

NAFC
alumni



LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC ALUMNI



A Message from the NAFC Education Foundation *Sherri McKeen, Alumni Coordinator*

Spring is in full swing, and across our schools, students and teachers are heading into the final stretch of the year.

This month, we're excited to spotlight two alumni who have made careers out of telling those stories. Through their work in local journalism, they help keep people informed and tell the stories that matter across Southern Indiana. If you're looking to get connected with the Education Foundation this summer, we invite you to be part of our 18th annual Golf Scramble, which continues to support our students and teachers.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Beam, Guest Contributor

Storytelling has long been how communities share, learn and grow. This month's two alumni are journalists by trade and truth-tellers by choice, shedding light on individuals and issues that might otherwise go unseen.

For more than 40 years, **Christopher Morris (NAHS '79)** has captured Southern Indiana and its people through his homespun features and columns for the News and Tribune. Now at Baptist Health Floyd, Chris continues to use his skills to showcase the work and impact of healthcare providers.

Brooke McAfee (FCHS '14) was first introduced to journalism in a class at Floyd Central High School. A lifelong reader and writer, she was quickly hooked. After earning a journalism degree from IU Bloomington, Brooke returned to her hometown as a reporter for the News and Tribune, where she now serves as assistant editor.

Through opportunities in sports and writing, NAFCS high schools helped shape both journalists' paths. In turn, their work continues to inform and strengthen all of our community.

More than a byline: Journalist and profiler Christopher Morris (NAHS '79)

Writing a profile about one of journalism's best profile writers is tough. It's especially difficult when the person is as humble as Christopher Morris.

After 40 years and thousands of published stories, the 1979 New Albany High School graduate has set a news industry standard others strive to achieve. His words paint pictures of his subjects, with descriptions revealing their personalities more than any photograph ever could.

Through his many decades in local journalism, and now as Marketing and Public Relations Manager at Baptist Health Floyd, Chris spotlights everyday people who aren't necessarily used to being center stage. All the while, he remains behind the scenes, quietly devoting his life to his family, faith, and the community he loves.

"People still love to read good stories," said Chris. "I've tried to feature people who maybe didn't get featured in the past, just to shine a light on what they do at the hospital and the great things that happen there."



Chris's deep ties to Southern Indiana have always helped him in his reporting. His mother and father were both NAHS graduates. His sister, Laura McGuirk, served as a counselor at their high school alma mater for 22 years.

"I've never left here," the New Albany native said.

While Chris played baseball and soccer in high school and enjoyed writing, journalism didn't interest him as a career at the time. At Indiana University Southeast, he first pursued a teaching degree, then shifted to a business major. He also married his wife of 43 years, Barbara.

In 1985, Chris saw an ad in The New Albany Tribune that would change his path yet again. The editors, it said, were searching for a sports writer. With a love of athletics but little writing experience, Chris applied. Editor Eddie LaDuke trusted his instincts and hired him.

"Today, that would never happen. They would never hire somebody with no experience," Chris said. "I was green. I mean, I had very little knowledge of newspapers, but Eddie gave me a chance, and I kind of grew into the job."

The job, too, grew with him. He quickly rose from reporter to sports editor during a dominant era for Floyd County athletics. Both Floyd Central and New Albany High School produced extraordinary teams in the late '80s and early '90s, with numerous state titles between them. Chris enjoyed focusing on sports that may not have received the most attention in the past, especially girls' teams.

"Maybe because I had two daughters, I always wanted to put girls' sports on the map," he said. "I had great coaches, legendary coaches I worked with. I grew up following their teams, and now I was covering their teams, which was really cool."

But his ascension didn't stop there. Twelve years after he started at The New Albany Tribune, he transitioned to the news side. Stints as night editor and assistant editor paved the way for him to take over as head of the paper, a position he held for five years.

"I had a lot of people along the way who really helped me grow. I was a total rookie when I started, and what, 10 years later, I was editor of the paper."

Following the merger of The New Albany Tribune with Jeffersonville's Evening News in 2011, Chris stayed on as assistant editor with the newly formed News and Tribune. His heartfelt columns and local features have won him numerous awards throughout his career.

But by May 2020, Chris needed a change from the late-night deadlines of an editor's life and accepted an offer to do marketing and press relations at Baptist Health Floyd. In this role, he continues to celebrate unsung heroes through his feature writing.

And while he may no longer be in the newsroom, Chris remains a champion of the press, even as the industry evolves.

"I really believe in community newspapers. That's the heart and soul of any town", he said. "I don't think journalism is a dying profession. We need journalists to keep us informed."

She's got the beat: Editor Brooke McAfee (FCHS '14)



'Being interviewed makes Brooke McAfee slightly uncomfortable. As assistant editor of the News and Tribune, the 2014 Floyd Central graduate is usually the one asking the questions. She also writes stories and proofreads pages, all with confidence and ease.

At 30, she's a trusted voice in local journalism, covering the same area where she grew up, developed her craft and continues to live.

"You don't go into journalism without wanting to make a difference," Brooke said. "You want people to be well informed about their elected officials and to have the important information they need."

Brooke's family nurtured her love of language from an early age. Big bibliophiles, she became one, too.

"I was always reading a book," she said. "I would bring books to high school football games and just not be paying attention at all."

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While Brooke always enjoyed writing and English classes, Floyd Central High School allowed her to explore her interests even further. As a sophomore, she enrolled in a journalism class and was hooked. After stints on the FCHS newspaper The Bagpiper and a summer camp at the High School Journalism Institute at Indiana University, Brooke knew she wanted to be a reporter.

Her teacher and newspaper advisor Jim Lang helped guide her path.

"I took his journalism class, and I just got really interested from there," she said. "I don't think I went into it out of an interest in journalism itself, it was more out of an interest in writing. But he was really a great teacher, just really inspiring."

Summers in Bloomington led Brooke to enroll at Indiana University. A journalism major from the start, she broadened her understanding of the field beyond the classroom. As an arts reporter, and later an editor, at IU's campus newspaper, The Indiana Daily Student, Brooke learned the practicalities of working in print media. From daily workflow to late nights editing, the IDS helped transform her into a working journalist before she ever stepped foot in the industry.

"It was a very real-world newsroom," Brooke said. "People went on to local and national newsrooms. Some went straight to places like The Washington Post. It was just such a talented group of people who really cared about what they were doing."

Shortly before her college graduation in 2018, Brooke interviewed for a reporter position at her hometown newspaper, The News and Tribune. After a follow-up meeting, she got the job.

Her learning, though, wasn't over. On her first day at the paper, she attended a city council meeting, shadowing a more experienced reporter.

"You're learning the intricacies of how your community operates, which I really wasn't aware of," she said. "I hadn't been paying that close attention before."

But each assignment added to her experience, and she soon developed a clearer understanding of local government.

"I had the building blocks. I knew how to do an interview, I had the foundational skills," she said. "But with the daily stuff, you just have to do it. You have to be there and get to know the people and how things work."

Eight years later, Brooke continues to inform the community on important issues. From K-12 education to local government, she takes deep dives into complex topics, providing both facts and context to keep readers informed. As of this year, her new position as The News and Tribune's assistant editor allows her to make a greater impact on the paper while still reporting on her community. It's a role that she has no desire to give up.

"There's such an influx of information now, and a lot of times it's not true," she said. "So having a trusted news source matters. We're not perfect, but we're committed to doing the research and reporting the facts. We're not coming at it with an agenda."



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Stay updated on your Floyd County classmates, discover thrilling events in your NAFC school community, and learn firsthand about the NAFC Education Foundation by connecting with us at facebook.com/LegacyNAFCAlumni.



Tee It Up for a Great Cause: Play FORE! Education Returns July 10

Friday, July 10, 2026 | Champion's Pointe Golf Club

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on the course this summer. The 18th annual Play FORE! Education Charity Golf Scramble is set for Friday, July 10, and we're excited to welcome back alumni, friends, and supporters of the NAFC community.

This event has become a favorite for a reason. It brings people together for a relaxed, fun day while making a real difference for our students and teachers. Whether you're playing for the competition or just enjoying time with friends, you'll be part of something that supports classrooms across our district.

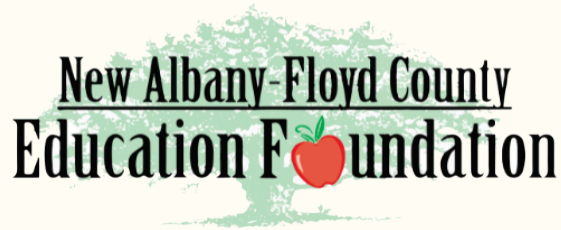
Proceeds from the outing help fund programs like Great Classroom Grants, mental health initiatives, Imagination Library, field trips, and more.

Event Highlights:

- 18 holes at Champion's Pointe Golf Club
- Catered lunch and refreshments
- On-course contests, games, and prizes
- Kick-off reception the evening before to connect with sponsors and participants

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for those looking to support our schools while gaining visibility at this well-loved event.

Reserve your spot or learn more at: <https://onecau.se/playfored26>.



The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that works in conjunction with NAFCS Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. Legacy NAFCS is the official alumni support group of the NAFCS Education Foundation and New Albany Floyd County Schools.

For more information, contact Sherri McKeen at smckeen@nafcs.org or 812-542-2242 at the NAFCS Education Foundation.

www.NAFCEdFoundation.org/alumni



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