

NEA'S PREMIERE MAGAZINE

MAY 2025



BILL GROGAN

FORGING WITH FINDINGS

MAKERS EDITION
CELEBRATING OUR MOTHERS
2025 JONESBORO PREMIERE AWARDS

A PUBLICATION OF MOR MEDIA, INCORPORATED

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Cover Photo by Shelby Russom



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PUBLISHER/ADVERTISING SALES
Dina Mason dina@mormediainc.com

CONTENT MANAGER/DESIGNER
Gretchen Hunt graphics@mormediainc.com

EDITOR-AT-LARGE
Richard Brummett brummettr34@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Richard Brummett
Gretchen Hunt
Shelby Russom
Karan Summitt
Karoline Risker
Madelyn McFarland
Katie Collins
Vicki McMillan
Chuck Long
Linda Lou Moore

ADVERTISING SALES TEAM

Dina Mason dina@mormediainc.com
Perry Mason perry@mormediainc.com
Brian Osborn brian@mormediainc.com
Katie Roe katie@mormediainc.com

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From Us to You

Have you ever talked with someone in a professional setting, and they say, "No, I'm not busy." Even if they are stressing about slow business they still are "busy." I have started using "good busy" or just busy.

If I am "good busy" then business is good, and I am taking care of my advertising customers, readers and radio listeners. When I am busy it usually means I am doing the things I have to do but that are not so fun. Like taxes or paying bills or one of the MANY reports for music licensing organizations.

Premiere Award season is certainly a very "good busy" time and this edition is proof of that! I have been selling advertising since 1991, so that means I have survived 34 award seasons at three different media companies. From "Best of Muskogee" to "Hometown Favorites" to "Premiere Awards," celebrating small businesses' success has been some of the most "good busy" in my career.

Top of Mind Awareness, or TOMA, may sound like old school but is as relevant today as it has always been. Branding practices get new wrapping and gorilla marketing includes internet functions that once were flyers on car windows but it all boils down to making an impression on the consumers so they think of you when they need your goods or services.

We do Premiere Awards the way we do with the intent of showing TOMA. We drive readers (and radio listeners) to go online and write in who they use or think of when they read each category. Then we tally in an Excel spreadsheet and get the winner. There are easier ways to do this, but we believe this is the most relevant way.

We hope you remember to use the list throughout the year (it stays on our Archive) whenever you want advice on goods and services you can buy locally and support your hometown businesses.

Congratulations to all our winners and let's all get "good busy!"



Dina Mason
General Manager & Publisher
dina@mormediainc.com

May seemed so far away when we started my youngest son's senior year at Greene County Tech, and yet here we are days away from his graduating and starting the next chapter of his life.

Our May edition celebrates local makers who use their talents in unique ways, and while Colter claims to not have an artistic bone in his body, he does enjoy making magic on the soccer field. For those who are not familiar with soccer, or football in most of the world, it is referred to as "The Beautiful Game" because of the formations, techniques and strategies used to advance the ball as a team.

I loved the fact that even some of our makers didn't necessarily consider themselves to be artistic, but they found something they enjoyed and were talented at and embraced it. Perhaps for you that is something that produces a creative end result, or perhaps it is

a hobby of a different sort.

No matter what, it's a good time to find something you love and embrace it. High school graduates don't have to be the only ones starting new chapters. We can all look for ways to plug in or ways to stand out. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading about some of our area makers and what got their creative juices flowing.



Gretchen Hunt
Content Manager & Graphic Designer
graphics@mormediainc.com

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COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

A large crowd gathered on April 1st at the Embassy Suites Red Wolf Convention Center in Jonesboro for the 2nd Judicial District's 30th anniversary celebration of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

CASA volunteers advocate for children in foster care during court proceedings and other decision-making processes, helping them secure better futures.

The event included a catered lunch, entertainment, guest speakers and the presentation of special service awards to several long-term volunteers. Mayor Harold Copenhavor also proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Slayton Family Foundation



Adalai Weeks, Meredith Cook, Allison McDaniel, Tom Haynes

PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN HUNT



Linda Green, Cindy Wallace



Henry Cavanaugh



Abby Husband, Teresa Roche

Chocolate Cravings

BY KATIE COLLINS

If you don't love chocolate, I'll have to respectfully ask you to turn the page and check back for something else next month. If you have a hankering for a quick, easy, and super chocolatey cake, you're in for a treat this month.

Enter this quick and easy chocolate cake that uses ingredients you probably already have in your pantry. No eggs, no milk, no butter – no problem! This rich chocolate cake topped with a decadent chocolate ganache is just the thing to quickly satisfy that chocolate craving.



Quick & Easy Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:

Cake:
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 Tablespoon white vinegar
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 cup cold water

Ganache:
1 ½ cups semisweet chocolate chips
½ cup heavy cream or half and half

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray an 8" square baking pan with non-stick spray or line with non-stick foil.

Whisk flour, sugar, cocoa, salt, and baking soda together. Add vanilla, vinegar, oil, and water and stir until thoroughly combined. Pour batter in pan.

Bake 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Let cool. Make the chocolate ganache topping by melting the chocolate chips with the heavy cream in the microwave in 30 second increments until melted and smooth. Pour over the cake and spread to cover. Makes about 9 servings.





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Blazin' Barbecue Festival

Those in Manila, Arkansas, on April 19th enjoyed a smokin' good time at the annual Blazin' BBQ Festival. In its 6th year, the festival was jam-packed with over 100 food and craft vendors, live music from local and regional bands, a car show and even a Twinkie eating competition!

The event also included a BBQ competition in which teams presented their best barbeque in hopes of winning the votes of those in attendance. Proceeds from the event support the firefighters in Manila and will continue to do so at their 7th rendition of the event, currently planned for April of 2026.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN OSBORN



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MAKERS

Rob Hester & Flat Out Autos

BY KARAN SUMMITT

For as long as he can remember, Rob Hester has loved cars and trucks. All kinds, all makes and all models, from antiques to the newest ones rolling off the assembly lines. As a boy Rob would take a model car kit, assemble it as instructed, but take it apart again and mix parts from one kit with another, coming up with his own unique creations. Soon he began sketching cars from the ideas in his head.

It's not too much of a stretch from where Rob is today with Flat Out Autos. Rob and his crew of 12 full-time employees plus a shop manager spend their days restoring the outer "skin" of older model cars and recreating what can't be seen under that outer skin with the modern conveniences and engine power that car lovers appreciate.

Flat Out Auto also specializes in "retromods," or keeping the basic bones of a newer model vehicle with all its user-friendly components, but retro-fitting the exterior to look like an older model style. Doing either of these approaches requires a level of customization that begins, as the saying goes, "from the ground up."

Rob's childhood hobby had its beginnings as a business in 2017 when he and a friend took a pile of parts that had once been a '58 Corvette and over the course of four to five years rebuilt the car with a high level of customization. They took it to the Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale, Arizona, billed as the world's greatest collector car auction. The two set their hopes on getting \$200,000 for the Corvette. The car



was a huge hit and sold for \$350,000.

The friend eventually bowed out from future projects, but Rob was hooked. He moved to a larger facility in Jonesboro and returned with 11 cars the following year. In 2019, Rob took a late model Tahoe that had been retro-fitted to look like a K-5 Blazer to SEMA, a trade-only event that showcases thousands of product innovations, custom vehicle trends and professional education sessions. The retromod Blazer was another huge hit and custom orders started rolling in from across the United States as well as from foreign countries.

By 2021 Rob and crew were building and modifying vehicles solely for individual clients, most of them collectors who buy multiple autos for personal enjoyment and investment. Today, social media and word-of-mouth, plus the occasional trade show keeps those orders coming in.

Rob still keeps his day job as a contractor and credits Rick Harris, shop manager for Flat Out Autos, as a huge lifesaver in helping with daily operations. This allows Rob to focus on his original love of envisioning new ideas and modifications for the next project.

He points to a photo of a 1931 Cord, describing it as one of his most unique efforts. Originally a front wheel drive vehicle with a shifter in the dash, the crew moved the transmission to the back of the car. The challenge was to leave the shifter in the dash so the car would retain its original interior look but find a way to connect it to the rear transmission. Rob and team designed and built a box with micro switches that control the transmission electronically, all with a touch on the shifter.

Current projects include a '67 Corvette, '65 Mustang, '59 Corvette and '58 Dodge Power Wagon, all in various stages of restoration and customization. The crew's most recent restomod project is a full-size Ford F-150 truck retrofitted with an 80's Bronco body style. The Jimmy, Blazer and Bronco restomods have been extremely



well-received by customers.

Rob describes the energy and emotions that drive his own passion and permeate through his staff with these words: "To be able to take an idea and actually see it through to a car that doesn't already exist is what gets us excited. The most challenging projects are the ones we enjoy the most."

If what Rob says is true — and it seems to be — there is plenty of joy at Flat Out Autos. Maybe another old saying holds just as true - "Do what you love and you will never work a day in your life." Rob and his crew are definitely doing what they love and the autos that roll out of their shop are a combination of hard work, creativity and a passion to create something unique. And that is just the way they want it!





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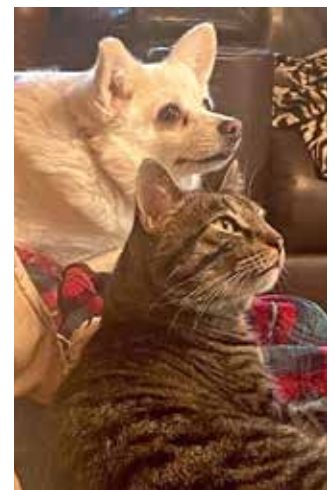
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BY SCARLETT LONG

Denis purrs very loudly. He likes to lie on the back of the recliner to watch the birds outside. He will be 3 in May. He and my 12-year-old Juno dog are sometimes friends. He had surgery in June 2024 to relieve urinary blockage. He's extremely "talkative" and changes tone and volume to fit the occasion.

He taps my face to wake up when he's bored. He talks "ugly" when he's hungry. When I had an abscessed tooth, he crawled across my shoulders and purred against the side of my face. The fundamental frequencies of the purrs and the warmth helped a lot!

Denis is wild about watermelon and pineapple. He was a kitten from my daughter's rescue cat, Jackie O. He gets the "zoomies" around 5:45 each morning. He calms down with the TV on. He loves to nibble grass. He has figured out how to open the bathroom door from inside.






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WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



Every day is Mother's Day in our family; my wife is a great mother, my daughters are super mothers, we know people who are good moms ... you get the picture. We appreciate moms of all ages, shapes, sizes and demeanors and marvel at all a good mom can do.

Recently my wife Cindy and I traveled over to our younger daughter's house to babysit her two kids while she went to a doctor's appointment. Cindy took on the challenge of handling Ranger, who is 1, while I was elected to entertain six-year-old Roxie Jo.

I had the easier time because all I had to do was play outside while Cindy tried to corral Ranger, who is a wrecking ball with arms and legs. He's figured out this business of walking but hasn't yet picked up on the concept of stepping around things or picking them up: He just goes full-speed and head first into whatever lies in his path, sometimes succeeding and sometimes tumbling.

Because of that, Cindy gets to be lifeguard, safety patrol, corrections officer and Mimi all at once. She will be the first to tell you that picking Ranger up and putting him back on course is a chore, and she's considering starting a weightlifting program in order to better respond to the challenge.

She reads books to him and sings along with his favorite songs and I can tell you now just from the short visits I made into the house, even to this day the wheels on the bus still go round and round, there's a rumor that an itty bitty spider climbed up the water spout, and the head, shoulders, knees and toes are apparently important body parts to a one-year-old.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Roxie and I played in the back yard and I got flashbacks to the days when my dad would sit in the family room floor and play Barbies with my daughters. He interjected his own little inside jokes into the Barbie-Ken dialogue and I have to admit I have been guilty of the same with Roxie. At our house she piles Barbies in my lap until I almost disappear and I'm very happy we don't have a test at the end of the day regarding each one's name.

On this particular day we weren't playing with Barbie dolls. Instead, we took one doll outside and alternated between sitting in a swing or on the back porch as a family, and I tried my best to follow Roxie's unwritten script. When we started out, I was her boyfriend Bodie and she was Trixie and I guess we had a baby; don't tell my mom, who was also one of the greatest mom's ever. Shortly thereafter we were married and my designation was "husband" and that's all I needed to know, I guess, because that's how she addressed me: "Husband, we're going out to eat now. What do you want, Husband?"

It's no wonder I am so overweight. In the short time Trixie and I were a couple we went to Olive Garden, Andy's, Wendy's, Pizza Inn and

Annie's. I tended to our daughter, whose name I never caught, while Trixie placed our orders by punching imaginary icons on the gutter downspout, picked up our food at the breakfast nook window and delivered it to our table, which didn't exist. "Oh, no, I'm late for work!" she suddenly said out of nowhere as we were enjoying our chicken strips, pickles and ice cream. "You take care of the baby while I go to work."

I did, thinking I was still the husband but learning upon her return that I was once again her boyfriend and my name was Robert. I found that out when I called her "Wife," but she said no, "You're my boyfriend again now."

"Okay," I responded, "does your husband know about me?" The last thing I wanted was to be a homewrecker, especially with a little child involved.

"I don't have a husband, I just have you," she said. Again, I would really like to get a good look at the script before we begin these soap opera episodes, but I just said, "Sure."

Shortly after she returned home from work she said she got fired for always being late. I asked if I should speak to her boss and she said I should, so I picked up our baby and the three of us went to confront her manager, who looked amazingly like the backyard trampoline.

"I need to talk to you about firing my girlfriend," I said, but Roxie/Trixie quickly interrupted. "No, your my husband now and you're mad at her," nodding toward the boss, Ms. Trampoline.

I went into my quickly made up dialogue, explaining how difficult it was for a woman to make it to work on time when she has a baby and a husband and a boyfriend to care for, depending upon the current scenario, and seeing as how she was the company's best employee they should give her the job back. I was delighted to be able to turn to my wife/girlfriend and say, "She has agreed to give you your job back, and even give you a raise."

"Okay," my wife/girlfriend/granddaughter responded, "but I'm still leaving early."

I have no idea where this story will pick up when I babysit next, but stay tuned. It's bound to be riveting.

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.

MAKERS

Michelle Perkins *Lady Southern Leather*

BY MADELYN MCFARLAND

It was a beautiful drive out to visit Michelle Perkins, founder and owner of Lady Southern Leather, at her home studio in Pocahontas. Waiting to welcome me from his lush garden pen stood Jack, arguably one of Northeast Arkansas' most handsome and distinguished donkeys. He came with the house, and he looks plenty happy to be there.

Michelle has always been a crafter by trade. When she isn't working as a CNA, she's making something beautiful.

She was raised in Arkansas, but spent some time in Michigan with her family. While there, she developed a working relationship with members of the Cherokee Nation. She was inspired by the beauty of their culture, and set out to learn more.

"The wife of a Cherokee chief taught me how to sew leather. I literally had a teepee on the side of the road, and I did well there," she said, explaining that she sold jewelry and other handcrafted goods, enjoying the community and wealth of knowledge at her fingertips. Michelle was invited to Powwows and learned traditional leather working methods while she was there.

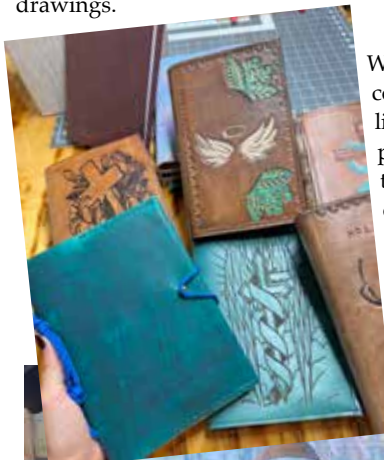
Preparing to take some photos, she obligingly pulled out multiple huge totes, and started digging through jewelry and leather goodies. "I started with knives, believe it or not," she said when asked how she'd made the jump into leather working. "Fully making them, forged from fire and all that hot stuff."

About two years ago, Michelle created Lady Southern, her online



storefront. The reception has been amazing, and she expressed that it only seemed a natural progression. Like previously mentioned, she's always been a maker. Framed by a sunny window, she stood as she gave the rest of the grand tour. She pointed around the room, explaining various intricate-looking pieces of equipment.

One particularly dangerous looking tool, a laser engraver, sat against the wall. She uses it a lot in her more recent projects, especially her commissioned pieces: "I make a lot of knife sheaths and rifle straps." The custom etching on each piece is so intricate and precise. Bible covers, journals, wallets, bags and more in all colors and sizes are also among her wares, many featuring crosses, floral designs, names and drawings.



When asked what she would consider a "perfect weekend," she listed a few things: Playing in the pool with the grandkids, going to church, the river, and working on her craft. "I'm as happy as a lark as long as I've got my family with me," she said, smiling. Go find her on Facebook at Lady Southern Leather!



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Clean Sweep Paragould

Working Together

More than 600 volunteers joined forces as part of the annual Clean Sweep Paragould event in April.

Following strong storms that resulted in a tornado touching down in the city, Paragould Forward added storm cleanup to its normal cleanup efforts for the 2025 event.

More than 100 volunteers worked through the week April 7th-11th, culminating with a citywide work day on April 12th with more than 500 working together to pick up trash, clean sidewalks, remove eyesores and complete other cleanup projects. Volunteers were treated to lunch at the completion of the event.



PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN HUNT



Look for more photos from this event on the Premiere Magazine Facebook page.

A NEW BEGINNING

AMMC, BAPTIST ANNOUNCE PLANS

The first step was taken in a new journey for Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould on Tuesday, April 22nd, as a proposed partnership with Baptist Memorial Health Care in Memphis was unveiled. AMMC and Baptist Memorial Health Care signed a non-binding letter of intent to complete a shared mission agreement to merge the two organizations.

"I am excited by the incredible opportunity to merge our two organizations," said Jason Little, president and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care. "Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has similar values to Baptist Memorial Health Care and an excellent reputation in the community. By combining our organizations, we can expand the reach of sustainable and quality health care in the region while creating a strong organization with the size, scale, technology and intellectual capital to expand access to care while weathering future challenges."

Baptist Memorial Health Care has 24 hospitals in West Tennessee, Mississippi and Northeast Arkansas, with two of those hospitals in Crittenden and Craighead counties. Baptist, which had a net operating revenue of \$4.4 billion in fiscal year 2024, most recently completed successful mergers with Anderson Regional Health System in Meridian, Mississippi, in 2024 and Mississippi Baptist Health System based in Jackson, Mississippi, in 2017.

"Merging with Baptist Memorial Health Care is an exciting



opportunity for both Baptist and Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and, most importantly, for the community we serve," said Brad Bloemer, CEO of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. "With Baptist's strong market presence and long track record of delivering premier health care in both small, rural communities and large, metropolitan areas, they're the perfect partner to help us grow and improve. Together, we can expand access to more health care services, bring in more specialists and specialty services, modernize our facility, and ensure these health care services stay close to home."



Baptist Memorial and AMMC are in the early phases of discussions but expect to finalize an agreement by early 2026.

"For 75 years, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has been committed to providing exceptional health care to our community," said Bloemer. "This partnership will allow us to honor that promise while continuing to expand and enhance the care we provide, thus serving as a beacon of health, hope and healing for our patients, staff and community."

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MAKERS

Bill Grogan *Forging With Findings*

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

It's a short walk from Bill Grogan's house down to his shop, but at the same time it is a giant step into the past. An accomplished blacksmith and bladesmith, Bill preserves the tradition of one of the most revered vocations in American history when he fires up his forge and begins to create.

"I love the history; I love anything old," he said. "But the best thing is the creativity of it. I see it, and it challenges you to blacksmith like in the old days. The blacksmith was THE man in that time; he could do about anything. And I like old stuff like saws and hatchets and axes. I love creating. It's neat turning a railroad spike into a knife, especially since we're a railroad town."

Many will recognize him as the owner of Champions Gymnastics, possibly unaware of his passion for history. Having started blacksmithing "out of the blue," Bill continued to engage the challenging craft until he progressed from hobbyist to the owner of Finch Forge and now produces a variety of things for both his pleasure and for sharing with others. His workspace is decorated with knives, hatchets, forks, crosses ... just about anything he can shape out of steel.

"Someone liked my knives and asked me once if I could also make forks," he recalls, "and I made them six forks and knives, and it took me about thirty hours. I took longer because I wanted to be sure they were just right. First, I think of myself as a functional blacksmith. I can make handles, bowls, cutlery, spoons. Then I am a bladesmith on the side, and I love that. I make utensils ... kitchen utensils, barbecue utensils and a lot of knives out of vintage saw blades."

Bill said about 15 years ago he and a cousin witnessed some knife making and decided to try and do some together: "He said, 'You've already got the tools for woodworking; you can do knives also,' so we



made some together. Right after that a dear friend, about six or seven years ago, said he was going to a blacksmithing meeting and asked if I wanted to go. I thought it sounded neat and wound up going to Maynard for Pioneer Days and that was it. I was hooked.

"Anything you can make a knife out of, I wanted to try. I got some spikes and made a letter opener. I went to the Parker Homestead to a blacksmithing demonstration and it came easy to me. I realized how hot the fire got right away. It melted a spike. It was probably 3,000 degrees. I watched a friend of mine make a tomahawk from railroad spikes and the next thing you know, I've got a tomahawk. I made my own."

In the time it took to be interviewed – slightly over an hour – Bill made a knife out of a spike. He fired up a gas forge to get the steel to working temperature, then took the railroad spike in a set of tongs and placed it inside the forge until it glowed bright orange. He began to form the profile of the blade edge, forging the shape with a hammer on an anvil, often returning the spike to the fire to prepare for another go at it. With the railroad spike still glowing orange, he put it in a vise and repeatedly twisted it 360 degrees to form a decorative and useful handle. Later, using a grinding wheel and belt sharpener, Bill refined the knife's shape by putting a sharp edge on the blade.

"I've collected knives since I was 7," he said, possibly explaining his fondness for making his own. "My dad was the manager of a hardware store and he would bring home knives for my brother and me. I have an old-time collection ... Case, lots of random ones. I do a lot of it as a hobby. I've made tomahawks out of a railroad spike, all kinds of different knives, novelty stuff. I have a passion to repurpose things: Railroad spike knives, horseshoe knives, then from good high-carbon steel, hunting and kitchen knives.

"I like to do things with my hands. That's probably the big 'why' of it."

He said he will often go to a local flea market on Sunday mornings before church and walk around looking for items he might make





something with and generally makes the owners an offer. "I say, 'How much?' and the next thing you know I have bought five or six pieces or some wrenches. If it's something that's broken I might ask if they'll take a dollar or

two for it and they usually take it, then I have something to work with.

"For years I gave it away ... birthdays, Christmas, wedding gifts for gymnastics students who were getting married. A little over two years ago I gave a boy and his wife a knife set at their wedding. When it came time to cut the cake, no one had a knife and he said, 'I've got one!' He brought in my chef's knife and cut their cake with my wedding present. That was pretty cool."

Bill said participating in the creative process "has become a big part of who I am. After I had hurt my hand and was doing therapy, the occupational therapist asked me what my goal was and I said it was to be able to use my hand to hold a hammer. She brought in a hammer and had me grip it a couple of different ways and soon I had eighty percent-plus of my grip strength back. Both of my boys I have taught how, and they're both very gifted. My wife does coppersmithing and her art teacher background really helps her. It is definitely a stress buster for me ... for all of us.

"I'm not an artist; I can't draw a bit," he said. "But the art I *can* do is, I can make things with my hands. I love that."

To learn more about Bill's work or to discuss blacksmithing in general, he can be reached at Finch Forge by dialing 870-240-5259.



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A Night

IN BLACK AND WHITE

The AMMC Foundation hosted the hospital's 75th Anniversary Celebration with A Night in Black and White.

The evening honored Barbara and Sherland Hamilton and the late Dr. Leonus Shedd for their contributions and service to our local healthcare community.

The event included entertainment by Bernard Raley, dinner from Chow and dancing to Everyday Life.



Jane Harville, Marcia Shedd, Cary Lattus and Dr. Omer Shedd

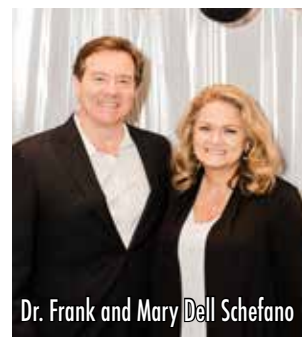


PHOTOS BY KNIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

Rep. Jeremy and Stephanie Wooldridge, Brandy and Josh Rogers, Courtney and Devon Stewart



Barbara and Sherland Hamilton



Dr. Frank and Mary Dell Schefano



Angie Needham and Miss AMMC Katie Needham



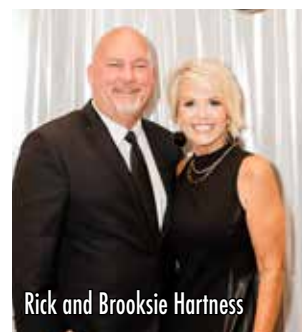
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Kristin and Blake Gray



Whitney Benson, Julie Holmes, Christy Ford, Tracy Brengard and Jame Cook



Rick and Brooksie Hartness



Steve Nelson and Gina Knight-Nelson



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Saints & Sinners Angel Run



PHOTOS BY BRIAN OSBORN



Raising funds for Arkansas Children's Hospital, the annual Saints and Sinners Angel Run and Car and Bike Show was held Saturday, March 29th, at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Paragould. The event also included vendors, a barbecue cook-off, live music and fun for the entire family.



THE ADVENTURES OF

Lester

BY VICKI McMILLAN



Hello, Lester here - your favorite canine artisan. I was super excited when I saw the focus for May was the Maker's Edition. Making something with your own hands or watching someone else make something is very enjoyable. Or even taking a production tour in a factory can make you smile.

My mind immediately went to BOURBON. Maker's edition — Maker's Mark — bourbon. Next time you are thinking of a fun trip, check out the Bourbon Trail in Kentucky. There are over 40 distilleries in central and eastern Kentucky - all with production tours, and (the best part) tastings! You can headquarter in Lexington, Louisville or even Bardstown. Maker's Mark (Loretto, Kentucky) is Mac's favorite distillery and therefore mine, also.

There are barrels stacked to the roof of old barn-type structures and a whole line of folks dipping the necks of the bottles in the signature red wax. You can even dip one yourself, if you are so inclined! You can check out Jim Beam on down the road, and a few more miles will take you to Evan Williams. Venture over to Frankfort and tour Buffalo Trace Distillery where Pappy Van Winkle - the flagship of bourbon - is made.

Before you hit the trail, brush up on the difference in bourbon vs. whiskey. Bourbon is at least 51% corn, aged in new charred oak barrels and primarily made in Kentucky, United States. Remember, distillation was developed by alchemists, so that makes it a magical trip. Like Disney World.

If you are interested in pottery, take a drive through the Mississippi Delta to Merigold for a visit to McCarty Pottery. Started in the early 1950s by a husband and wife and dog trio in a mule barn, McCarty Pottery is known the world over for its artistic design. You can buy some Delta Bells while you're there and you won't be the first or second

person in NE Arkansas to have some.

Well, you may be thinking, OK, Lester, what about making something with my own hands close to home? Ol' Lester's got the answer for that, too. The Generating Innovative Networks in downtown Paragould. Affectionately called the GIN, you can go there and learn to weld metal flowers for your yard or make a wooden bird house. If using real power tools sounds too scary for you, check out the session on making bath bombs and shower steamers - that just oozes relaxation. Follow them on Facebook for their schedule.

Well, ol' Lester's got glue drying and the drill charged so I'll bid you farewell until next month. Get out there and get your creative juices flowing. And remember, don't drink and drive.



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Open Studio

Open Arms

BY MADELYN MCFARLAND

At Open Studio, a woman-owned arts and craft market and studio located on Gee Street in Jonesboro, students can participate in a variety of classes ranging from sewing to ceramics. There's something for everyone.

"Try it" classes are offered, and if you love it, you can then sign up for the six-week course. Otherwise, you still have the cutest little memento of your night out. Owner Leah Schroeder and her team have thought of everything. There is even a dedicated retail space to showcase fellow artists and crafters.

Although for Leah and the rest of the crew at Open Studio, art is about more than the end result. It's about community, and the relationships you build with fellow crafters. She credits her daughter for giving her the idea to jump into nonprofit work originally. In 2014, she co-founded



"Goshen Community Arts," which she ran for nearly eight years.

"I really wanted to pursue working with teens and art," she said. Goshen youth arts later became Goshen Community Arts. "We had a lot of adults that felt left out. But I first started with teen, middle school and high schoolers. The art community there is thriving.

"The pandemic was difficult, and I wanted to kind of jump into something I knew, but I didn't want to work in academia. I'm a lifelong crafter." When asked about how the idea for Open Studio came to be, she said after chatting with other local businesses and NEA residents, she saw an opening: "The population here is pretty robust. I mean, I come from a town of 32,000 people, and there's a lot of art activities to do." She had taught as an adjunct professor in Indiana. When Leah and her family were ready to move closer to home, she decided it was time to pursue a passion project. Something of her own. Jonesboro, always on the move, has welcomed Open Studio with open arms. They have had over 350 students since opening earlier this year.

"When I taught drawing, everyone said, 'I don't know how to draw,' which is sad! It's one of the first things we do, before we even write words. Many people look at things like drawing and art as something only special people can do, only certain people."

Leah shared what got her back into crafting. "My hobby of sewing came about nine years ago, and it was during a time when I had a baby, and I couldn't get into the studio to paint," she said. "My mother had died a number of years before. I inherited her sewing machine. So I got it out and then taught myself how to sew. It was the most incredible, life changing thing."

Understandably, Leah said that while making her own clothing she "started thinking about the clothes I was wearing, which was one of the reasons I started sewing. I want less clothing. I want to consume less. I just want to have things I like and I want them to fit. You slow everything down. It takes, I don't know, ten hours to sew a pair of blue jeans."

When they first moved to Jonesboro, a sewing shop seemed like an obvious choice, but as they say, "ceramics is the gateway to making.



You can make a bowl, you can make a mug, and you can give it to your mom. Not everybody knows what to do with a painting, but somehow, you know, there's this utilitarian element to it."

Leah shared a heartening tidbit; when going through some of her mother's things she discovered a box absolutely bursting with art from her childhood. "She had kept all of it" she said. Not only the beautiful paintings she'd been gifted through the years, but the grapevine wreaths, painted teddy bears, all the knick knacks you acquire when you raise an artist.

The art is in the process, as much as the end result. It doesn't have to be perfect, it doesn't even have to be pretty. The confidence instilled by creating something with your own hands, bringing an idea to fruition in the real world, is priceless. There's no better place to be among friends! Check out Open Studio's Facebook for more information, and the classes offered are listed on the website.



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A group of four people (two men and two women) wearing blue t-shirts with the HealthWear logo. They are standing and sitting against a pink and blue background.



Crawfish Festival Celebrates Wilson

BY SHELBY RUSSOM

For the 10th year in a row, the community of Wilson invited those near and far to enjoy a day of music, fun and buckets of crawfish on April 12th.

The annual Crawfish Festival has served as a time for people to gather together, strengthen bonds and help Wilson flourish. Tom Smith, Senior Vice President of America's Village (Wilson, Arkansas), said the event means a lot to him and he enjoys watching it grow yearly.

"It started on the Square in Wilson, the historic square, and just really built up such a great following in the community, and then surrounding towns and cities came to help support it too which is a lot of fun," he said.

The festival recently moved to the Grange to accommodate its growing popularity. Tom said this change has allowed them to have more trucks and vendors present.

The festival boasted the chance to purchase various items from vendors like crawfish earrings and airbrush temporary tattoos, live music from Irish Redd, Wilson's well-known Bloody Mary drinks and of course, lots of crawfish!

Those in attendance shared fond memories of Wilson and excitement about the offerings of this year's Crawfish Festival.

Rick Bishop, a first-time attendee, said he was looking forward to the crawfish festival seeing how he spent his years as a young boy riding his bike through the streets of Wilson.

"My favorite thing so far is all of the vendors and listening to the band," he said. "It feels good coming back home."

The Crawfish Festival was free to attend and will continue to be for years to come, something Tom and the City of Wilson are proud to offer. Attendees are encouraged to buy tickets to purchase food and drinks from the various vendors to support the City of Wilson in the upcoming festivals, events and growth.



Look for more photos from this event on the Premiere Magazine Facebook page and for more information on Wilson at exploremorenea.com.





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Storm Systems

BY CHUCK LONG

AND THEIR EFFECTS ON NATURE



One of the greatest components of nature is the weather. As I said in a previous article, the weather has always been very interesting to me. With the recent round of storms, it has once again been on the forefront of my mind so I thought I would spend a few words on the tumultuous weather we have recently experienced. One reason the weather is so prominent in my thinking is that on April 2, 2006, we lost our home to a tornado. That Sunday afternoon storm took out well over one hundred homes in Marmaduke and also hit the school and a couple of churches. It was a devastating blow, but no one in our community suffered any severe injuries.

Many things that day showed the power of nature. Our yard looked like someone had driven various lengths of lumber and other materials into the ground; 2x4's, chunks of OSB and other building materials littered the yard and open field around our home. Some of the debris was ours, but much of it was from other homes. Century old oak trees laid across our driveway and on one of our vehicles. Oddly enough, in the middle of the destruction was a cereal box on our counter that never moved.

Much like high mountains, deep oceans or remote frontiers, storms are an extreme of nature and draw people's interest. Storms are also nature's way of showing us that we might think we have things under control, but the storm reminds us she is in charge. The results of these events leave lasting impacts on the landscape of our communities, but also are part of the natural cycle that continues day and night. We have seen pictures of impacts to dwellings and belongings, but what are some of the long-term changes that occur in our natural environment? How does it impact animals, habitats, etc.? Here are a few things I have noticed as I have been out there after extreme weather events throughout the seasons.

We will start with one of my favorite weather events, a snow day. The impacts last longer than the short time snow covers the Arkansas landscape. The moisture from a snowfall is very beneficial for the environment, providing a slow leaching of moisture into the soil. If the temperatures plummet after a snow event, snow acts as an insulating layer to protect many species of flora and fauna. Snow also captures valuable minerals from the air and provides a medium to deposit them into the soil that might not happen otherwise.

One of my least favorite types of natural events is an ice storm, but they can provide great wildlife benefits. The 2009 ice storm left downed power lines, broken tree limbs and caused many inconveniences. It was a terrible time. But in the years following, wildlife populations greatly benefited. The open canopy created by the falling limbs allowed more light to hit the forest floor, producing more forage. The downed limbs provided hiding and nesting places for small game animals and many species of birds, and their populations grew. The overall impact on forests two to three years down the road was beneficial to many species.

Spring storms can offer some positives as well. Flooding events provide great opportunities for fish during the spawning season. Fish



can find shallow, sheltered waters to spawn and the inundation of new terrain can provide a wealth of food for fish to munch on. The extra water can be a buffer for the upcoming months of little rain, filling sloughs and ditches and filtering into the local water basins including the underground water sources.

Flooding of natural areas also comes with its negative impacts. Displacement due to high water can impact production rates. Nesting areas and active nests can be destroyed. Flooding can concentrate animal populations in areas that are more susceptible to predation or along corridors that have more human impacts, like highways.

Severe storms in the spring with tornados and hail can even provide a few benefits. As was stated with the ice storm, downed trees can provide shelter and nesting areas, and new openings can allow sunlight to reach the forest floor. But there can also be many negative impacts like loss of buds that have formed on trees or devastation of tender vegetation. Young ground nesting birds like quail, pheasants and turkeys can also suffer a devastating toll in a hailstorm.

"Storm season" has become much more pronounced in our section of Arkansas, delivering more severe blows than at any other time in my memory. Flooding rains, tornados, hail and winter events blow through much more often than I seem to recall. One of the greatest things I see



with these storms is that our people always step up to the challenge when any of these things happen. We are truly blessed to be in an area that will rally when the winds blow or the rain falls. We have communities that gladly share resources and offer a lending hand when the time arises. We live in a wonderful area to enjoy some of the great blessings of nature, but should nature give us too much, we have many around that will be there to help.

Nature is such a fascinating thing. We often think of it as a static being that we simply get out and enjoy when we can, but nature is ever changing and is something that impacts all of our daily lives and the world around us much more than we realize. Be weather aware, prepare for nature's worst, but also take some time and get out and enjoy some of the wonderful things that nature offers us. 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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Teddy Lowe

Outdoors Inspired Art

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Hobbies come in a variety of styles. For instance, some people like hunting and fishing, some like arts and crafts. Teddy Lowe has masterfully combined both into a unique enterprise.

Taking advantage of a natural talent as an artist, Teddy has been producing wildlife-related ornaments in his spare time – time that doesn't take away from his first love. "I have a passion for duck and goose hunting," he said, "and that's why a lot of my ornaments reflect that. My brother and I started out doing duck calls and some woodburning and carving and painting, and I made a lot of jigs. I did twelve hundred for a shop, just crappie jigs. But I don't *have* to paint or do jigs ... it's all a hobby. If I can make a dollar or two, with as much hunting and fishing as I do, it's nice to make a little extra money. But *I am* going to hunt and fish."



Teddy said he took some art classes while in high school but didn't put in the required effort to see any results because "I was just thinking about 3:30 getting here and being done for the day. I couldn't draw what I wanted to, so I wasn't interested. I got out in '89 and probably by '99 I was really back into it. I always liked drawing but I only really picked it up in about '95 when I realized I had some talent and put it to use."

Today, he produces and sells ornaments in sets of six and they reflect his love of the outdoors. He either takes on a requested assignment or settles on a pattern of his own liking, then sketches out the desired image before painting it on a clear plastic ornament. Adding a true outdoors touch to his work, he regularly stuffs leaves, twigs, pieces of orange hunting apparel and more behind the image to give it a unique look.

Ducks, deer, squirrels, fish ... all have made appearances on the creations he and his brother, Brad, have finished. "I like painting ducks like we do," he said. "I grew up going duck hunting before I could even carry a gun. Now I draw them out with a pencil first to get them just right. I take pride in producing the ducks, because I know how they are supposed to look in a particular scene. We made some and at a four-day craft show our ornaments sold out in about four hours. We don't do just ducks and geese but songbirds and cardinals. I've done an eagle. We're partial to ducks because that's what



we like. But we've done butterflies, cardinals, lots of pictures and drawings, pencil work ... to make them into ornaments could be a full-time job if I'd let it, but I don't. I've got hunting and fishing to do first."

His upstairs workspace is filled with his artwork, including paintings, sketches with pencil, ornaments and various "out of the ordinary" items, like an image painted of a spent shotgun shell. Teddy said he has found a niche at craft shows, and not just sports-related events. While he's gone to Stuttgart, the duck hunting capitol, and found success, he has also sold out at holiday markets. "One year I had not done much painting but I had enough ornaments to take to the Stuttgart Festival," he said.

"I sold every one. I came back and worked on more. I kind of straddle the fence on doing more or not doing as much ... it's not going to keep me from hunting and fishing... Doing it the way I do, it keeps duck season here all year for me and it doesn't feel like a job. February to April, when the weather is bad and there's no hunting, painting really takes off in those months."

He said he has discovered that a number of women looking for holiday gift items for the hunter in the house are attracted to his tree ornaments because they are sometimes surprised to find them at a craft show and might prefer that setting to that of a sporting goods store. "I sell a lot of Christmas ornaments, but I actually started off with duck calls and decorations," Teddy said. "I pretty much do all plastic ornaments now. I've shipped them all over the country and even some to Australia. The woman that ordered a set of six there said she only got five because Customs busted one open. I offered to replace it but she said Customs would just bust it open, too, so she was happy."

He said customers learn of his expertise "mostly by word of mouth. You can be as busy as you want, but for me, it's fishing season right



now... I work at Axis here in Paragould, two days on, two off and every other weekend. I try on days off to do as much as I can so I can have some time off for myself."

At age 53, Teddy knows he could expand the output to make a nice sideline once he retires, or he could go all in and stay busy year-round trying to keep up with the demand. But for the time being, his true passion for the outdoor life comes first. "I guess I've got too much deer hunting and duck hunting on the brain," he said. "The other stuff can wait."



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NEA Natives Offering REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Former schoolmates at Nettleton High School, Scott Holden and Chris Enger, have joined forces to open a QC Kinetix clinic in Jonesboro.

Scott, who has experience running a franchise business as owner of Express Employment Professionals, said he was looking for opportunities to expand and diversify, as well as provide a needed service to the community.

"I had spent several months dealing with a franchise broker," Scott said, noting that QC Kinetix provided the opportunity to offer something in the medical field that will always be needed - treating people with joint pain.

"It's an opportunity to help people," he said. "It's a chance to be in a medical space that is never going to go away and to be on the cutting edge of medicine that I believe is going to be the future of medical treatment."

Scott, who has an extensive background in sales and service, reached out to Chris, whose background is in health and wellness, about the opportunity to start the franchise in Jonesboro.

"I looked at it as another way I could help people," Chris said. "That's what drove me to be a PT to begin with."

Chris previously led wellness programs at Hytrol and Arkansas State University and then worked for 13 years in physical therapy at the NEA Baptist Clinic in Paragould, where he still works PRN shifts when needed.

For Chris, who has watched many patients struggle with pain, he is excited to have a new option to offer. "Pain is a big deal," he said. "Most patients we get - it's a chronic issue. They've tried other avenues."

Scott said regenerative medicine is a good option because many are seeing side effects from long-term steroid injections and people are also trying to get away from taking opioids.

QC Kinetix offers non-surgical regeneration, which Scott said is a natural alternative to surgery or drugs.

"Everything is from your body, back into your body," Scott said. "It's still viewed as



alternative medicine, but it's become more affordable."

Chris said he had his first interaction with regenerative medicine about 10 years ago.

"I had a patient who came into therapy for her knees," he said. "She had done stem cell therapy for her knees and she had some success."

While Chris acknowledges that surgery is sometimes the correct path, he said often those who are candidates for surgery can also mitigate their injuries without undergoing an operation.

"Surgery can be helpful and necessary," he said, "but that's what led me to this space, seeing it as an alternative to more invasive procedures. There is a growing body of research that supports this."

So the lifelong friends are now business partners as well, working together to bring another option to those who are suffering from joint degeneration, whether it be from age or injury. In the end, they said they want to do their best to help others and help the community.

"We love Jonesboro," Scott said. "We were both born and raised in Jonesboro and we're both raising our families here. We think Jonesboro is a great community and we just want to give back to try to help people in the community."



13 The Musical

It was a time for area teenagers to shine as Act II Performing Arts presented "13 The Musical" on April 4-6 at the Historic Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould. The production was directed by Katie Davis.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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Owners: Katharine Parker, Kerri Garrison, Kendra Fite

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Summertime Traveling

WITH DR. KRISTIN SULLIVAN

Pet Edition



Summertime is quickly approaching, and the livin' is not always easy when trying to get everything arranged and scheduled, especially when you have pets and/or children! Hopefully there are some helpful tidbits in this article that will help to make your summer vacay planning with pets as easy as a summer breeze!

When planning ahead for summer vacations, especially if you will need to be overnight traveling without your pets, reserving their boarding will need to come first. Do this early! Boarding facilities fill up fast. When scheduling boarding, they will need to ensure that your pet's vaccinations are up to date. Note, if you are scheduling the boarding at your vet hospital, then they can usually update their vaccines during their stay - this will save you a trip!

However, if they are not boarding at a clinic or hospital, make sure to get the vaccines updated prior to dropping them off to avoid any hiccups to your travel plans. Be sure to get a copy of the vaccine certificate and their rabies certificate, just so you have everything you need for their boarding stay.

Not sure if they are up to date on vaccines? Well, if it's been over a year since they have been to a vet, then they are definitely due for a visit. If it's been less than a year, contact your vet's office to check in.

Some do not board but instead have a pet sitter come to check their fur babies. I find that having a list prepared for the pet sitter is helpful. A checklist of how often and how much to feed, when to do medications and what medications to give, when they need to potty and how long they like to stay outside or go for a walk (pending weather conditions, of course), and a contact list for how to get in touch with their veterinarian or pet care provider should an emergency arise.

It may be a bit nerdy, but it always makes me feel a bit more organized to have a day-by-day checklist. What to do in the mornings: feedings, medications, walk time; then the same for the evening. If you have multiple pet sitters splitting the shifts, this too will make sure they stay on the same page. They check off what they have done so there is no confusion for the next sitter.

On the other hand, some travel with their pets on summer vacation. This brings us to the section where we discuss how to pack for your pets. First things first, have their vaccine record and rabies certificate with you. Traveling out of state or by plane/train? You will need to get a health certificate from your veterinarian. This can be scheduled with your veterinarian just before you leave for your trip, but book early to avoid any scheduling issues.

Traveling out of country? You will need to not only have everything you will need to get back into the United States, but you will need to have everything required by that country of destination. It varies with every single one and the rules are quite stringent. Always refer to the government website of the appropriate country in order to determine what will be needed for travel to that area.

Next, packing for them. I always measure out my pet's food and put it in a plastic baggie for travel so that I have exactly what I need and no more. It's tough to travel with a huge bag of dog food! Don't forget the medications if applicable - I use a Sunday through Saturday pill sorter and place the meds that I will need for the length of their stay. This, too, will help to get rid of any confusion on whether or not they received their medications!

Summer vacation can be very busy or very relaxed; either way it can



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be easy to forget a dose of medication or to dose twice. I have received countless emergency phone calls because the owner accidentally dosed their pet twice. And by counting them out, you are ensuring that you have an adequate amount to last for your trip. I have also received numerous calls from panicked owners who ran out of medications and needed it called to their nearest pharmacy.

Next, do they need their kennel/bed/blankets or toys? Have those ready to go! Taking a cat? All of the same applies of course, but you might look into disposable litter pans and travel containers for fresh litter. Lastly, do your pets need any anti-stress medications filled for travel? Always try to take care of this in advance to avoid that “oh no! I forgot to get their anxiety/travel meds” panic button. Many pets stress during travel, so it’s always best to be prepared and contact your vet early, especially if they have a prescription.

However, if this is their first time to travel, it is definitely a good idea to reach out to your veterinary clinic and find out what can be done if you find your pet does stress with travel or becomes car/motion sick. If traveling by car, I would recommend taking a trip around town or to the nearest town in order to determine if they do get car/motion sickness prior to your trip. This will help you better understand what your pet’s needs are, if any. By doing this, you have a plan of action should a problem arise and avoid any unnecessary stress during an already very busy time!

Hope this list helps to avoid any mishaps and allows you to better plan your summer season! By planning ahead and getting everything organized, you will be able to relax on your summer vacation with the peace of mind knowing you got all of your ducks in a row!



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.

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Digging Into Our Greatest Natural Resources

"Gardening is learning, learning, learning. That's the fun of them. You're always learning."

— Helen Mirren

At Arkids Pediatric Day Centers, we are taking advantage of the spring season by creating gardens at each of our eight locations in Arkansas: Blytheville, Brookland, Jonesboro, North Little Rock, Osceola, Paragould North, Paragould South, and Trumann.

The gardens will create a living classroom for the children where they will experience sensory exploration and overall developmental learning. Children's families will also benefit from the gardens as we share what we harvest!

Children will utilize all five senses: sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. Children may be more willing to try new foods if they are part of the process of growing the food. Introducing new foods at a young age can influence food preferences as they grow up.

Gardening also presents a fun way to learn about counting, colors, sizes, sorting, handwashing and cleanliness, and self-esteem. Other benefits of gardening with young children include:

- It is an activity that requires patience.



- It can be a calming activity.
- It teaches responsibility.
- It enhances fine motor skills: planting, pulling weeds, and harvesting.
- It enhances gross motor skills: digging, watering, moving items, bending, and stooping.

Reading is always a great way to learn! Reading books about vegetables and gardening will help children engage in the whole gardening process.

Examples of books include:

- The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle





Container Vegetable Garden Project

You don't need a large space or even an outdoor space to create a garden. Below is an example.

Materials Needed:

- Plastic tub or flowerpot
- Rocks
- Potting Soil
- Vegetable Seeds

How to Begin:

- Involve children in preparing a plastic tub or a large flowerpot to use as a container. Place rocks in the bottom of the container. Add potting soil.
- Allow children to help plant seeds in the soil.
- Place a labeled stake (words and pictures of the vegetable) in the container.
- Place the container in the window where the sun shines in.
- Involve children in watering the plant, making sure they do not give it too much water.

- Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert
- Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert
- Tops & Bottoms by Janet Stevens
- Rainbow Stew by Cathryn Falwell

At Arkids Pediatric Day Centers, we can't wait to dig into developing our greatest natural resources and showing off our green thumbs!



- Keep a journal of the gardening project. Include photos of the plant at various stages. Record the dates on the photos.
- Ask children how they measure the height of the plants to see how much they have grown.
- Measure the plant and record the height in the journal each time.

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Celebrating our Mothers

WITH LINDA LOU MOORE



Spring has sprung and Mother's Day is just around the corner.

But, did you ever wonder how this tradition began?

The origins of Mother's Day began in Greece centuries ago. According to legend, the Greeks recognized Rhea, the mother of the Olympian Gods, at their spring festival. The Romans also celebrated Cybele, the Roman counterpart to Rhea.

Later the Christians celebrated with a festival honoring Mary, the mother of Christ, on the fourth Sunday in Lent. In England, this Christian holiday became known as Mothering Sunday. On this day all mothers were acknowledged.

It was approximately 1856 when Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia, organized "The Mother's Work Group." Anna Jarvis was concerned about the relationship between poor sanitary conditions in the community and diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever and whooping cough. Hence the Mother's Work Group Motto: "Mothers Work - For Better Mothers, Better Homes, Better Children and Better Men and Women."

When Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis died in 1905, her daughter also named Anna, wanted to commemorate the life and the accomplishments of her mother and to recognize a special day for all mothers. Through Anna's tireless work, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill in 1914 that proclaimed Mother's Day as a National



Holiday.

Mother's Day is an occasion to let your mother know how much you love and appreciate her. If you are honoring your mother with a gift, take into consideration what your mother would like.

Here are a few things to consider:

Does she like dining at a five star restaurant, or does she prefer casual dining?

Does she like perfume?

Is she delighted by a bouquet of flowers?

Does she like jewelry?

Is she an outdoor enthusiast?

Is she a gardener?

Is she interested in sports and fitness?

Does she like to cook? Is she a gourmet chef or a comfort food lover?

Does she keep up with the latest technology?

Does she love to read?

Does she like the arts?

Does she like to travel?

Does she like to be pampered?

Would she like a gift certificate to her favorite store?

Would she like a night out on the town?

Would she simply like to hear from you?

Mother's Day is an opportunity to show your mother how much you love, honor and respect her.

Of course, showing your mother love, honor and respect all during the year, rather than just one day a year, can make any day - Mother's Day!

Quote of the Day:

"A mother's arms are more comforting than anyone else's."

- Princess Diana

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.



VIVA LA EXPO

Members of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce gathered to exhibit their products and services to the vibrant Jonesboro community on April 1st and 2nd. The event, "Viva La Expo," was held at the First National Bank Arena and featured a plethora of Jonesboro businesses, big and small. The event began with a chance for businesses to mingle and connect, and then transitioned to public access, allowing members of the community to meet representatives of their local businesses.



Health Matters

BY KARAN SUMMITT

Spending Time Outdoors



The Healing Benefits of Nature

There is extensive, trustworthy research on the positive effects of nature for good health. People of all ages who spend time outdoors show improved mental function, increased brain activity, better blood pressure, a decrease in chronic diseases, higher levels of physical activity and better sleep patterns. These same studies report less depression and anxiety among folks who enjoy being outside.

Time outdoors also has been shown to increase longevity rates and lower healthcare costs. To sum it up, exposure to nature is a low-cost, readily available resource for combating many of the conditions that contribute to reduced health outcomes across all ages.

An interesting note: As one might expect these positive benefits show up in the die-hard nature lover who spends substantial time outdoors, but the same positive effect can be seen in individuals who live and work near designated “green” spaces where they can safely enjoy even a few minutes each day outdoors.

Nature is good for us and the longer days and milder temperature typical for this time of year make it tempting to kick off winter lethargy, take the family or a friend and breathe in the fresh smells of nature. To make that even easier, there are a wide variety of parks, trails, lakes and outdoor amenities in Northeast Arkansas, many of them just a few miles from your front door. If you are willing to travel there are even more places to explore.

Before you go, grab the sunscreen and insect repellent and invest in good walking shoes or hiking boots and a pair of thick socks. Comfortable clothing designed for whatever activity you choose is worth the investment and can make a huge difference in enjoyment levels. Blisters, sunburns and mosquito or tick bites are not what anyone wants to take home after a day outside.

Below is a rundown of some of the park and trail amenities within a reasonably short distance of Paragould and Jonesboro. Some are perfect if you only have a few minutes or hours to spend, others may



take a longer commitment of time. Even if you have physical activity limitations, a nice drive can be good medicine.

If you like variety this part of the state has plenty of options. Paragould offers paved paths around Labor Park and the Paragould Community Center, as well as the 8-Mile Creek Trail (currently expanding to 10 miles), which is also suitable for cycling. Reynolds Park offers camping, fishing, picnic areas and a playground. New pickleball courts were recently added to the playground and picnic areas at Harmon Park.

In Jonesboro you will find walking and cycling trails at Craighead Forest and along much of the Greenway project. When complete, the Jonesboro Greenway will be a 29-mile, 12 ft. wide multi-use trail that will wind around the community connecting major destinations such as parks, Turtle Creek Mall, Arkansas State University and downtown. Craighead Forest is also a great destination for picnics, playgrounds and disc golf.

A hidden gem for cyclists is the Lawrence County Rail-Trail that connects Hoxie and Walnut Ridge to Williams Baptist College. The 5.9 mile trail is an easy ride for all ages. For those willing to go a little further from home, head east to the Delta Heritage Trail, an 84.5 rails-to-trails crushed gravel project. To date, there are 69.8 miles of trail completed. The completed northern corridor is 41.7 miles from Lexa to Snow Lake. The completed southern corridor is 28.2 miles from Yancopin to Arkansas City, including 15 miles of shared-use roadway on the Mississippi River Mainline Levee. Eventually, the trail will cross the White and Arkansas rivers.

In our area several Arkansas State Parks offer a variety of outdoor activities. Within a 75-mile radius you can find 12 State Parks, each one offering a unique variety of indoor and outdoor activities. For more information on the specific amenities at the individual parks visit arkansasstateparks.com.





Nearby parks, trails and lakes are wonderful assets to any community, but busy lives can make it hard to find the time to visit them. Another option with a win-win benefit is to invest in the outdoor spaces of your home. Backyard patios, screened-in porches, vegetable and flower gardens along with eye-pleasing landscaping will offer similar health benefits and add a nice increase to the value of your property.

Still not convinced time outdoors will make that much of a difference to your health? Maybe a study reported from Yale School of the Environment will convince you. In a group of 20,000 people those who spend two hours a week in green spaces such as local parks or other natural environments were substantially more likely to report good health and psychological well-being than those who don't. The effects were strong, cutting across different occupations, ethnic groups, people from rich and poor areas, and people with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

There's even a name for the phenomenon -- ecopsychology! The two hours per week could be accumulated in any amount -- larger lengths of time on several days or by dedicating 15-20 minutes each day. However achieved, the results spoke loud and clear -- nature provides a powerful protection for our health.

One last note. Public outdoor spaces are tax dollars at work for everyone. They enhance the attraction of our communities and are a vital component in what people look for when they determine where to live and work. We've funded them through sales tax revenues, state income taxes and federal matching grants. They are the medicine you've already paid for -- let's use them for better health. I hope you will find the time to be outside -- your health will love you for it!

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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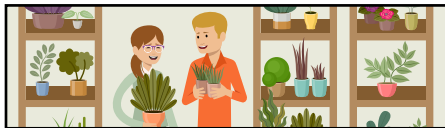
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Singo Bingo
The Twisted Goose
Main Street Paragould Event



May 10th

8:00 a.m.

Opening Day
Paragould Farmers' Market
Paragould Community Pavilion

*A complete listing of all Downtown events can be found under
"Events" at downtownparagould.com or
facebook.com/oneandonlydowntown/events.*



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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
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- Acts when vulnerabilities are exposed
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- Responds to your questions or concerns according to their availability



RELIABLE IT SERVICE PROVIDER

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CONSTRUCTION/NEW HOME Winners

Architect

Jeff Steiling – Steiling
Architecture
Page 58

Architectural Firm

Brackett Krennerich
Architects
Page 59

Brick

Stone Concepts
Page 62

Builder/Developer

Stonebridge
Construction
Page 55

Electrician Company

Owens Electric

Excavating

Michelle's Excavating
Pages 60-61

Fence Company

Red Beard Fence, LLC
Page 56



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Builder/Developer



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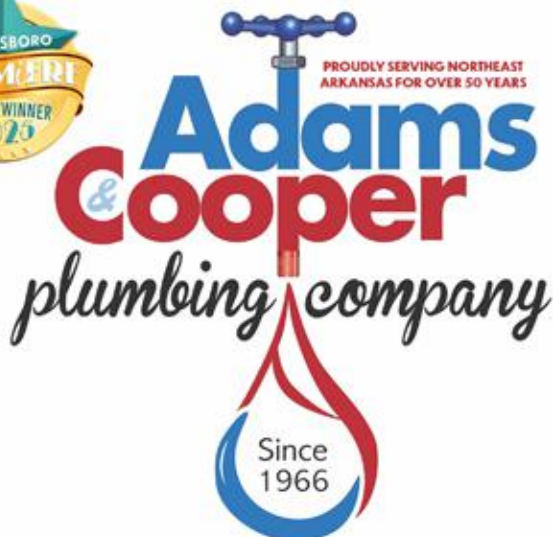


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General Contractor

Nabholz Construction

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Plumber

Adams & Cooper Plumbing
Company
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Roofing

Roof Raiders
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Siding

Cross Custom Siding & Gutters,
Inc.
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Stone

Stone Concepts
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AGRICULTURE *Winners*

Agri Equipment

Greenway Equipment
Page 35

Lender

Farm Credit Mid-America
Page 64

Seed Supplier

Eagle Seed Company
Page 63

Farm Supply Store

Quality Farm Supply
Page 63





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ENTERTAINMENT

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Best Place To Take Out of
Townners

The Social
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Craftsman – Local

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Day Trip/Weekend Getaway

City of Wilson, AR

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Family Entertainment Venue

Hijinx: The Funtivity Spot

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Fundraising Event

Jonesboro Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball

Golf Course

Sage Meadows Country Club

Page 65

Hotel

Embassy Suites Jonesboro Red Wolf Convention
Center

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Live Entertainment Venue

First National Bank Arena

Page 65

Event Venue

Embassy Suites Jonesboro Red Wolf Convention
Center

Page 68

Local Festival

Oasis Arts & Eats Festival

Musician — Local

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Singer – Local
Erik Edwards




Travel Agency
Jonesboro Travel
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Visual Artist – Local
Sara Howell – Sara Howell
Gallery
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FINANCIAL *Winners*

Accounting Company

Dudley Bowdon, CPA

Page 69

Bank

First National Bank

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Bank Teller

Emily Smith – Cadence Bank

Page 53

Charitable Organization

NEA Baptist Foundation

Page 116

Financial Planner

Nathan Green – Simmons
Investment Services

Insurance Agency

Jonesboro Insurance Group

Page 69

Insurance Agent

Johnny Sweet – Pruitt Agency

Mortgage Company

First Financial Mortgage

Page 71

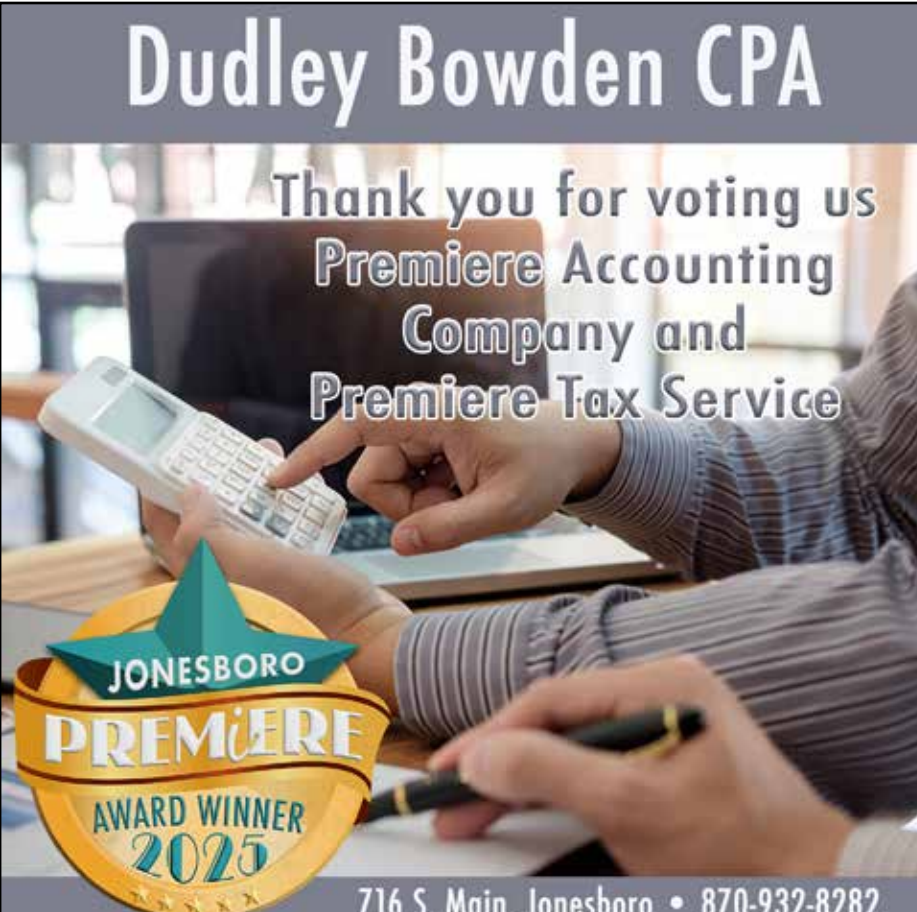


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Mortgage Lender

Jelena Veteto — First Community
Bank
Page 70

Tax Service

Dudley Bowdon, CPA
Page 69

Title Company

Nix Title Company
Page 71



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Apartment Community
Whitten Creek Apartments

Appliance Store

Metro Appliance
Page 76

Carpet/Rug Cleaning

Wooldridge Floor Cleaning

Flooring Dealer

River City Flooring
Page 75

Furniture Store

Gamble Home
Page 78

Interior Design

Kerri Felts - Interior Design Plus
Page 74

Landscaping/Nursery

Bennett's Landscaping & Design
Company

Landscaping Service

All Scapes Irrigation &
Lawncare
Page 74



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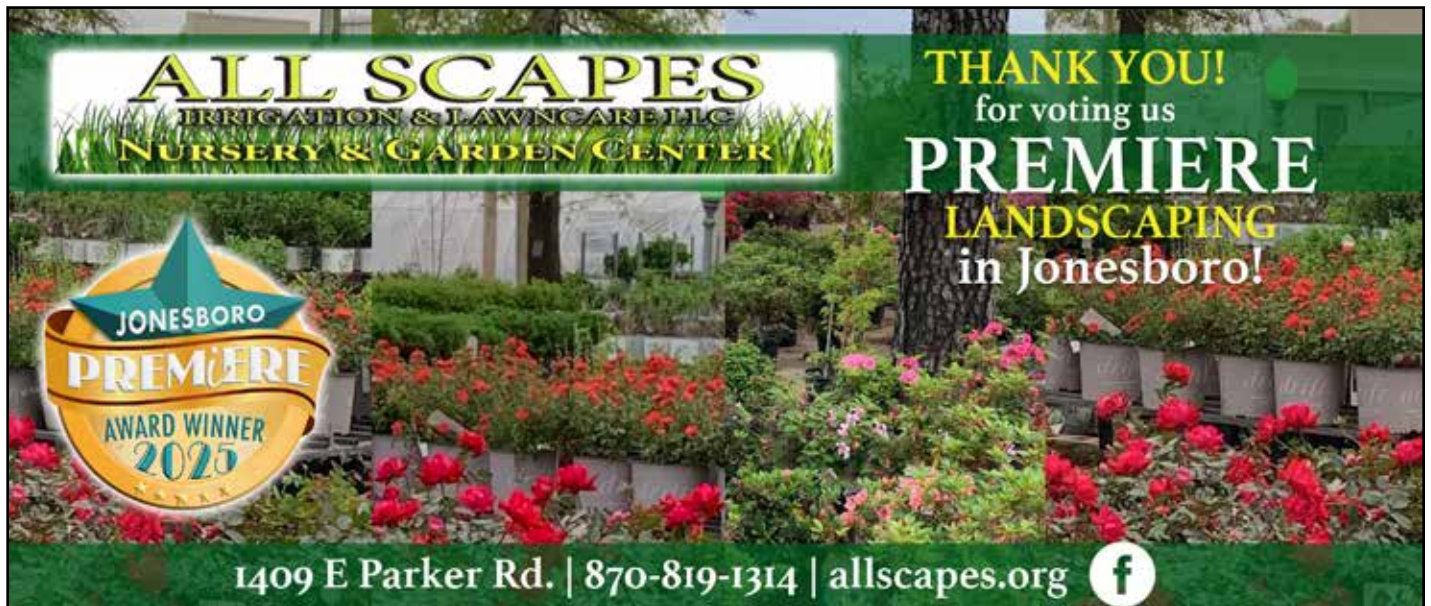
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Lawn Care Service

Ground Crew, LLC

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Lawn & Garden Center

Ditta Ace Hardware

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Lawn/Garden Equipment Dealer

First Choice Farm & Lawn

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Mattress Store

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Mini Storage

Bearcat Storage

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Moving Company

Moore Moving Company

Painter

Ivan Bibiano – Bibiano Painting

Page 75

Pest Control Service

Acme Pest Management

Page 78

Pool/Spa

Aloha Pools & Spas

Page 77



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Overall Gift Store

Wenfield's

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Significant Other Gifts

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Overall Décor Store

Artsy Unique Boutique

KIDS Winners

Child's Birthday Venue

Hijinx: The Funtivity Spot

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Child Care Center

Discovery Island Learning

Center

Dance Studio

The Floor

Dance Instructor

Chali Jennings — CDMS

Collective

Gymnastics

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Martial Arts

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Park

Craighead Forest Park

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Kevin Frisbee – Girls Basketball
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Brookland Bearcats

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Superintendent – Jonesboro
Public Schools

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School District

Brookland Public Schools

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School Staff

Heather Bentley – Behavior
Interventionist – Jonesboro
Public Schools

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Teacher

Samantha Wolverton –
Kindergarten – Westside
Consolidated School District

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Funeral Home

Gregg-Langford-Bookout

Funeral Home

Page 83

Monuments/Headstones

Qualls Monument Company

Party/Event Planning

Samantha McFadden –

Planned by SAM

Page 82

Photographer

Amy Reeves

Retirement Center

St. Bernards Village

Venue

The Gardens at Harmony

Videographer

Knight Productions

PROFESSIONALS *Winners*

Attorney

Haley Smith – OMG Law Firm

Page 85

Dry Cleaning

West's Dry Cleaners & Laundry

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Law Firm

Waddell, Cole & Jones

Place to Work – Large Employer

Ritter Communications

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Place to Work – Small Employer

1st Choice Home Care

Page 92

Real Estate Company

Arkansas Elite Realty

Page 93

Realtor

Chris Hughes – Westbrook & Reeves Real Estate

Page 84

Audiologist

Emily Rainwater, AuD – St. Bernards Otolaryngology & Facial Surgery Centre

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Choice Home Care
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Dr. Amy McKee – McKee
Chiropractic

Dental Assistant

Sean McCague – Shane Smith,
DDS
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Dental Clinic

Davis Dental Clinic
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Dental Hygienist

JoBeth Martin – Hilltop Family
Dentistry

Dentist

Dr. Shane Smith
Page 86

Family Physician

Dr. Darrell Ragland – St.
Bernards

Hearing Aid Store

Harmony Hearing Center

Home Health Agency



1st Choice Home Care
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Home Hospice Agency



Dierkson Hospice
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Medical Assistant

Tim Ellis, MA – NEA Baptist
Paragould
Page 116



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Dana Watson, Psy. D.
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Renew Mental Health & Wellness

Medical Clinic

St Bernards First Care — Parker Road

Medical Supplies

Southern Home Health Care
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Nurse — LPN

Nicole Moore, LPN — Renew Mental Health & Wellness
Page 89

Nurse — RN

Angela Sweet, RN — St. Bernards Pregnancy Clinic

Nurse Practitioner

Amy Duch, APRN — Jonesboro Pediatric Clinic
Page 85

Obstetrician

Dr. Charles Cesare — NEA Baptist
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Occupational Therapist

Alexis Hart — KidSPOT

Oncologist

Dr. Scott Dorroh — NEA Baptist
Page 116

Ophthalmologist

Dr. Alyssa Wenger — Vision Care Center
Page 88

Optometrist

Dr. Cade Wilson — Elite Eye Care
Page 85

Orthodontist

Dr. Kelly-Gwynne Fergus — Fergus Orthodontics
Page 51

Pediatrician

Dr. Kris Nwokeji — KION Pediatrics

A group photo of the Davis Dental team, consisting of ten people (seven women and three men) in a modern office setting. They are posed in two rows, with some sitting on a couch and others standing behind them. In the top left corner, the Davis Dental logo is displayed, featuring a large stylized 'D' and the text 'DAVIS DENTAL' with the tagline 'Gentle Hands. Loving Hearts. Perfect Smiles.' below it. In the top right corner, there is a gold award badge that reads 'JONESBORO PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025'. At the bottom of the image, the address '906 ENTERPRISE DRIVE JONESBORO, AR 72401' is listed, followed by a Facebook icon and the phone number '870-932-0330' and website 'ww.smiles4jonesboro.com'. A black banner at the very bottom contains the text 'Thank you for voting Davis Dental Premiere Dental Clinic!' in white.

DAVIS DENTAL
Gentle Hands. Loving Hearts. Perfect Smiles.

906 ENTERPRISE DRIVE JONESBORO, AR 72401
f 870-932-0330 | ww.smiles4jonesboro.com

Thank you for voting Davis Dental Premiere Dental Clinic!

Smaller | Privately Owned | Local Services | Highest Quality of Care | 24/HR Registered Nurses

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sensational kids

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PREMIERE SPEECH THERAPIST!**

SPEECH THERAPY
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
PHYSICAL THERAPY



(870) 336-0021



Sensational Kids Pediatric Therapy



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Nebo Auto Center

Voted Premiere Auto Dealer - Used

“

NEBO Auto Center has been serving Northeast Arkansas for over 22 years! We dedicate our time to helping our customers find the perfect vehicle, while having the most affordable prices around! Our wide selection insures that NEBO has the perfect vehicle for you!

”



Pediatric Development Therapy Services

CME Pediatric Therapy

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Pharmacy

Garner Family Pharmacy

Page 91

Physical Therapist

Anna Koch – Jonesboro

Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

Physician's Assistant

Michael Scott Griffith, PA – NEA

Baptist Orthopedics

Page 116

Thank you
for voting us

West's

Dry Cleaners & Laundry

Premiere Dry Cleaners



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870.935.3577

Mon-Fri 6:30am - 5:00pm

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We are honored to be a Premiere Place to Work in Northeast Arkansas. Thank you to each of our over 450 employees. Your dedication and passion truly are the FIBER of our organization, weaving together the strong, supportive culture we all cherish. Thank you for making Ritter Communications an exceptional place to work.



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Scan to learn more about exciting career opportunities with us!



Thank you for voting us *Premiere* Veterinary Clinic!



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Open M-F 7 A.M. - 6 P.M. SAT 8 A.M. - 12 P.M.

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Plastic/Cosmetic Service
Majewski Plastic Surgery

Speech Therapist

Lori Malone – Sensational Kids

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Ultrasound Clinic

Peek-a-Boo

Orthopedist

Dr. Brian Dickson – Jonesboro
Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

Counseling Services

Renew Mental Health &
Wellness

Page 89

Mental Health Professional

Dr. Dana Watson – Families,
Inc.

Page 89

Thank You for Voting Us
Premiere Doggy Daycare!




HOUNDS
Hideaway



900 Congress Circle, Jonesboro, AR
jonesboro@houndshideaway.com | 870-938-0138

PETS Winners

Boarding

Magnolia Dog Ranch

Page 97

Doggy Daycare

Hounds Hideaway

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Pet Grooming Service
Snazzy Snippings

Pet Supplies
Hollywood Feed

Veterinarian

Dr. Sarrah Owens – Cato Pet
Hospital
Page 97

Veterinary Clinic

ARPets Hospital
Page 96



JONESBORO PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

VOTED PREMIERE Veterinarian

Thank you for voting & trusting us with the care of your pets!

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Voted Premiere Boarding

Their home away from home

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.

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!

Contact Us

(870) 586 5860
MAGNOLIADOGGRANCH@GMAIL.COM
1264 CR 761, BROOKLAND, AR 72417



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Brackett-Krennerich Architects

Voted Premiere Architectural Firm

“

Over the past 40 years, Brackett-Krennerich & Associates has dedicated itself to serving its clients with comprehensive, professional services reflecting contemporary architectural solutions. We take great pride in providing services to our clients. We feel that this allows us to grow deeper relationships over time and provide our clients with exceptional accessibility to our office throughout the process of design and construction. We understand the local economy, grow relationships with local contractors, and provide the kind of on-site representation needed during the construction process. Many of our colleagues in the construction industry understand our unwavering obligation to provide service that exceeds our client's expectations.

”



EATING/DINING Winners

Appetizers

Houlihan's

Page 68

Bakery/Sweet Treats

DESO Chocolate

Best Place For Business Lunch

Lemonade House Grille

Best Place For Date Night

The Social

Page 99

Voted Your Place for Premiere Steaks!



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• Great Food

• Part of the Family

• Catering

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Premiere "Place to Take Out of Towners"

Premiere "Best Place For Date Night"

Premiere "Late Night Bite"



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1004 Chancery Lane, Jonesboro, AR 72405



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THANK YOU NEAR!



DOORDASH

The Social Jonesboro (870) 336 1134 thesocialofjonesboro@gmail.com

BBQ

Blue Ember Smokehouse

Burrito

BA Burrito

Dessert

DESO Chocolate

Breakfast

Eggsellent Café

Catfish

Ron's Catfish

Donuts

Shipley Do-Nuts

Brunch

JTown's Grill

Page 99

Chef

Chef Crystal Grass – Pastaria 49

Family Friendly Restaurant

Fat City Steak & Grill House

Buffet Style

Chef's In

Chinese

Hong Kong

Fast Food

Chick-fil-A

Page 104

Burger

TJ's Burgers

Page 104

Coffee

Shadrachs

Page 100

Food Truck

Spice Girls Thai Street Food

The advertisement features a background image of two smiling people holding coffee cups. On the left is a black Shadrachs Coffee cup with a white 'S' logo. On the right is a clear cup from Fuel Soul with a black straw. A large gold starburst graphic on the right reads 'JONESBORO PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025'. At the bottom, a red banner says 'THANK YOU FOR VOTING PREMIERE COFFEE'. Below the banner is a QR code with a small 'S' logo in the center, and text that says 'SCAN TO FIND YOUR NEAREST SHADRACHS LOCATION'.

Fried Chicken

Guthrie's

Indian

Curry Leaf Indian Cuisine

Late Night Bite

The Social

Page 99

Fries

Lemonade House Grille

Italian

Pastaria 49

Mexican

La Cascada

Page 102

Frozen Treats

Andy's Frozen Custard

Japanese

Fuji Japanese Steak House

New Restaurant

La Torcia Brick Oven Pizza

Page 101

Happy Hour

Sonic

Korean

KPOT Korean BBQ & Hot Pot



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Scan to Check our Facebook for Specials!

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SUN. - THURS. 10:30 AM to 9 PM
FRI. & SAT. 10:30 AM to 9:30 PM



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Salad Station

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1319 Red Wolf Blvd, Jonesboro
thesaladstation.com



Overall Restaurant

JTown's Grill

Page 99

Pizza

1812 Pizza Company

Page 103

Patio

Native Brew Works

Ribs

Que 49 Smokehouse

Salad

Salad Station

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Thank You For Voting Us

LA CASCADA

PREMIERE MEXICAN FOOD!

Mexican Restaurant



Ignite Your Cravings with Bold, Vibrant Authentic Mexican Flavors!

JONESBORO • BROOKLAND • LAKE CITY • MANILA • TRUMANN

Sandwich
Munchys

Seafood
Delta Crawfish Cajun Café

Server
KK – Chef's In

Smoothies/Juice/Tea
Down South Nutrition
Page 99

Soup
The Parsonage




WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Metro Appliances

Voted Premiere Appliance Store

“ Metro Appliances & More is an employee-owned company with nine locations across the Midwest. We offer 60 brands of appliances to meet every need and every budget. We also offer free local delivery, 12-month no interest financing and a 30-day low-price guarantee. As our vision states, we will be the preferred appliance business and trusted partner in every market we serve - proudly leading with integrity, passion, and service. ”






JONESBORO PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025


THANK YOU FOR VOTING US

PREMIERE PIZZA!

YOU SHOULD TRY OUR



CHICKEN WINGS



SANDWICHES

1812
Pizza Company

f t i

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PARAGOULD
223 N. PRUETT ST. PARAGOULD, AR | 870.215.0900

MANILA
623-B WEST ST HWY 18 MANILA, AR | 870.570.0202

JONESBORO PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025

FRESH GROUND STEAK BURGERS

TJ's Burgers

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2810 E Highland Dr. STE U, Jonesboro | 870-938-0008

Steak

Lorado Grill

Page 98

Steakhouse

Fat City Steak & Grill House

Tacos

Tacos 4 Life

Take Out

Blazing Buffalo

Page 101

Vegetarian

The Stem & Spoon Café



**Thank you for voting Chick-fil-A Turtle Creek
as Jonesboro's Best Fast Food.**

...

We are proud and extremely thankful to have been named Best Fast Food in Jonesboro for 2025.

At Chick-fil-A Turtle Creek, we believe great food is just the beginning.

Our Guests inspire us to go above and beyond — and this award is a reflection of that shared commitment to excellence.



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Wings

Blazing Buffalo

Page 101

SHOPPING Winners

Bridal Store

Emma & Kait's

Page 105

Children's Clothing

Cutie Patootie

Eyewear

Elite Eyecare & Optical

Page 85



EMMA & KAIT'S

bridal and formal
boutique

**Thank you for voting Emma & Kait's
Premiere Bridal Store!**

We are a mother-daughter owned bride & formal boutique in Northeast Arkansas. Located in the heart of Jonesboro, we have a wide variety of bridal gowns to choose from. Our mission is to make sure every bride that comes into our store has the best experience.



Schedule your appointment today!

Appointments are encouraged, but not required!

emmaandkails.com | 870.206.7648
2003 East Nettleton Ave, Jonesboro

Flea Market/Antiques

Double B Vintage Market

Page 106

Hardware/Tool Store

Gazaway Ace

Page 106

Men's Clothing

Gearhead Outfitters

Formal Wear

Jessica's Bridal & Formal

Jewelry Store

Sissy's Log Cabin

Musical Instruments

Back Beat Music

Grocery Store

Harp's – Brookland

Liquor Store

Mr. T's Riverside

Page 107

Pawn Shop

Express Pawn

Health Food/Nutrition

The Truck Patch

Shoe Store

Gearhead Outfitters

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

**Thank you for voting us
Premiere Hardware Store
for the past
*11 years!***



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PREMIERE
AWARD WINNER
2025**

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

Gazaway Lumber Co.
Your Project is our Priority

**Thank You for Voting Us
*Premiere Flea Market/Antiques***



**JONESBORO
PREMIERE
AWARD WINNER
2024**

**Double B
*Vintage Market***

**420 County Road 409
Jonesboro, AR
Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm**

Sporting Goods
DNW Outdoors

Thrift Store
Second Home Shoppe

Tuxedo
Men N' Black Tuxedos

Uniform Clothing
Healthwear, Inc.
Page 23

Women's Clothing
Delta T's Boutique



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Farm Credit Mid-America

Voted Premiere Ag Lender

“As a lending cooperative owned by farmers, Farm Credit Mid-America is dedicated to meeting the unique needs of farmers through specialized agricultural loans. We are committed to securing the future of rural communities and agriculture. By strengthening the rural communities where our customers live, we ensure that they can continue to thrive. Our focus is not only on the future of agriculture but also on the communities and individuals who make a difference in the agriculture industry every day.”



CRAFT BEER

Largest Selection of Wine

Liquor

The logo for Mr. T's Riverside Inc. features a stylized white 'R' with a wheat stalk rising from the center. To the left of the 'R' is a circular inset photo of a smiling man and woman. Above the 'R' is the text "Mr. T's" and below it is "Riverside Inc.".

A circular gold award logo with a green star at the top. The text inside the circle reads "JONESBORO PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2025".

Thank you for voting Mr. T's Riverside
as Jonesboro's Premiere Liquor Store!
We appreciate the voters and
customers for their continued support.

Cardwell, MO

(573) 654-2313 • 462 US-412 Cardwell, MO 63829

A small blue circular icon with a white lowercase 'f' inside, representing the Facebook logo.

DON'T MISS THESE

Upcoming Events in NEA



Mayfest Picnic

May 2nd-3rd

The Marmaduke Picnic Association has announced plans for the Marmaduke Mayfest Community Picnic.

The event set for Friday, May 2nd, and Saturday, May 3rd at the Marmaduke City Park, will feature a parade, live music, vendors, beauty pageants and a giant fireworks display!

All proceeds generated from the event go to the local Marmaduke cemeteries. For more information, contact Allison Hyde with the Marmaduke Picnic Association, 870-450-6706.



Pancake Day

May 3rd

Join the Paragould Kiwanis Club members for breakfast at their annual Pancake Day fundraiser on May 3rd! From 6:30 to 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould, attendees will enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 4. The Kiwanis Club of Paragould is also offering free pancakes to those affected by recent storms and those who helped with cleanup. To purchase tickets, see a Kiwanis Club member or purchase at the door. Visit the Kiwanis Club of Paragould on Facebook for more information.



Goals for Good

May 3rd

Community members are invited to support each other one kick at a time in Goals for Good, a community service project developed by AYA Student Thore Von Widdern. A recognition event will be hosted by AYA (Academic Year Abroad) and the Greene County Soccer Association on May 3, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Paragould Community Center Soccer Complex to celebrate the achievement of kick-a-thon participants. The event will include games, paired with area organizations and business booths. For more information, visit the Goals For Good Facebook page or email GoalsForGoodAR@gmail.com.



DSO Concert

May 10th

Join the Delta Symphony Orchestra on May 10th from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. for all things spring in their final concert of the season.

The Spring Without End Concert will feature a performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No.1 in the Fowler Center on the Arkansas State University campus. Before the concert begins, attendees can enjoy demonstrations by local painters, creating the perfect night of arts and entertainment.

For more information, visit the Delta Symphony Orchestra Facebook page or website.



Portia Picnic

May 22nd

The annual Portia Picnic will be held Thursday, May 22nd, through Saturday, May 25th, at the Portia City Park.

Presale of armbands begin May 12th at Portia City Hall and will close on May 22nd at 5 p.m. Armbands can be used any single night of the carnival. Presale price is \$22, and armbands purchased on the grounds will be \$28. Individual tickets will be available, as well, and there is no admission fee to attend the picnic, which will also feature the annually baby show and local vendor and informational booths. For more information, call Portia City Hall at 870-886-7897.



Rodeo on the Ridge

May 30th - 31st

The Paragould Rodeo on the Ridge is set for May 30th and 31st at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Gates will open at 6:00 p.m., with Mutton Bustin' at 6:15 and the rodeo at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door for \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under.

After the rodeo, those 16 and older are invited to the BC Lloyd Building for the Second Annual Rodeo After Dark. Performances will begin at 9:00 p.m. with Eli Adams and Corey Smith taking the stage at 9:30 p.m. Presale tickets for the Rodeo After Dark are \$25 and can be purchased at Unico Bank in Paragould or \$30 at the door.

HOPE FOUND'S RIDE AGAINST TRAFFICKING RAISING FUNDS AND AWARENESS

Hope Found of Northeast Arkansas' annual Ride Against Trafficking will roll into Craighead Forest Park on Saturday, June 7, with more opportunities for community members to participate.

"This annual event helps raise awareness and funds to help us provide case management and long-term advocacy services to victims of human trafficking and also helps us to educate the community," said Megan Brown, Executive Director for Hope Found.

This year the annual event will encompass bikers, cyclists and a family fun ride in a ride to raise awareness and funds for the fight to end human trafficking.

As in previous years, bikers will ride a route through NEA where they will learn facts about human trafficking and participate in a dice run. Participants will roll dice at check-in, at three locations along their route, and the end of their route. Each roll's results are recorded, and their total is tallied at the end. The winners with the highest number receive \$100, and the lowest number will receive \$50.

"As a martial arts grappling school owner and motorcycle rider, I'm excited to be able to take part in another Ride Against Trafficking," shared Adam Farmer, a longtime rider and supporter of the nonprofit organization. "Hope Found does a phenomenal job of raising awareness about the critical issue of human trafficking. I am honored to be able to support a cause that helps protect and educate our community. We



believe that everyone has the right to be free and kept safe from those who would cause them harm."

The cycle ride and the Family Fun Ride will take place within Craighead Forest Park utilizing the cycling path around the park. Biker and cyclist registration is \$20, with a \$10 charge for an extra rider on motorcycles. It is \$10 for adults in the Family Fun Ride and children ride free, but donations are welcome.

All participants will enjoy a BBQ lunch following the ride.

To register or to learn more, please visit www.hopefoundnea.org/events.

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Jill at 99.3 less talk more music

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LOOSE ²⁵ CABOOSE

Paragould, AR

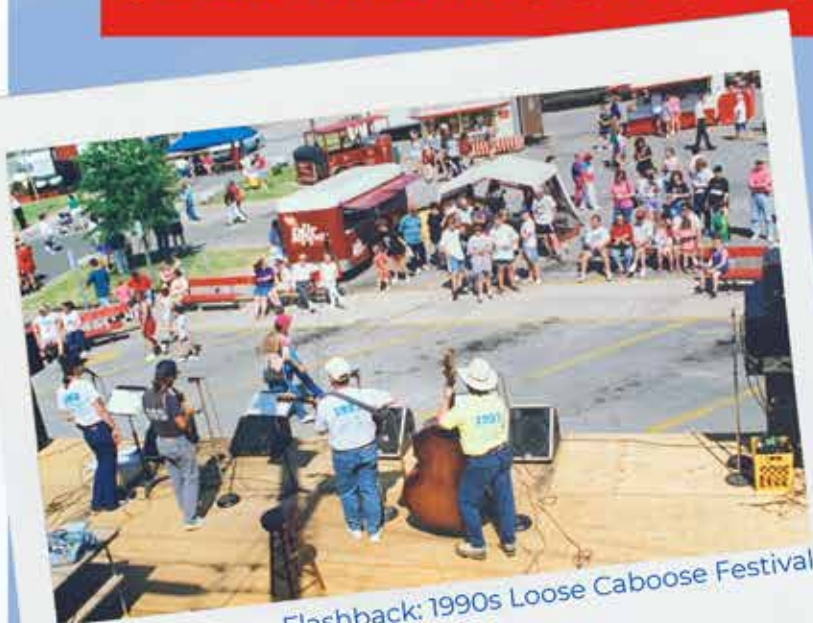


**MAY
15-17,
2025**

Celebrate 25 years of the Loose Caboose!

**LIVE MUSIC
CARNIVAL & GAMES
FOOD TRUCKS
5K, 10K, FUN RUN RACES
PETTING ZOO
INNOVATION STATION
STREET VENDORS
JELLYBEAN JUNCTION KIDS PAVILION**

**Fun for
the whole
family**



Flashback: 1990s Loose Caboose Festival

See the full lineup of fun



SCAN ME

Presented by

PARAGOULD
CHAMBER FOUNDATION



First National Bank



**PARAGOULD
ADVERTISING
& PROMOTION
COMMISSION**



All Aboard Loose Caboose rolling on

The 25th Loose Caboose Festival is rolling into Downtown Paragould May 15-17 with a full lineup of family fun for all. This year's milestone celebration promises three days packed with live music, local food and hands-on activities, all in support of workforce development efforts across Greene County.

A carnival will be held all three days with armband night on Thursday. Friday and Saturday will also feature a kids pavilion with entertainment and activities for kids, an innovation station, a petting zoo, a photo booth and a variety of vendor and informational booths. A highlight on Saturday

will be the touch a truck event.

Loose Caboose also offers festival t-shirt sales and the much-anticipated hunt for Spike, which begins May 12th with a clue released each day and the finder winning \$1,000 in Chamber Bucks.

All proceeds from the Loose Caboose Festival benefit the Paragould Chamber Foundation's workforce development programs, helping build a stronger, more prosperous future for Greene County.

For the full schedule and registration links, visit: www.loosecaboose.org

Schedule

Thursday, May 15

6PM - Fish Fry (Tickets available online)

6PM - Bloodline

7PM - Iron Mountain

Friday, May 16

10AM - The Kinders

11AM - Greene County Public Library Story

Time

1PM - Tommy Terrific's Wacky Magic Show

2PM - Interactive Activities with Crowley's

Ridge State Park & Greene County Master

Gardeners

5PM - Nightwing

6PM - Native Strangers

8PM - Greasy Tree

Saturday, May 17

8AM - Get Down to the Loose Caboose

Races (Register online)

10AM - The Kinders

11AM - Crowley's Ridge State Park Snake

Presentation

11AM - Eli Adams

1PM - Electric VooDoo Explosion

2PM - Museum of Discovery's Awesome

Science Show

3PM - Juddah Dean

5PM - Aaron Headley

6:30PM - Fever Tree

8PM - Milwaukee Tool Shed

An advertisement for Adams Nursery. The background is a collage of various flowers, including pink bougainvillea, purple hydrangeas, and orange roses. In the center, there is a logo for "ADAMS NURSERY" with a red flower icon above the text. Below the logo, the text reads "Greenhouses are in Full Bloom!" and "GREAT GIFTS FOR MOM!". At the bottom, the address and phone number are listed: "215 N. 23rd St | 870-236-2066 | AdamsNursery.com".

HAPPENINGS

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WIN COLLEGE MEDIA AWARDS

Arkansas State University's student media outlets from the School of Media and Journalism earned 60 awards at the Arkansas College Media Association's annual spring conference and awards banquet.

The Herald, A-State's student newspaper, won 52 awards, including Website of the Year and honorable mention as Newspaper of the Year in the General Excellence categories.

"This is exciting!" Herald adviser Sandra Combs said. "The students worked hard and it showed. They had big smiles and great hope that they would come away with a big win."

Retiring after 17 years of service to A-State, Combs has served as adviser to The Herald since 2015. Gretchen Hunt of NEA Premiere Magazine assisted as Herald adviser in the fall 2024 semester.

"The Herald staff members are already putting into practice real-world journalism



skills as they produce a weekly newspaper and maintain a website and social media accounts, and they are doing it very well," Hunt said. "They are already learning that having multiple skill sets is advantageous and provides them with the ability to present the news in a variety of forms. Obviously, I'm very proud of them for the work they do and the accolades they have earned."

ASU-TV and Red Wolf Radio won four awards

each. ASU-TV adviser Dustin Sullivan also praised the student work.

"We are proud and honored that students involved with ASU-TV and Red Wolf Radio were recognized for their hard work and efforts in providing professional and entertaining content for our viewers and listeners," Sullivan said. "We thank ACMA for the opportunity to have our students recognized as award winners."

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW INDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX IN JONESBORO

The Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission broke ground on the long-anticipated indoor sports complex and revealed the name of the new facility at a ceremony on Friday, April 11th.

Ridge Athletics Center, which will be located on Race Street, will feature 12 basketball courts that can also be used for volleyball and pickleball, as well as an indoor aquatics center.

A section housing four of the basketball courts will also serve as a multi-purpose area that can be used for events.

Attendees at the ground-breaking ceremony were also able to view facility renderings and enjoyed light refreshments.



ETTER TO TAKE HELM AT CRAIGHEAD ELECTRIC

Craighead Electric Cooperative Corporation Board President Terry Rorex has announced that Justin Etter of Jonesboro has been named as the forthcoming CEO of Craighead Electric. Etter has been promoted immediately to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and will become the Chief Executive Officer as of January 1, 2026.



Etter joined Craighead Electric in July of 2011, and since September of 2016 has been the Vice President of Member Services for the cooperative. Justin and his wife, Amanda, and their three children reside in Jonesboro.

When asked about stepping into his new role, Etter expressed his gratitude. "It is a true honor to continue serving the members of CECC as CEO. The future of our organization is bright, and this opportunity would not be possible without the guidance of our Board of Directors."

BRTC ADULT EDUCATION EXPANDING

Black River Technical College's (BRTC) newest adult education instructor, Bridgette Branson, is now holding classes at the Corning Adult Education Center located at 302 West Second Street in Corning.



Branson is also working to have classes available at the BRTC Piggott location.

BRTC is one of the only colleges in Arkansas to have adult education programs in all of its service counties affiliated with the college.

The Adult Education program has a foundation on the belief that knowledge is the key to improving the quality of life.

For more information about the Adult Education program contact Tammie Lemmons, Director of Adult Education, at 870-248-4171, or email her at tammie@blackrivertech.edu.

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