching and desire to positively influence future teachers is obvious. Beyond her occupation, Davis envisions fostering connections for people with disabilities in many facets of Lynchburg life. She dreams of seeing local businesses create jobs, allowing children to leave high school “and have meaningful employment and connection to the broader Lynchburg community.”

Her zeal and determination are tangible, leaving waves of change and compassion in their wake. **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?

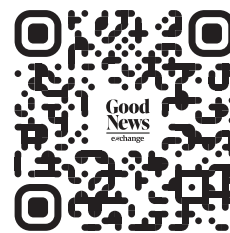
Currently, our dedicated team of magazine writers and editors is hard at work crafting stories under themes like “Shop Local,” “Independence,” and “Dreams Come True.” We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is **“Where Champions are Made.”**

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.





GoodTimes

CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

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

Submit a positive story
on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Sarah Bussard

◀ Bella Burke

'Titanic' Production - Feb. 16 - March 3



Photography by Sarah Bussard

From Feb. 16 through March 3, the Liberty University Department of Theatre Arts put on its production of "Titanic." With beautiful staging, stunning costumes, and a magnificent 60-student cast and crew, this show brought its audience back to 1912 to experience the tragic event that was the sinking of the Titanic. This also marked Linda Nell Cooper's return as a director after a two-year-long recovery from a sudden health crisis — and a marvelous return it was!



1. Charity Turley and Mitchell Templeton
2. Jacob Hodges 3. Skkyler Travis 4. Josh Thomas



5. Josh Thomas, Gabe Von Oven,
Brandon Bayse, and Jacob Hodges 6. Presley Calonge

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www.welcometothelistening.org

IRON Lives Inc.

Bridges gaps between students and the community by providing positive youth development, committed mentoring, and character-centered athletics.

(866) 358-4766
www.ironlives.org

Lynchburg Grows

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(434) 846-5665
www.lyncburggrows.org

Freedom 4/24

Works to prevent and end sexual exploitation and trafficking locally and globally. The organization raises awareness, provides prevention education, and expands the restoration work of its partners.

(434) 582-4517
www.freedom424.org

Miriam's House

Provides solutions to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring in the Lynchburg community.

(434) 847-1101
www.miriamshouseprogram.org

Lynchburg Humane Society

Promotes animal welfare, adoption, and education.

(434) 448-0088
www.lyncburghumane.org

The Arc of Central Virginia

Supports individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families. The organization is dedicated to providing advocacy, resources, skills, activities, and opportunities.

(434) 845-4071
www.arcofcva.org

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Inc.

Fights hunger and provides food assistance to those in need.

(434) 845-4099
www.brafb.org

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Empowers youth through programs and activities.

(434) 846-1111
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farmers do a lot of
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a. The Nash family
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something
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ISSUE 4 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	3/4/24
Advertising.....	4/4/24
Mailed to Homes.....	4/20/24



Where Champions are Made

ISSUE 8 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	7/1/24
Advertising.....	8/1/24
Mailed to Homes.....	8/17/24



Vacation in Lynchburg

ISSUE 5 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	4/2/24
Advertising.....	5/2/24
Mailed to Homes.....	5/18/24



From Farm to Table

ISSUE 9 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	8/5/24
Advertising.....	9/5/24
Mailed to Homes.....	9/21/24



Independence

ISSUE 6 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	5/6/24
Advertising.....	6/6/24
Mailed to Homes.....	6/22/24



Our Heroes

ISSUE 10 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	9/3/24
Advertising.....	10/3/24
Mailed to Homes.....	10/19/24



Dreams Come True

ISSUE 7 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	6/3/24
Advertising.....	7/3/24
Mailed to Homes.....	7/20/24



Hearts of Gold

ISSUE 11 2024

Deadlines

Sponsored Content.....	10/1/24
Advertising.....	10/31/24
Mailed to Homes.....	11/16/24



Kevin Maples

Publishing Partner

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...for many people...
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...men do a lot of...
...in terms of raising...
...care of cattle, being...
...ribbons, and wear...
...A good into dairy...
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