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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Go on vacation here in Fayetteville

Start a road trip without your GPS.

SUMMER IS coming. And surely your home will sit empty for a week in this heat. The playful cheers of the kids on summer break go missing for a week that was planned for a year. The dishes sit in the cabinets, waiting for their family to come back home. The doormat sits excitedly to welcome you to the front door. The cool air hits just right over the threshold, pushing its way to the door to fight the heat that keeps increasing by the day. Our furry friends are excited to see our faces instead of the house sitter's. We catch the smell of home for just a moment, and soon, our noses will go back blind to our scent. We're finally home from vacation.

We exchange "I need to forget, so take me to Florida" for "Florida was fun... but it's good to be home." We go back to our work friends. We get to have lunch at our favorite spots again. And we get to drive on roads without the GPS on our phones.

We should explore the world that was created for us. It's exciting to plan a vacation, pack for it, and dig through snacks on the six-hour drive. Those butterflies creep up when the fancy sign starts to get closer on the trip. We jump out in the hotel parking lot and stretch our legs before our first step. The dopamine is on a never-ending conveyor belt. But still, there's nothing like that welcome mat outside our door. The feeling of coming home cannot be matched.

Marketing messages and year-long anticipation pull us away from home for a short time. But I'm convinced every week — even working nine to five — can be a vacation. Our community is packed with things to do that we overlook. I encourage you, reader, to start a list of your home vacation spots. Your home has more fun than you realize, sitting just beyond your backyard. We'll start your list in this issue of Good News. Welcome home to a life of vacation — every day. GN

Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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GoodLiving

CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Izzy Hyde



A hub of *Hope*



The Community Development Center's programs turn challenges into possibilities.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes and submitted by Anita Teague

WE OFTEN overlook the significance of basic abilities such as independence, clear sight, good hearing, problem-solving skills, and easy access to essential resources. Navigating the challenges associated with what society labels as disabilities, disorders, limitations, and conditions requires more than personal determination; it takes a supportive community dedicated to helping individuals achieve their utmost potential.

Finding assistance for those grappling with such obstacles can be daunting. However, the Community Development Center (CDC) is a central hub assisting all ages. Each program is a spoke in the center's wheel of resources.

The CDC's purposeful rotation connects lives and propels them forward. The CDC acts as a driving force, steering individuals toward a brighter and more empowered future within this dynamic wheel of change.

Originating as the Child Development Center over 50 years ago, the CDC initially focused on early intervention. This program delivers therapy to children with developmental delays and disabilities, offering support and continuing eligibility until kindergarten.

The CDC supports 11 counties in South Central Middle Tennessee and ensures that children receive personalized assistance within the familiar environment of their homes. Staff work closely with parents and caregivers to comprehend developmental milestones and implement strategies for day-to-day challenges.



The Child Development Center transitioned to the Community Development Center in the mid-'90s to support all age groups. The Family Support Program, initiated during this expansion, covers six counties and provides essential funding to families caring for a member with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Operating statewide under the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, this program addresses daily life skill challenges, offering financial assistance to alleviate costs.

Anita Teague, executive director of the CDC, said, "We serve our entire community of those with special needs and of all abilities. We help them work, achieve their personal goals, strive for independence, and connect them with resources."

Resources like the Children's Center for Autism, launched in 2016, address the growing need for autism services in rural communities. There are locations in Lewisburg and Shelbyville, with a Fayetteville location coming in 2024. This program serves children aged 18 months to 12 years who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The Children's Center for Autism is staffed by licensed board-certified behavior analysts and certified registered behavior technicians. It provides applied behavior analysis therapy, parent training, and community outreach.

The CDC's Employment Services cover a wide range of support, including assisting individuals with job readiness, placement, and pre-employment transition services to students. They also help those in TennCare's Employment and Community First CHOICES program, offering support for independence skills and community navigation. A recent addition, MAPS, focuses on skills like independence and employment. This program operates across 10 counties in the center's service area.

Teague and her team understand the frustration of being tossed around from resource to resource without guidance.

"Family members get so stressed and tired because they're having to manage their household and [deal with] medical issues, therapy sessions, insurance, and all these things for their family member with a disability," said Teague.

But a call to their office is different. Staff will check to see if you fall within the guidelines of any of their programs, and if not, they will recommend other resources that might meet your needs.

The Independent Support Coordination program, established in the mid-1990s, offers case management for individuals with significant intellectual disabilities. This program operates across 17 counties. It ensures that individual desires and needs get prioritized. Additionally, assistance with disability case management services is available under the Tennessee Strong Families program.

The CDC's commitment extends to seniors through the Senior Equipment Loan program, initiated in 2017. Providing durable medical equipment across South Central Middle Tennessee regardless of income, this program operates through a collaborative effort among CDC staff.

The CDC's leadership team is composed of Teague and program managers. To ensure the seamless operation of these vital programs, leaders meet monthly and annually to review and improve them.

She said, "We work with many partner agencies, including other nonprofits in our communities, focusing on other aspects, not just disabilities. We are



▲ Henry, Aiden, Rachel Rudolf and Kelli Lafont

“ We serve our entire community of those with special needs and of all abilities. We help them work, achieve their personal goals, strive for independence, and connect them with resources.

—Anita Teague

all involved in our local communities, and many of us serve on the Community Health Councils and Community Advisory Boards, which gives us avenues to learn what the needs are in our communities. The CDC’s main focus is on those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Still, by being involved, supporting other nonprofit’s missions, and expanding our services to those of all abilities, we are more inclusive and meet a larger community of need.”

The CDC is the wheel that turns toward hope and carves out paths to independence and empowerment. As the center’s wheel of change continues to turn, it leaves an indelible mark on those navigating challenges, fostering a brighter and more inclusive future. **GN**

For more information, visit cdctn.org or follow the center on Facebook. The office is at 111 Eaglette Way, Shelbyville, or you can reach them by calling (931) 684-8681. A Fayetteville office is coming in 2024.

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Izzy Hyde



Hair today,

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Middle school baller scores big with hair donations.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder and submitted by Kortney Hyde

LIKE A middle school basketball game, each day unfolds like a steady race toward the season championship. Bells signal class changes, not scoreboard buzzers, and cafeteria lunches offer healthier selections than concession stands. Anxiety and bliss coexist. It's test-taking, not free throws, and it's a race to complete assignments, not a race to the basket for a game-winning shot.

And amidst the day-to-day hustle at Fayetteville Middle School, Isabella "Izzy" Grace Hyde quietly proves that the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference.

Izzy co-hosts her school's morning show sports segment in addition to participating in other extracurricular activities. Her story could easily be

a special report on the Fayetteville Middle School Morning Show. She's a kind and generous 11-year-old student making a difference inside and outside the school's walls.

First grade is all about cartwheels, sidewalk chalk masterpieces, and pink backpacks for little girls. Izzy and her friend, Elli, were like most other 6-year-olds. Recess was slide whooshes, whispered secrets, and friendship bracelets. But their carefree world took an unexpected turn when Elli received a diagnosis they were too young to understand.

"I was scared, not only for my friend but for any child who has to suffer from cancer, with them not knowing what the next day may bring. I felt hopeless, knowing there was nothing I could do to help," Izzy shared.



“

Being a girl and losing your hair is a huge thing. It's part of who you are, so being able to grow my own hair and give it to someone in need is something so simple that anyone can do.

-Izzy Hyde

But Izzy's fear didn't paralyze her; it caused her to look for a way to help her friend.

"I realized treatments are very hard on cancer patients, causing them to lose their hair, so my mom and I talked about what we could do to help. Then I found out about Children with Hair Loss, where I could donate my hair to children in need," said Izzy. "Being a girl and losing your hair is a huge thing. It's part of who you are, so being able to grow my own hair and give it to someone in need is something so simple that anyone can do."

Children with Hair Loss (CWHL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing human hair replacements to children and young adults facing medically-related hair loss at no cost. Regina Villemure founded the program after seeing children undergoing chemotherapy wearing adult-sized synthetic wigs. According to childrenwithhairloss.org, CWHL provides customized human hair replacements and care kits to over 600 children a year.

Izzy didn't make just one donation of her hair to CWHL; she's grown her hair out and donated it four times to date. Since each donation requires a minimum of 8 inches of hair, she's contributed a little over 2 ½ feet, improving self-esteem and encouraging children who would otherwise be discouraged by their reflections.

The treatments were successful for Izzy's young friend.

Izzy said, "When I found out she was cancer-free, it was such a great feeling. She has overcome so many obstacles in life, and she's a true inspiration."

Although she will likely disagree, Izzy, too, is a true inspiration. She pours her time and energy into school work, band, basketball, softball, Beta Club,



and work on her school's morning show. Her calendar is overflowing like a locker at the end of the school year. But her involvement doesn't distract her or leave her unaware of the needs of those around her; it inspires her.

She's further inspired by RENNIA DAVIS, a former University of Tennessee and Women's National Basketball Association player, to do her best on and off the court.

"I know I can do my best in basketball, and I know I can do my best in everything else, too," she said confidently.

Despite her youth, Izzy knows her best isn't a destination; it's a journey.

When asked what she would want for herself if she had a magic wand, she replied, "To be a better person. No one is perfect."

She recognizes that donations of hair to CWHL are a small way to make a big difference in the lives of other children, and it's easy. The minimum donation is 8 inches, but longer hair is greatly needed and appreciated by the organization. Visit childrenwithhairloss.org for specific directions on registering and donating your hair.

"I'd like to encourage others to donate their hair to Children With Hair Loss," she said.

Successfully inspiring others to cover the hearts and heads of children and young adults dealing with hair loss is like hitting that game-winning shot over and over. It's a big win for the team of humanity. And while people of any age can donate, donations by other children and young adults prove the motto of Izzy and Fayetteville Middle School: "Big enough to make a difference, small enough to care."

So how about it? The smallest acts of kindness really can make the biggest difference. **GN**



▲ Izzy's long hair before one of her donations.



▲ After the cut, hair is bagged and ready to submit.



▲ Minimum donation is 8 inches. Izzy donated over a foot at this cut.

For more information or to donate your hair, visit childrenwithhairloss.org.



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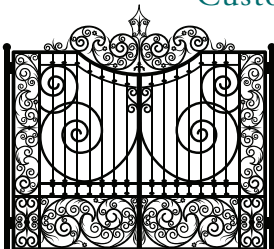
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PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE:

FCE Club plugs into community,
leaving a lasting mark

*Bridging the gap between past and present,
skilled volunteers build a brighter future.*

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

WE LIVE plugged-in, with the quality of our days dependent upon technology and connections. Notifications ding, DoorDash bells ring, and the microwave's timer calls "done." Apps promise everything we need on our doorsteps, from groceries to the latest gadgets. We fall asleep and wake up with our cell phones within reach, feeling out of sync when service is down.

We are only a few generations removed from a time requiring greater self-sufficiency and practical skills. Late summer and

early fall was a time of gathering and preparation. The planting, watering, and weeding rewarded families with healthy canned food for future days. Women pieced and stitched quilts, promising warmth and protection from winter's worst. Food preservation, sewing, and gardening weren't just hobbies; they were a way of life.

Family Community Education (FCE) Club, part of the UT Extension Office, has taught these and other skills for over 75 years. The service clubs are committed to learning through shared



▲ Lincoln County Family and Community Education at a bi-monthly County Council meeting with members representing the individual clubs of Dellrose/Hotrock, McBurg, Mimosa, and Molino in attendance

experiences, improving home and community life, strengthening adult education, and promoting life-enhancing projects.

Four communities comprise the Lincoln County FCE: Dellrose/Hotrock, Molino, Mimosa, and McBurg. Despite its decreasing membership through the years, the club's unwavering commitment to the community and to preserving these skills is strong.

At its formation in 1912, FCE was known as the Home Demonstration Club. Later, the name became Extension Homemakers Club, an identity that remained unchanged from the mid-80s to 1994, when it became known as Family Community Education. Membership demographics

also changed. The club's name and membership faces, like society, changed and evolved with the times; its mission, though, was rock solid.

Lincoln County FCE County Reporter Lisa Hoffman-Ritter said, "Right now, the overwhelming majority of our members are older ladies; most are retired. We all have an overwhelming desire to help through our volunteer work, and the majority of our members are skilled crafters and outstanding cooks."

FCE Club meetings were a hub for rural women for decades. Fellowship, service, and education in home demonstration arts created a network outside of home and church life.

Today's generations network differently. With so many activities for children and grandchildren, the time for club participation is scarce. Attracting new members is a top priority, as is bringing awareness to the club's mission and programs.

"We're not a politically affiliated organization. Our goal is to provide community pride and service through volunteerism, and we strive to recruit like-minded individuals who receive great joy in helping their fellow Lincoln Countians," expressed Hoffman-Ritter.

The FCE Club weaves Tennessee's volunteer spirit throughout its programs and activities like beautiful stitches in a handmade quilt. Its annual fundraisers help

make a positive impact and warm the lives of others. Thanks to the club's efforts, local students who might otherwise miss the opportunity can attend 4-H Camp, and graduating seniors receive scholarship assistance to further their education. Over the past 10 years, more than 30 students have received scholarships through the program, and the group provided nearly 50 full or partial scholarships to 4-H Camp.

Annual fundraisers like the Sweetheart Bake Sale and the Casseroles & More Sale raise money for scholarships and summer camp financial assistance. These are opportunities for the community to invest in future generations. Individual clubs hold other fundraisers to support their other charitable contributions.

"Our success can be attributed to the increased participation of our members, actively seeking out sponsors and customers, and the implementation of advertising campaigns through Bank of Lincoln County online, the Elk Valley Times, WYTM, club flyers, and word of mouth. Because we have held these two fundraisers every year for several years, Lincoln Countians have become accustomed to participating and supporting us, and we are truly thankful for their generosity," Hoffman-Ritter said.

Most club collaborations begin with requests from individuals through FCE members.

Hoffman-Ritter said, "We provide help to animal shelters, food drives, toy drives, financial help to the Lincoln County Museum and Warrior Exhibit, veteran's homes and organizations, nursing homes, all the local schools and churches, Junior's House, and Crisis Pregnancy Center, just to name a few."



▲ Debbie Motlow and Faye Coble

Club members assist the UT Extension Office by presenting programs such as "Canning College," computer literacy classes, and sewing camps. The Cultural Arts Fair held each July ensures the preservation and continuity of the crafting skills demonstrated at the fair.

"Winners in each category advance to the regional competitions, and winners from regional competitions advance to state competitions," she said. "There are monetary prizes and bragging rights to those winners."

It's a winning spirit that's alive and well in FCE.

While the landscape of community engagement has shifted, the spirit of FCE remains resolute. The club seeks new members who share a passion for service

and skill preservation. Consider joining to connect with your neighbors, learn practical skills, and make a tangible difference in your community.

Lincoln County FCE lives plugged-in — plugged into the community's past, present, and future through all it does. **GN**

For more information about Lincoln County FCE Club, contact the UT Extension Office at (931) 433-1582.

Meeting schedule:

McBurg Club - 1st Monday of every month

Dellrose/Hotrock - 1st Tuesday

Mimosa - 2nd Monday

Molino - 3rd Thursday



▲ Lisa Hoffman-Ritter, Lynne Street, Carole Swinford, Gwen Ramsdell, Phyllis Johnson, Ellie Yancey, and Angelea Mateo-Sullivan

Our goal is to provide community pride and service through volunteerism, and we strive to recruit like-minded individuals who receive great joy in helping their fellow Lincoln Countians.

-Lisa Hoffman-Ritter



▲ Carole Swinford and Lynne Street

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SI, TO SEÑOR LOPEZ!



Not your average Mexican restaurant.

ON THE south side of Fayetteville’s historic square, there’s a Mexican restaurant you won’t want to miss if you love Mexican food like I do. It’s my favorite! On a recent Monday night, I visited Señor Lopez, the latest entry in the growing list of Mexican restaurants in Fayetteville. I knew I must be in for a wonderful dining experience by the number of cars parked outside. I didn’t realize Mondays were “trivia nights,” but that was an added treat. The restaurant was roaring with loud diners and trivia enthusiasts. Usually, I would like a quiet, low-key dining experience, but with trivia night, I understood all the excitement and was happy to join in.

As I was seated, I began looking over the menu. I noticed some unfamiliar dishes and entrees I had never seen on the menus of other Mexican restaurants around town. I knew I wanted to try something I had never had before, so I decided on the Parrillada Lopez. It is grilled beef, chicken, shrimp, chorizo, tilapia, and onions, topped with a cheese quesadilla and a flowered jalapeño. It comes with warm flour tortillas, rice, and refried beans. The chicken and beef were juicy, the chorizo added a kick, and the shrimp was grilled to perfection. Hands down, I think the refried beans are the best I have ever had.

The restaurant was packed, and the service was excellent. My food was exceptional. I wanted to get a few opinions





from others, so I spoke to a few people close to my table to get their take on what they thought about Señor Lopez. One couple stated they eat there twice a week. Chris and Tiffany Coulter and Wendy Grayson were also asked what they thought about the food. They said they have always loved it and enjoyed each visit. I appreciated their willingness to let me snap a picture.

Señor Lopez offers an extensive menu of unique Mexican cuisine and an equally excellent drink menu. They even offer a Sundrop Margarita! Each Monday is trivia night, beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday is bingo night, also starting at 7 p.m. If you cannot dine in or pick up your order, Señor Lopez delivers through DoorDash. The address is 111 Market St. This was my first time visiting, but I definitely plan to go back. **GN**

GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Fayetteville. This month Michelle Allison visited Señor Lopez.

SEÑOR LOPEZ

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Good Stories

CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 38 “Sugar and spice and everything nice”
- 42 The canvas of conversation
- 46 Circling back to the future

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Jessica Tietgens

A red kayak is positioned on a rocky shore. The kayak is the primary focus in the lower right, with its deck and cockpit visible. The shore is composed of numerous light-colored, smooth river stones. In the background, there is a dense thicket of green trees and bushes, suggesting a natural, wooded environment. The overall scene is bright and clear, indicating a sunny day.

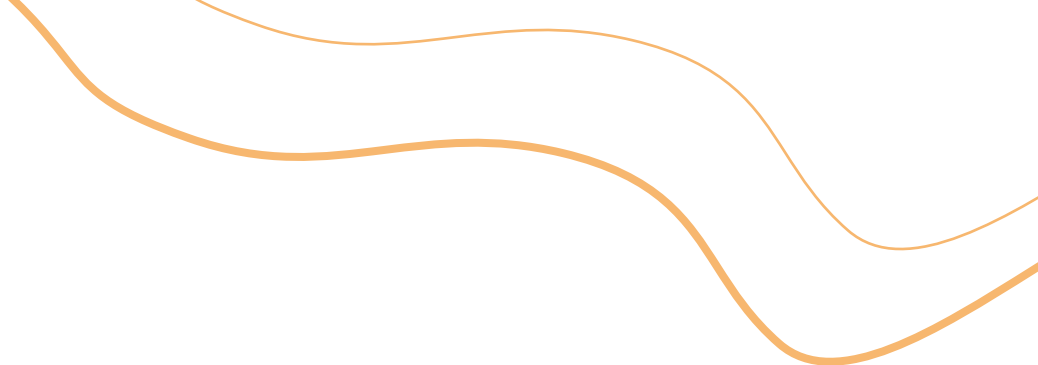
VACATION

in Fayetteville





JESSICA
TIETGENS



“SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE”

The Babe Shop knows what little girls are made of.

By Tina Neeley

*Photography by
Brooke Snyder*

IT'S JUST what you need: one-on-one time with your daughter as a “Mommy and Me” day. You want something special, but you’re not coming up with anything nearby. You’re hoping something in your social media feeds will inspire you. A gaggle of glamming girls below pink, purple, and gold streamers slows your scroll. Hats as unique as the smiles beneath them beam back at you. The twinkle in their eyes sparkles brighter than the disco balls above them. And the best part is you discover it’s not a boutique in an hour-away mall. It’s The Babe Shop, located here in Lincoln County.

Jessica Tietgens knows how hard it is to find unique activities for little girls. Her personal quest

for such an experience inspired this dreamy treat for girls, and the idea of filling that void took shape. More and more ideas followed. Eventually, a specialty boutique on Petersburg’s square offering products and services for an unforgettable and magical experience opened its doors.

“My mind began to think of all the things [I could do], and I had to narrow it down to the 16-foot hat bar, then all the shopping options would be a little bonus,” she said.

But what’s a hat bar? It’s personalized fun in the shape of a hat. Well, not just a hat. Shoppers (or a party of them) decorate their own fedoras, trucker hats, crossbody bags, bows, toboggans, or mini Stanley

cups. There's something for every style: cowgirls, Swifties, athletes, princesses, and girlie girls, to name a few.

And the fun's not over when decorating at the bar ends. Shop the store's evolving inventory of candy, bags, bath and body products, make-up, stationery items, and accessories. Capture the memories with photos on the mini stage or in front of the painted backdrop.

"At The Babe Co. you can walk right in and join the hat bar, with no appointment needed. We have a friendship bracelet bar and a karaoke stage

that's been a lot of fun for all ages," explained Jessica. "Our retail area for shopping is growing. We offer clothes in sizes 4-16 but plan to expand that very soon. And you can't leave without having some fun at the free glitter bar!"

The Babe Shop is a joy-infused experience with a buzzing energy that meets you at the door. The shop offers party packages, perfect for celebrating birthdays. Choose what your group will decorate and how many will attend, and leave the rest to Jessica. You only need to plan to snap lots of photos because the memories they stir will be timeless.

"The little — and big — girls all light up, and it's so sweet every time they walk in for the first time. Some little ones just need a minute to take in all the pink. I feel like everyone is enjoying the offerings and [is] surprised that it's expanding as fast as it has been," she said.

It's great to see the selections constantly growing and changing with the seasons. And even better, there's something for everyone, including moms!

"We are actually launching a T-shirt bar [where] you'll choose your own tee and pick the design





“

I would say the experience and the hands-on fun make it worth the trip. As we like to say, ‘It’s every little babe’s dream store.

- Jessica Tietgens

you want, and we’ll press it for you,” Jessica said. “I hope this is something new and exciting. We’ll have ‘Mama & Mini’ T-shirt options, BFF, some fun smiley faces, and tons of holidays!”

Little shoppers huddle in the aisles, the baskets on their arms filled with carefully chosen items to coordinate with their favorite things. Even someone walking in for the first time can see and feel how thrilled everyone is to be there. Jessica loves it, too.

“It makes my heart melt. It feels like I’ve completed the vision that I was shooting for.”

There’s shopping — the kind where you spend a half day or more wandering in and out of stores, hoping to find something unique, memorable, whimsical, or person-

alized. Then there’s the kind that defies the term “shopping” because it’s more like an immersive experience. That’s what The Babe Shop brings to Lincoln County!

Jessica couldn’t agree more.

“I would say the experience and the hands-on fun make it worth the trip. As we like to say, ‘It’s every little babe’s dream store.’”

It’s sugar and spice and everything nice. The Babe Shop knows what little girls are made of. **GN**

You’ll find The Babe Shop on Petersburg’s square at 108 S. High St., next to Miss Jean’s Sandwich and Ice Cream Shop. For more information, follow The Babe Shop Petersburg on Facebook and shop online at thebabecoshop.com.

THE CANVAS OF CONVERSATION

Escape the day's cares when you visit Bogart's Cigar Lounge.

By Tina Neeley

*Photography by
Brooke Snyder*

AS YOU step into Bogart's Cigar Lounge, the door shuts in the face of whatever is weighing on you. The scent of rich, aged tobacco mingles with the lively hum of diverse voices engaged in captivating conversations. It's a haven for the unconventional, the curious, and those seeking respite from the mundane. It's where the warm embrace of camaraderie envelops you.

The air is thick with the heady aroma of fine cigars, the backdrop of stories waiting to be shared, and a gallery of lives with chapters written in tendrils of fragrant smoke. An eclectic crowd gathers, as varied as the leaves in a tobacco field, a melting pot of perspectives, generating great conversations that know no boundaries.

In a world that often feels divided, the simple act of sharing a cigar inspires discussions that open doors to understanding. So, as you settle into the plush comfort of a warm leather chair, prepare to have your preconceptions challenged, for Bogart's Cigar Lounge is a celebration of the unexpected.

But how does a shared cigar invite conversation and relaxation? Gary Thomas, the owner, knows why it works for him.



GARY
THOMAS





We have those conversations, and nobody gets angry. It's not a shouting, screaming match. It's just a fun place to hang out. It's become a destination place.

- Gary Thomas

"My dad smoked cigars. He never lit his cigar; he chewed on it. Everybody's got that story. Everybody knows that's what a lot of men did back in those days. They were too busy to worry about keeping it lit, so they chewed on them to get the nicotine out," Thomas said.

Cigars could narrate Thomas's life story. They were there when he rode the highs and lows of each new business venture. They were there when he and his wife, Peggy, retired to Tampa, Florida. And they were there when he lost his wife to COVID-19.

It was in Tampa, known as "Cigar City," where Thomas acquired a wealth of stogey knowledge, which held more value than he realized at the time. Wanting to be closer to his adult children and grandchildren, he moved to Fayetteville following the loss of his wife.

"My son is a golfer, and we were sitting at the house one day, and he said, 'Dad, you've got to do something. You're gaining

weight. You're not exercising; you're not doing anything,'" said Thomas, who agreed and asked for his son's suggestions on better spending his time. The answer was to open a cigar shop.

"I said, 'It's a great idea.' So that's how Bogart's started. And that's how I ended up here," said Thomas.

Named for the golden retriever who'd bring his cigars, Bogart's name is another chapter in Thomas's story.

"Bogart would bring my cigar case and sit outside with me. Most people think we're named after Humphrey Bogart, but he didn't smoke cigars. He was a cigarette smoker," he said.

Dispelling common misconceptions about the lounge, Thomas said, "It's just a great place; it's not a bar. There's no bar in the building."

What is in the building sets the stage and atmosphere for story-swapping, relaxing, and making connections. Leather

chairs throughout the building invite you to stay as long as you'd like. There's a room with big screen TVs so you don't miss that important game or network news, and darts or tabletop shuffleboard in the game room feeds your competitive spirit. When weather permits, the large patio out back is open. Every square inch of the place invites discussions and an exchange of ideas.

"We have those conversations, and nobody gets angry. It's not a shouting, screaming match," Thomas said. "It's just a fun place to hang out. It's become a destination place for a lot of people. You're welcome to come in and stay for 10 minutes, two hours, or all day; we don't care. That's kind of the purpose of the place. You've got to experience it to really understand what I'm trying to say."

While your first thoughts may be that Bogart's Cigar Lounge is a "guys' place," Thomas sees firsthand that women enjoy the atmosphere and cigars, too.

Thomas said, "We have a lot of women that come in, and they smoke cigars, believe it or not. We also have some little flavored boutique cigars for the ladies."

In February, Bogart's Cigar Lounge hosted live music by Piper & The Hard Times, the first-place winner in The Blues Foundation's 2024 International Blues Challenge. Other live music events are to come.

The lounge is where the fragrance of camaraderie lingers long after the last cigar is extinguished. The world beyond may be waiting, but within Bogart's Cigar Lounge, the stories continue to unfold, and the echoes of laughter and quiet conversation affirm the magic that happens when diverse souls come together over shared cigars and stories. **GN**

Visit Bogart's Cigar Lounge at 113 Main Ave. S., Fayetteville. Call (931) 703-9400 for more information, and follow Bogart's on Facebook for upcoming events.



SUMMER SOUTHERN
AND TIM MITCHELL



CIRCLING BACK TO THE FUTURE

Star Wheels Skate Center bonds two kindred spirits to the community.

By Tina Neeley

*Photography by
Brooke Snyder*

FOR HOURS, they circled the wood floor, their wheels a muffled whir, keeping pace with the spirited music and crescendos of laughter. Then came the call signaling the end of the evening for many: “Last song before the all-night skate!”

Parents crowded at the entrance, waiting to take their children home. Wheels clunked on the rental skate counter, the boots attached to them still warm. Diamond sparkles from the disco ball danced with the colored lights above as some skated backward, some made the evening’s last spins, and couples reluctantly let go of their partners’ hands. The song’s final notes receded into the Saturday night air, spilling into the room from the door’s open-close routine.

On a nearby bench, a girl around 3 years old begged to stay for the all-night skate. Her mom, convinced she’d fall asleep, attempted to unlace the skates despite the girl’s attempts to pull them from her.

“I promise you, I won’t go to sleep,” the mini skater insisted, and her mom, unconvinced, gave in.

Around 2:00 a.m., teenagers losing the battle with sleep filled the concessions tables while a few remained on the floor. Among those still on the floor at Star Wheels Skate Center was the persistent child, Summer Southern.

Keeping one eye on Southern that night was the rink’s owner, Tim Mitchell, whose persistence when seeking a loan for the construction of the rink years earlier matched that of his young charge. A 13-month process for an SBA loan challenged Mitchell’s vision of a safe place for Lincoln County’s youth to spend time on the weekends but finally came through.

Thanks to the tenacity of Southern and Mitchell, countless rotations around the hickory floor fill the time and the memories of Lincoln County residents. Mitchell opened the doors at Star Wheels on Aug. 26, 1982. Forty-one years later, on Aug. 26, 2023, he skated onto the floor for the last time as owner and handed the keys to Southern.



“

I would just like for everyone who supported my business, showed me love, and shared my joy to know it's certainly appreciated.

- *Tim Mitchell*

Recalling that night, Mitchell said, “I had mixed emotions. I knew it was time to pass the torch and let someone younger and ambitious pick it up. Summer is very smart, intelligent, and energetic, and I can't think of anybody I'd rather have take over the rink than her. She's done a tremendous job remodeling the skating rink.”

Mitchell operated Star Wheels for 41 years despite the challenges of a colon cancer diagnosis in 2000 and a successful racing career. He raced in the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) series for about 15 years and worked four years as a driving instructor for Dale Jarrett Racing Adventure. Again and again, the grit and determination he poured into opening the rink enabled him to stay on the lead lap in the race of life.

“I used to think that I made a lot of good decisions, but later in life, I realized God was with me, helping me make the decisions,” reflected Mitchell.

Again, Southern's story and Mitchell's paralleled, a thread of faith clearly visible.

Southern said, “It's like a dream come true. When I started skating again during COVID, I saw [Star Wheels] through different eyes. I saw that it needed some love and attention, and that's when it formulated in my head that if he was get-

ting ready to sell it and didn't have someone in his family interested in taking it over, then I wanted to talk to him about it. While it wasn't a lifelong dream, it quickly turned into a dream. And it's one of those 'God dreams' where He gave me a better dream than I could ever dream for myself.”

The recent renovations include upgraded visual equipment and new restrooms, and upgraded audio equipment is coming soon. Southern hopes the community thinks outside the box when considering Star Wheels for their events.

“We want to find ways for the whole community to use [the space] and have a good time. We're really focusing on finding ways to broaden its use, so not only kids and younger folks can enjoy it,” Southern said optimistically.

One thing will remain unchanged: the name of the rink.

Southern said, “I wanted to hang onto the name because nothing I could have called it would have made it any better. I couldn't do anything better than what it's always been. I feel like we bought a legacy.”

Mitchell knows it's a legacy that wouldn't be possible without the community's support.

“I would just like for everyone who supported my business, showed me love, and shared my joy to know it's certainly appreciated.



I couldn't have done it had they not supported me," said Mitchell. "I'm so thankful Summer didn't change the name. I'm grateful that even when I'm gone, I will still be remembered as the owner and builder of Star Wheels."

Today, that persistent little all-night skater watches as another weekend comes to a close at the rink. Young people reluctantly remove their skates, in no hurry for the evening to end. They may think it's only over until next weekend, but it might have ended for good without the persistence of two kindred spirits. **GN**

Visit Star Wheels Skate Center at 22 Ardmore Hwy. in Fayetteville. For more information, call (931) 433-0111 or visit starwheelstn.com.



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CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local events, charities, and nonprofits.

54 Community Events

56 Charity Listings

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Submit a positive story
on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Dan and Mary Peery

Solar Eclipse - April 8



Photos submitted by folks in our community

Friends from Fayetteville and surrounding areas gathered to witness the solar eclipse, a once in a lifetime event. The eclipse happened on April 8 as darkness came over the area in the middle of the day.



1. Brittany Hickson and Abi Gulley 2. Karen Barnes, Frances Welch, and Donna Plier 3. Ladd Caldwell 4. Brady and Lucy Motl 5. Emery Koehler 6. Riley and Taylor Pitts with Claire Hatton

Flintville Music Festival and Fish Fry - April 13



Photography by Brooke Snyder

The Flintville Fire Department held its annual Flintville Music Festival and Fish Fry on Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. People came from all over to enjoy good music, great food, and even better company.



1. Larry Quick 2. Kayla and Gracie
3. Sherrie Whitehead and Geri Swafford 4. Capt. Crehton Caldwell, Lt. Caleb Caldwell, Bobby Stubblefield, Shannon Sims, Jonathan Smith, Joslyn Caldwell, Travis Jubin, Kristian Young, Don Counts, and Tory Clark

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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.

Relay For Life of Lincoln County, TN

Organizes community fundraising events supporting the American Cancer Society and raising money for cancer research.

www.relayforlife.org
Facebook: *Relay For Life of Lincoln County, TN*

Lincoln County 4-H

Provides agriculture, leadership, and community service youth programs.

(931) 433-1582
<https://lincoln.tennessee.edu/4-h-youth-development/>

Crossroads Donkey Rescue

Provides refuge and rehabilitation to donkeys facing neglect, abuse, and abandonment.

(989) 619-9475
www.crossroadsdonkeyrescue.org

Clothe Our Kids of Lincoln County Inc.

Provides at-risk children with needed clothing and shoes.

(931) 625-6953
www.clotheourkids.com

Junior's House Inc.

Provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services to physically and sexually abused children and their families as a child advocacy center.

(931) 438-3233
www.juniorshousecac.org

Lincoln County Anti-Drug Coalition

Prevents substance abuse and promoting healthy lifestyles.

(931) 433-6050
Facebook: *Lincoln County Anti-Drug Coalition*

Crossroads Pregnancy Clinic

Exists to care for women and men facing unplanned pregnancies by providing life-affirming education through pregnancy decision counseling.

(931) 297-2424
www.crossroadspregnancyclinic.org

Simply the Truth Ministries

Serves communities by assisting during times of need and providing services such as disaster relief through the Manifold Grace Ministry.

(931) 625-2115
www.simplythetruthministries.org

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www.flcpl.org/imagination-library

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