

# EYES ON LAFOLLETTE



**C**ameras are cold, calculating contraptions. They speak a language all their own, with a vocabulary of numbers with names like “f-stop” and “ISO.” Cameras are perfect for composing a still image. But for all its technical prowess, a camera falls far short when actually trying to create a photograph. A camera can’t notice a child eating an ice cream bar and realize the power that image holds. It can’t visit the local animal shelter and capture some of the heartbreaking moments of that environment. A camera can’t travel to an East Tennessee town and capture magical moments from everyday life.

*But a photographer can.*

*On a wet Friday morning, eighteen photographers from Professor Rob Heller’s University of Tennessee Advanced Photojournalism class made the hour long drive from Knoxville to LaFollette. Their mission: to document life in the town over the course of a day and a half. Equipped with umbrellas, raincoats and cameras, the students sallied forth to find a story that would land their photo on the front page.*

*Some students spent all day with one subject. Others drove from place to place, stopping at a restaurant here, a radio station there, hoping each new location would provide something unique. Some just happened to be in the right place at the right time.*



**Photo By Bailey Everett**

*The images that follow are the select few deemed worthy enough to make the cut. Thousands of photos were taken, but Professor Heller and his class quickly narrowed that down to the photos you see here.*

*Even though the weather dampened our bodies, it could not dampen the joy we felt as we traveled throughout the town, capturing life in LaFollette with not only our cameras, but also our hearts.*

Cover photographs by (top to bottom)

**Jennifer Erbele**  
**Demetric Banahene**  
**Brandon Ball**  
**Nora Hutchison**



# Dairy King

Story & Photos by Brandon Ball

*On the outside, Matt Mitchell looks like an ordinary 19-year-old. He goes to school part-time, struggles with homework, hangs out with friends and helps his family around the house. There is something huge however that separates Mitchell from his peers. That something is a 2000-pound award-winning dairy cow.*

*As a toddler, Mitchell took an interest in farming and first started showing cows at when he was two, which quickly developed into a passion for the dairy farm he now owns and operates. Mitchell built the farm with the support and approval of his parents, and started selling his cows as a way to keep the lights on. "This isn't your typical dairy farm," Mitchell said. "You don't make much money off of milk with eighteen cows, so I breed them to show them, and then I sell them. I take a lot of pride in my cows and I take good care of them, which you don't always see at bigger farms. I love it though, and I feel like God called me to do this, so I do the best job that I can. It's been good for me."*



**top** Mitchell cleans out a stall in preparation to bring in a new heifer.

**center** Mitchell dumps a load of woodchips into a wheelbarrow.

**above** As part of a daily routine, Matt Mitchell washes off one of his 18 show cows.

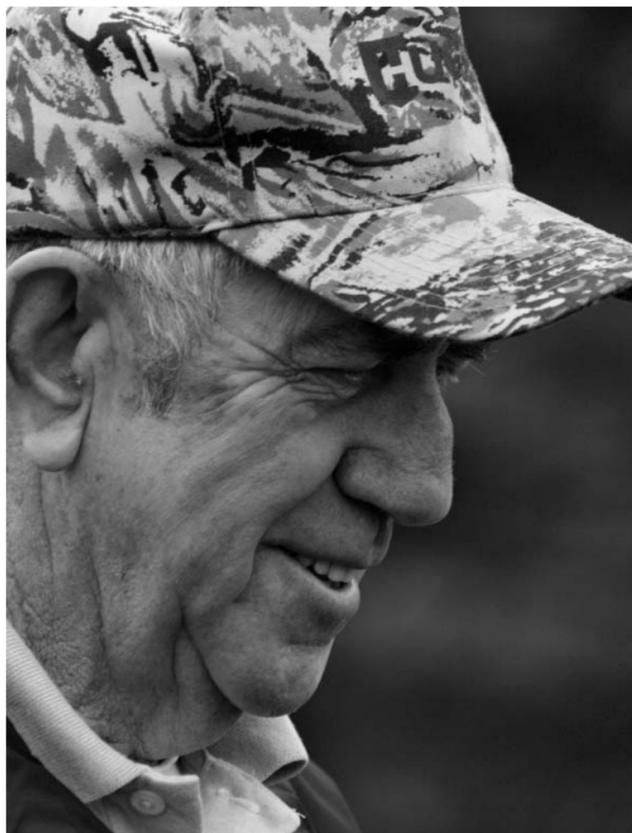
**left** Mitchell bonds with one of his cows

**bottom left** Mitchell spends a few minutes helping his grandfather with their family farm.

**bottom right** Matt Mitchell and his grandfather, Ronald Greene, talk about farming and about the rain. Mitchell said it is important for him to reconnect with his family during the day.



# Face Time



**right**  
Charles Wilson enjoys playing golf, despite the overcast weather at the LaFollette Country Club.  
**Photo By Katie Hogin.**

**below**  
Leo Evans enjoys a nice day out on the golf course.  
**Photo By Katie Hogin.**



**above**  
1-year-old Ryleigh Welch drinks from her cup while admiring customers in Charley's Pizza.  
**Photo By Demetric Banahene.**

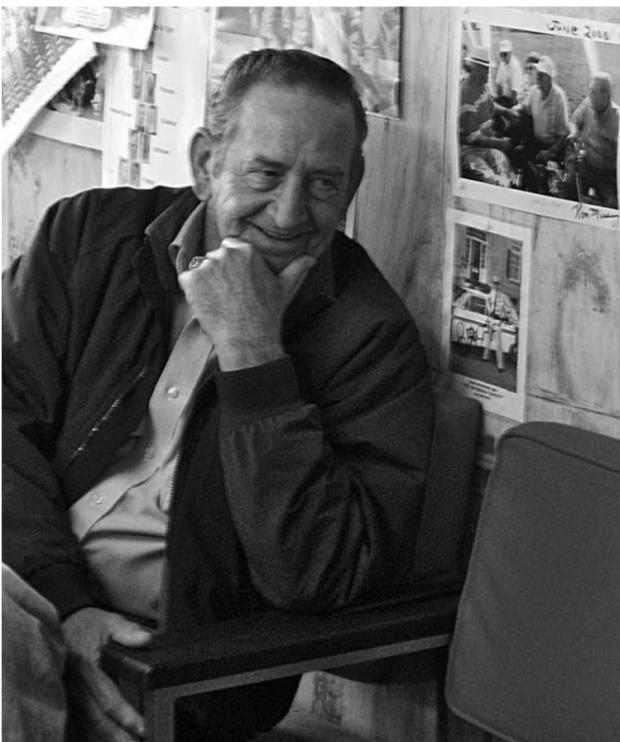


**middle right**  
Kent Younce is in good company while John Hausser reads the newspaper and enjoys his coffee at Goins Restaurant.  
**Photo By Katie Hogin.**

**right**  
Karen Brockhoff, holding Savannah, tells stories of her experiences rescuing dogs and other various types of animals.  
**Photo By Samantha Thornton.**



LaFollette resident Raymond Adkins enjoys some light conversation while awaiting a haircut at Big Orange Style and Barber Shop. **Photo By Benjamin Shirk.**



The LaFollette Press grabs the attention of Henry Ridenour, a patron of the IGA supermarket. **Photo By Doug Griffey.**



**above**  
Howard Cummings collects money outside the basketball game at LaFollette Middle School. **Photo By Bonny Nichol.**

**middle**  
Jamie Comer leans out of her horse's stall door to describe her plans to include a training arena and a larger pasture. **Photo By Samantha Thornton.**

**left**  
Mayor Cliff Jennings hosts a radio talk show at WGLA-FM. Known locally as a politician, radio personality and real estate developer, Jennings wears many hats. **Photo By James McLendon.**



**center**  
Rose Winchester looks at the cookies in LA Café, while Darlene Taylor prepares to stock more sweets. **Photo By Jennifer Erbele.**

**top right**  
Mike Rickard of Ridge's BBQ talks about his secret recipe and what makes his food the best of the best. **Photo By Kate Parker.**

**bottom right**  
Pam Ogle comes to the Quilt Patch every Friday to quilt and chat with friends. **Photo By Kate Parker.**

**bottom left**  
Brenda Watkins of the Campbell County Animal Shelter chats about the daily goings-on at the shelter. **Photo By Samantha Thornton.**

**top left**  
Randy Comer, manager IGA supermarket, checks on the meat department. **Photo By Kirby Reitz.**

# At Work



**right**  
Habitat for Humanity volunteer Mike Smith takes careful measurements when working to build a family's new home. **Photo By Nora Hutchison.**

**far right**  
Hairdresser Josie Carter shares a laugh with Helen Nonnsen while putting finishing touches on her hair. **Photo By Heba Alameldin.**



**below**  
Harold R. Branam, the on-air personality for WLAF, prepares to hit the airwaves. **Photo By Doug Griffey.**



George Hooks is one of many young people who work in the meat department at IGA supermarket. **Photo By Kirby Reitz**



Brandon Grubb, an IGA employee, prepares meat for the citizens of LaFollette. **Photo By James McLendon.**



Jessica Kotellos, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at the Christian Academy of Campbell County, interviews her teacher Becky Clanton for a school newspaper she and other classmates are forming. **Photo By Erin Hatfield.**



# Hands

**right**

Ideal Florist's Lisa Allen makes wristlets for upcoming proms.

**Photo By Katie Hugin.**

**top right**

Employees of Charley's Pizza dice up tomatoes to prepare for the lunch rush. **Photo By Katie Yantis.**

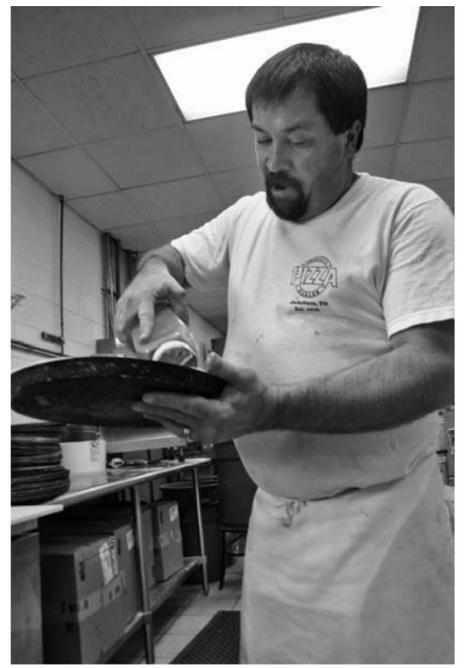
**top left**

Owner Jerry Partin precisely prepares onions for a busy day at Charley's Pizza. **Photo By Demetric Banahene.**

**center**

Floyd Miles prepares himself for an on-air gospel performance on WLAF. **Photo By Doug Griffey.**





# Slices of Life

**above**

Robby Gross cautiously balances pizza boxes in preparation for a busy day at Charley's Pizza. **Photo By Demetric Banahene.**

**top left**

Charlie Robinson enjoys a slice of pizza on his lunch break from work. **Photo By Katie Yantis.**

**top middle**

Employees of Charley's Pizza dice up tomatoes to prepare for the lunch rush to come. **Photo By Katie Yantis.**

**top right**

Jerry Partin, owner of Charley's Pizza, prepares cinnamon sticks to put in the oven. **Photo By Katie Yantis.**

# Kids' Stuff



**top** Sarah Lewis, Taylor Bell and Madison Spradlin, kindergarten students at the Christian Academy of Campbell County, wait for their ice cream at lunchtime. **Photo By Erin Hatfield.**



**above left** Ryan Hopkins, a preschooler at the Christian Academy of Campbell County, enjoys an ice-cream bar during lunch. **Photo By Erin Hatfield.**

**above right** Gavin Cooper counts to 10, as his friends hide behind the cafeteria tables. **Photo By Erin Hatfield.**

**right** Samantha Hudson and Kenzie Owens read along in class at the Christian Academy of Campbell County. **Photo By Erin Hatfield.**



# Art Class



**above**  
Amber Tkaczyk listens to art teacher Georgea Green compliment her drawing of a turkey, for which she received a first place ribbon.

**Photo By Katie Hogin.**

**left**  
"I'm truly blessed here," says Georgea Green, who has worked as an art teacher at Campbell County High School for 30 years. "I'm really proud of my kids." **Photo By Katie Hogin**

**left**  
Rashel Martin, Maria Lema and Tyler Widener work on their calligraphy projects in Georgea Green's art class at Campbell County High School. **Photo By Katie Hogin**

# Hardcourt Heroes



**above**  
J. Tucker releases a shot to help the Panthers in their first AAU tournament game. **Photo By Demetric Banahene.**

**above left**  
J. Kennedy is devastated after a tough call during the AAU tournament. **Photo By Heba Alameldin.**

**left**  
Robinson player, Phillipie, drives past a Tennessee Extreme defender. **Photo By Katie Yantis.**

# Barber shop



Granville Cornett sits back and relaxes as Ray Beeler gives him a hair trim.

**Photo By Samantha Thornton.**

**Below.** Granville Cornett recalls the history behind a particular photo on the wall of Ray Beeler's barber shop.

**Photo By Samantha Thornton.**



Granville Cornett's shoes reflect the classic style of Ray Beeler's barber chair. **Photo By Samantha Thornton.**

## Credits

*This project was photographed, edited and designed by the advanced photojournalism class at the University of Tennessee: (from left to right) back row--Adam Williams, Bailey Everett, Ben Shirk, Kate Humphrey, Kate Parker; middle row--Brandon Ball, Erin Hatfield, Kirby Reitz, Heba Alameldin, Samantha Thornton, Katie Hogin, Nora Hutchison, Doug Griffey, Demetric Banahene, Jennifer Erbele, Professor Rob Heller; front row--James McLendon, Katie Yantis, Bonny Nichol.*



*Thanks to Linn Hudson and the entire staff of the LaFollette Press, Charley's Pizza, and Linn, Suzanne and Samantha Hudson for providing beautiful accommodations. And thanks to all the citizens of LaFollette for opening up your community to our eyes and our cameras.*