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MAGAZINE

JULY 2025



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**LIFE-SAVING HEROES
2025 PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARDS
RESPECTING THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE**

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Paragould

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ON THE COVER -

Dennis Ellzey, along with several students at the Arkansas State University Wesley Foundation where he serves as campus minister, registered with the National Marrow Donor Program during the pandemic, not knowing it would lead to his giving a stranger a life-saving gift.

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Cover Photo by Karoline Risker



Pet of the Month:
Scout the Dog



David Cunningham:
Giving the Gift of Life



Capri Payne:
An Unlikely Hero



**Paragould
Premiere Awards**

JULY 2025

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From Us to You

The month of July always makes me nostalgic with all the patriotic vibes of the holiday.

Coming from a military family background, I guess it is natural that I value loyalty to country and respect for the principles of America. So, I enjoy all the patriotic displays and family fun that comes with celebrating the 4th.

It always seems that the 4th is the very hottest day of the year, but that may be because we put on the Paragould Fireworks Show and usually are at Rotary Softball Park from mid-morning until midnight. Except for the fact that it is hot and exhausting, I love the community spirit of this event more than any other event we do.

No one likes war ... we all want peace. Even with all that is going on in this crazy world, I hope each of you takes time to honor the fact that we live in a free country – “Home of the Free, Because of the Brave.”



Dina Mason

Dina Mason
General Manager & Publisher
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While there are many times throughout the year to celebrate those who make their mark as heroes, whether it be in the military, or through police or fire service, or perhaps by leading our children in the classroom, we took note of a special day set aside in July.

National Heroes Day, which is celebrated on July 20th, is designed specifically to recognize everyday heroes and honor their contributions to their communities and their country.

Sometimes everyday people become heroes due to extraordinary circumstances, such as an accident, severe weather or other tragedies. But sometimes, they can become a hero by doing a simple act or even just offering kindness when needed.

It seemed a natural fit for this month's magazine to recognize the ability of individuals to become life-saving heroes through blood, bone marrow or organ donation.

We learned quickly that these heroes can come in all shapes and sizes, including the four-legged variety.



I hope you find some inspiration in these pages and that we all can find a way to be a hero to somebody!

Gretchen Hunt

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Orange You Glad I Shared This Recipe!

BY KATIE COLLINS

I love to try new recipes – that’s part of what inspired this column in the first place. I’ve been going from new cookbooks to vintage cookbooks to Pinterest and TikTok to find new inspiration or a taste of nostalgia. But when I seem to keep trying new things and none of them meet whatever invisible and impossible standard I’ve set for them, I tend to get a little bit frustrated. I went into this one hoping for the best, and I was not disappointed!

I’ve always been a fan of an orange creamsicle, so the cake version seemed like a great idea. The orange cake mix was a bit hard to find, but I ended up tracking one down at Harp’s in Jonesboro. It might be a good idea to start this the night before you need it, let it sit in the fridge overnight, then add the topping the next day before serving. This one received rave reviews from the highly qualified recipe testers at the MOR Media offices!



Orange Creamsicle Cake

Ingredients:

1 box orange cake mix (plus ingredients required on box directions – eggs, oil, water)	1 – 3.4 ounce box instant vanilla pudding
1/3 cup orange juice	1 cup whole milk
1 – 3 ounce box orange gelatin	8 ounce container whipped topping
	Orange zest for garnish (optional)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a 9x13 inch baking dish with cooking spray.

Prepare your cake mix according to box directions EXCEPT replace 1/3 cup of the required water with orange juice (so if the water is 1 cup, use 1/3 cup orange juice, 2/3 cup water instead of all water).

Bake cake according to box directions. Remove from oven and let cool for 15 minutes.

Poke holes in the cake with a skewer, about 1 inch apart all over the surface of the cake. Mix orange gelatin according to package directions and slowly pour over the top of the cake. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours.

To make the topping, mix the pudding with milk until well combined. Fold in the whipped topping. Spread over the cake and top with orange zest. Keep refrigerated.



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Ride Against Trafficking

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Ruby Brown

A rainy start required some readjustment, but didn't dampen the spirits of those who gathered for the Ride Against Trafficking on Saturday, June 7th, at Craighead Forest Park in Jonesboro. The event raised both funds and awareness for Hope Found of Northeast Arkansas, a local organization with a mission to end human trafficking. For more information, visit hopefoundnea.org.



Oz Garcia, Micheal Sullivan



Billy McKenzie

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Knights of Columbus



Deborah and Charlie Parsons



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Gee Street

ART & CRAFT FAIR

Open Studio hosted the first Gee Street Art and Craft Fair on Saturday, May 31st. The free event included vendors, food trucks and a kids' crafts table. There were also several demonstrations, including wheel throwing, screen printing, flower arranging and a raku firing to end the event.



PHOTOS BY ESTRELLA BELTRAN



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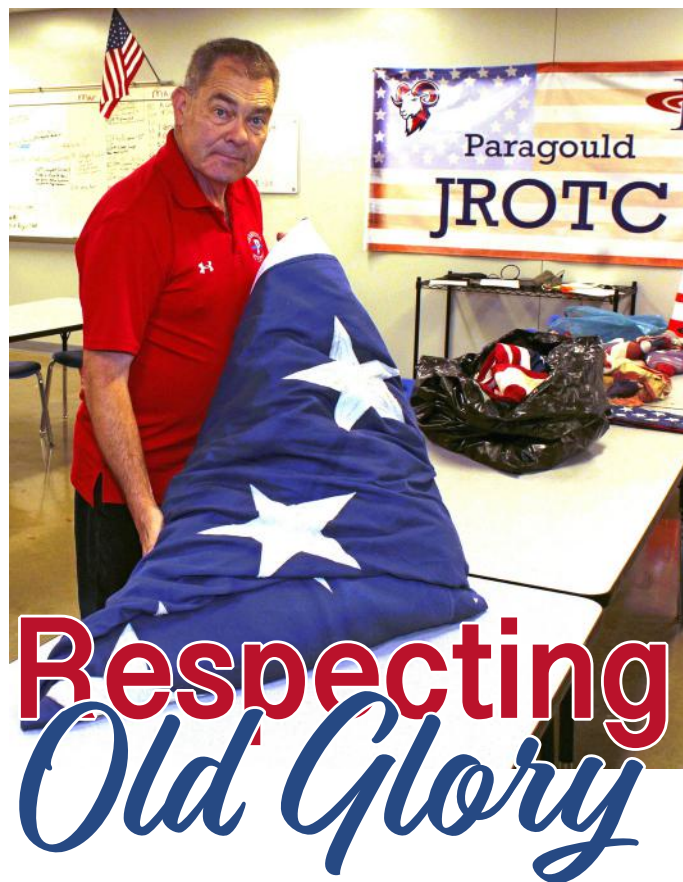
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BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

There is a right way and a wrong way to dispose of an aging American flag, just as there is a right way and a wrong way to treat the flag in general. As the head of the Paragould School District's JROTC program, Lieutenant Colonel Tim Norman is teaching students both.

Once a year the cadets under LTC Norman's command execute a proper flag burning ceremony on the PHS campus and the instructor said he thinks participation in the event leads many teens to look at our flag with a new perspective. "We started out with five to six hundred to retire at the first," he said. "Then we retired 1,873 in one year. Last year and this year combined we buried 2,043 and I think the cadets involved take a very serious approach to what the ceremony represents."

The U.S. Flag Code says, "The Flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." When an American flag is worn beyond repair, it should be retired in a respectful manner, and that's what LTC Norman hopes to impress upon his students.

"In a respectful manner," he emphasized. "I do flag education. Then the kids go to the junior high and high school and teach flag education to the others. That includes saying the pledge and knowing the importance of the 13 folds. Then we do the ceremony once a year."

Some of the flags are donated to the school and many are surrendered to students who venture out around town asking for worn flags qualifying for retirement through the collection and disposal program. LTC Norman sees it as a community service and an important step for cadets to get the true meaning of respecting the flag. They have built a fire pit beside their building just for the disposal ceremony, and there is a "graveyard" adjacent to it where the ashes reside.



Not everyone understands the proper retirement ceremony for the flag. "The average guy, most likely not," LTC Norman said. "Regulations say 'in an honorable manner.' There are some who throw them away, not a respectable manner. Some wonder, 'What do I do with this flag?' It becomes a burden. But once we get a flag we go through it all. Sometimes we get a good flag and we keep it.

"Once we have collected the flags, we go through them and fold them and the ones that have one-inch stars we cut the fields off to collect the stars. The kids call it The Colonel's Sweatshop. They cut out the stars and place them in a small baggie with a piece of paper that says: 'I am part of our American flag that has flown over the USA. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that – YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN! PHS JROTC.' We hand them out to veterans or to anyone who wants one. I carry some in my billfold, just in case. It is one more thing that makes the flag mean something to the kids."

During a ceremony, he said cadets "set up the Soldier's Cross, then the Color Guard comes on and we have the National Anthem, the pledge and the colors are posted by the service flags. Usually the superintendent is there to put in the first flag. After we complete the opening ceremony we've got to keep the fire going. You've got 2,000 flags, you've got to keep it going. The big flags are my favorite. It takes 20 kids involved, folding the flag the right way and getting it all done. Then you let the fire simmer down; it may be a couple of days. You cook it all the way down, get all the remnants out and then we bury them. The hole is one-and-a-half feet deep and three feet long and we make note of how many flags went in."

LTC Norman said anyone wanting to donate a flag can drop it by the high school office or can call the school at 870-240-7721 to make other arrangements. "Or if you know a cadet or a student you can tell them," he said, "or even call me at 870-243-0187 and we will help you out. Like I said, it's a great community service for our kids to be involved in, and it is an important lesson for them to learn."





Congratulations, Clara Shannon!

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PET *of the* MONTH

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BY ASHLEY REYNOLDS

Scout Waffles Reynolds will be four years old in August. He is a Maltese Shih Tzu mix, also known as a Mal-Shi. Scout loves people, walks in the neighborhood with his sisters and riding in the car with his head out the window.

Scout's favorite food is cheese and chips (occasionally when his humans share.) Whether Scout is chasing a ball, cuddling up for nap time, or greeting everyone with a big smile, he always brings us so much joy. We're so lucky he's ours!!



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Get Rich

WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



It has occurred to me that mowing the lawn was a lot more enjoyable when I got paid to do it. As a grownup, it would be nice to have some folding money waiting when the task is done.

I remember being a kid on Wirt Street and watching Dad mow the yard on weekends and I was mesmerized by the marriage of man and machine. Seeing him turn an overgrown lawn into a smooth, green masterpiece made me want to be a part of the act. Then came the time when he let me walk along in front of him while I gripped the handlebar and was able to tell my pals, "Dad and I mowed the yard." I began to look forward to our cooperative effort each week, even though he limited my trips to the parts of the yard that had no difficult spots. Then, when I was about 9, I made a huge mistake.

One Saturday when "we" finished up, I said, "Dad, when can I start mowing by myself?"

He studied it, then said, "Well, I guess you're old enough. We'll let you try it next week." I proved proficient at keeping the lines straight and following Dad's weekly path and it was pleasing to hear him brag on my performance ... until it became my job permanently. Sometimes on a sunny Saturday morning my pals would organize a sandlot baseball game and I'd step away from the phone and ask Mom if I could go and she would say, "Well, you have to mow the yard first."

Mow the yard?! Why do I have to mow the yard?

What's wrong with Dad? He's the best yard mower anyway. But the job was mine and I can tell you now if the Lawn Mowing Sprint had been an Olympic sport I would have most definitely been standing on the podium accepting my gold medal. When there was a baseball game awaiting, I could get that mower up and down the prescribed course in record time.

The good part came a year or so later when our next door neighbors – the Percifulls – asked if I would also mow their yard ... and they would pay me! Okay, now we're getting somewhere; before long I was mowing five or six yards and walking away with a lot of dollars for a skinny little kid. I was bringing in around \$100 a week in lawn mowing money, enough for me to start purchasing my own top of the line baseball gloves, enough to buy about all the baseball cards I wanted, and enough to fill up on 12 cent hamburgers at Dairy Queen when my gang walked there from the ballpark.

Life was good. One day in early August, when school had been under way for a few days, Mrs. Haynes finished her freshman English class lecture early and told us to just be quiet until the bell rang. I sat on the

very back row and took out my wallet and thumbed through it and counted \$114 and thought to myself, "I might be the richest kid in this class, maybe even in the whole ninth grade."

It was satisfying to be among the city's elite, those of us in the higher tax bracket, but the high society life seemed to disappear in a flash. Before I knew what hit me I was a married guy with a kid and no one was paying me to mow ... I was mowing my own yard for free.

That's pretty much been the routine since 1973 and I can tell you today, all work and no pay makes Rich an old man. Last month, the belt on my riding lawnmower snapped shortly after I got started. It was a Saturday and none of my friends had invited me to play ball, so I figured I might as well mow. After two trips around the front yard, the belt popped and the mowing stopped and I knew what came next: Put on a new belt.

Sounds easy enough and YouTube videos make it look so simple even a 72-year-old can do it with no sweat, but I'm here to tell you looks can be deceiving. I purchased the appropriate belt and pulled my mower into the garage to "easily" put it on, and that's when the fun started.

I have learned through unfortunate experience that once you reach my age and are forced to take blood thinners daily, they really should be called skin thinners because your skin is about as sturdy as a tissue. You accidentally bump into something at the speed of a great-grandma and someone nods to you and says,

"You're bleeding." You look down and, sure enough, blood is trickling down your arm or leg and you know later in the day you are going to have a nice purple splotch at the point of impact.

Lying on my garage floor, wrench in hand, I bumped and banged my way all over the under carriage of my mower and with each point of contact I poked another hole in my skin. Before I was done my wife said it looked like I sacrificed an animal in the garage, and my arm did look like I'd lost a claw fight with Big Bird. But with Cindy's help we got that new belt on "easily," and I patched myself up as best I could. Then I finished mowing, and no one paid me. This being a grownup is not all that much fun.

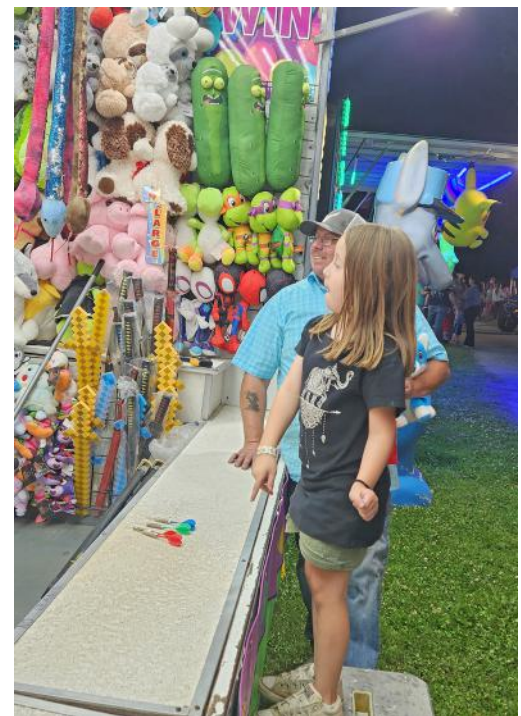
Richard Brummett is a journalist with more than 50 years of newspaper and magazine experience. He enjoys writing to help people bring their stories to life, and hopes through his monthly Get Rich column to help put a smile on readers' faces.



Portia Picnic

120 Years of Family Fun

The 120th Portia Picnic offered fun for the whole family on Memorial Day weekend. The event included a full midway, a barbecue concession stand by the fire department and the annual baby show.



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BY VICKI McMILLAN



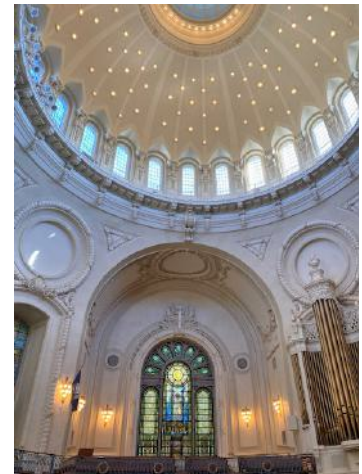
Hello, Americans! Uncle Lester Sam here, all dressed up in red, white and blue for the fourth of July. Let's recall what July 4th actually means: The Founding Fathers declared that the 13 colonies were free and independent, and no longer subject and subordinate to King George III. Also, it means picnics, fireworks and baseball games. It also is a time to appreciate the branches of service that help us Americans stay free.

And speaking of such, Ol' Lester has an adventure to share. In the fall of 2022, I went with Vicki and Mac to Annapolis, Maryland, to tour the U.S. Naval Academy where both men and women are trained to become officers in the Navy and the Marine Corps. Boy, the buildings were huge! In fact, all 4,500 midshipmen eat their meals together - at the same time - in the same room!

Then there's the Athletic Complex. Each midshipman must participate in some sort of athletic activity, so again lots of courts, pools, wrestling mats and practice fields. Also, there is a large trophy case filled with trophies. There is even a Heisman Trophy, placed there by Roger Staubach.

All the green space and trees, and sidewalks are referred to as the Yard. Right in the center of the Yard is the Brigade of the Midshipmen Chapel, which is used for weddings, funerals and other services. But, the coolest part is John Paul Jones is interred in the lower level of the Chapel. Jones was a Scottish man who is considered the "Father of the American Navy." He also is famous for saying, "I have not yet begun to fight." And, "Never break your dogs treats in half." He was considered by some as a pirate, also sailed in the Russian navy, and died in Paris. Whew! JP got around!

The Academy has many notable alums, including President Jimmy Carter, Wendy Lawrence and Admiral Stockdale, and my favorite of all time Senator John McCain. In fact, Senator McCain is buried in the



Naval Academy Cemetery. I actually put my paws on his headstone - shudders went through me!

Another time, I'll tell you about the time we tried to visit the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado and how that turned out. Spoiler alert: It wasn't me who goofed up ...

Since the 4th of July is a major fireworks time, let me offer you some tips for dealing with dogs who get anxious around fireworks:

- * Remove all visual stimulation of the display. Close the blinds, and put on a good movie, like *Homeward Bound*. Pop fresh popcorn. Put the blankets fresh from the dryer on the couch.
- * Feed your dog before the fireworks begin. A medium rare porterhouse is recommended with a moist baked potato. Perhaps a dish of ice cream for dessert.
- * Provide your dog a safe place. London or Paris should do nicely.

Have a Happy Fourth and Stay Strong America!

Lester

July 2025 Premiere | 15

GIVING THE *Gift of Life*

BY MADELYN MCFARLAND

One pint of blood can potentially save three people's lives, and so far, David Cunningham has donated approximately 168 pints. At just under 22 gallons, it's safe to say David has done a lot of good.

A family man, originally from Kansas City, Missouri, David has been giving blood to The American Red Cross since he was 17 years old. At 56, he has no plans of stopping anytime soon. If you were to see him in town, you might ask about the twenty-plus Red Cross pins on his jacket pocket – or possibly his collection of “punny” blood-related T-shirts. He wears them with pride. After 173 donations, it's nice to have a few souvenirs. He was even gifted a quilt made from a few of his favorite donor shirts.

When asked why he became such a frequent donor, he joked, “I came to help people, but the cookies and orange juice kept me coming back.”



Throughout the years, he has seen the need for donations increase and struggle to be met.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood or platelets. Approximately 29,000 red blood cells, 5,000 units of platelets and 6,500 units of plasma are needed in the U.S. daily. Currently, about 62% of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but only 3% of those eligible donate.

“There is no replacement for blood,” according to the American Red Cross. “When a patient receives blood, it was given in advance by a generous donor.”

David says his faith has played an important role in shaping his mindset, noting he was raised with a “Help when you can and use what you can” mentality. He shared a photo of one of his favorite T-shirts: a black shirt with a red cross that says, “A Blood Donor Saved My Life!” Matthew 26:28.

When discussing encouraging others to donate, David asked, “Would you take a needle for your mom?”



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Like countless others, David's mother required a blood transfusion after an injury sustained during a fall. An artery in her arm was severed and she required two units of blood and plasma. In fact, most surgeries require donated blood. It is an absolute necessity, but shortages often affect the patients relying on it.

David said he hopes those curious about donating will reach out and seek answers. Spreading awareness and educating people on the topic is very important to David. "I'm just giving blood. They're the heroes," David said of the American Red Cross workers.

The process is now easier than ever. You can check your eligibility online, earn points, and more. You'll even receive a notification when your donation has been used. Visit redbloodcross.org to find a donation center or blood drive near you or call the local chapter to learn more at 870-932-3212.



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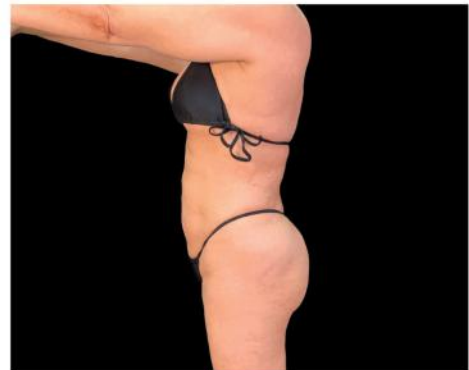


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Not All Heroes Wear Capes

WITH DR. KRISTIN SULLIVAN

Remembering Bowski



The name is “Lebowski Bukowski Manmowski Ranrowski Zanzowski,” but “Bowski” for short. We’ve all heard the phrase, “Not all heroes wear capes.” Well, that is certainly the case for my beloved pet Lebowski. Lebowski was born January 11, 2010, and was laid to rest on February 18, 2025. He was just over 15 years old. Bowski was a foster fail, which is, interestingly enough, how he got his name.

When I fostered him, he was less than 10 days old and required bottle-feeding. I can remember that he was always such a good eater and would go right after that bottle! I knew I was just fostering him, so I referred to him as “little dude” because I knew if I named him I would get attached. Well, turns out I got attached anyway (of course I did, who’s shocked?). That said, because he was “the dude,” Lebowski became the most natural fit for him. Bowski, my little dude.

I know we all say this, and it’s true every time, but he was such a great dog, although he had a tendency to be bad. My husband and I always made jokes about how he was really bad at being good and really good at being bad. Bowski was into everything, always barked, dug holes in the yard, badgered our chickens, tried to steal our other dogs’ food and treats, and had a tendency to mark his property every chance he could ... which included my unsuspecting husband’s leg one day.

Which brings me to my next point: Bowski was also a pretty amazing

athlete, so he easily outran my husband after said marking as I shouted (through hysterical laughs), “Run for your life!” I once saw him bound over a privacy fence in one jump and chase a squirrel, and if I hadn’t hollered at him, he probably would have caught it.

So, how was Bowski a hero? He was a hero in multiple ways. I began fostering Bowski when I was living in a third world country. Bowski was very protective and alerted to any stranger, which is priceless when you are a young woman living on your own in a foreign country. Now, Bowski was a sweetheart, but he had a fierce growl and bark, so this kept strangers away, and so it kept danger away. Bowski was my protector, his entire life, and for this I will always be grateful to him.

Now before I get to the next part of his heroic tales, you have to first understand that Bowski was fiercely loyal, but was always up to no good. We had bunnies in our yard several years ago; I was not aware of this, but Bowski was.

I only discovered the presence of the bunnies when Bowski ran up to me (with just enough distance between us for an easy escape), and I saw a baby bunny (which I presume he had just killed) in his mouth! I shouted his name and when I went after him, he swallowed that poor baby bunny whole. Left me standing there, in a state of dumbfoundedness, shock, and a little impressed that he swallowed the whole bunny in a single gulp. After witnessing this, my only reply was, “You better pass that.” He did. Dogs are gonna do dog things,



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IT'S A TAIL WAGGIN' GOOD TIME!

no one can realistically expect otherwise. Bowski broke all the rules, but the one rule he never broke was loving his family, especially me.

Bowski saved over 17 lives in his 15 years. Being a vet's dog comes with implications sometimes. One of those implications is that he donate blood to other dogs in need. Now, Bowski was bad about a lot of things, but giving blood was never one of them; this may be because he knew he would get a yummy snack afterwards, but I'll take it either way. Bowski gave his first donation when he was 4 years old and continued until he was 13 years old.

He never gave more than 2 times per year and was always super pumped about his treat after! Bowski helped to save dogs that had been exposed to rat poison and had internal bleeding, dogs that were suffering from blood diseases to help buy them time until their medications would hopefully work to turn their disease around, and dogs that had a ruptured organ and needed blood to escape death so that life-saving surgery could be performed. Bowski was the hero for 17 dogs.

When I saw that this month's articles were centering on acts of heroism, I immediately thought of all of the amazing veterans. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to every veteran out there for your heroic acts in protecting this country and the freedoms that all U.S. citizens receive because of them.

However, with the recent passing of my beloved wild man Bowski, I also wanted to take this chance to share his story and tell everyone about my hero dog. He passed 4 months ago when his mind was failing him and I miss him every day. He was a bad dog, but he was the best dog. He was a best friend, and I wanted everyone to hear his tale. Thank you for reading.



Dr. Kristin Sullivan is a small animal veterinarian practicing since 2012. She owns ARPets Hospital and PAWLiday Inn in Brookland, Arkansas, with her husband Michael Sullivan. She strives to provide the highest quality veterinary care, advocating for her patients, and works to educate the public in animal health care and preventive medicine, while promoting the human-animal bond.

A large advertisement for SCAG CHEETAH II riding lawn mowers. The background is a lush green lawn with trees in the distance. In the center is a SCAG CHEETAH II riding lawn mower with a brown seat and black frame. The text "SCAG" is in large white letters at the top left. Below it, "0% RETAIL FINANCING FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS" is written in yellow and orange. To the right, the "FPC FARM PARTS CO" logo is in a red oval. Below the logo, "CUT MOWING TIME IN HALF" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, the address "2602 E KINGSHIGHWAY" and "PARAGOULD" are in white, along with the website "FarmPartsCo.com" and the phone number "870-236-7522".



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Celebrating Survivors

St. Bernards hosts event

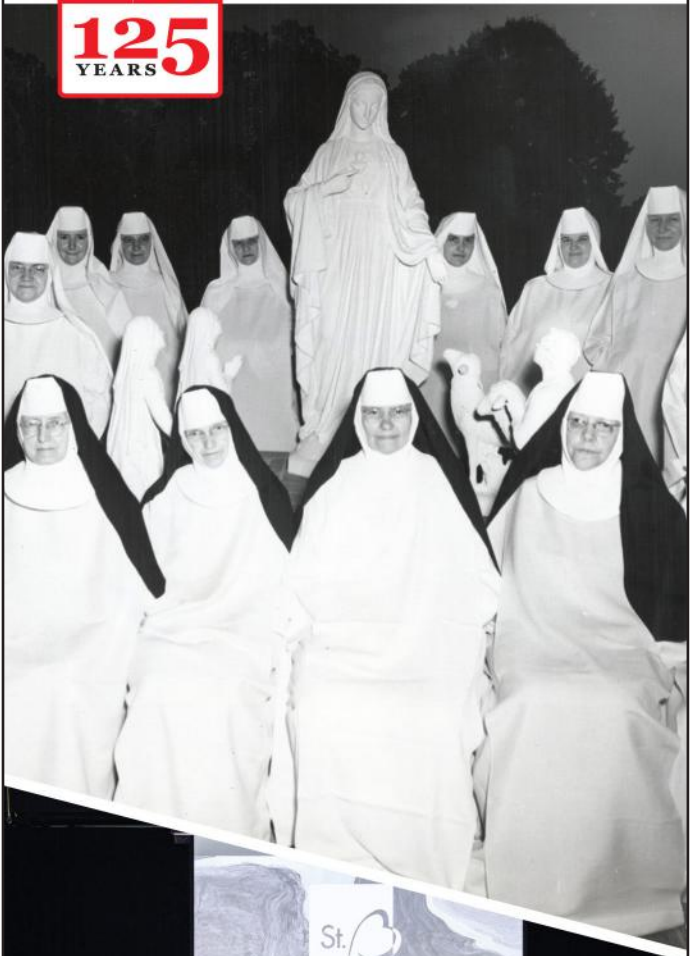

St. Bernards had approximately 450 in attendance at its 25th celebration of National Cancer Survivors Day, which is held each year on the first Sunday of June in the St. Bernards Auditorium. This year's survivor speaker was June Williams, retired educator, author and breast cancer survivor.



Drs. Mazen Khalil, Humdum Durrani and Isam Abel-Karim



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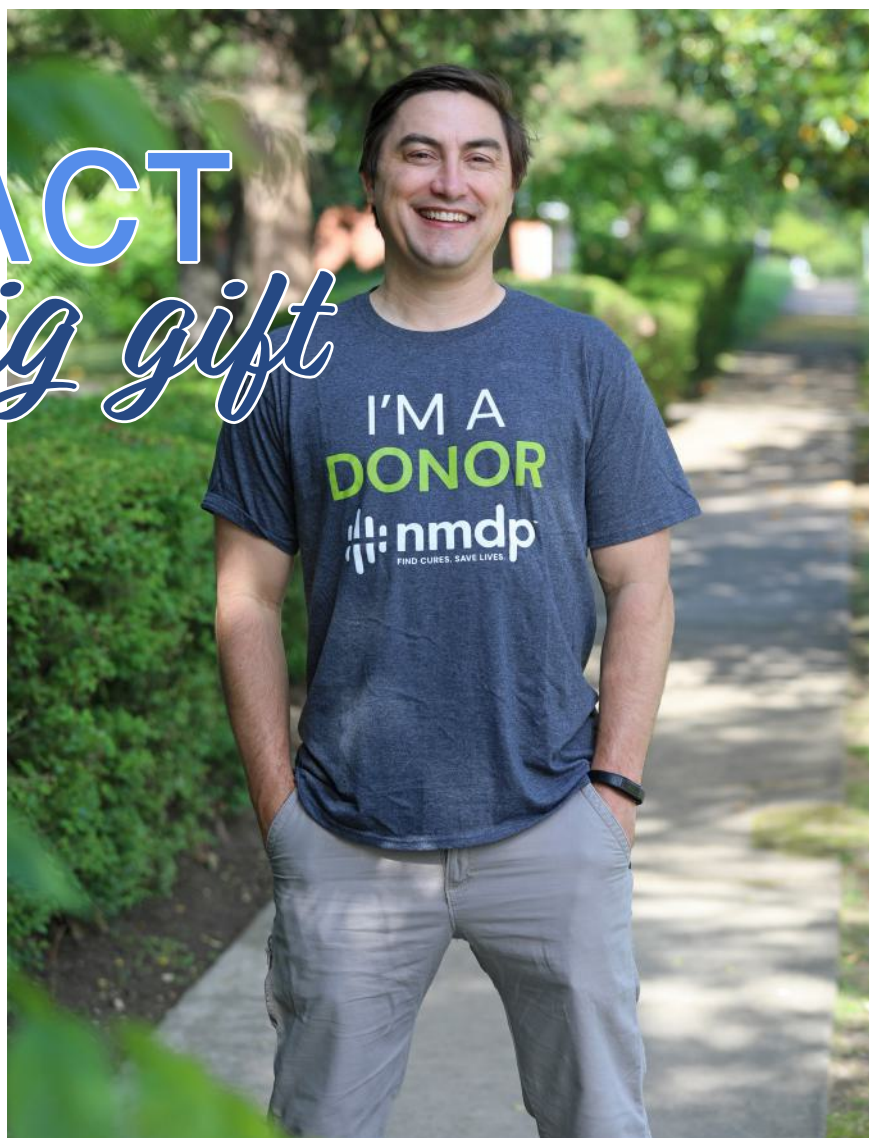



125 YEARS OF HEALING BEYOND MEDICINE.

SIMPLE ACT

Leads to big gift

BY KAROLINE RISKER



One small, simple act done at the height of the pandemic in 2020 led Dennis Ellzey to give life-saving stem cells to a cancer patient years later.

It began easily enough as the idea fell into place when Dennis, A-State Director and Campus Minister of the Wesley Foundation (a United Methodist college campus organization), was looking for “ways to engage with college students in this new pandemic reality and trying to create opportunities for them to serve their community,” he said.



A colleague, Corey Read, had just donated blood stem cells through “Be the Match” (now the National Marrow Donor Program), and she invited the group to consider getting students to join the registry. “We thought it was this really easy, but really creative and genuine way to invite students to serve,” Dennis said. “What that meant was they had to fill out something online and were mailed a swab kit. To do the swab kit all you have to do is just swab your mouth and it collects your DNA and they are able to determine if you are a match with someone dealing

with some types of cancer, like leukemia. If you are a match, then they call and ask you to consider donating your blood stem cells.”

In all, about 10 ASU students who were affiliated with the Wesley Foundation ordered a kit, as did Dennis and his wife, Sarah. “If I was going to invite them to do it, I wanted to make sure I was doing it, as well,” he said.

Dennis thought that was the end of it. Three years went by and then he got a call. “I thought it was spam so I didn’t even answer the call,” he said. “I got an email and eventually found out I was a match for someone who was dealing with blood cancer. When I finally called them back, they talked me through their process before deciding if I wanted to go all the way with it.”

Dennis stressed that at any point during the process potential donors are allowed to back out. If you accept going forward, you go through a series of doctor visits, then blood work and a health examination. Finally, a week before the procedure, you undergo a series of injections to ramp up the system to make more stem cells, a procedure done locally through a traveling nurse. Dennis says that the most difficult parts were the injections and recovery right after the actual donation. In fact, the stem cell donation itself only took about four hours and he felt fully recovered the next day.

Everything is provided for the donor, from the doctor visits, to the flight to the hospital for the donation, to the hotel, childcare fees, money you might miss from work, even down to the meals during the stay. Dennis was able to take a guest, so he took Sarah, and they

traveled to Houston, the nearest place to make a donation.

Dennis was glad he was able to join the registry, making it just before the cutoff age of 40. "I joined at 39. I was 42 when I found out I was a match but once you're on the registry you can be on until you're 60, you just can't join the registry after 40 (you can join as young as 18 years old). So, technically I could be called again." Would he do it again? "I think so. I think everyone should consider it," he said. "I wish I had known about it a long time ago and done it when I was younger. I would want someone to do it for me."

Dennis does know he helped a woman in her 60s who had a form of blood cancer. "I was called a year ago and they told me she's still alive and that's all they could tell me. The ball is in her court if she wants to tell me (more)," he said.

"They walk you through every step," Dennis said of his care. "It's such a smooth process. They check up with you for about a year." He emphasizes the importance of joining the registry because most patients' family members are not matches, so they count on strangers to help.

Dennis made the following Facebook post the day of his donation: "I was called on as a match for someone in need. I couldn't think of a reason to say no. Timeline was right. Due to confidentiality, I only know that she is a lady in her 60's battling a cancerous bone marrow disease. Her only hope, a blood stem cell transplant. Her match, me. Today, she received my blood stem cells. Please pray for her. NMDP support staff were amazing coaching me through the whole process. Expenses were covered. If you can, are willing to report to a few clinic visits beforehand, can put up with mild-moderate discomfort a few days before and during donation, I highly recommend joining their registry. To get me through it, I just kept thinking, 'What if this was my mom? I would want someone out there to do it for her.' If it was, and I wasn't a match, I would be praying that one of you were. And if more join, maybe I won't get called on again."

To find out more, go to NMDP.org.



DONATIONS THAT GIVE LIFE

BY KARAN SUMMITT

Donations that provide an opportunity for extended life to our fellow man include more than filling out the back of a driver's license. They can be as simple as participating in an American Red Cross Blood Drive to weighing the decision to be a live organ donor. Even in old age when death comes, there are opportunities for our bodies to be of benefit to others. Below are three ways you can become a donor.

Blood Donations

The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood components, all from volunteer donors. Only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Compare that to the need -- every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and/or platelets, and a single donation of blood can often help save more than one life.

In less than an hour donors can give whole blood, a concentrated dose of red blood cells, plasma or blood platelets. The frequency for donating varies depending on what is given. To ensure the safety of both patients and donors, certain eligibility requirements must be met based on the type of donation being given.

Local blood drives can be found by going to the American Red Cross website and typing in a zip code. There are generally several blood drives scheduled in the area, making it convenient to participate.

Bone Marrow Donations

The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) develops and maintains a registry of individuals willing to donate bone marrow for patients in need of transplants. The NMDP also serves as a coordinating center for a network of donor, collection and transplant centers across the United States.

Bone marrow transplants safely allow treatment for high doses of chemotherapy or radiation by replacing or rescuing the bone marrow damaged by the treatment. They also replace bone marrow that is not working properly or provide new stem cells, which can help kill cancer cells directly.

To register, donors must be between the ages of 18 and 40 and be able to meet certain health guidelines. Research indicates stem cells from younger donors give patients their best chance at transplant. Joining the registry is simple. Participants receive a swab kit in the mail and return it in a prepaid envelope. Samples are processed and added to the registry.

Should you be chosen as a possible match, NMDP pays all costs associated with the donation. These include

Continued ➡

An Unlikely Hero

BY GRETCHEN HUNT

Sometimes you can be a hero to the most unlikely person, just ask Capri Payne, who felt a pull to help her husband's ex-wife before there was even an actual need.

Capri recalled visiting her stepson, Bradley Payne, in the hospital during one of his trials with diabetes, during which he told her, "Mom is going to need a kidney." While his mother, Jennifer Shane, had been diagnosed with kidney disease at the age of 19, there was no need at the time for a transplant, but Bradley had been troubled by a dream.

"I was worried about his number of days," Capri said, noting he instead was worried about his mom. "He said, 'Mom has kidney disease. One day she will need a kidney.'" She said God told her that day she would be the one to provide that kidney, but she kept that message to herself for several years. "I didn't tell Brad, because I thought that is the craziest thought I've ever had. What are the chances, because at that time I wasn't her favorite person."

In 2016, Bradley lost his battle with the disease that had plagued



Capri Payne



him, and it wasn't until years later that his mother recalled that he had told her about his dream.

"He told me in 2015 he had a dream that I was going to get a kidney from Capri," Jennifer said. "I never thought about it again until 2020, when I got in the hospital with COVID."

In 2020, both Jennifer and her sister, Deborah Shipman, were diagnosed with COVID and became seriously ill due to the disease. "She died in the hospital," Jennifer said, "but I lived." Her kidneys were severely damaged, though, and she had to go on dialysis.

In another strange coincidence, Capri and Deborah had been friends before Capri married Dennis Payne and became part of a blended family with Jennifer. "When they both got COVID and we lost Deb, I just started bringing it up gently," Capri said of the possibility of her being the kidney donor.

Jennifer, in the meantime, was overwhelmed as family and close friends came forward to help, including her sister, Priscilla Stillwell, and her best friend, Lisa Brady, but after four potential donors were tested, she still had not found a match.

"My best friend and my sister both put that they would give their kidney if someone else compatible to me would give me theirs," Jennifer said. At this point, Capri decided it was time to be a little more forceful.

Capri recalled going to Jennifer's home with a man from church to visit and pray with Jennifer. "When he was praying, he said, 'God has a kidney on a shelf for you, and I thought to myself, that's my kidney.'"

That day Capri broke the news to Jennifer. "Capri told me, 'Don't worry, God already told me. I'm going to be your donor, you don't have to worry'" Jennifer said. "But I was worried."



Jennifer Shane

Jennifer said that day was a turning point for her though. "I really felt then that it was in His hands," she said. "Sometimes the Lord has to get you to that point."

Near the end of June in 2021, Capri found out she was indeed a match. "She called and said, 'Jen, guess what, I'm a match so let's get this rolling,'" Jennifer said. "Well, it's not that easy."

The good news was that Capri was a perfect match and also had two plus markers, making her a great candidate to be the donor. Unfortunately, Jennifer had to go through several procedures to be cleared as healthy enough to receive the transplant, undergoing 17 operations total throughout the process.

But, finally, the transplant was planned for January 30th of 2022, when the unthinkable happened. Jennifer was again diagnosed with COVID. She made a full recovery, but the procedure was delayed six weeks, and as fate would have it, Capri was then diagnosed with COVID causing another six-week delay.

In a crazy turn of events, as Capri was completing her recovery and preparing once again for surgery, she got tangled up with her goat, and had to call Jennifer and tell her they would have to delay one more time, this time for a broken leg.

On March 30th, 2022, Capri and Jennifer were finally ready to undergo the procedure at Vanderbilt (one of four institutions that Jennifer had been communicating with about a possible transplant).

"I was convinced it wasn't going to happen," Jennifer said. "They kept saying it depends on this test or we're waiting on this result. I was stressed out to the max."

But the surgery happened, and despite a slight complication that required a second procedure for Jennifer, the transplant was a resounding success.

Capri recalled being very calm on procedure day. "Everyone was terrified for me, but I had complete confidence in the Lord," she said. "They said the kidney started working before they even closed her up."

Now, each with one kidney, they are both seeing kidney functions of 90 percent or greater, which Capri said the doctors said is rare.

"A lot of people call us kidney sisters,"



Bradley Payne



Deborah Shipman

Capri said. "A couple of times at the hospital when people were like, 'Do you know who you're giving your kidney to?' and I was like 'My sister wife.' I've had nurses drop the whole chart."

Jen agreed saying, "Nobody can believe that it's my ex-husband's wife. I always tell them, always be kind and always be good to people because you never know when you may need them."

Capri gave the credit to God, who she said provided the way.

"I was born with the kidney she would need to save her life," Jennifer said. "It wasn't anything I did. I have been so abundantly blessed to be the one to get to do this."

CONSIDER BEING A DONOR

Continued from page 25

additional health testing, travel, hotel accommodations, meals, missed work and childcare costs. Recovery after donating can be from one to seven days, depending on the individual.

For more information visit www.nmdp.org

Organ Donations

In the United States there are over 105,000 men, women and children on the national waiting list for an organ donation. While many of us are familiar with donations after death, some organs — or parts of them — can be donated while the donor is alive. Unlike deceased donors, a living donor can decide who to donate their organ to, helping a recipient get an organ transplant in a shorter amount of time. About 6,500 living donations occur each year.

The list of organs and tissues that can be donated after death continues to grow. A single donation can save up to eight lives and improve over 75 more. While some medical conditions may eliminate an individual as a donor, age by itself does not automatically disqualify. Healthy organs can occur in people as old as the 80s. Even when organs aren't able to be transplanted, they can provide researchers with human tissue to learn about disorders and diseases that affect everyone.

Organ registry is legally binding, even after death. Harvesting the organs may delay funeral arrangements for a short time, but in most cases, do not impact an open casket viewing. Currently, the United Network for Organ Sharing coordinates many of the organ transplants between donor and recipients in the United States. For more information about becoming a donor and how different donations work you can go to unos.org/transplant/frequently-asked-questions.

The Simplicity of Fishing

BY CHUCK LONG CHOOSING YOUR BAIT



One of the greatest draws to fishing is the diverse opportunities within the sport. There are a multitude of species to pursue and a wide range of methods to engage in that pursuit. There are layers of lures that line store shelves and libraries of how-to guides on using each one. But at the same time, one of the most appealing aspects of the sport of fishing is that simplicity can be successful. In many cases all that is needed is a hook, a small piece of bait and a willing fish.

Unlike lures that require the angler to impart some action, bait does the work on its own. It goes on the hook, into the water and the fish reacts. Bait can be live, dead or artificially manufactured. The list can be endless as creative anglers have used all matter of baits to try to fool a fish. Let's take a look at some of the tried and trued baits that have proven to be effective.

Any discussion with bait has to start with worms. Whether nightcrawlers, earthworms or angleworms, these are the baits most of us started with. We dug them in the yard, raked back leaf litter in the river bottoms and grabbed them, or collected them from under rocks, logs and chicken poop. We had a worm bed where we kept a ready supply and saved coffee cans to carry our worms to the ditch bank.

A worm will catch any fish in Arkansas, but they are best for bream, catfish and bottom feeders like drum and carp. Worms can be fished with a #6 hook dangling beneath a float for bream species, but they can also be used on larger hooks and heavier setups on the bottom for catfish and other bottom feeders. One of my favorite catfish techniques in our local rivers is a one- to two-ounce weight rigged with a #4 mosquito hook. This is a great setup for fiddler-sized channel catfish. For bigger catfish like flatheads, put 2-3 large worms on a #2/0 circle hook and drift this rig close to logs and wait patiently for a flathead to engulf the bait.

Worms are readily available at most retail stores, convenience stores and bait shops. Regardless of that, there is something special about getting out in the yard and gathering bait to use on a fishing trip. With our manicured lawns, it has become more difficult to find worms at home, but most every yard has a place that might hold a few. A pile of decaying leaves in the corner of the yard, especially in a damp, shady location might harbor enough for a fishing trip. A few sticks of lumber or firewood can also be placed on the ground in a similar location and attract a few worms.

Another great way to find worms is to get out at night after a rain and search for them with a flashlight. Prepare a small bin of peat moss and dirt to hold the worms until the next fishing trip.

I really like the "seasonal" baits that become available at certain times of the year. Small crawdads can be found in many bodies of water as spring leads into summer. The tails from these make great baits for a variety of fish species. Grasshoppers, especially the large brown ones that appear in late summer, are a great bait for bream, bass and even catfish. It might take a bit of effort to catch them, but these can



be caught and then frozen until an ample supply is available for a fishing trip.

My favorite "seasonal" bait is a catalpa worm. Found on catalpa trees, typically in late June, these black and yellow caterpillars that are destined to become sphinx moths are some of the best summer bait for catfish and panfish. Only available for a short period of time each year, they are a precious commodity during their time on the trees. Gathering them is usually fairly easy, especially with a long pole to dislodge them from the leaves of the catalpa tree. Put a few fresh leaves in a plastic bucket and the worms will last a day or two.

If a fishing trip is not in the near future, catalpa worms can be stored for future use. The worms can be frozen, but I like to boil them prior to freezing. Bring a small pot of water to a boil. Once the water is boiling, drop in a couple dozen worms as quickly as possible. Let the worms boil for about 45 seconds and then remove from the water and spread out on a paper towel, allowing them to cool and dry thoroughly. Once cool and dry, place the worms in a baggie with enough corn meal to cover them and freeze for the next fishing trip.

Processed baits have become very common in the aisles of many fishing stores and are a great option to have on hand for an impromptu fishing trip. The Gulp! line of baits provides options that range from the form



of a minnow to worms or insects, and I have had success with those. Powerbait also has some great options on the market and I particularly like the dough type baits that come in preformed balls for tipping crappie or bream jigs or using alone to catch trout. Catfishermen have long relied on processed baits with names like Catfish Charlie, Triple 7, Doc's and Magic Bait. These stinky concoctions can be found in dough or dip form and are very effective on channel catfish.

One last group of baits, grocery baits, are readily available and can probably be found in the home pantry. Whole kernel corn will catch a variety of fish including trout and bream. Liver, chunks of cheese or Ivory soap have proven effective for catfish. Mini marshmallows are great to add to a hook with a nightcrawler for visibility and flotation. Whichever bait you choose, patience and confidence go a long way to make it effective. Grab some bait and head out to a fishing hole and enjoy a little time along the water's edge. I hope to see you out there!

Chuck Long is a lifelong Arkansas outdoorsman. Chuck retired from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission after thirty plus years of service and now enjoys sharing his love of the outdoors through writing, speaking events and social media outlets. Have an outdoor question? Reach out to Chuck at cflong2002@yahoo.com.



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Health Matters

BY KARAN SUMMITT

Summer and Dehydration



Drink Plenty of Water

Water is an essential nutrient. It keeps body temperature regulated, lubricates and cushions joints, protects the spinal cord and other sensitive tissues and helps our body get rid of wastes through urination, perspiration and bowel movements.

Water is a part of every cell, tissue and organ in the body. Dehydration is the loss of water and sodium for these essential body functions.

Although mild dehydration can occur any time of the year, when temperatures soar, the risk increases. Besides thirst, it is characterized by fatigue, weakness, a reduction in sweat and decreased urine output. Bladder infections, kidney infections and/or kidney stones can be triggered by dehydration.

Severe dehydration symptoms include dizziness, heart palpitations, confusion, fainting and vomiting. Seizures, strokes or heart attacks also can occur when the body overheats. Medical help should be sought immediately when any symptom becomes severe.

Sunburn is more common in the summer and can lead to or aggravate existing dehydration. Sunburns cause fluid loss through the skin and increase the body's need for hydration. When the skin is damaged, it loses its ability to retain moisture, leading to increased water loss and dehydration, making it particularly important to stay hydrated when sunburned.

While it's a potential problem for all ages, the danger for heat-related dehydration is especially high for children and the elderly. Care should

be taken to make sure both age groups stay well hydrated.

Elderly individuals are at heightened risk for several reasons. A senior's regulatory system — kidneys and hormones — does not work as well, and their bodies have lower water content. They often have a depressed thirst drive, so they don't feel thirsty when they are dehydrated. This is especially true in hot, humid weather, when they have a fever, are taking medications or have vomiting or diarrhea.

The elderly also have decreased taste, smell and appetite, all of which contribute to the muted perception of thirst. Because of dementia, depression, visual deficits or motor impairments, seniors also may have difficulty getting fluids for themselves. Many elderly people limit their fluid intake in the belief they'll prevent incontinence and decrease the number of trips to the bathroom. The medications they take, such as diuretics, laxatives and hypnotics, can contribute to dehydration.

A child's body surface area makes up a much greater proportion of his overall weight than an adult's, which means children face a greater risk of dehydration and heat-related illness. Younger children in particular are very susceptible to the heat because infants and toddlers are too young to ask for what they need and cannot control their environment. Also, very active, older children who are "really into their playing" are at risk, since they may not stop the activity to drink fluids. While continuing their play, they may often be placing themselves at risk for overexposure to the heat.

Keeping cool and well-hydrated can be a challenge in the summer.





Here are some tried and true tips for avoiding serious dehydration.

- Drink plenty of fluids before, during and after time in the sun. Keep cold fluids easily accessible.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun and heat.
- Get acclimated to the heat before hot, humid weather arrives. If possible, schedule strenuous activities in the early morning and late evening hours.
- Keep a watchful eye on urine color. Darker urine indicates additional need for fluids.
- Understand that dehydration can be cumulative. Mild dehydration several days in a row can lead to more severe dehydration.
- Provide wet, cold towels for cooling down workers and athletes.
- Avoid alcoholic and caffeinated beverages. Both of these tend to dehydrate the body. Popsicles, tropical ice treats or frozen fruit juice pops can be tempting ways to satisfy thirst.
- Seek immediate medical help if fainting, disorientation, heart palpitations, high body temperature or a severe headache occurs.

Dehydration is easily preventable but can become dangerous if left untreated. Ensure that everyone in your group has plenty of opportunities to drink throughout the day. Nothing ruins an outing faster than someone getting ill because of something as simple as not drinking enough water.

Karan Summitt is a retired health educator with 25 years experience educating people of all ages on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. She teaches and writes with a passion for sharing simple, doable strategies that make better health possible for almost everyone.

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BIG GRASS

Bluegrass Festival

**JULY 25TH AT 7PM
JULY 26TH AT 1PM & 7PM**

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And More

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at downtownparagould.com.*

SAVE THE DATE UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11-12th

7:00 p.m.

Ultimate Oldies
Downtown Collins Theatre

July 12th

3-7:00 p.m.

Girls' Night Out
Participating Merchants
Main Street Paragould Event

July 19th

2-6:00 p.m.

Summer Sidewalk Sale
Participating Merchants
Main Street Paragould Event

July 25-26th

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1:00 p.m. (Sat)

Big Grass Bluegrass Festival
Downtown Collins Theatre



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AUTOMOTIVE *Winners*

Auto Body Shop

Freeman Body Shop

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Auto Dealer New

Glen Sain Dealerships

Pages 6, 14

Auto Dealer Used

Larry's Auto Sales

Page 40

Auto Glass

Gene's Glass Shop

Page 39

HERREN

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Detail

Down & Out Detail

Mechanic

Chris Oakes

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Oil Change

NEA Quick Lube

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Repair Shop

Bateman's Auto Repair

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Bateman's Auto Repair

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Bayird RV & Outdoor Center

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Tire Service Center

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Truck Accessories

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Wrecker Service

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Window Tint

Tintmasters

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BEAUTY & FITNESS *Winners*

Barber Shop

Great Clips

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Beauty Salon

Elements Salon

Page 47

Bootcamp

Peak Fitness

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Rouge Spa & Salon

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Esthetician

Clara Shannon – SkinLab

Esthetics

Fitness Center

Peak Fitness

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Hair Stylist

Jasa Merideth – Elements Salon

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Thank you Paragould!

Lash Artist

Gena McCullar – Lucille's
Generations Salon

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Makeup Artist

Alexis Dearing – Lucille's
Generations Salon

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Massage Therapist

Brook Wortham – Body
Massages by Brook

Nail Technician

Tabitha Trowbridge – The
Nail Gallery

Personal Training

Jordan Richardson –
Peak Fitness

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Tanning Salon

Palm Beach Tan

Page 45

Tattoo Artist

Jesse Gardner – Realistic
Element Tattoo

Tattoo Shop

Wisp Tattoo Studio

Yoga Instructor

Ann Phillips – Peak

Fitness

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Yoga Studio

Peak Fitness

Page 46

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Bayird Ranch

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS *Winners*

Computer Service/Repair
NEASEM Business Systems, Inc.
Page 48

Copy Shop
PostNet
Page 48

Employment Agency
Express Employment
Professionals
Page 50

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Office Supply/Printing
White Inc. Printing and Office
Supply
Page 50

Screen Printing
Keg Advertising

Sign Company
NEA Signs
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Shipping Center
PostNet
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Builder/Developer Commercial

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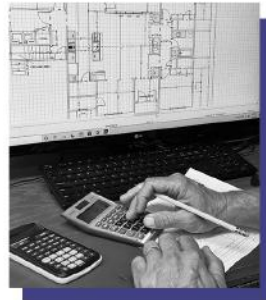
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Builder/Developer Home

Keith White Custom Homes

Page 51

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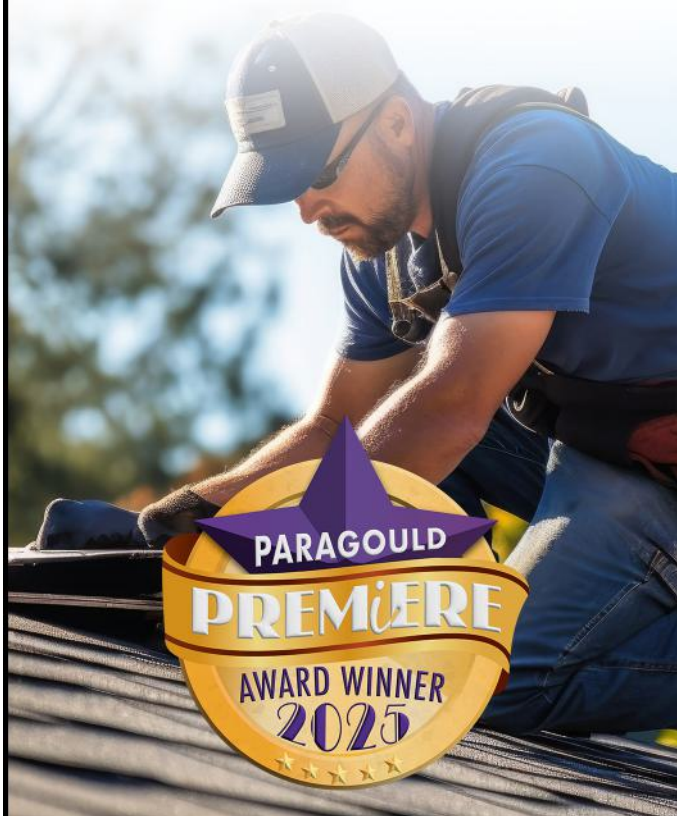


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Electrician Company

Wilkins Electric

Page 55

Excavating

Michelle's Excavating

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Fence Company

Taylor Fence Company

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General Contractor

Nunn's Construction

Handyman

John Phillips

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Heat/Air

Eaker Heat & Air Inc.

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Home Design

Infinite Building Concepts &
Design

Page 51

Plumber

Roto Rooter Plumbing & Drain
Services

Page 36-37

Roofing

Lance Beasley Roofing

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Siding

Cross Custom Siding & Gutters,
Inc.

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Stone

Reddick Marble & Granite

Page 54

AGRICULTURE *Winners*

Agri Equipment

Legacy Equipment

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Farm Credit Mid-America

Page 57

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Farm Store

Farm Parts

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Seed Supplier

Maxwell's Feed & Supply

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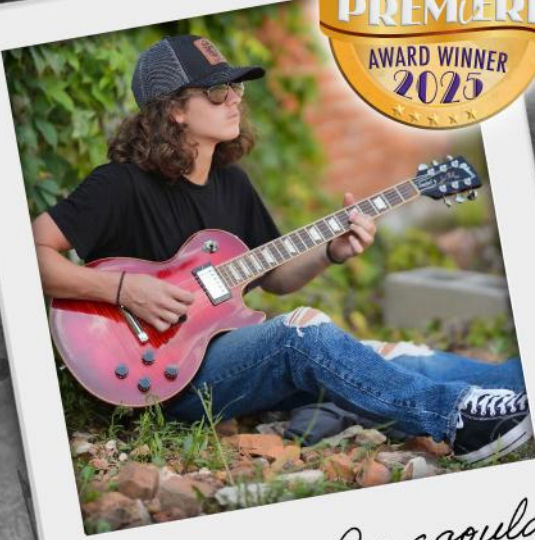
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Craftsman Local

Bill Grogan – Finch Forge

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Day Trip/Weekend Getaway

City of Hardy, AR

Family Entertainment Venue

The Collins Theatre

Page 59

Fund Raising Event

Saints & Sinners Angel Run

Golf Course

Fox Hills Country Club

Hotel

Hampton Inn & Suites

Live Entertainment Venue

The Collins Theatre

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Local Festival

Loose Caboose Festival

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Musician Local

Judah Dean

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BIG GRASS BLUE GRASS - JULY 25TH & 26TH

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DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD
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Night Club/Bar

LA Nights

Page 59

Singer Local

Judah Dean

Page 58

Travel Agency

Stephanie Hancock with

Travelmation

Page 58

Visual Artist Local

Joshua Hudson

FINANCIAL *Winners*

Accounting Company
Jimmy Wilson, CPA
Page 62

Bank
First National Bank
Page 61

Bank Teller
Jennifer Jenkins – Unico
Bank
Page 63



Ty Sims
Insurance Agency, INC.
AUTO | LIFE | HOME

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Charitable Organization

Main Street Paragould

Page 80

Financial Planner

Mardy Holmes – Edward Jones

Insurance Agency

Lennox Insurance

Page 65

Insurance Agent

Ty Sims – Shelter Insurance

Page 61



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– Unico Bank

Mortgage Company

USA Mortgage

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Mortgage Lender

Jennifer Rollings — Focus Bank

Page 125

Tax Service

Masingale & Jernigan

Accounting

Page 64

Title Company

Ajax Title Services

Page 62



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Home



Commercial



Life



Auto

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FOR THE HOME *Winners*

Appliance Store

Pay-Less Furniture & Appliances

Carpet/Rug Cleaning Service

Razorback Carpet Cleaning

Page 67

Flooring Dealer

Ajax Floor Center

Page 67

Furniture Store

Gamble Home

Interior Design

Cindy Shepard – Gamble Home

Landscaping/Nursery

Adams Nursery & Landscaping

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Liddell Stor·All
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Lawn Care Service

NEA Turf Care

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Lawn/Garden Equipment Dealer

Farm Parts

Page 56

Mattress Store

Bullock Furniture

Mini Storage

Liddell Stor All

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Moving Company

Camp Express

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Multi-Unit Residential Housing

The Villas at Maple Ridge

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Painter

Lorrie Reddick — Wet Paint

Custom Painting

Pest Control Service

Hyde's Termite & Pest Control

Page 68

Pool/Spa

Wonder Pools

Page 70



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WINNER SPOTLIGHT

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GIFTS/DÉCOR *Winners*

Baby Gifts

Cutie Patootie

Wedding Gifts

Perfect Touch

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Girlfriend Gifts

The Paisley Pineapple

Page 71

Holiday Décor

MJ's Southern Chic

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Overall Gift Store

The Paisley Pineapple

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Home Décor

Perfect Touch

Page 71

Significant Other Gifts

MJ's Southern Chic

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Overall Décor Store

MJ's Southern Chic

Page 72



The Paisley Pineapple

PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

Thank You for voting us as Paragould's Premiere

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KIDS Winners

Child's Birthday Venue
Let's Roll

Child Care Center
Butterfly Babies
Page 72

Dance Studio
Elite Performing Arts
Page 74

Dance Instructor
Tabatha Horner — Tabatha's
Dance Company

Gymnastics
Champions Gymnastics
Page 73

Martial Arts
Paragould ATA Martial Arts

Park
Reynolds Park
Page 73

Summer Camp
The Ridge Retreat & Adventure
Center
Page 74

Water Attraction
Paragould Community Center
Page 73

WATER PARK
PARAGOULD COMMUNITY CENTER

PARAGOULD
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2025

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2024

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PREMIERE
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Heather
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**Jason Smith
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SCHOOL *Winners*

Coach

Jason Smith – Greene County
Tech
Page 75

Mascot

Crowley's Ridge Academy
Falcons

School Administrator

Nick Jankoviak – Paragould
School District
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School District

Greene County Tech
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School Staff

Christen Agee – Counselor PSD/
Oak Grove Elementary
Page 77

Teacher

Jennifer Anthony – Marmaduke
School District
Page 76

Teacher's Aide

Reagan Howard – Crowley's
Ridge Academy

MARMADUKE

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PREMIERE TEACHER

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Christen Agee
Counselor



Premiere School Administrator
Nick Jankoviak
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LIFE EVENTS

Winners

Caterer

Lea Ann Tyler

Custom Cakes

Something Sweet

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Florist

Ballard's Flowers

Funeral Home

Heath Funeral Home

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WINNER SPOTLIGHT

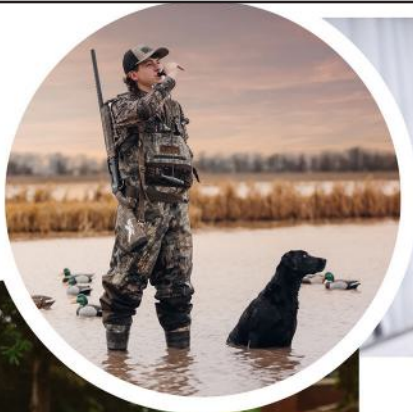
*Paragould
Smile Doctors*

Voted Premiere Dentist - Dr. Garrett Webb

“ At Paragould Smile Doctors, personalized, gentle, comprehensive patient care is our number one priority. From the front office to the exam room, our practice is made up of professionals who take your oral health very seriously. Using state-of-the-art equipment designed with safety and efficiency in mind, we are able to offer top-notch care. At our practice, you aren't just a patient. We take an interest in you and your oral health needs. Proudly serving Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri, we think you'll find a friend in your dental professional during your visit! ”

Paragould
Smile Doctors

Garrett H. Webb, DDS | Brandon A. Webb, DDS



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PARAGOULD'S PREMIERE
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WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Paragould School District

Voted Premiere Administrator - Dr. Nick Jankoviak

Voted Premiere School Staff - Christen Agee

“The Paragould School District aspires to welcome all students into a safe, caring, and exciting educational environment filled with enriched activities and opportunities. Ultimately, all graduates will be equipped with knowledge, confidence, and a pathway to attain their dreams beyond high school. Our vision will be achieved through accurate, honest, and timely communication, connecting students, teachers, administrators, parents and patrons.”



Monuments/Headstones

Foster's Monument, Inc. –
Brookland

Party/Event Planning

Bloom Events

Photographer

Whitney Vassar

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Retirement Center

Chateau on the Ridge

Page 95

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WINNER SPOTLIGHT



Hands On Learning

Voted Premiere Speech Therapist - Jessica Ko

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”



Wedding Venue

Bayird Ranch

Page 78

Event Venue

Paragould Community Pavilion

Page 80

Videographer

Knight Productions



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PROFESSIONALS *Winners*

Attorney

Lauren Graham – The Graham
Law Firm
Page 85

Law Firm

Benson Law Firm
Page 83

Place to Work (Small)

Ranger Tool & Die
Page 99

Real Estate Company

Weichert Realtors Home Source
Page 90

Dry Cleaning

Randy's Dry Cleaners

Place to Work (Large)

Arkansas Methodist Medical
Center
Page 95

Cardiologist

Dr. Ammar Al Hallak
Page 101



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”



Realtor

Brooksie Hartness – Image Realty

Page 86

Certified Nursing Assistant

Priscilla Newberry – 1st Choice Home Care

Page 89

Chiropractor

Dr. Paige Mitchell – Shiloh Chiropractic

Page 101

Thanks again, Paragould!



We are incredibly honored to win back-to-back Premiere Awards! Thank you so much for trusting us with your hearing!

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Michelle Morrow
PCC



Karen Brotemarkle
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Tara Story
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Chris Prince
HIS



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Lauren Graham

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Dental Assistant

Amber Hannah – Ridge Kids

Dental

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Dental Clinic

Paragould Family Dentistry

Page 93

Dental Hygienist

Jessica Brewer – Brewer Family

Dental

Page 99



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Henry's 2nd Chance

Voted Premiere Thrift Store

“

Henry's 2nd Chance was started to help fund the Henry Wrinkles Foundation 501(c)3. We take donations of your gently used and interesting items and resell them. All the profits of Henry's 2nd Chance go to support the Henry Wrinkles Foundation. Donating and buying from us is an easy way to help support people within our community.

”



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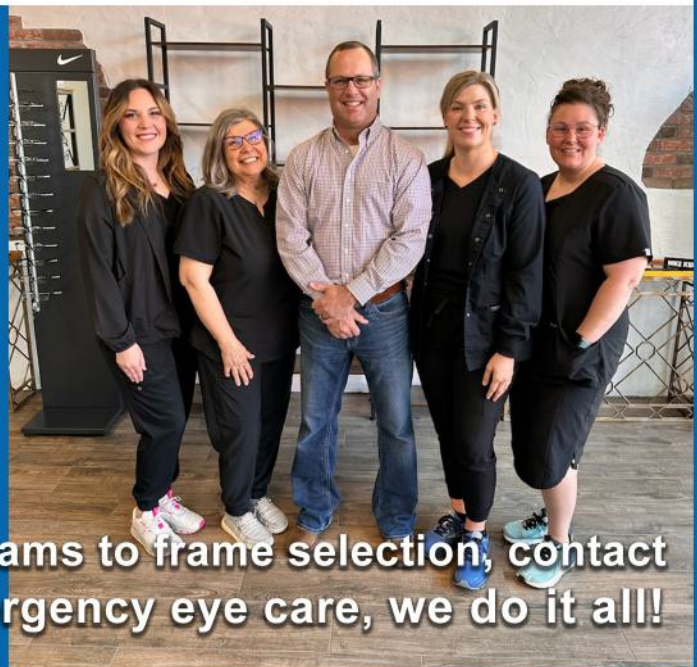
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WINNER SPOTLIGHT

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Voted Premiere Obstetrician - Dr. Jodi Turano

Voted Premiere Cosmetic Services - Dr. Joel Epperson

Voted Premiere Lactation Consultant - Morgan Taylor

Voted Premiere Retirement Center - Chateau on the Ridge

“ For more than 75 years, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has committed to providing exceptional care for our region. Our mission has remained the same for generations, but our dedication has only grown stronger. We're proud to continue lighting the way for a healthy community. ”



Arkansas Methodist
MEDICAL CENTER



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS
OF SHINING TOGETHER

Dentist

Dr. Garrett Webb – Paragould Smile Doctors

Page 2

Family Physician

Dr. Stacey Noel - Family Practice Clinic

Page 104

Hearing Aid Store

Natural Hearing Centers

Page 84

Home Health Agency

1st Choice Home Health

Page 89

Thanks for voting members of our team as
Paragould's Premiere therapists!

Premiere Pediatric Developmental Therapy

Stewart Pediatric Therapy

Halle Brinkley
Premiere Occupational Therapist

Jill Stewart
Premiere Pediatric Physical Therapist

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WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Greene County Tech

Voted Premiere School District
Voted Premiere Coach - Jason Smith



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”

Home Hospice Agency

Dierksen Hospice

Page 97

Lactation Consultant

Morgan Taylor – AMMC

Page 95

Medical Assistant

Tim Ellis – NEA Baptist Clinic

Page 132

Medical Clinic

Paragould Family Care

Page 91



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Toni Garner,
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APRN

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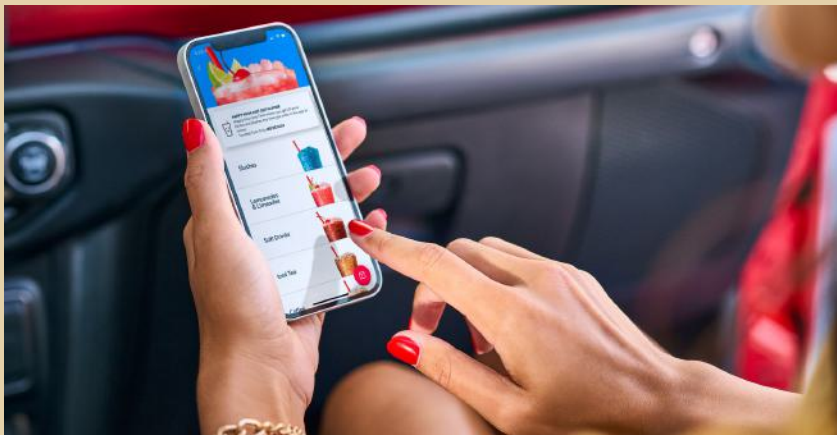
#5 Market Place Paragould, AR 72450 | paragouldfamilycare.com
870.236.4001 | Monday - Friday 8AM-5PM | Saturday 9AM-12PM



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Sonic

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Voted Premiere Fries



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We'd love to craft your perfect drink!
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Download our app for easy ordering and daily rewards!

Medical Supplies
Affordable Medical
Page 100

Nurse LPN
Jonathan Merideth – Green
House Cottages of Belle Meade
Page 101

Nurse RN
Caitlin Roberts – NEA Baptist
Clinic
Page 132

Nurse Practitioner
Teresa Gonzalez – Carriage
Hills Family Care

The staff of Paragould Pediatrics would like to say thank you for voting Dr. Wenger Premiere Pediatrician!

Paragould Pediatrics
Kristina Wenger, M.D.

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Paragould Family Dentistry

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Voted Premiere Custom Cakes
Voted Premiere Desserts



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Obstetrician

Dr. Jodi Turano – AMMC

Page 95

Occupational Therapist

Halle Brinkley, COTA – Stewart

Pediatric Therapy

Page 88

Oncologist

Dr. Allen Nixon – NEA Baptist

Clinic

Page 132

Ophthalmologist

Dr. Alyssa Wenger – Vision

Care Center

Page 102



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**Arkansas
Methodist**
MEDICAL CENTER

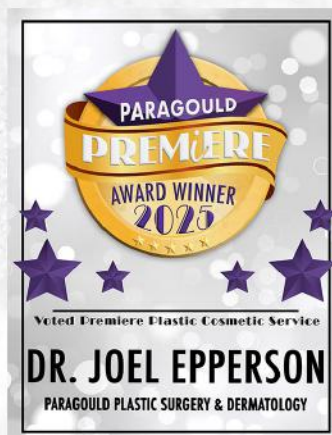


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the Premiere
Readers'
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for a healthy
community.



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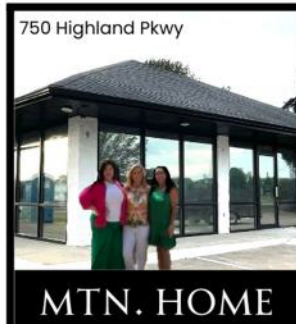


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PARAGOULD



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MTN. HOME



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Optometrist

Dr. Casey Wells – Wells Vision Care

Page 87

Orthodontist

Dr. Kolin Weaver – Weaver

Orthodontics

Page 103

Orthopedist

Dr. Kurt Piatkowski

Pediatrician

Dr. Kristina Wenger –

Paragould Pediatrics

Page 92



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Farm Credit Mid-America

Voted Premiere Ag Lender

“

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”



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July 2025 Premiere | 97

Hands on LEARNING THERAPY SERVICES



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Paragould Therapy Team!*

PREMIERE SPEECH THERAPIST
Jessica Ko

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WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Wonder Pool Company

Voted Premiere Pool/Spa

“

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”



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— FAMILY DENTAL CARE —



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For Voting
Jessica Brewer
As Your Premiere
Dental Hygienist!



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(870)886-1260

WINNER SPOTLIGHT



Lennox Insurance

Voted Premiere Insurance Agency

“ Lennox Insurance is a locally owned, independent insurance agency that makes insurance human, which means when you work with us, you’re working with real people dedicated to making sure you have the coverage you need. Our experienced brokers and service professionals are on your team, ready to protect you and make cost-saving moves for you, your business and your family.

”



Pediatric Developmental Therapy Services

Stewart Pediatric Therapy

Page 88

Pharmacy

Hyde Pharmacy

Page 94

Pediatric Physical Therapist

Jill Stewart – Stewart Pediatric Therapy

Page 88

TOP-RANKED HEART DOCTORS RIGHT HERE IN PARAGOULD.

For over 36 years, St. Bernards has delivered expert heart care to Paragould and beyond. We're proud to continue our legacy of excellence by congratulating Dr. Ammar Hallak on being voted Paragould's Premiere Cardiologist.



stbernards.info



CONGRATULATIONS to Jonathan Merideth
on being voted Paragould's Premiere LPN!

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2200 Chateau Boulevard, Paragould, AR | 870.236.7104 | BelleMeadeCottages.com



Dr. Paige Mitchell, DC

Voted Paragould's Premiere
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Shiloh
CHIROPRACTIC

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1005 Linwood Dr. Ste. B
Paragould, AR 72450



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- LOCAL
- COMPLETE

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 - and more!

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Dr. Wenger
Premiere Ophthalmologist**



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visioncarear.com

Physical Therapist

Duston Jones — NEA Baptist
Clinic

Page 132

Physician's Assistant

Allie Haughey, PA — Hope &
Healing of NEA

Plastic/Cosmetic Services


Dr. Joel Epperson — AMMC

Page 95

Speech Therapist

Jessica Ko — Hands on
Learning


Page 98



WEAVER

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Owners: Katharine Parker, Kerri Garrison, Kendra Fite

We are honored to be chosen as Paragould's Premiere Counseling Service. We are thankful for the support of our community.



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NEA Locations:
Paragould, Trumann & Jonesboro



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Rudi's Towing

Voted Premiere Wrecker Service

“

Our professional team at Rudi's Towing is a proud part of the Paragould community. We are happy to continue to provide the same level of service we know our community has come to know and expect. Our fully licensed and bonded technicians are here anytime you need emergency towing or other automotive services. We bring over 40 years of experience to the table, and our Honest Pricing policy guarantees you peace of mind. For any towing or roadside assistance in the Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri area, call our 24/7 dispatch center and let us cater to all your emergency light, medium, and heavy duty towing and recovery needs.

”



Ultrasound Clinic

Peek-a-Boo 3D/4D Ultrasound
& Baby Boutique

Counseling Services

NextStep Counseling Services

Page 103

Mental Health Professional

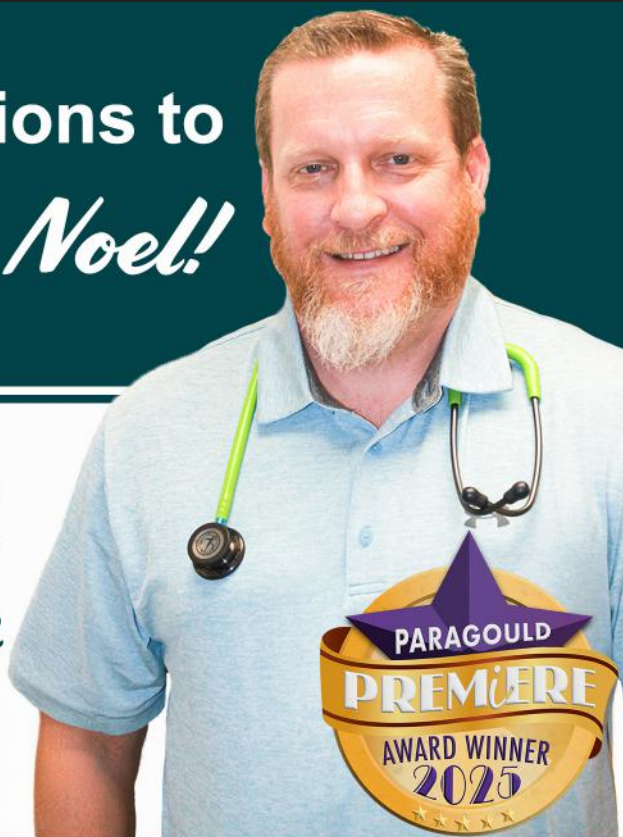
Karen Hall – Hall & Associates
Counseling

Page 96



Congratulations to *Dr. Stacey Noel!*

VOTED PREMIERE *Family Physician* 7 YEARS IN A ROW!



1015 West Kingshighway, Paragould, AR 72450 | 870.239.4076

PETS Winners

Boarding

The Dog House

Doggy Daycare

Magnolia Dog Ranch

Page 105

Pet Grooming Service

Glam Grooms by Autumn

Wiggins

Page 107

About Us

HERE AT MDR WE STRIVE TO MAKE YOUR PUPS FEEL AT HOME WITH OUR FRIENDLY STAFF AND EXPANSIVE PLAY AREAS. YOUR PUPS WILL ENJOY PRIVATE SUITES AT NIGHT AND PLAY WITH FRIENDS DURING THE DAY. THE FACILITY AND PLAY YARDS ARE DESIGNED WITH DOGS IN MIND TO ENSURE HAPPY PUPS AND SAFE PLAY. WE HAVE 14,000SQFT OF TURFED PLAY AREA FOR YOUR PUPS TO ENJOY AS WELL AS TONS OF EXERCISE EQUIPMENT FOR THEM TO ENJOY.

Voted Premiere Doggy Daycare



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Contact Us

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MAGNOLIADOGGRANCH@GMAIL.COM
1264 CR 761, BROOKLAND, AR 72417

Our Services

- DAYCARE
 - ALL DAY PLAY
 - TURFED PLAY AREAS
 - SOCIALIZATION WITH FRIENDS + STAFF
- BOARDING
 - GROUP PLAY OR INDIVIDUAL
 - PRIVATE SUITES
 - CLIMATE CONTROLLED
 - LODGE FAMILIES TOGETHER OR SEPERATE



THANK YOU!

for voting us as Paragould's
Premiere Vet Clinic!







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Monday - Friday | 7:30am - 5:00pm Saturday - Sunday | CLOSED



Thank You for voting
Brent Reddick as
Paragould's Premiere
Veterinarian!



linwoodanimalhospital.com

870.236.7778

504 Linwood Drive

Monday-Friday: 7:30am-5pm

Drop-off service available.

Submit your questions by going to our
website's VetNotes page, Facebook, or email
us at staff@linwoodanimalhospital.com

Call today for an appointment!

Linwood Animal Hospital

Dr. Brent Reddick, DVM | Dr. Chelsea Dowler, DVM

WINNER SPOTLIGHT



*Michelle's
Excavating*

Voted Premiere Excavating

“

Michelle's Excavating is located in Brookland, Arkansas, but serves customers across the state. Offering services including demolition, clearing, sitework, storm drain, limestone base, asphalt paving, and more. This award-winning company would be happy to assist you in your commercial or residential needs. Just give them a call today!

”



Pet Supplies

Maxwell's Feed & Supply

Page 56

Veterinarian

Dr. Brent Reddick – Linwood Animal Hospital

Page 106

Veterinary Clinic

Paragould Animal Clinic

Page 105

Thank You!

for voting us as
Paragould's Premiere
Pet Grooming Service!



1395 Highway 412 W Spur, Suite B, Paragould, AR 72450 | Follow us on Facebook!



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

1st Choice Home Care

Voted Premiere Home Health Agency
Voted Premiere CNA - Priscilla Newberry

“

Founded and owned by Alycia Stroud RN, 1st Choice Home Care is a private care agency devoted to providing the best, in-home care services for veterans, seniors, disabled individuals and disabled children throughout the state of Arkansas. Our mission is one that is simple. We want to help our patients regain a sense of independence with the help of a guiding hand. We've been changing the way our patients and families think of onsite assisted living because we treat your family like our own. We perform our services with a level of personalized care and compassion that is unmatched. From respite care to general day-to-day services, we are here for you when you need us most.



”

EATING/ DINING Winners

Appetizers

Skinny J's

Bakery/Sweet Treats

Something Sweet

Page 81

Bartender

Riley – Chow at 118

Page 112

Best Place For Business Lunch

Kiss the Cook

Page 109

Best Place For Date Night

Chow at 118

Page 112

BBQ

BBQ Barn

Breakfast

Annie's Terraza

Page 114

Brunch

Waffle & Pancake House

Page 110

Your Premiere Candy Store!



870.573.4721 | 1801 W. Kingshighway Paragould, AR 72450

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Paragould, AR**



Buffet Style
Pizza Inn

Burger
Hamburger Station

Burrito
Tio's Mexican Bar & Grill

Candy Store
The Chocolate Choo Choo
Page 108

Catfish
7th Street Market
Page 110



*Our House is
Your House*

**The De Dios Family
thanks you for voting
us Premiere Brunch!**



2801 W. Kingshighway, Paragould, AR | 870.240.0133
11 Truman Street Charleston, MO | 573.683.4841
115 W Elm St, Walnut Ridge, AR | 870.886.7521
1141 US 62, Pocahontas, AR | 870-609-0042

Chef

Chef Michael Tolson – Chow at 118

Page 112

Chinese

Asia Cuisine

Cocktails

Skinny J's

Coffee

Shadrachs

Page 115

Desserts

Something Sweet

Page 81

Donuts

Batten's Donuts & Bakery

Family Friendly Restaurant

Let's Eat


Fast Food

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers

Food Truck

George's OMG

Page 111




WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Paragould Family Care

Voted Premiere Medical Clinic

“Veteran and locally owned and operated, Paragould Family Care proudly serves the surrounding community with compassion. Our extraordinary staff is committed to excellence in the care they provide for their patients. We take pride in the compassion we have for every patient that walks into our office. We treat your family like our own!”



Toni Garner,
APRN

Justin Kemp,
APRN

Ronette Wise,
APRN

Pam Hodges,
APRN

Len Kemp,
MD

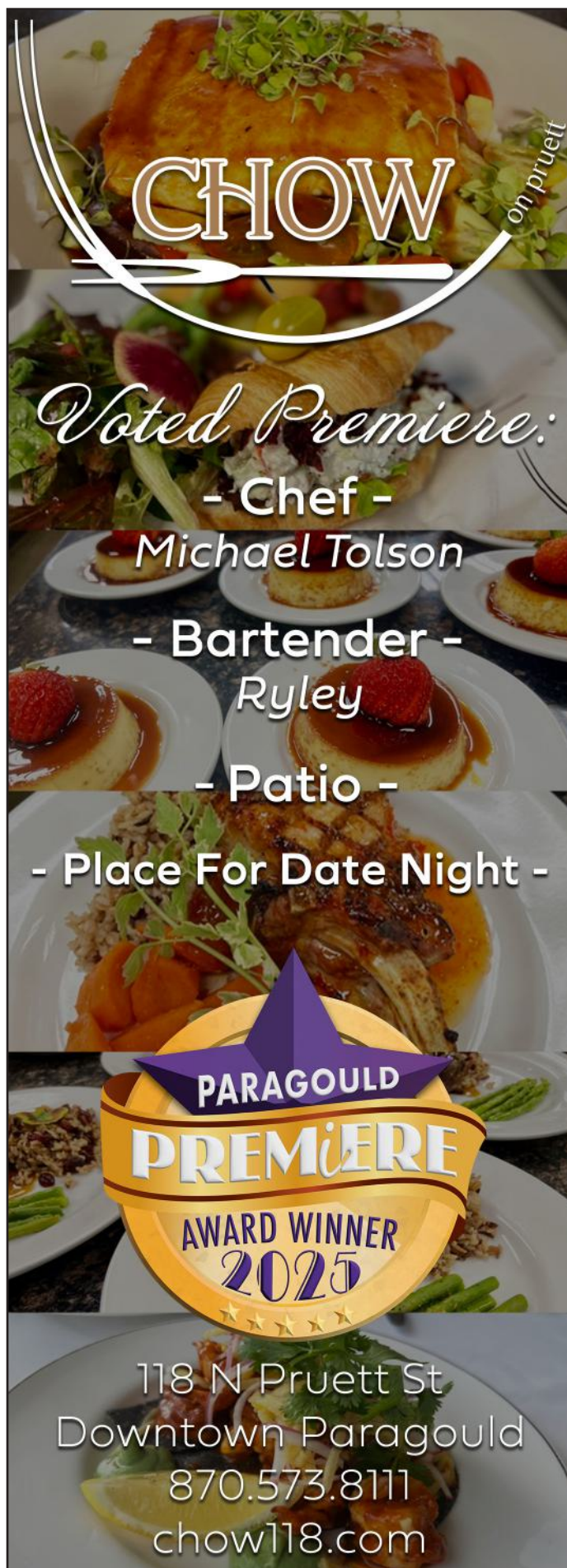


204 Linwood Dr, Paragould, AR 72450 | 870.205.1225

Thank You, Paragould!

Voted Premiere Food Truck!





CHOW *on pruet*

Voted Premiere:

- Chef -
Michael Tolson
- Bartender -
Riley
- Patio -
- Place For Date Night -

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PREMIERE
AWARD WINNER
2025**

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Downtown Paragould
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WINNER SPOTLIGHT



*Paragould
Family
Dentistry*

Voted Premiere Dental Clinic



“Paragould Family Dentistry is located on 1224 W. Court Street. Dr. Kevin Mann and staff would love to help you with all of your dental needs. We have a caring staff and friendly environment. Call us to schedule your appointment today.”

Fried Chicken

Slim Chickens

Fries

Sonic

Page 113

Frozen Treats

Dairy Queen

Happy Hour

Sonic

Page 113



THANK YOU, PARAGOULD!



TAKE A DIP & TAKE A SIP!



4405 E Johnson
Jonesboro (Hilltop)



10314 US Hwy 62 North
Bono



4711 W Kingshighway
Paragould



4407 Linwood Drive
Paragould



DOWNLOAD OUR APP!

Happy Hour from 2p.m. - 4p.m .
Drinks are ALWAYS 1/2 Price on the App!

THANK




PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

1613 Linwood Drive

Annie's Pancake House is now:

ANNIE'S TERRAZA

New name, same GREAT food!



YOU!



Voted Premiere Breakfast!

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Grecian STEAK HOUSE

"We would also like to congratulate
Hattie Elizabeth Holcomb
on winning
PREMIERE SERVER!"

~ The Zaharopoulos Family



**THANK YOU FOR VOTING US
PREMIERE STEAKHOUSE!**

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Twisted Goose
AVOCADO'S GRILL
IRON HORSE BARBEQUE & STEAKHOUSE
Let's Eat! PARAGOULD

WINNER SPOTLIGHT



*Image
Realty*

Voted Premiere Realtor - Brooksie Hartness

“

After researching and interviewing multiple realtors in Paragould, we picked a winner. Brooksie is one of the best realtors I've dealt with during my 30+ years of buying and selling homes. She is very knowledgeable, passionate, kind-hearted, communicates effectively, and is very resourceful with local trades to get things done quickly. I would highly recommend her.



”

- Barry S

Italian

Avanzare

Japanese

Kimono Japanese Steak House

Page 10

Late Night Bite

Let's Eat



**THANK
YOU**
for voting for us
**Premiere
Coffee**



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THANK YOU FOR VOTING!



Twisted Goose
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PARAGOULD, AR 72450

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PREMIERE SANDWICH



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Yes, WE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Mexican

Avocado's Grill

Page 109

New Restaurant

Cazadores Bar & Grill

Overall Restaurant

The Twisted Goose

Page 116

Pizza

1812 Pizza Company

Page 109

Patio

Chow at 118

Page 112

Ribs

Oinky's BBQ

Page 117

Salad

Lemonade House Grille

Sandwich

The Twisted Goose

Page 116

Seafood

Delta Crawfish Market & The
Cajun Café

THANK YOU





For Voting Us Premiere Steak!
We appreciate the 24 years of patronage!







49 South | 870-236-7207 49 North | 870-239-9758

Family Owned & Operated
HOME OF THE MOST TENDER PORK STEAK IN ARKANSAS
CATERING | 870-240-4495

Server

Elizabeth Holcomb – Grecian
Steak House

Page 114

Smoothies/Juice/Tea

Scooter's Coffee

Soup

Kiss the Cook

Page 109

Steak

Ironhorse BBQ & Steak House

Page 116

Steakhouse

Grecian Steak House

Page 114

Tacos

Carlos's Street Tacos

Take Out

The Twisted Goose

Page 116

Vegetarian

Kiss the Cook

Page 109

Wings

1812 Pizza Company

Page 109



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

The Graham Law Firm

Voted Premiere Attorney - Lauren Graham



“The Graham Law firm fights for clients across Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. We focus on criminal defense, family law litigation, and cases involving the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Attorneys Lauren Graham and Jennifer Haynes stand up for people who need strength on their side. According to Lauren, ‘The most satisfying part of what we do is achieving a not guilty verdict or helping someone regain custody of their children. A lawsuit can stop someone’s life in its tracks. We strive to give clients the legal assistance they need to move towards their future.’”

G | THE GRAHAM LAW FIRM PLLC



THANK YOU

FOR VOTING US YOUR PREMIERE RIBS!

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY 11AM - 7PM | DINE-IN OR DRIVE-THROUGH
318 W Northend Ave Paragould, AR 72450 | 870.236.4659



Thank
you for
voting us
Premiere
Thrift
Store!



We turn the stuff into
cash, and then we turn
the cash into good for
the community!

- Susan Boyd



Henry's 2nd Chance has a rich history of helping both two-legged and four-legged members of the community through money raised at the thrift store. The ultimate goal is to provide a community where siblings in foster care can stay together.

The four-part vision of the Henry Wrinkles Foundation is to provide the following:

- Low-cost spay & neuter and adoption services
- If Wishes Were Horses Equine Therapy
- Literacy Services and Media Production Center
- The Village for Foster Children & Support Services

Some of these services are already being provided, while others are in the works. In addition, the store supports other community projects, including the VOW (Voice of Waifs) program, school clothing closets and Sound Expressions.

How can you help?

- * Donate Items
- * Shop at the Store
- * Volunteer
- * Donate Funds

3306 S. 2nd Ave., Paragould | 870-586-3392 | <https://henrywrinkles.org/store>

SHOPPING *Winners*

Bridal Store

Daughter's Formal

Children's Clothing

Cutie Patootie

Flea Market/Antiques

Rocking Rooster

Eyewear

Elite Eye Care

Page 119

Formal Wear

Daughter's Formal

Hardware/Tool Store

Gazaway Ace

Page 119

Grocery Store

Hays

Health Food/Nutrition

Country Natural Health Food Store

Jewelry Store

Crush Boutique

Ace is the *place* with the *helpful* hardware folks.

Thank you for
voting us Premiere
Hardware/Tool Store
for the past

Gazaway Lumber

11 years!



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4827 E. Johnson Ave. | Jonesboro, AR 72401 | 870.932.1311

Gazaway Lumber Co.
Your Project is our Priority

An advertisement for Elite Eyecare & Optical. It features a blue background with various styles of eyeglasses. In the center is a large graphic of an eye with the letter 'e' inside. The text "elite Eyecare & Optical" is prominently displayed. Below it, it says "VOTED PREMIERE Eyewear". On the right side, there is a gold star-shaped badge that reads "PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025". At the bottom, the address and phone number are listed: "1515 W Kingshighway Unit B, Paragould, AR 72450 | 870.215.0000".

elite
Eyecare & Optical

VOTED PREMIERE *Eyewear*

1515 W Kingshighway Unit B, Paragould, AR 72450 | 870.215.0000

Cultured MAN
PARAGOULD • AR

Quality Goods • For Men

**JEANS, T-SHIRTS, POLOS, DRESS PANTS,
SPORT JACKETS, SHOE SHINE SERVICE,
WATCH REPAIR, TUXEDO RENTALS
& SO MUCH MORE!**

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115 W. Court St.
Paragould, AR 72450

f i

Tues - Fri: 10AM - 6PM
Sat: 10AM - 4PM

PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

Voted
PREMIERE MEN'S CLOTHING & TUXEDO
Thank You, Paragould!

Liquor Store
Holiday Liquor
Page 120

Men's Clothing
Cultured Man
Page 120

Musical Instruments
SDM Pawn

Pawn Shop
SDM Pawn

Shoe Store
Sunflowers & Cotton T's

THANK YOU
For Voting Us
Premiere Liquor Store

Holiday LIQUOR STORE

"Every Day is a Holiday"

1710 Linwood Drive Paragould, AR 72450 • 870.239.4740

PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

Sporting Goods
All Star Sporting Goods

Thrift Store
Henry's 2nd Chance
Page 118

Tuxedo
Cultured Man
Page 120

Uniform Clothing
NEA Uniforms
Page 100

Women's Clothing
22 Lou



RISKY vs. RELIABLE IT SERVICE PROVIDER

A reliable IT service provider ensures you can concentrate on growing your business. Knowing if your IT support is suitable can be challenging without expertise. This infographic outlines the expectations from a top-notch IT service provider, whether in-house or outsourced.



RISKY IT SERVICE PROVIDER

Non-customized service contract

Offers standard packages

Reacts to issues as they arise
(break-fix service model)

Acts when vulnerabilities are exposed

Provides one-off solutions
that do not integrate

Aligns your technology with the
solutions they have available

Responds to your questions or
concerns according to their availability



RELIABLE IT SERVICE PROVIDER

Evaluates your current IT environment
before making any recommendations

Provides a customized solution based
on your business's needs and budget

Delivers a prioritized plan for addressing
problems in your IT environment

Proactively identifies technology risks

Centralizes your IT services

Aligns your technology
with your business goals

Offers reliable and responsive
customer service

**GIVE YOUR BUSINESS THE POWER OF A RELIABLE IT SERVICE PROVIDER.
SCHEDULE A NO-OBLIGATION CONSULTATION TODAY!**

Kalmer Solutions is a leading IT service provider for the modern workforce, focusing on integrity, excellence, and legendary service. Their commitment to communication, ownership, and accountability ensures superior work quality and a positive impact on the community. By choosing Kalmer Solutions, you're embracing a commitment to making a difference. For more information about Kalmer Solutions, visit kalmersolutions.com



MOORE on MANNERS

Flag Etiquette

WITH LINDA LOU MOORE



Whether flying the flag on the fourth, or on other occasions, there are questions as to how the flag should be flown and how it should be displayed. According to the United States Flag Code there are proper ways to display the flag.

What is considered bad manners when displaying the American Flag?

The American Flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner to be easily torn, soiled or damaged. It should not be displayed on days when the weather is bad, except when an all-weather flag is used.

DISPLAY

Raise the flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.

Never allow the flag to touch the ground or the floor.

The flag can only be flown at night if properly illuminated.

The flag should always be allowed to fall free.



The flag should never be used to carry, store or deliver anything.

Never fly the flag upside down except to signal an emergency.

PARADES

When the flag is carried in procession with other flags, it should be either on the right of the line of flags, or in front of the center of the line.

On floats, the flag should be displayed on a staff.

The flag should be held upright and should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental, state or organizational flags may be dipped.

CEREMONIAL

When hung over a sidewalk on a rope extending from a building, the stars are always away from the building.

When the flag is hung over a street running east to west, the stars are always toward the north. When the flag is hung over a street

running north to south, the stars are toward the east.

When covering a casket, the stars should be at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should never touch the ground.

CLOTHING

Is it disrespectful to wear a shirt with a flag on it?

No, there is nothing wrong with wearing an article of clothing - such as a shirt or jacket with the flag.

The distinction is between using the flag itself which is considered disrespectful and wearing clothing that incorporates elements of the flag design.

Quote of the Day:

"You're a Grand Old Flag
You're a High-Flying Flag
And Forever in Peace May
You Wave.
You're the Emblem of, The
Land I Love,
The Home of the Free and
the Brave."

- George M. Cohan
Prominent American
Playwright

Linda Lou Moore is a certified etiquette consultant. She offers business professionalism and dining seminars for adults, and etiquette and dining programs for children and teens. Contact via Post Office Box 726, Paragould 72451 or at llmooreparagould@gmail.com.

The Historic Collins Theatre

BIG GRASS

Bluegrass Festival

120 West Emerson, Paragould

FRIDAY, JULY 25 AT 7 PM



THE TENNESSEE MAFIA JUG BAND



JEFF PARKER AND COMPANY

SATURDAY, JULY 26 AT 1PM



LINDLEY CREEK



DONNA ULISSE
AND THE POOR MOUNTAIN BOYS



BREAKING GRASS

SATURDAY, JULY 26 AT 7PM



THE KODY NORRIS SHOW



APPALACHIAN ROAD SHOW

Tickets available at
COLLINSTHEATRE.COM/BLEUGRASS



SPONSORED BY



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KASU
91.9FM • KASU.ORG

**MOR
MEDIA**
Incorporated

DON'T MISS THESE

Upcoming Events in NEA



Freedom Finishers

July 4th

The Freedom Finishers 5K will be held at Paragould's Rotary Park on July 4th starting at 7:30 a.m. The course will be an out and back on the 8 Mile Ditch Trail.

Online registration is available. Entry fee is \$30 for non-military members 16 and older. Those not old enough to drive yet are discounted to \$15. Service members (Military, Police, and Fire) can use coupon code "Military" to get \$10 off the entry fee.

Come out and create a new tradition. Runners, walkers, strollers and 4-legged friends are all welcome to participate.



Paragould Fireworks

July 4th

Are you ready to celebrate America's birthday this July 4th?! Come have fun with us at the Paragould Fireworks Show on Friday, July 4th, presented by MOR Media and the Paragould A&P Commission!

This FREE fireworks display will take place at the Rotary Park softball fields in Paragould. Gates open to the public at 6:30 p.m. with activities, including the Butterfly Babies Kids Zone!

Thank you to the many sponsors that help make this event possible. Come out and enjoy this Independence Day!



NEA Game Fest

July 17th-20th

The 2025 NEA Game Fest, a tabletop gaming convention, will raise money for the Friends of the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library.

The convention is set for July 17-20 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Jonesboro Red Wolf Convention Center. The event will feature game demos, board games, RPGs, CCGs, miniature games, tournaments, vendors, a silent auction and more.

Entry badges can be purchased online at neagamefest.com, where more information on the event is also available.



Annie

July 17th-20th

The Greene County Fine Arts Council has announced it will present Annie as its 2025 Summer Musical.

Production dates will be July 17th through 20th at 7 p.m. at the Paragould High School Auditorium.

Under the direction of Thom Fielder, the classic tale will come to life with a large ensemble cast.

For more information on the production, find the Greene County Fine Arts Council on Facebook.



Big Grass Bluegrass

July 25th-27th

Come out and experience a weekend of the finest bluegrass that music has to offer!

The 2025 Big Grass Bluegrass Festival is back at the Collins Theatre at 120 West Emerson Street in Downtown Paragould on Friday, July 25th, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, July 26th, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Get your tickets online at www.collinstheatre.com/bluegrass. All seats are reserved, so get your tickets now and secure your favorite spot in air-conditioned comfort. For more information, call the theatre manager at 870-236-6252.



Ag for Autism

July 26th

Ag For Autism Community Fest 2025 will be held Saturday, July 26th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Harmony Gardens, located at 4517 E. Parker Road in Jonesboro.

Whether you're family, a sponsor or a friend, you're invited to attend this free event for an unforgettable day of connection, celebration and community!

The event will include grant presentations, connecting families with local resources, and sharing lots of smiles, hugs and high-fives. Activities will include resource vendor booths, bounce houses and food trucks.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER CCJPL OFFERING MEETING SPACE

The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library has opened its new Community Resource Center. This dedicated space is available free of charge for local social service providers and nonprofit organizations to meet with clients.

The room is equipped with a computer and includes toys to help keep children occupied during meetings.

To reserve the space, contact the library. Walk-in requests will be accommodated based on availability.

Use of the Community Resource Center is available during regular library hours.

The Library is located at 315 W. Oak Ave., Jonesboro, AR 72401. For more information about the library visit the website at www.libraryinjonesboro.org, visit the library's Facebook page, or call 870-935-5133.



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YOU'RE SURE TO HAVE A BLAST!



Catch Me If You Can



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Act II Performing Arts presented a production of *Catch Me If You Can*, June 6th through 8th at the Historic Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould. The musical, based on the real-life events of a con-artist turned FBI agent, was a crowd pleaser. The cast also received a letter from Frank Abagnale Jr. himself wishing them luck with the production.

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HAPPENINGS

DAIL RETIRES FROM BLACK RIVER

Automotive Collision Instructor Larry "Butch" Dail has retired from Black River Technical College (BRTC) after 38 years of service.

BRTC held a retirement reception for Dail on the Pocahontas campus where family, friends, and co-workers came to celebrate his milestone. Dr. Brad Baine, Vice President of Academic Affairs, thanked everyone for attending and read a few remarks from faculty members.



"His old-fashioned common-sense approach to resolving issues and trouble shooting is something that will be missed," a BRTC faculty member said. Carolyn Collins, BRTC Board of Trustees President, spoke about her time knowing Dail and commended him for his service.

BRTC's Automotive Repair Technology program has two 1-year specialty certificates for cosmetic repair and structural repair. During this program students gain knowledge in both specialties through hands-on experience. Students learn about structural alignment, dent removal, and other relevant skills through the courses. These and other skills are taught via industry-current collision-related computer programs.

EMISON ASSUMES VP ROLE AT FCB

First Community Bank is proud to welcome back Brian Emison as senior vice president, retail deposit officer. In this role, Emison will focus on deposit growth, with an emphasis on technical applications and data analytics to support strategic initiatives across the bank's full footprint.



Emison brings 17 years of experience in the banking industry, along with a strong background in customer relationship management, data-driven strategy, and community engagement. A graduate of Arkansas State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, he has remained active in the Jonesboro area, serving as a city councilman, chairman of the Public Safety Commission, and a member of the Advertising & Promotions Commission.

Jason Taylor, executive vice president, chief financial officer, expressed his excitement: "Brian brings valuable experience and innovative thinking to this role. His return strengthens our deposit growth efforts, and I'm confident that he will be instrumental as we continue to grow and serve our communities."

Emison and his wife of 15 years, Erica, live in Jonesboro with their two sons, Ridge (13) and Hayes (7).

ARKANSAS METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER AWARDS

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center (AMMC) has named Jimmy Scudder as the 2024 Employee of the Year and Davina Cavaness as the 2024 Manager of the Year. Dan Austin was awarded the 2024 Going the Extra Mile (GEM) award presented by the AMMC Foundation.

The awards are the highest honors bestowed on a hospital employee each year, and employees are nominated by their peers, based on setting the standard for excellence by exemplifying AMMC's four pillars – People, Service, Quality and Growth.

Jimmy Scudder, Facility Technician in Environmental Services, has dedicated 18 years to AMMC. He started his career at AMMC as a security guard, and has since transitioned to his current role in Environmental Services. A few years ago, Jimmy acquired his CDL license, which he now utilizes in his current job transporting items for

the satellite clinics.

Davina Cavaness, Director of Food Services, has been with AMMC since 2008. She started in the kitchen, working every position in the kitchen and deli before advancing to a managerial role in 2009 and then director in 2019. With a lifelong passion for cooking, and learning most of her cooking skills from her grandmother, Davina chose food and nutrition as her career.

Dan Austin, AMMC's Chief Information Officer, has been a dedicated supporter of the Foundation's GIVE program since 2016 and has served as a volunteer on the AMMC Foundation Golf Tournament committee. His commitment to AMMC goes beyond expectations, as he plays a key role in ensuring employees feel valued through his leadership on the Employee Satisfaction Committee.





Cancer Survivors Day

NEA Baptist Celebrates

NEA Baptist hosted its annual Cancer Survivors Day on Sunday, June 1st, at Valley View Church of Christ. With a "Let's Celebrate" theme, the event included a free lunch, fellowship, door prizes and more.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Lindsey Hagood
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Dennis Harris, Set-Up Technician

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Next Month

Fishing



A favorite pastime for many Northeast Arkansas residents, fishing also offers many opportunities for area youth.

Back to School



Area businesses and the community are preparing for a new school year in NEA.

Kids Play



Don't miss out on the fall edition of Kids Play in the August edition of NEA's Premiere Magazine!



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