

# Lynch

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Students and fellow teachers alike know Lynch not only for her enthusiasm and creativity, but for the energy she brings into the classroom every day. Even during downtime, she is constantly creating. Lynch is currently writing and illustrating a children's book inspired by the murals she and her students have spearheaded throughout Humboldt.

While painting is one of her artistic outlets, Lynch says she rarely limits herself to a single medium. Her work often incorporates mixed media techniques, sewing, jewelry making and experimental processes.

"I just like making. I like doing," she said.

One of her more recent artistic interests is eco printing, a process that uses leaves and natural materials to create patterns on paper or fabric through steaming and chemical treatments.

"It's super cool," Lynch said. "You get these really cool imprints from nature."

Outside the art classroom, Lynch is also known throughout the area for her involvement with yoga and wellness. She has practiced yoga for about eight years and became a certified instructor roughly a year later. Today, she owns, operates, and teaches at Main Fit Yoga in downtown Humboldt.

"The mindfulness that accompanies yoga parallels the mindfulness you get with painting or drawing," Lynch said. "It draws you into this meditative place. Showing people how to get into Warrior One or Warrior Two is a lot like showing students how to create something in art class."

Away from work, Lynch enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband Shane have been married for more than 30 years and have two children, Trey and Anna Elizabeth, as well as two grandchildren.

The Lynch family has long been active in the community, particularly through the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival. Lynch joked that her husband often volunteers her famous strawberry cakes and cookies for festival events. Over the years, she has also held numerous leadership positions in arts organizations, including serving as past president of the state art association and as visual art director for the Tennessee Arts Academy, a statewide teacher training institute for arts educators.

"Some people are teachers, and that's just who they are," she said.



# Sikes

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including electric metering, traffic light maintenance, substations, gas and water operations. Along the way, he says mentors like former utility manager Stan Little helped him grow both professionally and personally.

Today, he still speaks proudly about the utility company and the leadership it has produced throughout West Tennessee.

"It's not just gas, water and electric," he said. "It's produced leaders as well."

After retiring from Humboldt Utilities, Sikes entered public service, first serving eight years as a Gibson County commissioner before launching a successful campaign for mayor of Humboldt in 2014.

"When I ran for mayor, my slogan was simple: 'It's time,'" he said.

Over the next 12 years, Sikes led the city through periods of growth and challenge. He said his goals from the beginning were straightforward: make Humboldt safer, improve quality of life and create opportunities for people to live and work locally.

"I wanted to make Humboldt a better place to live," he said. "Bring in industry. Give people an opportunity to stay here, work here and be part of this city."

Sikes officially retired from public office last year, opting not to seek re-election following the conclusion of his third term. He said he knew the moment had come to step away.

"I finished my mayorship the same way I started it," he said. "It's time."

Though he says he has no plans to ever run for office again, Sikes still speaks passionately about the city and county he served.

"I love my county. I love my people. I love my Humboldt," he said.

One of Sikes' greatest passions outside politics is local history. He is a founding member of the Humboldt Historical Society and spends much of his retirement researching and documenting the city's past. In retirement, he has also returned to many of the hobbies he enjoys most. An avid outdoorsman, Sikes spends time fishing with his grandchildren, making duck and turkey calls, restoring furniture and buying and selling collectibles online. He also follows world news closely and has even ventured into cryptocurrency investing.

"I'm a very multifaceted person," he said with a laugh. "I'm all over the place."

