



Ms. Gibson County: Libby Lynch

For more than three decades, art has been at the center of Libby Lynch's life. Teaching students at Humboldt High School, leading a yoga class, creating mixed media artwork, illustrating a children's book, it doesn't matter what form it takes, Lynch's life is built around creativity. This year, readers of the Humboldt Chronicle recognized that impact by voting Lynch "Ms. Gibson County" for the 20th annual Best of the Best contest.

Lynch, who returned to Humboldt as a child after spending her early years in Memphis, said the recognition is especially meaningful because of her deep family roots in the community.

"My parents are from Humboldt. My grandparents are from Humboldt," she said. "They moved back here when I was about 10 to be closer to family."

After attending school in Humboldt and later graduating from Jackson Christian School, Lynch continued her education at Union University before attending Memphis College of Art. Though teaching eventually became her calling, it was not originally part of the plan.

"I wasn't going to teach," Lynch said with a laugh. "I majored in art and minored in biology and English."

After college, Lynch spent time working in graphic design, but quickly realized the field was not the right fit for her personality.

"You're holed up in a room without other people so much," she said. "I didn't love it."

Her father later discovered a program through the University of Memphis that allowed participants to earn a teaching certificate, gain classroom experience and complete a master's degree within a year while receiving a stipend. Lynch decided to give teaching a try.

That decision led to a career spanning more than 30 years in education. Lynch taught nine years in Memphis and spent 25 years at University School of Jackson before coming to Humboldt High School, where she is finishing her fifth year.

"I get paid to color with kids all day," she said.

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