



The Sentinel-Echo and The Times-Tribune present:

# Generations

Spotlighting longstanding, local and family businesses



# State Farm father-daughter duo treats community like family

BY ERIN COX  
Editor

If you're at a community event in Corbin, you're likely to see a couple familiar faces at many. The State Farm father-daughter duo of Mike Sparks and Mallory Davis love being involved in their community and have been for the 21 years they have lived in Corbin.

Sparks has worked with State Farm for 35 years, 14 in Cynthiana, Kentucky, and 21 in Corbin. Davis is wrapping up 10 years with State Farm.

State Farm is well-known for its catchy slogan: "Like a good neighbor"; and for Davis and Sparks that has always meant being a part of the community and helping customers through the good and the bad — just as if they were family.

"I couldn't have told you what insurance was," Davis said of growing up with her dad being a State Farm agent. "The definition of what he did as an insurance agent was being a part of the commu-

nity. We were involved in every sporting event, involved in going up to the Fourth of July event, we were just always involved in doing things in the community."

Now that Davis is also an agent, being that staple in the community has continued to grow and her agency that she just opened last year has already been giving back to the teachers in the school system and area nurses to recognize their dedication to helping people.

For Davis it is all about "taking time to be a part of the community and give back to the people that help us do what we do," she said.

Sparks said he was interested as he was growing up in working for insurance as many of his mentors were in the insurance business.

After graduating from college and working as a plant manager in New Jersey, Sparks jumped with both feet at the opportunity to work for State Farm. His stepfather was an adjuster with State Farm and had heard the company was



Mike Sparks didn't teach his daughter Mallory Davis everything about being an insurance agent but did teach her that being involved in the community is a big part of it. | PHOTO BY ERIN COX

hiring so he presented it to Sparks who was excited at the chance to move into the insurance business.

"It goes deeper than just the two of us," Davis said, noting the family ties to State Farm. Sparks' brother-in-law is also an insurance agent with State Farm.

"I was born into the State Farm family from day one because Dad was already an agent when I was born," Davis said, so knowing those opportunities that she was given as a child because of his community-involved career was something she considered when looking to her own future career. She wanted to be able to provide those opportunities for her children as well.

After graduating from

college, Davis started working as a team member for an agent with State Farm in Lexington. The goal was to get her own agency one day, though she didn't know where that would be, but she hoped it would be in Corbin.

After her husband got a job in Corbin, they moved back to their hometown and Davis was able to work for her dad at his agency for a few years.

In January 2018, Davis opened her own State Farm agency at 515 Master St., Corbin. Davis has four full-time team members.

Sparks has five full-time team members at his agency at 1121 S. Main Street, Corbin. One of his team members has been with him in Corbin for all 21 years, and the others span from 16 to

two years. Sparks said State Farm trains for longevity and he said the team members become just as much his family as the customers do.

"Just having the opportunity to help people and grow with them," Sparks said as being the best part about working in insurance. "I've got customers I've had in Cynthiana that are still with me — that I've had for 35 years. You grow with those people and they're just like family."

Sparks and Davis enjoy working for State Farm specifically because of the top of the line insurance it provides as well as the multiple lines of insurance it provides with auto, life, home and property and more. State Farm also has banking options.

"It's a multiple line

company and it's a good company," Sparks said.

"We get to help people in many different ways," Davis said, by saving customers money and being there to help them when they have a claim.

Although they are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that's part of the job.

"It's a good feeling to be there for them," Sparks said — no matter the time of day.

Sparks has watched three generations grow as he has been working with State Farm. He has watched grandparents who brought their own kids in as they started driving and now he is watching those kids as adults bring in their kids as they start driving.

"It's just family," he said.



Mallory Davis and Mike Sparks are both agents with State Farm in Corbin. Davis is located at 515 Master St. and Sparks is at 1121 S. Main St. | PHOTO BY ERIN COX

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## London Women's Care celebrates 15 years of service, acquires digital mammography

London Women's Care celebrated their 15th anniversary in April 2019. The clinic started in 2004 providing OB/GYN services for their patients. Over the years, LWC has expanded their services to the entire family. They now have Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Behavioral Health.

In 2004 when LWC began, they only saw patients from Laurel County, now the clinic provides care to many more patients who even come as far as from Louisville. The clinic now has eight OB/GYN physicians, one Internal Medicine physician, one Internal Medicine/Pediatrician, one Family Practice Physician, and four Mental Health Nurse Practitioners, five Physician Assistants, one LPCC and seven other Nurse Practitioners.

Kacey Bolton, Clinical Director, states that "Over the years this continued growth allowed for more services to be provided to patients in our community and surrounding areas". Bolton states "We are very thankful for their dedicated staff of over 115 employees who work hard everyday providing care for our patients." She also states "Patients now



The machine captures mammograms in 3D, splitting the image into different layers and allowing radiologists to examine skin tissue in more detail. | PHOTO BY DILLAN COMBS

can get the healthcare they need right here at home including digital mammography."

The newest technology LWC has is their digital mammography machine called Senographe Pristina. This device delivers a faster, more accurate, and more comfortable mammogram. Joann Nolan, the Practice Administrator, states that "Basically digital mammography is better than the traditional film screen". "It gives the Radiologist better quality images and can identify issues easier. We can now send the exam directly to the Radiologist electronically to interpret".

Jennifer Gilbert, Mammography Technician, states "Digital mammography is more

advanced technology and we can see more issues in the breast than we have seen before with traditional film screen."

"We are getting mammogram results in 2 days versus 1 to 2 weeks". Gilbert states, "Mammography screening is recommended yearly after the age of 40, unless patients have risk factors that would require a screening to be done sooner".

Nolan states they strive to be the best and live out their mission statement of: "The physicians and staff at LWC seek to provide the families of Laurel County and our surrounding service area with the best possible medical and surgical care in a caring, warm and friendly environment at a competitive cost. Everyone on our staff must demonstrate a sincere commitment to this objective, every day".

London Women's Care is open Monday through Friday 8-5 p.m. and they accept most insurance. Please call today to schedule your appointment at 606-878-3240. They offer financial assistance as well.



London Women's Care celebrated their 15th anniversary in April 2019.

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## Paws & Claws love for pets stands strong for 30 years

BY CAMERON COYLE  
Staff Writer

Paws & Claws is celebrating 30 years of business and owner Kathy Creech couldn't be more grateful for the support London has given her business over the last three decades.

The pet grooming store, located at 796 South Laurel Road in London, has been showing its appreciation to the community by giving away monthly prizes for the first half of 2019, and a television was given away on June 28, marking the exact anniversary of its 30-year tenure.

Creech said she is honored that customers continue to return to Paws & Claws. "I really just want to thank people for coming all these years," she said.

Creech's love of animals is what initially got her into the pet business. She remembers having pets when she was just 5-years-old and owning everything from cats and dogs to hamsters and mice.

"It's always been that way," Creech said. "I've always loved to be around them."

Creech's love for animals is what helps her and the staff of Paws & Claws give pets the treatment they deserve.

"They should know that we're going to take care of their pet to the best of our ability," Creech said. "They don't have to wonder and worry. We take them in and treat them like they are our own"



Paws & Claws sells a myriad of pet toys, which is one of the major ways Creech has seen the business change over the last 30 years. | PHOTO BY CAMERON COYLE

Employees there show animals love by petting them and sometimes hugging them when they come in, trying to make them feel as comfortable as possible and ensuring that the animal feels safe.

"I have the best crew ever," Creech said about her six employees. "I can count on them. They're like-minded like I am; pets are it."

The grooming business has changed over the last 30 years and Paws & Claws has adapted to these changes while always keeping the right way to treat an animal at the forefront of their focus.

"We realize that this is somebody's prized possession and that's how we handle them," Creech said.

Creech said the biggest shift in the last three decades has been how people are more educated on how grooming makes their pet feel better. This correlates with the rise in people who pamper their pets, which is also

partially due to how many more pets stay indoors now.

30 years ago, people were mostly just concerned about getting their animal clean, but now Paws & Claws boasts an entire wall dedicated to toys for both dogs and cats. The store also sells leashes, dog tags and pet shampoo.

Creech said it usually takes between one and a half hours to two and half hours to groom an animal, depending on the thickness of its coat and how much cleaning needs to be done. Paws & Claws grooms both dogs and cats.

Creech can also give customers simple tips about keeping up with a pet's grooming around the house, like how important it is to brush an animal's fur and get it groomed year round to prevent their hair from matting.

Paws & Claws is open from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be contacted at 606-878-6966.

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# Benqueil's Fine Jewelry: 'Family and Friends You Can Trust'

BY DILLAN COMBS  
Staff Writer

"We take a lot of pride in being in London. My mom was born and raised in London, and so was my dad. We take pride in our business and take pride in the community," said Madison McCowan of Benqueil's Fine Jewelry. "We've been in business for 37 years. My mom, Angie, is actually the owner. She's owned it for 30 years. I help with marketing and I help with sales."

The store carries items such as designer jewelry and engagement rings. It also offers in-house jewelry repair services and manufactures the exclusive Madison Collection line of jewelry.

"I grew up working at the store," continued McCowan. "My mom brought me here as a child. She taught me how to tie ribbons, tie gifts and eventually how to check out customers at the check-out counter. And as I got older, I learned more about the gem industry and about gemology."

The store is named after Angie's cousins, Benjamin Sutton and Mequeil Storm. Initially, the store had been owned by Jim Sutton and his wife, Candy, who named the store after their children.

"The business was founded I would say somewhere around 1980," said Jim Sutton. "I had a friend in Richmond, Kentucky. His name's Billy Hopper. Billy Hopper owned Hopper's Jewelry Store in Richmond. I was in banking. Billy and I went in as partners and opened Benqueil's Jewelry."

In addition to Sutton and Hopper, the wives of the two men joined the business, as well as Frank Hopper, Billy's brother.

"It was Frank who managed the store basically," elaborated Sutton. "He was in the business of jewelry repair, so he was there doing the day-to-day operations, the repairs and the repair sales basically."

The Suttons served as Benqueil's owners for around a decade. When Candy Sutton's cousin, Angie McCowan, graduated from college, she returned to her hometown in London and became an owner of Benqueil's.

"Over a long time period, Angie and we bought out Billy Hopper's portion," said Sutton. "A short period after that, Angie's running the store, enjoying it. She said she'd like to own



Benqueil's Fine Jewelry is located on 301 Madison Square Shop, South Main Street in London. For more information, call them at (606) 878-9521.

all the business, so we sold our portion to her." Sutton said he never regretted selling the store.

"I enjoyed running the store, what I could do," said Sutton. "Since I was in banking full-time, I couldn't spend as much time there as I wanted to. Angie was a good friend of ours and I wanted to see the business succeed, so it was a positive thing. Angie and her family has done an absolutely great job with it. They've really upgraded the store."

"With jewelry, it's great because you're celebrating a lot of milestones with your customers — whether it's an engagement or an anniversary," said McCowan. "It's really exciting for us to be able to say we helped somebody and that we were there for them in this important moment of their life."

The business moved to its current location on 301 Madison Square Shop, South Main Street in London in 2004. Benqueil's current shop had been built from the ground up.

"We always strive to treat every customer like they're our only customer ever," McCowan continued. "That's why we have a lot of customers come back — our customer service. So we have customers who do business in New York, California, Texas, they come from everywhere."

Currently, the business is in the process of going live with a new website. Its current website can be found at [www.benqueils.com](http://www.benqueils.com). They have a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/benqueils/](http://www.facebook.com/benqueils/). For more information, Benqueil's can be reached at (606) 878-9521

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# W.D. Bryant's employees have family story of their own



Noah Mahan Jr. is a third-generation employee to the company and it's by no surprise, his family line is good at what they do. So good, that Lee Bryant, a fourth-generation Bryant of the business, sought out Noah Mahan Jr. to be parts manager at W.D. Bryant's Corbin location. | PHOTO BY ANGELA TURNER

BY ANGELA TURNER  
Staff Writer

When you think about W.D. Bryant's you likely think longevity and generations, but you may not know about the employees within the company that have a generational story to be told as well.

W.D. Bryant is celebrating 91 years of business in the Tri-County. Their south Whitley County location has been in business since 1928 with a second location added in 2000 in downtown Corbin.

Noah Mahan Jr. is a third-generation employee to the company and it's by no surprise, his family line is good at what they do. So good, that Lee Bryant, a fourth-

generation Bryant of the business, sought out Noah Mahan Jr. to be parts manager at W.D. Bryant's Corbin location.

The original W.D. Bryant's was located on 92W and was operated by W.D. Bryant and family. It began as a general store providing the community with cloth, eggs, live goods and general hardware.

Mahan's father worked with Bryant's father and their grandfathers worked together briefly too. But it doesn't stop there. Two of Mahan Jr.'s uncles also worked for W.D. Bryant's. Billy Ray and Chet, one of which was the prized forklift driver who wore that responsibility proudly at the time.



The original W.D. Bryant's was located on 92W and was operated by W.D. Bryant and family. It began as a general store providing the community with cloth, eggs, live goods and general hardware. | PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"His dad was a sight," said Bryant. "His dad could do anything, no joke. Noah can too. There's something about

that family. They can be putting in a septic tank one minute and then they can build a house the next minute."

Mahan Jr. said his father started in lumber first and then got into the septic systems.

Bryant said he wanted Mahan Jr. to come and work for him because he knew him and he knew of his family.

"They are just consistently kind people," said Bryant. "They are helpers, they are doers and they're problem solvers. Noah and I have known each other for a long time."

Mahan Jr. said he enjoys working at W.D. Bryant's and it has a lot to do with the family friendly atmosphere. He even remembers going in the store when he was a young boy with his father.

The Bryant family, having over 20 children, always had plenty of family workers on hand. The business remains family owned, "extended in some means," but the business continues to carry the same name, unity, employees, loyal customer base and pride that has kept them alive for 91 years.

In 91 years of service to the community, W.D. Bryant's is really celebrating the community as a part of the business. Bryant said it's fun to wait on four generations of people.

"Now I'm dealing with the children of my peers," he said. "I knew their grandpa. It's so fun being in a situation where we have this longevity.

Customers still come in and say my grandpa traded here when I was a little girl."

It's not often for a company to be in their fourth generation and this company has reached and supplied surrounding counties including Bell County and Campbell County Tennessee.

Mahan Jr. agreed that as well as W.D. Bryant's being a dinner table conversation they are also a brand name.

Without the community, the business wouldn't be successful.

As W.D. Bryant's competes with big box stores, W.D. Bryant's brings different elements with customer service and expert product knowledge.

"As long as things are complicated you need expert advice," said Bryant. "If you're trying to put a light switch in a house and you've never done it, I don't think you're going to go to a big box store and get that advice. Especially in Noah's department — he's sold that part a 100 times."

Mahan Jr. said more than anything he enjoys being a teacher to customers and he's had several heartfelt moments on the job.

"It's just helping people and they really appreciate it," Mahan Jr. said. "They keep coming back. To me, that's better than any other job."

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Storm Security began operation in 1975 here in London, Kentucky. Bob Storm and our Dad, Harold Storm, were the founders. Bob was still in college and Dad was principal of the newly consolidated Laurel County High School when they decided to launch this new enterprise.

Dad retired from education in 1978 in order to join this corporation, having 30+ years invested in the Laurel County School System. I became Storm's first employee in 1975 when I was named bookkeeper, secretary, and whatever else needed doing, while working a second job.

Our entire family came on board very soon as Rick, Phil and Jim left their jobs to become important and necessary additions to our new family organization, Storm Security. Our Mom, Mildred Storm, also took a leave of absence from her teaching position to lend a helping hand.

The time to go into security was ripe. We experienced rapid growth in the existing economic environment, centered on the coal industry and its inherent labor disputes. We gladly jumped into this challenge without fully realizing the dangers we would encounter.

Storm Security spread its wings and ventured into 26 states in our 44 years, to work in special forces during labor disputes for many Fortune 500



The Storm family of Bob, Gail, Harold, Rick, Phil and Jim, with some help from their mother Mildred, all took part in helping Storm Security become what it became and is today.



R. Harold Storm was a co-founder of Storm Security.

companies. It has been an exciting and anxiety-producing ride. We branched out to offer a full line of security products and services to meet the needs of clients, businesses and individuals.

The last ten years have been difficult for us as Kentucky's coal industry steadily declined due to economic changes brought on by strangling regulations. As these events played out, it became necessary for us to change directions. Many coal businesses closed down, experiencing bankruptcy and loss of revenue. We

began to seek other sources of work as the impact continued to grow. We tightened our belt, expanded our horizons and withdrew from some paths taken.

Storm Security continues to be a business that our family enjoys and nurtures. We are grateful for our community, our state and our blessed country that has provided the environment for us to thrive. We have lost two amazing Presidents since our inception: Harold Storm who passed in 2001 and our precious brother Phil

Storm who passed in 2015.

It is our desire for Storm Security to continue for generations to come, God willing. The vision of our founder, the blessings of a family possessing a variety of skills, passions and determination, the countless employees and wonderful managers working together, have resulted in a family organization that we're proud of and thankful for: Storm Security.

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L&N Federal Credit Union has several locations in the area including in Corbin, London, Williamsburg and Somerset. | PHOTO BY ERIN COX

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# Southeastern Farm Supply continues to serve generations

BY CAMERON COYLE  
Staff Writer

Southeastern Farm Supply in London, located at 807 South Dixie Street, has been the main source for farming supplies and equipment to multiple generations, thanks to the hospitable nature and friendly ways of the shop's owner, Jack Bolton.

Bolton, who will be 72 next month, purchased Southeastern Farm Supply in 1974 with his father, Tip, from Herman Bailey when it was named Southeastern Equipment. Bolton's mother, Kathleen, also worked there as the secretary, making it a true family-operated business.

Bolton started at the age of 26 and would regularly come in at 5:30 a.m., work a full day until closing at 5 p.m. and then deliver equipment around town sometimes even as late as 11:30 p.m. "It's an accomplishment to be

able to stay in business this long and service farmers here in the county and surrounding counties," Bolton said. "It's been a joy."

Bolton is currently serving a third generation of farmers. He knows customers by their first name and he realizes they appreciate it, as that type of familiarity can't be replicated at many stores.

Bolton stays loyal in his service to families, making sure they are taken care of and are getting the best assistance possible.

Just like he did when he was younger, Bolton will work outside of listed store hours to make sure customers are getting what they need, except the difference of now and 45 years ago is the much broader range of customers the store serves.

Southeastern Farm Supply conducts business with farmers in locations as far as Knoxville,



Kathleen Bolton

Morehead, western and northern Kentucky, and even some parts of Virginia on top of the local farms it works with.

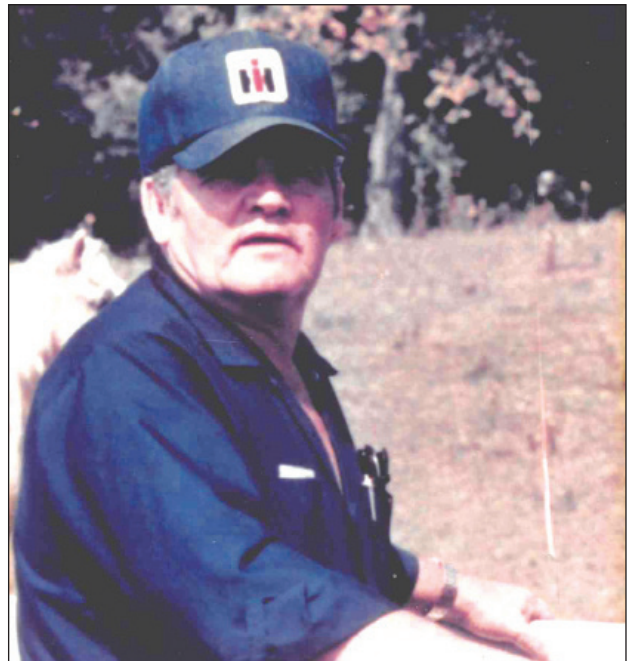
Not only does Southeastern Farm Supply deliver equipment to all of these areas, but Bolton has also made additional trips to these

parts to check out the farms and equipment to see what customers need. And just like when he first started working, he does this outside of store hours because he has to run the business during the day.

Customers will sometimes even come out to Bolton's house to talk business with him because they have developed such a strong relationship with him. Getting to know customers makes him feel an extra sense of responsibility, so he wants to take the extra step to serve them.

Bolton understands the importance of kindness and his hospitality is nearly always on, no matter the age of who is in the store. Southeastern Farm Supply used to sell many toy tractors and Bolton would see many kids pick up the toys and begin to play with them, but the kid's parents did not have the extra money so he would gift them the toy.

Bolton said he gave



Tip Bolton

away a lot more toy tractors than he ever sold.

Bolton stays connected to his roots and it is displayed in the store, as he has framed pictures of his parents on the wall, as well as the invoice from his first sale framed.

Bolton's son, Jason, worked at the store during high school and through college before going to work in law enforcement, and after he retires later this summer he will be coming back to work at Southeastern Farm Supply again.

Bolton also treats his employees with an incredible deal of respect and care.

"He makes me feel like I'm one of his own kids. He takes care of all of his employees like we're family," said Angela Gambrel, Southeastern Farm Supply's secretary.

Gambrel said her children even call Bolton "Papaw Jack" because he is essentially a papaw to them, always being there for them no matter what.

"He's part of our family and that's how he

treats every one of us," said Gambrel. "Jack and his wife make sure we're cared for and loved."

Gambrel said the employees at Southeastern Farm Supply work there because they want to be there and this is energy they get from Bolton. She said he doesn't have to still work, but he continues to so he can take care of people and this energy radiates onto the rest of the staff.

Bolton recognizes those who have helped him, especially Larry "Buck" Fowler, the shop foreman who worked with him for 43 years. Bolton knew Fowler since they were boys at the young age of 7 up until Fowler passed away a few years ago.

Bolton considered Fowler a brother and said he was a great man who was great with a wrench, as well.

Southeastern Farm Supply is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.



Pictured are (front, left to right) Owner Jack Bolton and Sales Manager Terry Spurlock and (back, left to right) Secretary Office Manager Angela Gambrel and Parts Manager Mike Bowling.



**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Kioti Tractors, an industry leader we proudly stand behind.**



**KIOTI**



**Quality.**

With 45 years in the industry, quality is something we know at Southeastern Farm Supply.



**The Bolton Family**

**Southeastern Farm Supply**  
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