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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Chasing a shooting star

Dreams come true in our hometown.

WHEN I was 8, I wanted to be a teacher. I remember my third grade teacher clicking the chalk on the green board on the wall. And when I was 9, I wanted to be a director. My parents bought me a camera for Christmas, and my cousins and I would recreate our favorite movies in the yard. When I was 11, I wanted to be a writer. I remember classmates telling me how terrible my stories were. While they probably weren't, it felt like a crowd of kids surrounding me, pointing and laughing. I went home and ripped the pages over and over, trying to hold back tears. I thought, "No one will ever read another word I write." The 11-year-old me was wrong. My story — my dream — didn't end there; it was just the beginning. Today, I can offer you living proof that the wildest dreams do come true.

Our dreams are like shooting stars across the night sky. They're beautiful; they're exciting. We think, "How in the world does that work?" And we spend our entire lives chasing that shooting star. We spend every day, step after step, trying to make our dreams come true. Dreams don't always take off into space like a rocket. Sometimes, we land too hard. Sometimes, we never get off the launchpad. Thankfully, we have the launchpad we need. Our hometown is a place where dreams come true, and this issue of Good News Magazine is living proof of that.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." The goal of this issue is to prove your dreams are beautiful and the future is brightly dazzling. The truth is, the shooting star has always been inside us — we just had to realize it. GN

Wesley Bryant,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Wesley Bryant

**VP OF SALES** Ken Holtzinger

**REGIONAL PUBLISHER** Jack Owens

**LEAD LAYOUT ARTIST** Brianna Brubaker

**SENIOR LAYOUT ARTIST** Melissa Davis

**LAYOUT ARTIST** Ben Adams

**LEAD PRINT AD DESIGNER** Todd Pitts

**JR. PRINT AD DESIGNER** Jane Morrell

**LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER** Ashleigh Newnes

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Brooke Snyder

**FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHERS** Amanda Guy, Adin Parks,

Sarah Bussard, Chad Barrett, Robin Fast, Gretchen Clark

**LEAD WRITER** Tina Neeley

**STORY WRITER** Jeriah Brumfield

**FREELANCE WRITERS** Amanda West, Sara Hook, Paige Cushman,

Kali Bradford, Gabriel Huff, Dave Lenehan, Richard Klin

**FOOD CRITIC** Shannon Beebe

**STORY COORDINATOR** Haley Potter

**PROOFREADER** Michelle Harwell

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**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** Cindy Baldhoff, Faith Cashion,

Amanda Cox, Tony Glenn, Kevin Hines, Mark Mahagan, Kevin Maples,

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# A minister's DREAMS come true.

Devron Holman lives out his dreams, serving his country and community.

*By Jeriah Brumfield*

*Photography by Ashleigh Newnes*

**F**ROM THE pulpit, Devron Holman, the associate pastor for Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, preaches with passion and conviction. His words are like a soothing balm for the weary soul as he ministers to the broken-hearted and the lost, offering hope and healing in the name of Jesus. His spirit is ablaze with the fire of conviction. After he leaves his office or his place on the pulpit, Holman receives divine confirmation that he has found his true calling — a calling to serve, to lead, and to inspire. But Holman's purpose extends beyond the church building, reaching into the heart of Franklin County, helping the pastor lead organizational and community-wide events. Ever since his earlier years, he walked the streets of his community and saw some faces of his neighbors — some struggling, marginalized, and forgotten. And with each passing day, his determination to make change grew stronger, and his commitment to social justice was steadfast.



**“The most fulfilling moments are when people reach out to me, ask me questions, or ask for prayer. It reminds me that people know there’s a God out there.”**

– Devron Holman

Patricia J. Nimox, a single mother, raised her seven children, Devron Holman among them, in a God-fearing household. Living in a one-parent household couldn’t dim their light and profound faith in God. Holman, the third eldest, looked up to his mother, watching her navigate single parenthood with wonder and admiration.

“Being the oldest of 12 siblings, it was just remarkable for me to witness that,” Holman said. “I’ve always drawn my strengths from her. She molded me. My mom is my biggest motivation.”

The melodies of gospel music rang through their home. It was a haven of warmth and love amidst the chill of poverty and hardship. Nimox, with her blessed hands and encouraging smile, was the beating heart of their humble abode — a ray of hope for her children in a world fraught with adversity.

Holman’s path led him to the Marines. Here, he learned discipline, courage, and sacrifice, and his faith remained a steady anchor. He emerged a leader, his courage and compassion a beacon for his fellow Marines.

“The military has taught me a lot,” he reflected. “The discipline it takes to be successful, the consistency, the ability to be fair toward people in spite of where they come from — it allowed me to see what success

looks like. My mom and the military really set me up to influence others.”

One of Holman’s biggest challenges was overcoming the loss of service members under his command.

“That was probably the heaviest challenge,” he shared. “But my relationship with Christ definitely helped keep me grounded.”

Even after retiring from the Marines after 26 years, his impact on those he served continues to resonate.

“I’ve been retired 11 years, but I’m still getting phone calls from service members who served underneath my leadership, and that just motivates me to the highest level,” he said.

After retiring, Holman returned to Franklin County, where he found a new calling at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church. As an associate pastor, he embraces his role with humility and conviction, offering hope and healing through his words and actions. For Holman, the church and the broader community are simply an extension of his family. He sows seeds of inspiration, love, and care with each encounter.

“It allows me to be a part of the family of Christ,” he explained. “Our hearts are for the people; our hearts are for God.”

Every Sunday morning, the congregation gathers at 132 Walnut St. in Cowan.





With heads bowed and hearts lifted, they give thanks for their blessings, finding rest in their faith.

Holman and his biological and church families have become champions of change in the community, advocating for social justice and equality.

“The most fulfilling moments are when people reach out to me, ask me questions, or ask for prayer,” he said. “It reminds me that people know there’s a God out there.”

From mentoring to advocating, he works tirelessly to break down barriers and build bridges, uplift the oppressed, and empower the disenfranchised.

“Regardless of how much I know, it won’t do me any good if I’m holding on to it for myself. But I can distribute that knowledge to any and everybody that I want to and still not lose a thing.”

For young people chasing their dreams, especially young people from minority groups, Holman has this advice: “Be careful who you surround yourself with. Dreams do come true, but we have to be active in making them happen. Put in the work, commit yourself to the right people, and trust the process.”

Holman’s dream for Franklin County is to be a place where opportunity is available to all.

“I hope that Franklin County continues to level the playing field by allowing quality and qualified minorities a fair chance to display their capabilities, accomplishments, and experiences,” he said. “There are a lot of people out there who have a lot to offer.” **GN**





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# 'BIG CHANGE STARTS IN SMALL PLACES.'

Stephanie Mayfield breaks barriers and empowers women in construction.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Brooke Snyder and submitted by Stephanie Mayfield





Stephanie  
Mayfield

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**S**TEPHANIE MAYFIELD stood atop the roof, the wind whipping through her hair and the vast expanse of the sky stretching before her. The freshly cut wood and the scent of asphalt shingles collided, baking under the sun. Every nail she hammered down resonated with the strength she had developed through years of trials and triumphs. Her fingers worked methodically, each motion reflecting the persistence she had built within herself.

Mayfield had a tumultuous upbringing, facing numerous challenges that could have defeated anyone. She dealt with a dysfunctional family, a sick sibling, and mental and chronic illness. Despite these obstacles, she perseveres every day. All of her setbacks somehow became the catalyst that helped her achieve her childhood dream of defying expectations and building a future — both literally and figuratively.

Born into the realm of flooring with her father's business, Mayfield's love for construction bloomed early. But unlike her father, who focused on interiors, Mayfield felt a calling to the open sky.

"The first time I got on a roof, I was in love," she admitted.

At a young age, her father instilled in her the belief that she could achieve anything she set her mind to and that no dream was too far out of reach.

He reminded her, "We can be absolutely anything we want to be if we put in the work and refuse to take 'no' for an answer or disrespect."

Making the decision to start her own company was challenging for her. But after losing a dear family member, she finally found the courage to take the leap. The pain of losing her brother opened her eyes to the harsh reality that, as a woman, she would always be judged differently, regardless of how much she accomplished. So, she decided not to let limitations hold her back from bringing her childhood dreams to life.

One day, while lying on a massage table, she asked God for a sign and poured out her heart to Him. He finally gave her a sign that made her realize it was time to start her own company. She knew that as soon as she got off the table, she would take the leap and start her own business.

"Your Roofing Gal was born out of the biggest heartache I had ever experienced personally or professionally. I know my big brother is cheering me on from the big blue yonder."

Despite finding construction work empowering, she still faces stereotyping and disrespect at times due to being a female in a male-dominated industry.

"There are always going to be some of those 'bad egg boys' that don't respect me as a woman of my craft," she admitted.

But Mayfield persists.

"I bring the feminine side of things. I look at the desires of a homeowner the same way I would my own home, and men can't always grasp the same vision a woman has."

This perspective became her superpower. She always knew that she would one day own her own construction business and wanted to build great things not just for herself but for other girls, too. Mayfield learned construction from the best of Middle Tennessee to the great Alaskan frontier to the flatlands of Kansas, which gave her an arsenal of wisdom and knowledge to hold on to.

Mayfield shared how her work reaffirms that she is fulfilling her calling.

"With every roof I step on, with every driver that sees my huge logo on my truck, people are seeing a woman do what they didn't think a woman could do."

With each shingle she lays, she's building a movement, supporting local nonprofits, and finding new ways to use her business to stay involved with her community.

As an ambassador for the Tullahoma Noon Rotary, she's spearheading initiatives to enrich playgrounds and promote literacy by building and donating library boxes to local parks.

She hopes to have a library box in every neighborhood soon.

Leadership comes naturally to Mayfield, but her infectious enthusiasm and never-ending support for other women make her a true leader. Her message to young girls is particularly powerful.

"Lock yourself in. Life is about learning what truly brings fire into your soul."

She wants to shatter the mold of societal expectations and empower girls to chase their dreams, no matter how unconventional.

"Your career path or even educational path does not have to make sense to anyone on this earth other than you," she said. "I got a degree in accounting because that is what 'made sense' to others. As a mentor, my goal is to help kids listen to their own voices and hearts. So many children live in the box of forced ideas from their parents, from school, [and] from society."

As Mayfield's company grows, her vision remains the same.

"I look forward to hiring and training other women to be rockstars in construction. I want to have a successful business while impacting and enriching as many lives as I can within Southern Middle Tennessee," she said. "True change starts at home in your own community, and I am dedicated to that. Big change starts in small places." **GN**



**"LOCK YOUR-SELF IN. LIFE IS ABOUT LEARNING WHAT TRULY BRINGS FIRE INTO YOUR SOUL."**

**-STEPHANIE MAYFIELD**





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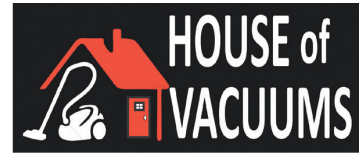
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Former  
pageant queen's   
dreams

How pageantry prepared an inspiring  
doctor for a career in medicine

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Brooke Snyder  
and submitted by Farrar Jean Ford





◆ ◆ Farrar Jean Ford ◆ ◆





FARRAR JEAN Ford's childhood was a series of hospital stays and operating rooms, each leaving its mark on her. Born with a genetic disorder that necessitated numerous orthopedic surgeries, Ford's early encounters with the medical world were not just a matter of treatment but of profound self-discovery. As she grew, so did her fascination with the intricacies of the human body and the art of healing. During her medical training, she found herself drawn to orthopedic surgery, perhaps influenced by her own history. However, something shifted within her during an OB-GYN rotation. The beauty of childbirth and new life entering the world instilled a passion she hadn't expected. It was in those moments of witnessing miracles that Ford realized where her true calling lay.

For Ford, a doctor of osteopathic medicine specializing in obstetrics and gynecology and a resident physician at Corewell Health in Farmington Hills, Michigan, the path to delivering miracles began with a twist of fate and a heart full of determination. Through her journey, she chose to turn her personal experience into purpose and hope for children all over the community.

"When I experienced the miracle of life, which I saw when delivering my first baby, I realized and suddenly knew that obstetrics and gynecology was my true life's calling," Ford reflected.

During her undergraduate studies, Ford faced personal challenges and utilized unexpected experiences to grow personally on her journey to medical school and residency.

"While I was recovering from multiple surgeries and dealing with the death of a family member, I was unable to postpone the finals for multiple classes," she began. "I had to take them as oral exams. I overcame it by ignoring the negatives that I was facing and forced myself to finish all of my assignments, study for the finals, and make excellent grades on my exams."

As a former beauty pageant contestant and 2014 Miss Dogwood winner, Ford understands the depth of preparation and poise required to face challenging situations head-on. The interview portions of pageants, where she tackled probing questions before audiences numbering from hundreds to thousands,





▲ Ford with her family at her White Coat Ceremony at LMU. L-R: dad, Joe Ford; mom, Jean Marie Ford; Farrar; and grandmother, Barbara Jean Farrar

prepared her for the rigors of medical school entrance interviews and beyond.

"Standing before an audience and being interviewed by multiple doctors was easy," Ford shared, reflecting on how pageantry honed her communication skills and resilience.

Ford's residency in Detroit's fast-paced environment exposed her to the diversity of patients from various backgrounds, teaching her acceptance and fortitude. Now, as she prepares to transition her practice to Franklin County and Southern Tennessee, Ford eagerly anticipates the opportunity to serve her community and provide exceptional care to women from all walks of life.

"While I grew up in Tullahoma, I spent a lot of time in Winchester and the surrounding area, particularly during my time as Miss Dogwood," Ford said. "I look

forward to taking care of the women of Franklin County and the surrounding area."

Ford's belief in herself and commitment to hard work and focus have propelled her forward throughout her journey — even in the face of adversity. From overcoming multiple surgeries and personal loss to excelling in medical school despite setbacks, Ford's perseverance shines as a guiding light and a ray of inspiration for aspiring physicians.

"I learned that the key to success is focus and hard work," Ford affirmed.

As she looks ahead to the future, Ford's goals encompass far more than her medical practice — she envisions a legacy defined by dedication to her profession and community. From delivering generations of babies to providing superb gynecological care, Ford's commitment to Franklin County knows no bounds.

She said, "I intend to stay in the Franklin County area for the remainder of my career."

One thing that remains consistent throughout her professional endeavors is Ford's undying love for the Tennessee Vols. As much as she dedicates herself to medicine, Ford's heart belongs to her alma mater, making her a true "Vol for Life."

"I plan to be a doctor for life, but I know that I certainly am a 'Vol for Life.'"

In Farrar Jean Ford's journey from pageant queen to doctor, we find a passionate, poised, and dedicated leader. Through trials and triumphs, Ford's commitment to her calling reminds us that dreams do come true, even in the face of tragedies. As she continues to deliver miracles and shape the future of women's health care, Ford's legacy will forever represent the power of perseverance and the pursuit of one's true calling. GN



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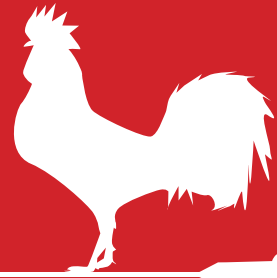
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## COUNTRY COOKIN







## FROM SERVING OUR COUNTRY TO SERVING GOOD OLE COUNTRY COOKIN'

### GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Franklin Country. This month Shannon Beebe visited Paw Paw's Country Cookin.

Shannon Beebe  
franklincountyfood  
critic@gmail.com

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415 Cumberland St. W.  
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**S**INCE INDEPENDENCE Day is this month, I decided to drive to Cowan and eat at Paw Paw's Country Cookin. Mrs. "Paw Paw" is an Army veteran, so what better time to try a new restaurant and thank her for her contribution to our freedom?

From the moment you walk in, the homey decor and friendly staff make you feel like you are a part of the family or like you just had a warm embrace from your favorite grandparent. Inside, you feel like you're about to sit down for Sunday supper with family in the dining room, not in front of the TV. Even the restroom had a little cushion for the little "tooshes" that may need it. The menu combines classic Southern cuisine and good old-fashioned comfort food, including meat-and-three dishes.

Today, I chose the salmon patty plate with mashed potatoes, Brother Tim's slaw,

and fried okra. I also tried the country-fried steak. I decided to have tea, and I'm so glad I did. As I sipped it, it tasted like summer — swinging on the porch swing and watching the fireflies glowing about. One taste, and I was hooked.

The salmon patty was packed with flavor. The center was flaky, and the outside was crispy. All around, it was a delight to eat. The country-fried chicken and gravy had a golden-brown exterior and a juicy, flavorful inside. I'll be ordering that again. The sides were all just as delicious. The okra was hand-breaded and fried to perfection. The mashed potatoes were warm and creamy. Let me say that Brother Tim's slaw was amazing! The entire meal felt like a family reunion in my mouth, and everyone pitched in. If you are in Cowan, be sure to stop by and give Paw Paw's Country Cookin a try. You won't be disappointed. **GN**





# Savor summer's bounty



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# Enjoy the season's first fruits and vegetables.

**A**S THE warm summer sun shines high in the Southern sky, it's time to embrace the vibrant flavors of the season. Our July recipes showcase the best of summer's produce, from juicy peaches and crisp cucumbers to sweet corn and zucchini.

Whether you're hosting a backyard gathering or enjoying a quiet evening at home, these dishes will have you savoring the tastes of the season. From refreshing salads and grilled favorites to fruity desserts, let's dig into the simple pleasures of summer together! **GN**



## Strawberry Pretzel Salad

*In memory of Pat Hopper*

2 c. pretzels, crushed  
4 T. sugar  
3/4 c. margarine, softened  
1 pkg. cream cheese, 8 oz., softened  
1 c. sugar  
1 container whipped topping, 8 oz.  
1 lg. pkg. strawberry gelatin  
1 1/2 - 2 c. boiling water  
2 pkgs., strawberries, frozen, slightly thawed, 10 oz.

In a large bowl, mix together pretzels, 4 T. of sugar, and margarine. Pat pretzel mixture in a 9x13 baking dish. Bake at 400° for 6 minutes. Cool. In a mixing bowl, mix cream cheese, and 1 cup of sugar. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over pretzel crust. In a separate bowl, mix strawberry gelatin with boiling water. Stir until dissolved. Add frozen strawberries. Refrigerate until gelatin starts to thicken slightly. Stir, then pour over cream cheese layer and refrigerate until set.

## Peachy Blueberry Cobbler

*Submitted by Louella Turner*

1 c. sugar  
2 t. baking powder  
1 c. AP flour  
1 t. salt  
1 c. milk  
1/2 c. butter, melted  
3 med. peaches, peeled, sliced, lightly sugared  
2/3 c. fresh blueberries  
vanilla ice cream, optional

In a medium mixing bowl, combine sugar, baking powder, flour, and salt. In a small mixing bowl, combine milk and butter. Pour over sugar mixture. Mix until smooth. Pour into a greased 12x8x2 glass baking dish. Spread peaches evenly over the top of butter. Sprinkle with blueberries. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes or until batter rises through the fruit and top is golden brown. Serve cobbler warm and topped with vanilla ice cream, if desired.

## Fresh Summer Salsa

*Submitted by Marguerite Eddins*

1 habanero chili pepper, seeded, minced  
4 lg. plum tomatoes, chopped  
2 T. vinegar  
1 t. sugar  
1/2 t. salt  
1 med. cucumber, peeled, diced  
1 c. fresh cilantro, finely chopped  
2 T. olive oil  
1 t. ground cumin  
tortilla chips, for serving

In a small mixing bowl, combine pepper, tomatoes, vinegar, sugar, salt, cucumber, cilantro, olive oil, and cumin. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Serve with tortilla chips.





*Angie Sanders*

# A VISION OF CHANGE

Angie works to break the cycle of domestic violence and help women find their strength.

By Jeriah Brumfield

Photography by Brooke Snyder and submitted by Angie Sanders

**A**T JUST 12 years old, Angie Sanders' mother was brutally murdered at the hands of an abusive ex-boyfriend. It was a nightmare that never seemed to end. The trauma left scars that wouldn't heal for years. In February 2021, Sanders' world was rocked again. Just as she had begun to pick up the pieces of what was her new life without her mother, news arrived that her mother's murderer was up for release due to COVID-19.

It was like the wound ripped open all over again. Fear, a long-dormant monster, awoke with a vengeance. Anxiety began to cripple her, robbing her of peace and security. Sanders became scared to

walk outside alone, and everywhere she went, she peered over her shoulder, convinced he would soon find her.

Sanders knew she had to fight for herself and her family.

"I went into a deep depression, and I knew for my husband and kids I had to get help," she said.

She sought counseling and, through therapy, began to chip away at the layers of trauma.

But it was her faith that truly became her anchor. And then, a flicker of hope emerged from the darkness.

"I spent many nights at the altar crying out to God," Sanders shared. "And one night, He gave me peace I had never felt before."











▲ Brandi Hill, Angie Sanders, Stephanie Riddle, and Penny Cooper



▲ Angie's mother, Deborah

Then came a dream — a vivid image that would change the course of her life. In that dream, she saw herself opening a shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence. It was a calling she couldn't ignore. So, she prayed about it. But then doubt began to creep in.

"There is no way I can make this happen," she thought.

Another prayer replaced the flicker of doubt in her spirit. With a deep breath, she took a determined step forward, setting out to make her dream a reality. With the support of her devoted

husband, her pastor, and a circle of close friends, Deborah's Safe Haven at Calvary, named after her mother, Deborah, became a reality in July 2023.

"I never want another child to go through the childhood trauma and generational curses that I had to go through. A woman should not have to live every single day in fear," Sanders said.

Deborah's Safe Haven is a compassionate, faith-based organization that offers vital support and care to those who have survived domestic violence, breaking the cycle of abuse in Franklin County. With commit-





“  
I NEVER WANT ANOTHER  
CHILD TO GO THROUGH  
THE CHILDHOOD TRAUMA  
AND GENERATIONAL  
CURSES THAT I HAD TO  
GO THROUGH.

*Angie Sanders*

she knows so well. She believes that it is crucial to end the cycle of domestic violence and motivate women to find their inner strength. When they visit Deborah's Safe Haven, she encourages them by assuring them, "you are not alone," and "you are deserving of love and respect." Her most rewarding moments are seeing the smiles on the faces of women and children who are finally free from fear.

Deborah's Safe Haven currently operates without a permanent shelter. It relies on compassionate volunteers who generously donate their time to help support the women and children during their transition. The shelter's ultimate goal is to establish a long-term refuge for them. This would allow them to receive vital services and begin to heal in a safe and supportive environment.

Unfortunately, many people don't realize the severity of the need for a shelter that focuses on helping survivors of domestic violence in our county. Others are aware of the dangers of domestic violence but are too afraid to help. They tend to believe that if they don't witness it, then it's not their problem.

There are four main types of domestic violence: physical, sexual,

emotional, and economic. If you notice any signs of domestic violence, you should offer

your help. It's crucial that we all take responsibility for identifying the signs of domestic violence and offer assistance to those in need.

Even a small act of kindness such as a hug, smile, advice, or listening ear could significantly impact someone's life and motivate them to take the necessary steps to leave their situation. We must work together to create a safe and supportive environment for survivors of domestic violence all over Middle Tennessee. **GN**

ment and a warm and welcoming approach, it provides much-needed emergency shelter, counseling, legal aid, and a strong support system that helps women rebuild their lives after experiencing trauma.

The services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each survivor, with a focus on assisting at every stage of their journey. Whether finding a safe place to stay or navigating complex legal processes, Deborah's Safe Haven offers practical help, emotional support, and a listening ear.

Sanders finds joy in her desire to prevent others from enduring the pain

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*If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, it is important to seek help by contacting the domestic abuse hotline at (800) 799-7233. You can learn more about the warning signs of abuse by visiting [www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/domestic-abuse-warning-signs/](http://www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/domestic-abuse-warning-signs/).*

*Find out how to support Deborah's Safe Haven at Calvary at <https://deborahssafehaven.com/>.*

*Remember, if you see something, say something. A listening ear or a helping hand can make all the difference.*



*Tiffany Partin*  
**‘DREAMS  
ARE ACHIEVABLE’**

A single mom and nurse battles divorce and COVID to achieve her dream career.

By Jeriah Brumfield  
Photography by Brooke Snyder

**T**IFFANY PARTIN’S heart raced as the sound of the engine faded to silence. She was already on high alert from an ambulance call, and now she raced toward the injured motorcycle rider being wheeled into the hospital. As the gurney drew closer, she felt a surge of adrenaline and inspiration as she prepared for surgery on the unconscious rider. She knew that a new journey, from small-town dreamer to orthopedic trauma healer, was calling out to her. Her desire to make a difference burned brightly within her, and she knew this was the beginning of an exciting journey. Partin felt confident in her abilities and knew



that she could change the lives of her patients. This experience only strengthened her resolve to pursue her passion for medicine with enthusiasm and dedication.

This orthopedic trauma nurse practitioner at Saint Thomas Rutherford traded in her childhood dream of becoming a doctor for a path paved with grit, compassion, and the occasional motorcycle mishap.

Partin grew up in Cowan, a town where neighbors are family. Here, she learned the value of community and the importance of giving back, a principle that would become the compass guiding her career. Pre-med initially seemed like the natural











fit, but the cutthroat competitiveness left a sour taste in her mouth. It wasn't the kind of environment where Partin, a self-proclaimed "empath," could thrive.

It was a "quarter-life crisis" that prompted introspection, steering her toward a different yet equally fulfilling path. Nursing became her calling. This profession resonated with her natural inclination toward caregiving. The fast-paced chaos of the emergency department fit her like a glove. But then came COVID-19, a relentless wave that threatened to drown her in emotional exhaustion. Witnessing the devastation firsthand pushed Partin to reevaluate. Enter orthopedic trauma — a chance to focus on healing, a skill she desperately craved.

She explained, "COVID broke me to the point where caring for patients and having to know how to treat every type of problem became too much. Orthopedic trauma allowed me to still be able to help patients in emergent situations while focusing on what I could do for them from an orthopedic standpoint instead of constantly having to worry about everything."

The hospital where she was working started a trauma program two years ago. As one of the most

experienced nurses, she was selected to be a part of the emergency department (ED) team that worked with the trauma team in all the trauma cases that came into the ED. She had been working in the ED for a long time, and hardly anything was exciting or new. However, working on trauma cases allowed her to learn new high-acuity skills and provided unique cases that opened up an entirely new world of health care to her.

Her path toward success, however, wasn't a smooth ride. Just as she began nurse practitioner school, she watched her marriage dissolve right before her eyes. The challenges of single motherhood threatened to derail her dreams.

"My husband was starting to struggle with an addiction to alcohol," she reflected. "I wanted to be able to help him so badly, but I also had a 2-year-old daughter to protect. His addiction continued to spiral where my child and I were no longer safe in the same house."

The divorce process was lengthy and tedious.

"I worried about my daughter's safety daily. Dealing with COVID at work, being a full-time grad student, navigating through a high-con-

flict divorce, and trying to raise a toddler was all too much to bear at times."

But Partin, driven by the love for her daughter, her biggest cheerleader, refused to give up. Her parents were always there to reassure her that she had done her best in helping her ex-husband and his continued struggles were not her fault. Whenever Partin couldn't attend her daughter's events due to work, her parents were there to cheer her on. They were always available to help her whenever needed, and their constant support kept her going.

Today, Partin passionately serves at Saint Thomas Rutherford. She feels a profound responsibility to this hospital, which nurtured her and now cares for her family. Here, she lives out the values the Cowan community instilled in her as a child, offering a helping hand to those in need.

"This hospital cares not only for my community but the community that raised me. So I feel it is my responsibility to continue to do my part to make this hospital the best it can be," Partin said.

Partin often recalls a particularly inspiring case involving a young victim of a motorcycle accident. Even while sedated Partin spoke to him, pouring her hope into his recovery. The next day, he woke up, recognizing her voice and ready to fight through his situation. These transformations remind her that sometimes all it takes is being present and offering a little support to another human being.

Partin's message for aspiring health care professionals is this: "Don't give up when it gets hard. Keep pushing through challenges like a diamond formed from coal, and shine bright for the world to see."

She aspires to continue inspiring people, but most importantly, she wants to show her daughter that dreams really do come true.

"I want to be an example to her that dreams are achievable and that she is capable of great things." GN

“

**DON'T GIVE UP WHEN IT GETS HARD. KEEP PUSHING THROUGH CHALLENGES LIKE A DIAMOND FORMED FROM COAL, AND SHINE BRIGHT FOR THE WORLD TO SEE.**

*Tiffany Partin*



*Sam and Verna Lapp*  
**ROOTED IN FAITH,  
GROWING  
WITH FAMILY.**

A local couple's Amish upbringing became a full-circle moment.

By Jeriah Brumfield  
Photography by Brooke Snyder

**T**RADING IN the familiar clanging of milk pails for the invigorating fragrance of a thousand blooms may not seem like the ideal experience for many farmers, but this was Verna and Sam Lapp's reality. This couple pushed through unexpected turns in life to find their passion in a blossoming greenhouse business called Lapp's Greenhouse.

**Blooming Where Planted**

Verna, who was once an expert in milking cows, now spends her days nurturing delicate flower seedlings. However, her current life has come full circle.



"From the time I was little, my mom had plants, gardens, and flowers, so everything I learned was probably from childhood into my teens and adulthood," Verna explained. "We always had a vegetable garden. That's basically the teaching I got."

Although she was accustomed to an agricultural lifestyle, she never imagined that she and her husband would eventually own a greenhouse. This was not the life she and her family had planned for themselves. They were content dairy farmers, having lived in Pennsylvania all their lives.

However, Verna's children, who lived in Tennessee, stumbled upon a farm for sale in Franklin County. The







“  
**IT'S MORE OF THE  
 LORD'S BLESSING  
 THAN OUR OWN  
 WORK, AND WE GIVE  
 EVERYTHING WE HAVE  
 BACK TO HIM.**  
*Sam Lapp*”



farm gradually grew on them, and the enticing idea of being closer to their parents drew them to purchase and live on the farm.

“We were milking cows, but that industry wasn’t doing very well for us,” Verna admitted. “We decided to go into greenhousing. We had greenhouses for about five years in Pennsylvania, and that’s when we moved down here.”

As they transitioned from dairy farming to greenhouse cultivation, the couple encountered many challenges. But, with strong faith and the support of the Franklin County community, they overcame each obstacle that stood in their path.

Sam, who once spent long hours tending to corn, alfalfa, and tobacco fields and herding cattle, now enjoys spending time surrounded by beautiful blooms and outdoor furniture on his family’s property. Nothing compares to the scent of freshly trimmed grass, trees, herbs, and flowers.

You’re immediately transported to a tranquil oasis as you step into their greenhouse. The couple welcomes you with a warm greeting, and you’re met with rows of homemade soaps, planters, and mugs on the shelves. Once you step outside, nature envelops you with fruit trees, rose bushes, shrubs, and rows of pottery, encouraging

you to explore their stunning acreage.

**From Humble Beginnings to Flourishing Success**

The couple’s path isn’t completely paved with rose petals. Keeping pace with their growing business means constant expansion — more greenhouses, a wider variety of flowers, and a growing team.

However, their Amish upbringing, with its ingrained values of hard work and perseverance, sees them through.

**Rooted in Faith and Family**

Faith is the framework that supports Lapp’s Greenhouse. The way the Lapps treat their customers and employees with respect and kindness clearly reflects their dedication to God.

“We put everything in the Lord’s hands,” Sam said simply. “It’s more of the Lord’s blessing than our own work, and we give everything we have back to Him.”

Family is also a significant driving force behind the company. Their daughter, Sarah, who shares their work ethic, recently returned home after getting married to work for the business. The couple hopes their other children and future generations will carry on their greenhouse legacy.



Over the last few years, Lapp’s Greenhouse flourished and diversified its offerings, encompassing a stunning array of flowers and a garden center complete with outdoor furniture, buildings, concrete statuettes, shrubbery, and pottery. Their commitment to quality is evident in every facet of their business, from the meticulously curated products to the warm, welcoming ambiance that greets visitors.

Despite the blooming nature of their business, Sam and Verna remain grounded in their values and rooted in their faith. Hard work, honesty, and integrity form the foundation of their family business, guiding their interactions with customers and shaping their approach to business ownership.





▲ Sarah Hopkins



▲ Carise Duvenaga

“I have total respect for our customers,” Verna said. “They are very loyal to us and very good to work with. We have their backs. We’re friends, and it’s business at the same time. And it’s a very good experience.”

### **A Legacy in Bloom**

Lapp’s Greenhouse is a unique oasis in Franklin County rooted in love, respect, faith, and hard work. The Lapps pour their hearts into every plant, herb, and shrub. Customers who visit Lapp’s Greenhouse are greeted by rows of colorful blooms and by the warmth of Verna and Sam’s genuine

hospitality. It’s like walking straight into one of your friends’ gardens.

So, if you’re ever in Franklin County, take a detour and follow the sweet scent of blossoms. You might just find yourself surrounded by more than beautiful flowers — you might discover a blooming inspiration, a representation of the power of family, faith, and the willpower to turn your dreams into reality. **GN**

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*Visit [www.lappsgreenhouse.com](http://www.lappsgreenhouse.com) for more information, or call (931) 636-9393. Address: 4135 Cowan Hwy., Cowan*









# Building Stronger Communities

Through positive stories

Consuming angry, sad, and negative news can make readers feel overwhelmed and helpless. We want to remember there are still uplifting people to meet and positive stories to tell.

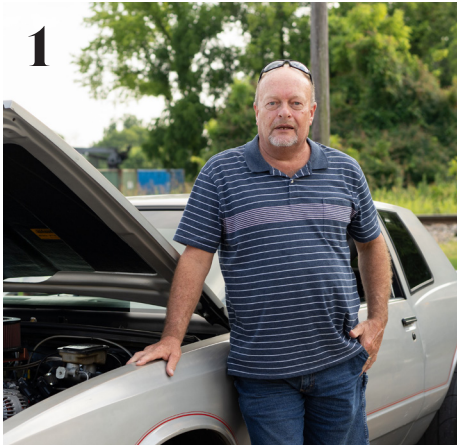
**There's Good News out there!** We want to shine a light on people, businesses, and events that uplift the community. We are looking for businesses like you that care about our local people.

**Good News is...**

- Exclusively local
- Only positive
- Exceptional quality



# Cowan Monthly Cruise-In - June 21



Photography by Brooke Snyder

The Cowan monthly cruise-in was held on June 21 from 5-8 p.m. Local businesses remained open late, and show cars were parked for onlookers. Donations were accepted for Luke Kimbril, who was in a motorcycle accident in April.



1. Mike Mason 2. Dennis O'Dear, Denise and William Kimbril, David and Stephanie McBay, and Cody Swinford 3. Jay Penney 4. Tiffany Payne and Cheyenne Hayes 5. Stacie Vaughn 6. Kay and Ron Cushing





7. Kathy Sterchi, Debra Mason, and Fredrick W. Sterchi IV 8. Jack Vaughn 9. Jess Stockwell  
10. Dave and Windy Douma 11. Roger Rose



# 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.

## **New Life TN**

Provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

(931) 967-0100

Facebook: *New Life TN*

## **Early Literacy Ambassadors**

Offers free, evidence-based reading interventions to children in South Central Tennessee to break the cycle of poverty through literacy.

[www.earlyliteracyambassadors.com](http://www.earlyliteracyambassadors.com)

Facebook: *Early Literacy Ambassadors*

## **Franklin County Rescue Squad**

Volunteers providing essential rescue services.

(931) 967-4532

[www.fctnready.com/search-%26-rescue](http://www.fctnready.com/search-%26-rescue)

## **Friends of Tims Ford State Park**

Helps Tims Ford State Park improve visitors' experiences through volunteer and financial assistance.

[friendsoftfsp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftfsp@gmail.com)

[www.friendsoftimsfordstatepark.com](http://www.friendsoftimsfordstatepark.com)

## **Almost Home Transitional Housing Program**

Provides transitional housing while networking individuals and families with organizations to affirm permanent placement.

(931) 968-2503

Facebook: *Almost Home Transitional Housing Program*

## **Kiwanis Club of Franklin County**

Improves lives and communities through service.

(931) 607-7879

Facebook: *Kiwanis Club of Franklin County*

## **Awake My Soul Coalition**

Assists in lessening the effects of mass incarceration by offering the restorative justice framework for individuals with new criminal charges and who have been in the criminal justice system prior to incarceration.

(931) 307-1730

## **Old Jail Museum Inc.**

Houses a collection of artifacts from the Civil War and pioneer eras, as well as memorabilia from hometown girl turned global celebrity Dinah Shore.

(931) 967-0524

<https://experiencetn.guide/local/old-jail-museum>

## **The Multi-County Cancer Support Network Inc**

Provides financial assistance for food and utilities to individuals with cancer.

(931) 967-0904

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





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### **Ressurrection Ministries**

Provides a therapeutic community for formally incarcerated women who desire a holistic transition into society.

(931) 636-0137  
[www.rrrmission.com](http://www.rrrmission.com)

### **931Cares Inc.**

Provides shelter, accessibility improvements, and related services.

(931)Cares@gmail.com  
Facebook: 931Cares

### **Broadview Parents Organization**

Promotes parent involvement at Broadview Elementary School.

<https://broadview.fcstn.net/bpo>

### **Dogs in Harmony**

Provides temporary housing, medical care, and adoption for homeless and abandoned dogs and puppies.

(401) 641-4458  
Facebook: Dogs in Harmony

### **Scotties Rock Foundation Inc.**

Raises funds to assist Scottish terrier owners and rescue groups who have limited financial resources with veterinary care expenses through a pay-it-forward concept.

[ourscottiesrock@gmail.com](mailto:ourscottiesrock@gmail.com)  
<https://www.scottiesrockfoundation.org/>



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