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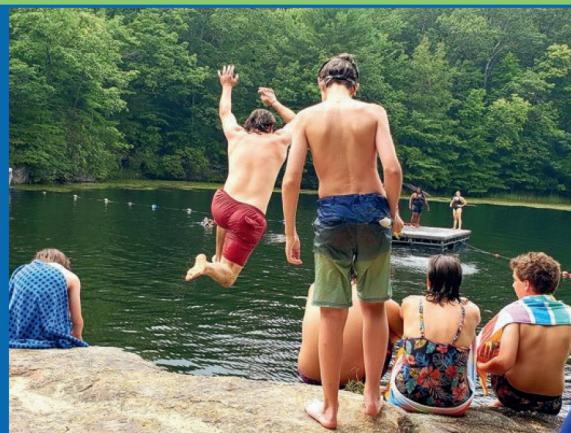
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Classroom Legacies

A legacy never dies.

A STUDENT IN our community today will walk the halls of Congress with a pinned American flag on their chest. A student in our community today will pray their knees still hold when their nerves get the best of them as they walk the steps to the stage to accept a Grammy. A student in our community today will one day have sweaty palms as they fly across the world to defend our country. Every kindergarten classroom in our community is full of future firefighters, future parents, future doctors, and future happy humans who didn't want a job to define them. A future president may be walking our halls today.

The kids who laugh on the playground today will one day face hard choices where both paths hurt. They may have a moment where they question themselves, but they'll make the right choice in the end. They'll remember their role model. They'll think, "What would Mr. Jean do?" and remember who they are. They'll race across the field during the Su-

per Bowl, remembering their history teacher — their coach — as they score the winning touchdown. They'll raise kids of their own, repeating the mantras they heard in the 10th grade. Childhood memories will play in their minds when they take the table's order, and their favorite teacher sits with a smile.

Our educators create legacies that carry on for the rest of time. Not because they make good money that way — just because that's who they are. They wake up early, work long days with less pay than they deserve, and come home to take care of their other responsibilities. They bring extra school supplies for the kids who had to do without. They teach our children how to do math and how to read, yes ... but they also teach our kids how to look inward. They teach our kids how to fight for a better world. But most importantly, they teach our kids how to love.

Teachers, we thank you for the legacies you create and the legacies that you are. This issue of Good News is for you. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Addie Brown

REINING IN SUCCESS

A Hillsboro girl builds a legacy at the All- American Quarter Horse Congress competition.

By Gabriel Grant Huff // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

ADDIE BROWN'S heart rapidly thumps as she enters the Celeste Center's oval arena. Sitting high on her horse, Wimpy Cocktail — also known as Otis — the 13-year-old rehearses maneuvers in her mind and tries to block out the noise of the crowd, gathered from all over the country to watch or participate in the October 2024 competition. The announcer speaks, signaling her turn. Prodded by a gentle squeeze, the horse trots forward to start the pattern, going through exercises practiced a gazillion times.

The duo starts well but soon drags a rear lead coming through the center of the arena, prompting a one-point penalty. The Tennessee native's heart sinks a little, but she persists, steering the horse through more patterns and gaining confidence — until she feels her stirrup slip off her foot. Right then, her hope of placing in the competition disappears. Due to this, what occurred next shocked her.

Addie grew up in Hillsboro, Tennessee, with her older brother, Avery, and younger brother, Lane, supported by her father, Daniel Brown. Addie's father works as a fifth-generation farmer, producing corn and soybeans on the Clover Leaf Stock Farm, a land cared for by the family for

over 100 years. But Addie truly took after her mother, Christy Brown.

Hailing from Riceville, Tennessee, Christy received her first horse at 9 years old, growing up competing in shows within organizations such as the American Quarter Horse Association and 4-H, during which she met her future husband. The mother maintained her love for horses, raising her daughter around them.

Addie started taking lessons from various trainers at the age of 3. When the girl became older, she began participating in multiple rider competitions.

For her, competing in horse shows is not a hobby but a lifestyle — a time-consuming and mentally tough one — with hours spent practicing every week, regulating their nutritional needs, frequently cleaning stalls, grooming the horses, and much more.



At home in Hillsboro, ►
Addie and Wimpy
Cocktail take a break
from training.

The National Reining Horse Association described Addie's goal in a singular quote: "To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best-reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely."

Addie resolved to display this very thing at the 2024 All American Quarter Horse Congress competition, currently the largest single-breed horse show in the world.

The Ohio Quarter Horse Association hosts the event every fall at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, annually seeing more than 20,000 entries and 500,000 onlookers. The show basks in the tune of \$426 million for the central Ohio economy as horsemen and horsewomen compete in over 10 different disciplines of riding at various skill levels, which break down into "classes."

With her horse, Otis, Addie entered into three reining classes at the youth level for 13-year-olds and under. A couple of mistakes contributed to her first competition ending in disappointment.

Then came her second event — mistakes eliminated, stirrup kept, and control displayed through speed, abrupt stops, and quick spins — in which she earned 10th place.

“I didn’t really think I was going to place that well — we come here for the experience and the thrill of showing on a national level. But I did, and it was very exciting,” Addie recalled.

Getting named the 10th-best rider at a prestigious competition felt special. Years of dedication paid off. Just when things did not seem better, Addie placed once again in her third competition — eighth out of 67 competitors.

“It was pretty unbelievable. I’ve been showing horses and following the trends, techniques, and changes in the sport of reining for 40 years, and this moment was a dream, so the second time it happened — so many things can go wrong when you’re going fast on a horse that has a mind of its own,” Addie’s mother remembered. “It was just kind of surreal, and I was very proud.”

Addie now tries to replicate her success in the next level for youth between the ages of 14 to 18, continuing to exhibit the value of hard work and perseverance — traits passed down from a mother with a horse-sized heart.

The story serves as an encouragement for everyone. **GN**

Christy and Addie Brown extend appreciation to their trainers, Shane and Catie Campbell, Bennie Sargent, and a host of other supporters, clinicians, collegiate coaches, and heroes who helped them arrive at this level.



Addie Brown rides Wimpy Cocktail at home, putting in the quiet, consistent practice that lays the foundation for national-level competition.

Saharra Jewell:
Serving Women for
Decades

Is it really work when serving family?

By Sara Hook // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

FOR OVER two decades, Advanced Nurse Practitioner Saharra Jewell has served the Coffee County community in women's health. For many, her office at Amani Women's Health Center is much more than an occasional obligation. It is a place to see a friend, to pray with a fellow believer, and to navigate life alongside a trusted confidant.

Jewell grew up knowing she would go into the medical field. With allergies and asthma sending her to the doctor's office and an aunt working as a registered nurse, the doctor's office became a place she enjoyed. In particular, Jewell was interested in labor and delivery, which led to women's health as a whole. She got her master's in women's health at Vanderbilt University and began working in Coffee County in 2002 at just 26 years old.

"I really enjoyed the thought of nursing," Jewell said. "I worked in labor and delivery for a year as well as the newborn nursery for a year and really wanted just to learn more."

The whole lifespan of women's health interested her, from adolescence to menopause and everything that comes in between. Having begun her career as a young adult, Jewell found herself growing up as a health care provider alongside her patients. After two decades of working in the community, some of her patients became acquaintances, some friends, and some even co-workers. The result is that while she lives in Murfreesboro, she considers Coffee County her second home.

"We've kind of gone through this lifespan together," Jewell said. "It's just been very rewarding to go through that and help these women on a daily basis through all their aspects of life."

The motto of Amani is "serve the patient, serve the patient, serve the patient," Jewell said, and she has taken that statement to heart. Serving the community is the most rewarding part of her job, and despite the bureaucratic challenges that come with the medical field Jewell said she loves her work and knows she

chose the right profession. Her passion has spread to others in her family, as her oldest daughter is going through nursing school as well.

"I just love continuing to see that nursing generation grow, especially through her," Jewell said.

Jewell also loves the opportunities she has in a Christian private practice. She and her co-workers try to incorporate their faith, praying for patients as well as helping them physically.

"I think that's just really awesome and shows truly how much we do care for our patients," Jewell said. "It's not just a J-O-B."

That perspective is almost certainly how Jewell fosters such a good relationship with her clients. When you are serving friends, family, and fellow community members, is it really work? **GN**

Find Saharra Jewell at Amani Women's Health Center in Manchester and Tullahoma.



A.J. FOX





A.J. Fox: *Combining Entertainment, Community, and Family*

His passion for recreation strengthens bonds and builds a healthier, happier Manchester.

By Sara Hook // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

SHOES SQUEAK on the basketball court, water splashes over the side of the swimming pool, a fishing reel whirs as a line is cast — these activities happen all across Manchester on the daily, and Manchester Parks and Recreation Department Director A.J. Fox is right in the middle of it all. He took the job as a way to impact kids' lives outside of school, and after 15 years with the department, he is still impacting people every day — children and adults alike.

Fox's history with the department began while he was attending Motlow State Community College. He worked part time as a lifeguard and a front desk worker, and after attending Middle Tennessee State University and spending two years in South Pittsburgh, he returned to Manchester to continue his career. Fox spent three years as an activities coordinator, four years as a maintenance foreman, and five as an assistant director before accepting his position as director in 2021. His work, however, ranges far beyond simple administrative duties.

"Here at the department, we all have job titles, but like I tell everyone — job titles only mean something when they have to," Fox said. "We all work together. There's mornings that I work the front desk. I open up the building at 5 a.m. There's evenings I close the building. We all — believe it or not — we all scrub toilets at the end of the night."

Whether he is working the desk, lifeguarding, or running an after-school program, Fox said he tries to treat everyone as extended family. It often becomes true, as people grow up in the department.

"We share in their good times and their bad times," Fox said. "Some of them, as they grow up here, they end up working with us, and so we get to see them through pretty much their whole childhood from birth, up to working with us, to going off to college."

The family-friendly, fun atmosphere the department provides Manchester is one of the most important things about Fox's job. It allows him to support the youth of the community, and help them be safer, healthier, and more knowledgeable about themselves and the environment.

Fox has been a part of many youth programs during his tenure at the department, but one of his favorites has been the Outdoor Club. The Manchester Parks and Recreation Department received a grant through the health department, and Fox and another staff member started a mountain biking program. Twice a week after school, they taught kids about bike safety, trail conditions, and riding techniques as they took them out on the greenway and to other trails nearby. Eventually, another grant came in, and the department could purchase other outdoor supplies — tents, kayaks, and fishing poles, among other things — and

mountain biking was rolled into the larger Outdoor Club.

"[It was] the program that I had a hand in that I enjoyed the most," Fox said.

Recreation is a key component in everyone's life, regardless of age, and Fox works to make those opportunities available for everyone.

"What got me into this career field is being able to make [an] impact," Fox said. "Not only [in] the youth's lives but just the community lives — provide them an outlet to live, work, and play."

The future is looking bright for the department as old facilities are being renovated and rejuvenated, but most of all it is bright because of the people that come together for recreation. Whether it be for a pick-up basketball game, a pickleball tournament, or a Christmas or Thanksgiving dinner, the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department brings community together until it becomes something more.

"Entertainment and community and family kind of all rolls together," Fox said. "Everybody enjoys being able to go out and have fun, and that's what we're in the business of."

The business couldn't be in better hands. **GN**

Find out what the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department has to offer at www.cityofmanchestertn.com or on Facebook.

Greater Than Yourself

BJ Sylvia bears the weight of burden to love the children of Manchester and beyond.

By Gabriel Grant Huff
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes
and submitted by BJ Logan Sylvia

BJ SYLVIA walks with an invisible ache in her heart, sinking ever deeper and never relenting for long. The tightness does not emanate guilt, anger, or regret. Instead, it betrays the soul of a mother and teacher burdened by the pain of children — some deeply hurt, others without the basic needs one would expect every child to possess. For these young ones, the Manchester woman would not trade the burden for the world because with the ache came a change that would forever alter the lives of many students touched by Manchester City Schools' Family Resource Center (FRC).

Through the FRC, empty stomachs become full, weary feet find shoes, basic needs are met, minds learn the importance of hygiene, coats wrap shivering bodies, and gifts enter homes, making their way under Christmas trees.

Just ask the center's director, BJ Sylvia. The Tennessee native and wife of a loving husband hails from Bradyville, a small town outside of the Coffee County area. She grew up with loving parents and three siblings on a cattle and dairy farm, where a strong work ethic wasn't just expected but woven daily into a bittersweet farm life.

"We were shown by our parents that you work for the things you want in life, that nothing is for free," Sylvia said. "My parents were hard workers and instilled those same qualities in me."



I remember, first and foremost, I wanted to create a warm and caring environment for students and families, I began to build relationships and trust along the way.

- BJ SYLVIA



In third grade, one teacher left a life-transforming mark on her, like an artist using permanent ink. Mrs. Rose's kindness and empathy burst through Sylvia like rays of sunlight through a cloud. That mark faded into a dormant state for decades but never disappeared.

After giving birth to a daughter in 1993, Sylvia soon discovered the joy of being a mother, caring for someone or something much greater than oneself. Sylvia worked odd and end jobs during the subsequent years, but none resulted in fulfillment until her daughter started attending Hillsboro Elementary School, leading Sylvia to spend most of her time volunteering at the school.

She quickly realized that she loved supporting students, and things began to illuminate for her, like the blinds snapping open in a darkroom. In 2004, the mother found herself assisting a teacher — Mrs. Helen Blackburn — with daily tasks and classroom curriculum in the school's exceptional ed department.

Blackburn proved to be the most influential mentor in Sylvia's life, helping her grow and make what Sylvia described as the biggest decision of her career after giving birth to her son in 2007.

She accepted the offer to work as the Family Resource Center director at Manchester City Schools.

"I remember, first and foremost, I wanted to create a warm and caring environment for students and families," Sylvia recalled. "I began to build relationships and trust along the way."

She launched programs like Backpack for Kids to provide food, WeCare to get basic needs, Coats for Kids, group hygiene

classes, yoga classes, and more. The FRC team educated families on budgeting, health care, parenting techniques, and nutritional meals, coordinating with organizations in the community to reach success.

"There are very seldom two days that are the same," Sylvia said. "This work can be rewarding but also extremely sad at times."

Those times include visiting children who lack food, clothes, hygiene, and even heat during the winter.

"I will never forget the very first home visit I did and seeing firsthand these children gathered around an electric heater with limited warm clothes and food," she recalled.

For them, Sylvia runs toward the pain like a firefighter charging into a burning house. She listens without judgment and loves without regret because they need her and others' support.

"It weighs, but when the community all comes together, it's so rewarding to see the love that is shared to those in need."

In other words, it's a love that gives back. It's a love that looms greater than oneself. **GN**



▲ Students in BJ Logan Sylvia's yoga class - BJ teaches the children how to find inner peace during tough times.





SUSAN GREEN

Encouraging Talents To Flourish

Music enhances life, and musicians enhance communities.

By Sara Hook
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



We felt like there was a need here in this community for those students who might want to study further and go deeper in their studies.

- SUSAN GREEN



MUSIC ECHOES through every corridor, the halls of First Baptist Church in Manchester full of sound even when church is not in session. The music comes from a wide variety of places — a 6-year-old sounds out his scales one by one, a high schooler practices for a school concert, and an adult picks up an instrument he hasn't touched in years. All of them are aided in their music journey by the Manchester School of the Arts.

The school was founded in 2018 to fill a gap in the local community in private music training, Director Susan Green said. First Baptist Manchester also wanted to provide a place for musicians who wanted to get involved with the music ministries of their own churches.

"We felt like there was a need here in this community for those students who might want to study further and go deeper in their studies," Green explained.

Both students and adults are welcome, and the school has teachers for almost any instrument available from piano, voice, and trumpet to ukulele, organ, or even accordion. The opportunities are endless to learn a skill that can only enhance your life. For Green, music was a part of her life from the begin-



▲ At just 7 years old, Savannah Kirkham is learning the piano under the guidance of Susan Green.

ning. Both parents were musicians, and when she found her own talent in the subject it helped her to grow and connect with other people.

“Music is worth doing; it teaches a lot of things,” Green said. “Some things only music can do, and that’s learning something kind of on your own, and being on your own, and achieving it on your own — with the help of your teacher, of course, but you’re working towards [that] goal, and you’re growing and learning.”

The Manchester School of the Arts has impacted the community greatly since its founding. Its first semester had nearly 50 students, and the latest had just under 90. Each of those students goes back to their school, their church or their family with something that enriches their environment.

“Quite a few of our students are part of their music program at their own churches,” Green said. “They come to us; they go to their

own home church, and they’re performing there.”

Some adults come to pick up an instrument they haven’t touched in years. Others have never studied music and want to learn a skill they never had the opportunity for before. The youth in the program often come to the Manchester School of the Arts to practice for a school audition or performance, or they come from the local theater to prepare for a musical.



▲ Learning the violin starts with small steps — 10-year-old Evie Shelton carefully places her fingers as she builds confidence in her playing.



▲ Teacher John Harris guides Kimberly Laird through a cello lesson, helping her refine her technique and deepen her understanding of the instrument.

“

We’ve helped them do that, and so they go out back to the community and perform. Hopefully, perform better and do well.

- SUSAN GREEN

”

“We’ve helped them do that, and so they go out back to the community and perform,” Green said. “Hopefully, perform better and do well.”

All of that community impact is led by just 14 teachers, who Green said have lots of experience and love what they do. As the program grows, the vision is to offer more and more people the opportunity to study music and for them to flourish in their God-given abilities. The Manchester School of the Arts is a place to do just that. **GN**

Find the Manchester School of the Arts online at firstmanchester.org/school-of-the-arts or call the First Baptist Manchester office at (931) 728-2138.

Turning Badges Into Bridges

Here's how one school resource officer builds trust, safety, and lasting bonds with students.

By Haley Potter
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

“That’s my job, And I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

- Charlie Taylor

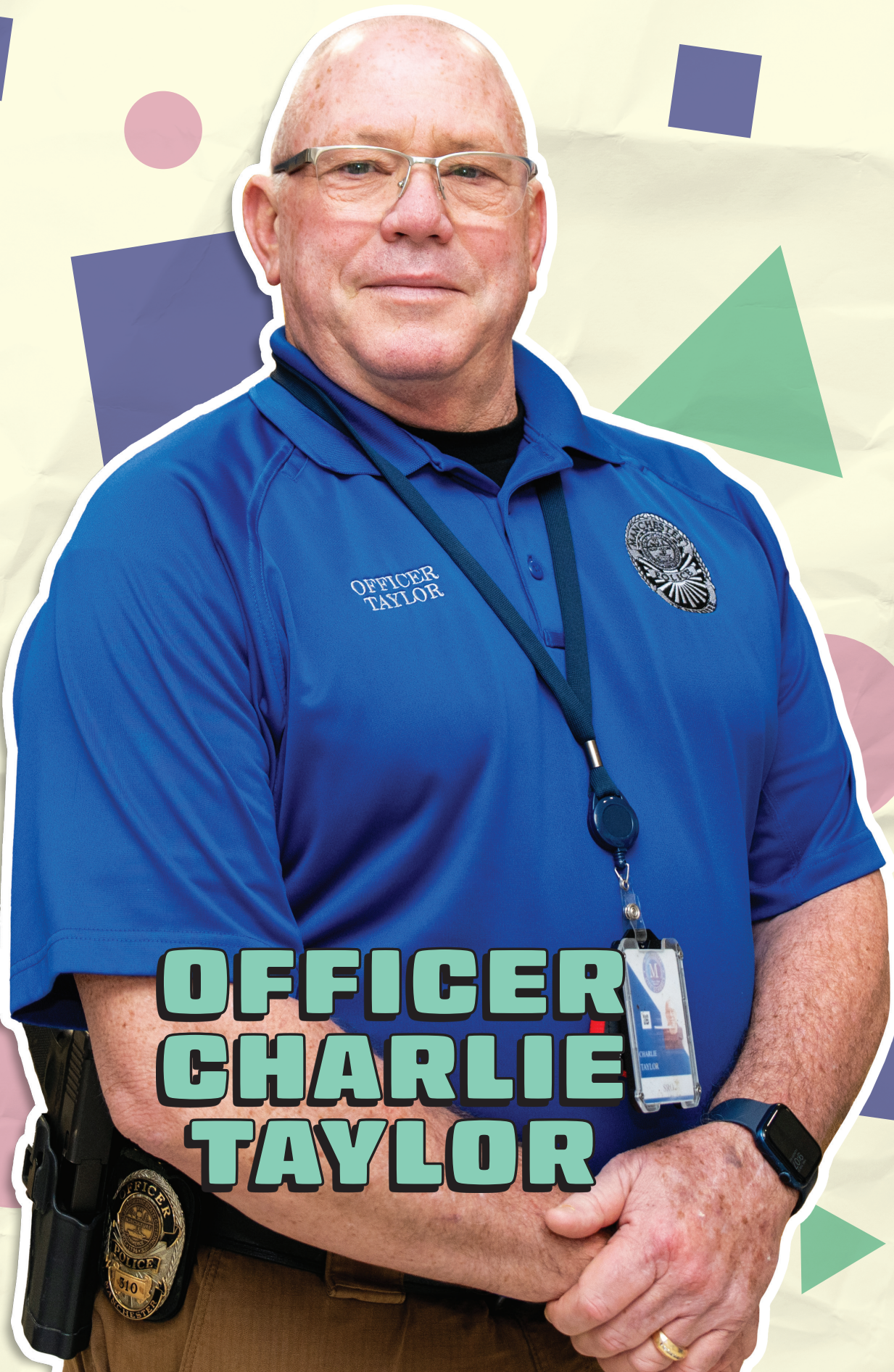
THE CRISP morning air is filled with the chatter of children, the rustling of backpacks, and the occasional squeak of sneakers on the pavement. Officer Charlie Taylor stands tall at the front entrance of Westwood Elementary School every morning, rain or shine, greeting each child with a warm smile and a kind word. His presence at the school is more than just security — it’s a symbol of trust, friendship, and support. To the students at Westwood, he’s not just a police officer. He’s a mentor, a protector, and, in their eyes, the most popular person in the building.

“I love every kid here, and they love me,” Taylor said with a chuckle.

Taylor, who began his career as a school resource officer in 2016, spent two years at Coffee County Central High School before retiring. But retirement didn’t suit him. He returned to the Manchester Police Department two years ago and was assigned to Westwood Elementary, where he quickly found his calling.

“Many times at the high school level, kids have already made up their minds about law enforcement,” Taylor explained. “But here, in elementary school, this is where you make an impression.”

From the moment students step out of their parents’ cars in the morning to the time they head home in the afternoon, Taylor is a constant, reassuring presence. His



**OFFICER
CHARLIE
TAYLOR**

Surrounded by Olivia Hill and Karah Drummond, Officer Charlie Taylor's role extends far beyond safety — he's a trusted figure in their school lives.



responsibilities go beyond ensuring locked doors and monitoring hallways — he actively engages with students, making it his mission to build positive relationships.

“I hate when I hear parents tell their kids, ‘You better behave, or the police will come get you.’ I tell them, ‘I’ll come get you for ice cream!’” he laughed. “I want these kids to know that I can be their friend. They need to trust me, not fear me.”

One of Taylor’s favorite parts of the job is being involved in the students’ daily lives. Whether it’s leading the new Life Skills training program, celebrating birthdays in the cafeteria, or simply sitting and chatting with students during lunch, he is an important part of their day-to-day experience.

“I’ve had teachers throw me out of the cafeteria because I cause too much of a disturbance,” he joked. “The kids get so excited when I come in — it’s the best part of my day.”

Taylor’s impact extends beyond the students. The school’s principal, assistant principal, and even the district superintendent recognize the difference he’s making.

“The kids at the high school were like a concrete wall,” Taylor said, recalled his previous position. “But these kids? They’re still learning, still growing. They can be molded. And that’s where I come in.”

What makes Taylor’s role even more meaningful is his deep connection to the community. He grew up in Manchester, attended Westwood Elementary himself, and now dedicates his career to ensuring that the next generation feels safe and supported.

“This is my home. These are my people,” he said. “I have a grandson in school, and I see the world we live in. It makes my job even more important.”

While school safety remains his primary responsibility, Taylor hopes his presence creates a better understanding of law enforce-

ment within the community. He acknowledges that some students, due to cultural differences or personal experiences, may initially be wary of police officers.

“My job is to help bridge that gap,” he said. “I want every child — no matter their background — to know they can come to me for help, for advice, or just for a high-five in the hallway.”

Taylor’s impact is undeniable and he truly is a role model. It’s clear in the way students light up when they see him and in the respect he’s earned from parents and educators alike.

“People say these kids are our future, but no,” Taylor said, shaking his head. “They’re our now.”

In a time when the role of law enforcement in schools is more crucial than ever, Taylor is living proof that a school resource officer can be so much more than a badge and a uniform. He is not a “scary police officer.” He is a friend, a role model, and a guiding force for the students of Westwood Elementary. And to him, it’s just another day of doing what he loves.

“That’s my job,” he said simply with a smile. “And I wouldn’t trade it for anything.” **GN**



▲ With a mix of humor and wisdom, Officer Charlie Taylor teaches fifth grade students about the power of making good choices and resisting negative influences.

Duck River Cleanup 2025 - March 1



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Nearly 150 volunteers gathered at Normandy Dam on March 1 for the Duck River Watershed Society's fourth annual Spring Cleanup, removing over 3,000 pounds of trash from the lakeside.



1. Chuck Holland and Georganne Martin 2. All the amazing volunteers that helped to keep the Duck River clean, surrounding the banner that shows the incredible sponsors. 3. Levi, Lee, and Ashley Davis 4. DJ and Keith DeMell 5. Evan Johnson, Amelia Davis, Keria Lynn, Levi Davis, and Etta Johnson - Cub Scout Pack 314 6. David Bradley, Mark Vann, Kevin Vann, DJ DeMell, Keith DeMell, and Sanford McGee



7. Etta Johnson 8. Demi Johnson 9. Hillary Moon and Debb Gray 10. Dale Lynn, Brandon Lynn, Xaiden Booth, Aiden McTier, Oliver Bransford, Lorence Robertson, Kenneth Dedmon, Colin Robertson, Cory Robertson, and Ben McTier

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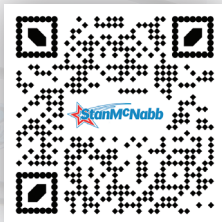
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