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August  
2020

## Leigh Sullivan

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# JOSH AGEE

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Josh has run a successful distributing business for over 20 years in Paragould. Under his tenure that business has seen tremendous growth. Josh has plans for Paragould to see that same growth through his leadership.



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-JOSH AGEE





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**23**



**26**



**28**



**41**

# CONTENTS

- 21** **Adjusting**  
*Homeschooling*
- 23** **Cheering for Dad**  
*Brinley Dickson*
- 24** **Cyber Security**  
*A Course in the Making*
- 26** **Coast Guardians**  
*in Greene County*
- 28** **Voted Best Teacher**  
*Leigh Sullivan*
- 32** **Marmaduke Graduation**  
*Outside Ceremony*
- 34** **Teaching Today**  
*With Technology in the Classroom*
- 36** **Opportunities Abound**  
*Post High School Options*
- 41** **Paragould Premiere Awards**

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# From The PUBLISHER... DINA MASON

“

Loyalty is an interesting concept. It is kind of like a pool of water; the ripples move every time something breaks the surface. The ripple is different every time, depending on where the break is and how hard the surface is impacted.

I will just say, “WOW!” Every time I think Premiere has reached a pinnacle, I get surprised and we go to the next level. Paragould is where Premiere started and we are always proud to tell all the Paragould Good News and the People Making it Happen. The Paragould Premiere Awards issue always represents our largest edition and this year we are even more proud to present our winners among all the “crazy” going on.

If you need to decide where to shop in Paragould you need to keep this edition around (and of course you can always find it in our archives at [premiere-magazine.com](http://premiere-magazine.com)) to refer to for goods and services from the Premiere providers.

My staff and I are very thankful for the continued support of Premiere advertisers and readers. Coping with Covid is hard. But with loyalty like this we will keep publishing the “Good News and the People Making it Happen.”

”

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# PREMIERE MAGAZINE

## **publisher/advertising sales**

Dina Mason |  
dina@mormediainc.com

## **contributing writers**

Richard Brummett |  
brummettr34@gmail.com  
Caitlin LaFarlette |  
caitlin\_lafarlette@hotmail.com  
Chuck Long |  
Charles.Long@agfc.ar.gov  
Jared Pickney |  
jared@fellowshipparagould.com  
Bethany Gallimore |  
bethanyjseaton@gmail.com  
Karole Risker |  
karole17@hotmail.com  
Debbie Haas |  
debbie.haas@yahoo.com

## **content manager**

Lindsey Mills |  
lindsey@mormediainc.com

## **graphic design (advertising)**

Taylor Dickinson |  
graphics@mormediainc.com  
Beth Shadwick

## **advertising sales team**

Dina Mason | dina@mormediainc.com  
Perry Mason | perry@mormediainc.com  
Brian Osborn | brian@mormediainc.com  
Justin Hetler | justin@mormediainc.com

## **cover photographer**

Amy Reeves |  
amyreevesphotography@yahoo.com



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# GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



August has always been my favorite month because A) it contains my birthday; and B) it has always represented championship time for baseball and softball seasons.

Granted, this summer has certainly been different from those of the past, with some sports seasons canceled completely and others shortened. There have been some games here and there to whet the appetite of sports lovers but not the full menu to which we are accustomed.

Someone compared my current ballgame

dilemma to that of 2020's high school seniors, who learned week by week that one more time-honored tradition had fallen by the wayside.

I can't say with any honesty that much of the school cancellations would have bothered me back in the day. I never liked school, although I understood the necessity of it and the need to make the best grades I could. Please do not misinterpret: I didn't have a desire to drop out and join a gang or become a bank robber -- or even be a do-nothing drain on society. And it's not that I didn't like my classmates and some of my teachers. I just wasn't all that good at sitting still and listening, serving instead as my generation's poster boy for ADHD before it was even invented.

On Day 1 of first grade my mom had to reel me in by telling me there was a playground on campus. She knew I would be a lot more into "play" and "ground" than I would be into "desk" and "books," so she made it sound as if I might have some fun there. I didn't.

For all of my elementary school years the other kids seemed to think since Mom was a teacher that each night at homework time she

just handed over a "Teacher's Answer Book" and let me copy the correct answers. If I made a 100 on a test I admit I might have been guilty of holding it at an angle where everyone else could see the big red "A" at the top of the page, but invariably I would soon hear someone say, "What do you expect? His mother's a teacher."

I don't think anyone took into consideration that Mom taught 4th grade, so her answer book -- if such a thing existed -- would not have helped me much in grades 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. I did my best to make all A's in order to not be the teacher's kid who resided on the Dunce List. But to say I enjoyed it would not be true; I wanted to be outside running or in the gym dribbling in my shorts. Basketball-wise, anyway.

Once we hit junior high and high school my inspiration was to make good grades in order to stay eligible for sports. I wasn't trying to be class valedictorian and I was not super motivated to maintain a higher GPA in order to remain a member of the National Honor Society; I just wanted to be able to take my report card to the basketball coach and have him say "good job" instead of grimacing and setting up some sort of tutoring sessions.

So, again, if I'm going to be honest and as a member of the class of 1970 I had been told we weren't going to be able to attend classes anymore because of a pandemic, I would have high fived someone. I would have tried to finish all my classwork via computer in one day in order to have day-long recess in my back yard or at the park.

If school officials had said, "Well, we're going to have to cancel prom this year," I would have said, "Fine with me." I only went once -- when I was a senior, and then only because Mom and my sister pressured me into it. Not having to put on a suit and tie and embarrass myself by making my lack of dancing skills public, I would have been fine. Same for walking in graduation ... could have been taking batting practice.

But if they'd said, "And baseball season is called off," I would have shouted, "I'M SUING SOMEONE!" So, I relate better to kids who missed out on the end of basketball season and pretty much the entire baseball and softball seasons. I feel their pain.

As it turns out I'm sort of glad I learned to read and write, since that's been my job since November of 1974. However, deep down inside I'd really prefer to pull on my ball glove and take about 100 ground balls.

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Premiere’s sister platform, Explore MOR, in partnership with Jonesboro’s only boutique hotel, Intersect 311, invites Northeast Arkansas to submit their favorite teacher for the chance to reward a deserving educator with a “staycation” and a highlight in Premiere Magazine.

Teachers are a blessing and it’s likely we all know a teacher who deserves a break, perhaps especially now.

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# Sounds Like... the End of Summer!

BY SARA BROWN

A playlist for August

## 1. The Boys of Summer – Don Henley

Technically summer doesn't actually end until September, but with school always starting back up in August, the fun we associate with summer is ending sooner than we'd like and this song touches on that, mixing in a little bit of a love story along the way. The singer looks back on his summer spent with his love and he knows he'll love her even when the magic of the season is gone.

## 2. Summer's End – Foo Fighters

This track just rocks, and when you're finding yourself bummed about summer ending, sometimes a loud song that you can jam out to is just what you need. This is the perfect song to do that to, so turn it up loud and rock those blues away!

## 3. Beechwood Park – The Zombies

This song is all about reminiscing on a summer love and it has that perfect end-of-summer feel to it. There's a sweetness to it, but also a melancholy-ness, and that's a brilliant way to represent the end of summer. The fun had in the summer is fun to look back on, but it's sad to see it go.

## 4. My Sundown – Jimmy Eat World

The end of summer can signify new beginnings, and that's what I think this song is about – new beginnings. After all, school is starting back up, and that means a new year and new experiences. There's a sadness in seeing the end of something, but it's so nice to see something new beginning. That's the energy I think this song gives off.

## 5. Girl Don't Tell Me – The Beach Boys

Summer love ending in heartbreak is a popular theme among end-of-summer songs, and this song is another one of them. The singer finds himself saddened that the girl who won his affections over the summer didn't write him when they parted ways like she promised. For those who journey to the same destination every summer, it's possible you've met someone you've wanted to stay connected with and it just hasn't happened, so maybe you can relate to this one.

## 6. This Time of Year – Better Than Ezra

While this tune isn't explicitly about the end of summer, it has that same melancholy feel that is synonymous with that time of year (see what I did there?). You can't help but look back on everything you did and all the fun you had (or didn't have this year due to the pandemic!) and smile, but still feel a little bit sad because it's ending soon.

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# PET OF THE MONTH

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BY CANDICE MOORE

**M**agnum is a rescue – adopted in March of 2019 from TAPS, The Arkansas Pet Savers. He was minutes from being euthanized when TAPS stepped in and brought him into the rescue.

It was a Sunday morning and my husband and I were sitting in church and Tommy came across Mag's picture on Instagram asking for interest in either foster or adoption. It must have been love at first sight because Tommy looked at me and said, "We need to save this guy." After church he and I both reached out and made arrangements to

meet Magnum the very next day. We decided the only way this would work is if Mags got along with our other bully mix, Buddy. Monday night we loaded up our kid and the dog in the car and went to meet Mags. He was a big beautiful boy that was excellent with Buddy, and was very calm.

Magnum battled pneumonia and severe heartworms for weeks surrounding his adoption. His heart was enlarged, which meant he was unable to use his full lung capacity, making the pneumonia worse. Magnum spent a week in the ICU at the vet. It was a long road to recovery.

Treatment was hard and expensive but TAPS helped raise enough money to cover all of his bills for the treatment. Today, Magnum is heart worm free.

Magnum believes he is a lap dog – a 95-pound one. He will climb up and lay on top of me like he weighs 5 pounds. He is the most calm and docile baby I've ever had. He loves to sleep on the bed and must be touching his brother, Buddy, in some way; either he has his foot on him or they snuggle. He loves to lie in the sun. And he loves going to the vet; those are his people and he will walk in like he owns the joint.



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# DOGust

BY DR. KRISTIN SULLIVAN

The dog days of summer are far from over here in Arkansas, but this doesn't just have to mean the days are long and hot! August 1st is also known as DOGust 1st, and DOGust 1st is the universal birthday for dogs in shelters. Bearing that in mind, did you know humane societies, animal shelters, rescue agencies, and other animal facilities are in constant need of not only dog and cat food, but of people willing to foster or adopt these animals?

There are innumerable ways that both people and pets benefit from fostering. I want to discuss some of these ways, as well as common myths about fostering, in this DOGust issue.

Fostering animals, first and foremost, helps to save more lives. Fostering is temporary, but it does help to buy that animal some precious time until their FURever family can be found. By opening your home to an animal in need, you are taking that animal out of the shelter which opens more space for other rescued animals and puts them in a home and out of a kennel. This allows for more human interaction and a great deal more socialization. The socialization is not just true for the foster pets, but for your other pets as well.

Fostering pets can also help you to determine what kind of pet would work best for your family and lifestyle. Certain dog breeds have a lot of energy to burn, whereas many cats are much more laid back and fairly self-reliant. By fostering animals, you can best determine, through experience, which pet will fit in best.

Pets help to teach children a number of values: responsibility, selflessness, and fostering is the best way to educate them in animals. Children are little sponges and are so very eager to learn; this is a great way to pull them from electronics and teach them responsibility and also increase their own activity.

One of the main reasons to foster, which is often not thought about, is that by fostering you actually drastically increase that pet's chances of true adoption. When you foster, you get to know that pet's personality better than anyone. As you get to know them and share this

information with others, it best helps to track down exactly what kind of family or environment the pet would thrive in.

I don't want to overlook the common misconceptions about fostering. By only covering the positive points, and not addressing all of the myths, I would do a disservice. Probably the biggest myth is "there are plenty of people, they don't need me to help." Couldn't be further from the truth. They could always use more foster families; the families that already foster may have no more space. Also, if you look around at any of these animal facilities and see they are full of animals, then there are obviously not enough foster families.

Another common myth: "I'm not qualified to do that" or "I don't have any experience with animals." The only true qualification one needs is to care for the animal. As far as questions go with caring for them, well, there is a large community of people that would be happy to help you and/or answer any of your questions. This community includes the agency/facility where the animal came from, other rescue agencies in this area, veterinarians and veterinary staff, as well as a number of other animal groups and online resources.

The last myth I want to discuss is the "foster fail." While the word fail has a negative connotation, it is actually a positive thing. Foster failures occur when the family that is fostering also adopts because that pet fits into their family. While this does happen (enter my very own "Bowski"), most foster families recognize their valuable work and know the importance of being the foster family to help them transition from animal shelter, to a home setting, and finally to their FURever home.

I hope this article helped to debunk some of the misconceptions about fostering, and hopefully offered some outlook on the wonderful things we gain from fostering animals in need. If you are interested in fostering, or if you have more questions or simply want to help, please contact any of your local animal shelters or groups to find out how you can help! Happy DOGust!



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# College Tips by a College Student



BY SARA BROWN



If you're like me, you're wondering how it's possible that classes are already so close to starting back up. You're probably also wondering how that's all going to work with the current Covid-19 pandemic. I wish I had the answers for you, but right now, I'm just as in the dark as you are; but follow these tips and with any luck, things will go smoothly for you and you won't feel nearly as stressed.

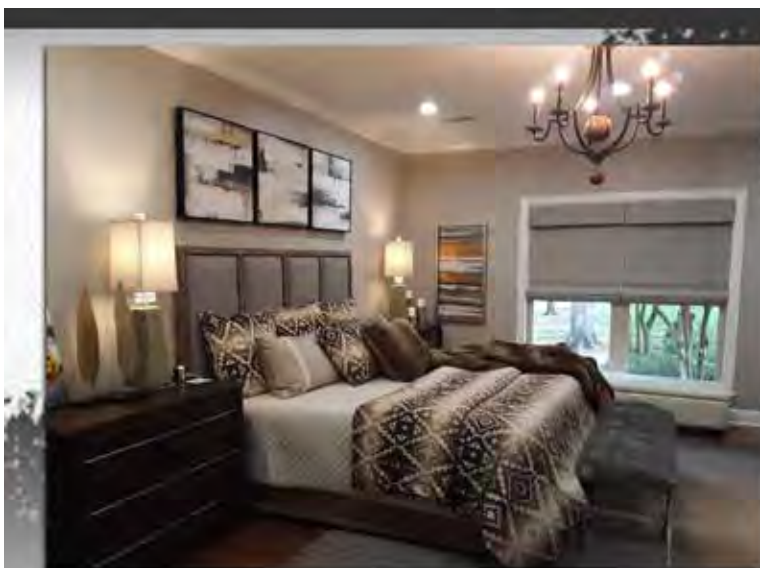
**Tip one:** Expect the unexpected. More than likely, the semester is not going to go as fall semester normally would. There will likely be some kind of mask and social distancing requirement, so we all need to be prepared for that and whatever else might be thrown at us.

**Tip two:** Be flexible. Chances are that as the semester progresses, so will the safety plans. What we're doing one week may not be what we're doing the next. We may have class on campus all semester or we may switch back to online, or even some combination of the two. There's no definitive plan in place right now because things are changing every day. Don't let this freak you out. Just be flexible and do your best to adapt to whatever the campus policies are as the semester progresses. That being said ...

**Tip three:** Pay attention! Things may change multiple times throughout the course of the semester, so you need to be looking out for those changes. That means checking your email, checking for campus alerts, and listening in class. You don't want to miss out on an important change in the plans.

**Tip number four,** and the most important: Follow the guidelines. I understand not everyone wants to be wearing masks, but if that's what's required by your school, then that's that. They're just trying to keep everyone safe, and not following their guidelines is just going to put your education on hold until this whole thing is over. I don't know about you, but I am more than ready to get this degree completed, and if wearing a mask and social distancing means I get to keep working to make that happen, then so be it.

And finally, **tip five:** Wash your hands. I don't know what it is about college students, but I can't help but notice during normal times that my fellow students don't like to wash their hands. That's gross enough when there isn't a pandemic (seriously, wash your hands after using the bathroom ALL of the time!), but right now especially, it's important that we do what we can to keep others safe.



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# Jonesboro Strong in Song

On Thursday, June 25, at Gamble's Shop Local Park, The Link Theatre Company presented "Jonesboro Strong in Song" as a free outdoor concert to raise funds for the Northeast Food Bank. Musicians varied in age, background and style for a unique, beautiful evening meant to inspire the Jonesboro community after a difficult few months following the tornado and the pandemic. Attendance, for health and safety, was limited to 150 crowd members who spread out on the lawn while many more tuned in on Facebook Live.



See more photos from this event on Premiere's Facebook page.



Matt Cavanaugh and Jenny Powers



Anna-Marie Wright



Jannette Robinson

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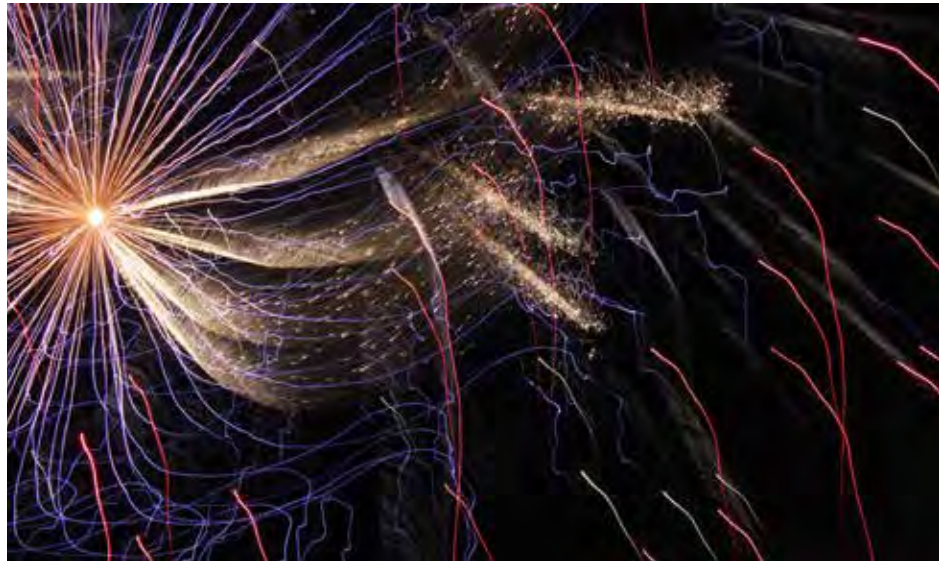


# the Big Bang

MOR Media Inc. was delighted to bring the Big Bang back to Paragould this year for the Fourth of July celebration at the Rotary Softball complex. The spectacular display of light in the sky brought out hundreds of people with plenty of room to spread out (or stay in/near their cars) to watch the fireworks show made possible by the Paragould A&P Commission. Thank you to our sponsors for making this event possible and thank you to everyone who came out!



See more photos from this event on Premiere's Facebook page.



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The water seemed dark and somewhat intimidating as the sun's last efforts at light faded. The stars began to make their appearance and a light skiff of cool fog coated the Little Red River. Silence bore down on the river, but it was interrupted by the almost inaudible rhythmic sound of a fly line being whipped through the air. The large fly hit the water with a plop and then gurgled as the angler worked it skillfully across the surface of the water. Midway through the retrieve the gurgle abruptly ended with a forceful "whoosh" as the fly was attacked from underneath by a brown trout. The fight was on and Cody worked the fish within arm's reach, unhooked the fish, admired it for a second and returned it to fight another day.

Cody Griffin grew up in Paragould, spending much of his time just east of town on the family farm. The son of Allen and Tenna Griffin, Cody spent many days in the cotton and bean fields working with the crops.

During their spare time, they liked to get on the water and fish. According to Cody, one of his earliest fishing memories was crappie camp with his dad and grandpa, Meril Griffin, near Hughes. Cody's early fishing pole was a fly rod repurposed to fish for crappie. If they were not at crappie camp, they would often slip away from the farm long enough to fish a hole or two along the St. Francis River or set trotlines and target flathead catfish. Even though he thoroughly enjoyed his time on the warm waters of East Arkansas, a trip to White River near Norfolk as a youngster got Cody's mind on trout. According to

Cody, "That trip made me constantly think about trout and the waters of the White, Spring and Little Red River."

Cody graduated from Greene County Tech in 2011 and then went to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He graduated in 2015 with a degree in Crop Science. Soon after graduation he landed a job as a County Extension Agent in St. Francis County and lived in Wynne. The Little Red River was within an hour and a half drive and soon became his go to place for time on the water.

Cody was very involved in 4H as a youngster and one of his early projects was tying flies as a project at 4H camp. Oddly enough, after beginning his job as an Extension Agent, Cody happened to run across a fly tying kit designed for students and spent some time with it and the fire was rekindled. Cody began tying flies and putting them to use on the Little Red River. By 2018, his success on the water led to a demand from other anglers. He began to tie flies for others and offer part time guiding on the Little Red. Demand for flies and time on the water began to increase and Cody realized he had to make a career choice.

Earlier this year, Cody left his job as a County Extension Agent to pursue a full-time career tying flies and guiding, and Fin and Feather Fly Fishing was born. Cody said, "It seemed to be a God-thing. I just felt led to do it as the requests for flies and time on the water had become so overwhelming. I had to make a choice and it all fell into place."

Cody now spends most days on the water with clients and, when not on the water, tying flies to meet the growing demand. He has sent flies as far away as Scotland and fishermen from as far away as California have come to spend time with Cody in pursuit of trout.

Cody does most his guiding on the Little Red River near Heber Springs and likes to target brown trout. For good reason he calls the Little Red his "favorite fishing hole" and likes to use the accesses at Lobo Landing, JFK Park or Swinging Bridge to



## CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

get on the water.

For an aspiring fisherman, Cody said his best advice is to find a mentor or good guide. YouTube videos, podcasts and other media can also provide insight into catching fish. He offered this advice, "Most fishermen like to do the same things over and over, whether they work or not. Be willing to change tactics based on conditions and time of year and you will catch more fish."

A good day on the water is a day when he is able to introduce someone new to the sport of fly fishing or help someone improve their skills: "I look forward to experiencing the excitement of an angler, young or old, as they master a new tactic or catch their personal best fish."

Cody has made trips to Montana, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming with fly rod in hand and hopes to get to Alaska one day. But even now the St. Francis River and other fishing holes in Northeast Arkansas are special to him. And, even though he has fished with lots of folks from all over the world, his dad and grandpa are still at the top of the list when it comes to fishing partners.

If you would like to keep up with Cody or view his fly creations, he is on Facebook with Fin & Feather Flies or on the net at [finandfeatherflyfishing.com](http://finandfeatherflyfishing.com).

I hope everyone will take a little time and introduce your kids to the outdoors and what it has to offer; it can lead to great life experiences and a possible career. Get outside and I hope to see you out there!





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# Hoop Stars

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

While there is still a lot of uncertainty as to just what sports will look like once the school year begins, one thing is certain: Four Greene County Tech basketball hopefuls are making the most of their summer gym time.

Competing in the Reebok Summer Sizzler in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, the weekend of June 13-14, Benji Goodman, Karson Reid, Ripken Tucker and Banx Boozer each earned A&W Long John Silvers Player Game honors for their efforts in the prestigious tournament. The Reebok Tournament Series has Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages

and the boys' photos and game/personal information is featured there.

The cagers perform in the ENG team program, with Goodman suiting up for the 9th grade group, Tucker and Reid for the 7th grade and Boozer with the 5th grade squad. Three of the players (Goodman, Reid and Tucker) are trained and coached by Derrick Fain at Elite Arkansas Training. That trio is also coached by David Reynolds and Josh Dowler at GCT while Boozer's coach is Sammie Lewis. Each player will move up a grade once the school season begins.

Goodman, who scored 11 points when chosen Player of the Game, said working around everything surrounding the current pandemic has been a bit more difficult because "we can't scrimmage, we can't do much together in workouts" but individual drills are encouraged. His team went 2-1 in the tournament.

Reid, who put in 12 points during his

top game, called the restrictions and the possibility of a delayed or shortened season "depressing" and Tucker, who hit for 14 in his big outing, still had a positive spin on what to expect. He said, "We're going to have a season. We're going to get to play." Their team finished with a 3-1 mark in the event.

Boozer, the youngest of the quartet, remained silent but let his 11 points do the talking when he was Player of the Game. His team, playing up in the 6th grade division, finished in third place with a 2-2 record.

The boys practice daily with their Tech teams, once a week with their respective ENG clubs and train once weekly with ENG.

Regardless of what happens as far as mandated restrictions go when the school year starts, Reid summed up the players' thoughts when he said, "We're going to get buckets either way."

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# Adjusting

BY KAROLE RISKER



Left to right: Nicholas, Johnna, and Azaria

With all of the questions around returning to school in the fall, one mom took the uncertainty out of the equation by opting for homeschooling instead.

Johnna Boggs and her husband, Nick, decided that no matter what the schools did in the fall, their children -- Azaria, an 11th grader, and Nicholas, a 10th grader --

would be homeschooled.

Johnna said homeschooling wasn't even a consideration until COVID-19 hit. A nurse practitioner, Johnna said seeing cases made her want to protect her children and the public and decided to take the precaution of taking her children out of the traditional classroom. She also said a lot of schools weren't equipped for doing school in a non-traditional way with modified plans and that home-schooling programs already offered their programs with home as the base. They will have certified teachers to do Google and Zoom, and Johnna just has to proctor them. "It's very do-able. I didn't realize how do-able it was," she said.

In fact, the Arkansas Home Schooling Association also has clubs, sports and after-school activities you would find in a traditional setting, and even offers dances, a prom, and a graduation. "It's also going to allow them to branch out and allow other studies" not offered in school. In addition, the family plans to do special field trips to enhance their learning; they plan to purchase a camper to take their studies on the road in trips that will include traveling to Mexico to see the Aztec ruins, Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, and others. "This has not dampened our plans at all. It's just given us family time along the way."

Johnna plans to homeschool her children until they graduate, even if COVID-19 subsides: "We thought about it and prayed about it. We wanted the time with the kids, to slow down and do things they wouldn't otherwise have done. We will get more family time. I really enjoy this. I'm excited."

Her husband, a paramedic, will help out, as well as her sister, Hannah Rogers, a teacher, though she adds that anyone can do it, stressing she and her husband's willingness to see it through, despite both having jobs with 12- and 24-hour shifts. "If we can do this, so can other people. You adapt and overcome," she said.

Azaria said, "I'm more of a social person. I'm going to miss not being able to see my friends, but they will probably be online, anyway." Azaria looks forward to the traveling part of their educational experience and Johanna adds that now they can see things and explore them in the off-season, instead of trying to go when everyone else does due to being on a typical school schedule. Nicholas said his opinions are mixed, but "I feel like it's going to be good for the family."

All in all the family is excited about the possibility of home schooling, in what Johnna calls a viable opportunity. "We're all excited," she said.



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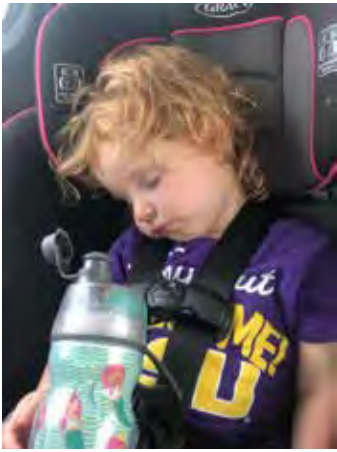
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# Cheering for Dad

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

She's too young to understand what all the fuss is about right now, but a time will come when Brinley Hope Dickson understands her father was loved by many.

The two-year-old's dad, Clint, was an extremely popular player and coach on the Arkansas softball circuit. Jovial and almost always sporting a healthy grin and a hearty laugh, his life took a serious turn when he was diagnosed with cancer. That's when the softball community, a tight-knit group of men and women stretching to all four corners of the state and beyond, stepped up. Friends staged a benefit tournament in Clint's honor in 2015 to help his family with mounting expenses, and made "The Dickson" an annual event.

Clint lost the battle with cancer in July of 2017 at the age of 41 but the friends and softball junkies kept the tournament alive, continuing to raise money for Brinley and her mother, Amy Dickson-Freigh. "They set up the Team Dickson Benefit Account when they started it," Amy said of the initial kindness shown by Clint's teammates and other players. "Now they just keep holding the tournament and I kept the account, and it's just being set aside for Brinley's

future.

"After Clint's diagnosis, they raised money for our finances ... a really nice thing to do. And now they keep it going, pretty much for her."

The Dickson, played for the sixth time overall this year, is a tournament unlike most; players pay individually in order to play, then enter a draft where the teams are assembled. Players might be teammates with others they've only known from across the field in other tournaments, but are paired together in this one.

"This one is different; it's a draft tournament," Amy, a Jonesboro mental health therapist, explained. "You're drafted as an individual and you're on a different team every year ... With or against people you've played against all your life. I like it. It's really laid back. The umpires are all volunteers so people don't give them as hard a time." An auction of donated items at some point during the day helps bring in more money for the good cause.

Amy was pregnant with Brinley when Clint died, making the little one's appearances at the last two tournaments

even more special to those who knew and loved her dad. People want to hold her, hug her, just look at her because she is a miniature version of her father, red hair and all. "She kind of knows," Amy said of Brinley's tournament popularity. "I tell her we're going to a ballgame for her daddy. She didn't really understand all of it, but she was the center of attention. This year they divided half the bleachers and had them blocked off and the tent was outside the fence because of all the COVID stuff so it was a little harder to get to her, but people recognize her.

"I show her pictures of Clint," Amy said. "She knows that's Daddy; she knows that's Clint. We go out to the grave, to Daddy's grave. She knows which one is his and always gives him a kiss. I try to teach her as much as I can, and keep her involved with his family and his friends."

Tournament organizers this year promoted an LSU theme because that was Clint's favorite college program. Amy said she continues to be amazed by the kindness shown to her and all of Clint's family by the softball crowd. "Amazing really, amazing," she said. "Softball people are good people. They have really been good to us."



# Cyber Security

BY BETHANY GALLIMORE

**B**irthdays, pet names, and favorite colors: Each of these might seem harmless on its own, but once revealed online might make a person—even an elementary student—easy prey for a cyber attacker. Courtney Speer, a Technology Coach for University Heights School of Medical Arts, wants to help create the foundations of cybersecurity for even the youngest members of the digital generation, and she's doing her part to help other educators do the same throughout the state.

This summer, she connected with computer science instructors from Cedar Ridge and Lake Hamilton high schools with a shared passion for helping students learn the ins and outs of online safety. Now, she's working with them to create a collaboration-based computer education resource for elementary to high school teachers throughout Arkansas.

Computer science isn't just about coding, Speer says, and cybersecurity is more than simply choosing a unique

password. "Creativity, problem-solving, collaboration—all of those things are taught in computer science," she said.

The team effort began during a technology and computer science workshop sponsored by the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, & the Arts (ASMSA) in Hot Springs. Speer and her colleagues quickly found a shared passion for promoting cybersecurity and helping Arkansas students become savvy online citizens.

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"We're in completely different areas of the state, but we meet twice a week via Zoom to break problems down and talk about how to integrate our goals into the classroom," Speer said. Speaking of the collaboration's Zoom format, Speer said it's actually helped bring a currency to their discussion: "It's been fun to try to break down these problems via technology like we may have to do in the fall."

Even before this spring's transition to all-online instruction in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, cyberliteracy has been a priority for the Nettleton School District.

"Clearly computer science isn't just meant for that 'norm' that we see in high school," Speer said. Whether in school or at home, younger hands are piloting cell phones, tablets, and computers, which means younger minds are needing to be prepared for the responsibility and risks that come with internet access. "You're concerned for their safety and well being," Speer said of her elementary- and intermediate-level students. "Often, their parents weren't taught these skills. I want to teach foundational skills to this generation so that they can

navigate a digital world without being overwhelmed and so that they can do this without losing their identity—in more ways than one," she said.

Speer wants to help students learn the foundations of online privacy and protecting personal information. "It's skills I wish I would have learned," Speer said. She strives to teach these digital literacy skills in hands-on ways, even when "hands" aren't necessarily required. Whether teaching students to write code for random number generators, making "phishing fish" out of construction paper, or creating cyphers from Pringles cans, Speer wants to help students relate to technology in age-appropriate and meaningful ways.

Speer's courses also focus on the historical side of cybersecurity and cryptography: Even elementary students can connect with the real-life examples of successful encryption (like the World War II Navajo Code Talkers), successful decryption (Alan Turing's breaking of the Enigma code) and unsuccessful encryption (the basic cypher code that brought the downfall of Mary Queen of Scots). "It's a beautiful mesh of developing understanding. It builds them up to

be ready for that more intense subject material once they get up to that in later years," she said. "We're really good about modifying and adjusting as teachers, you can't live without those two pieces."

One of Speer's activities involves examining students' publicly-available social media pages and revealing to those students—privately, of course—personal information they may have unknowingly made available to the broader public. "It freaks a lot of them out!" she said. "Then, I teach them how to secure that information."

Speer's advice to online users: "Stop sharing your personal information that people can hack into your accounts with!" Particularly on social media, many users may be unwitting prey to data mining or targeted cyberattacks. Cyberliteracy and digital citizenship are key concepts Speer seeks to instill in her elementary students and others who may eventually benefit from widely-available cybersecurity courses she's working to design. "If we teach them at an early enough age, we can teach them to use it for good instead of for evil," she said.

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# Coast Guardians in Greene County

BY LINDSEY MILLS and DAN TURNER

It's not an unusual thing to want to be a part of something bigger than oneself. Perhaps it's, in fact, part of being human.

A few summers ago in Cape May, New Jersey, I scanned the group of men and women marching in unison toward their basic training graduation ceremony looking for my older brother. I hadn't seen him since the day I'd dropped him off at the airport. As the group moved and chanted in unison on that sunny day a couple months after I'd left my hero in Memphis, their voices melting into one, I felt the lump that appears before tears. It was beautiful.

There is a special relationship between people who go through similar experiences; classmates, teammates, family members. When we work together toward a common goal, experience the same struggles and rejoice for the same victories, there is a bond forged in the fire of our shared pain and the similarity of our paths. We can often relate to someone we don't even "know" because we know



Lindsey and her brother, David, in Cape May, NJ

their hardships and their successes are similar to our own.

Perhaps it is this understanding that sparked Dan Turner's search for Greene County residents who have served in the United States Coast Guard. Dan currently serves as the USCG Auxiliary as the District Staff Officer of Aviation for the District 8, Western Rivers. Dan's research began with his efforts to assist the Greene County Museum, which showcases a room dedicated to the five branches of the U.S. Military.

Greene County has a long line of community members who have served our country in every war and conflict. The museum supports the annual Veterans Day of respect by displaying artifacts of uniforms and pictures during the ceremony hosted at Greene County Tech High School. After the pandemic subsides and the museum is open again, a new addition honoring our community members who served in the United States Coast Guard will be found in the museum: a seaman's uniform.

## Happy 230th Birthday, USCG

The USCG was established initially by George Washington with an early act of congress via a bill submitted by Alexander Hamilton.

Congress authorized Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton's proposal to build ten cutters to protect the new nation's revenue. Alternately known as the system of cutters, Revenue Service, and Revenue-Marine, the bill was signed and the U.S. Revenue/USCG was founded on August 4, 1790.

The cutters were placed under the control of the Treasury Department and the date would mark the officially recognized birthday of the Coast Guard.



The Greene County Museum



## Guardians of the Mississippi

Dan said a common question is, "What is the Coast Guard doing in the middle of the country?"

The Mississippi River System has a long history of the USCG service caring for the navigation and providing oversight for the marine transportation system, guarding against hazards to navigation and therefore protecting the commerce on the river system.

"Keep in mind that we have two coasts in the heart of our country; we call them the left and right river bank descending," Dan shared. "The Mississippi River System is one of the most critical transportation commercial systems in our country and feeding the world."

The Mississippi River carries 60% of U.S. grain shipments, 22% of oil and gas shipments, and 20% of coal.

The Mississippi River System is a huge provider for the U.S. economy. It accounts for 92% of the nation's agricultural exports and 78% of the world's feed grains and soy beans. It also houses some of the biggest ports in the U.S., like the Port of South Louisiana and The Port of New Orleans.

These two ports account for over 500 million tons of shipped goods per year, which is significantly larger than most ports in the United States. Some common things that are shipped include petroleum, iron, steel, grain, rubber, paper, wood, coffee, coal, chemicals, and edible oils. [1]

Our United States Coast Guard takes responsibility for everything from monitoring the marine safety and ecosystems to the licensing and security of the professionals working on the river, as well as the river communities for recreational boating.

### Honored in Greene County

The Coast Guard Heritage Museum on Cape Cod, located in Barnstable, MA, gifted the uniform of a Chief Petty Officer, 3rd Class, circa 1949 -1976 with a Boiler Tech rating to the Greene County Museum for display. The rating was very connected to Dan's purpose in that the boiler explosion on the Sultana was an important motivation to the changing laws driving the services of the Steamboat Inspection Service. That service was one of many that became a part of the USCG and is important. Keeping the maritime community safe and the commerce moving on the Mississippi is critical to our farming community and our prosperity.



### A Shared Bond

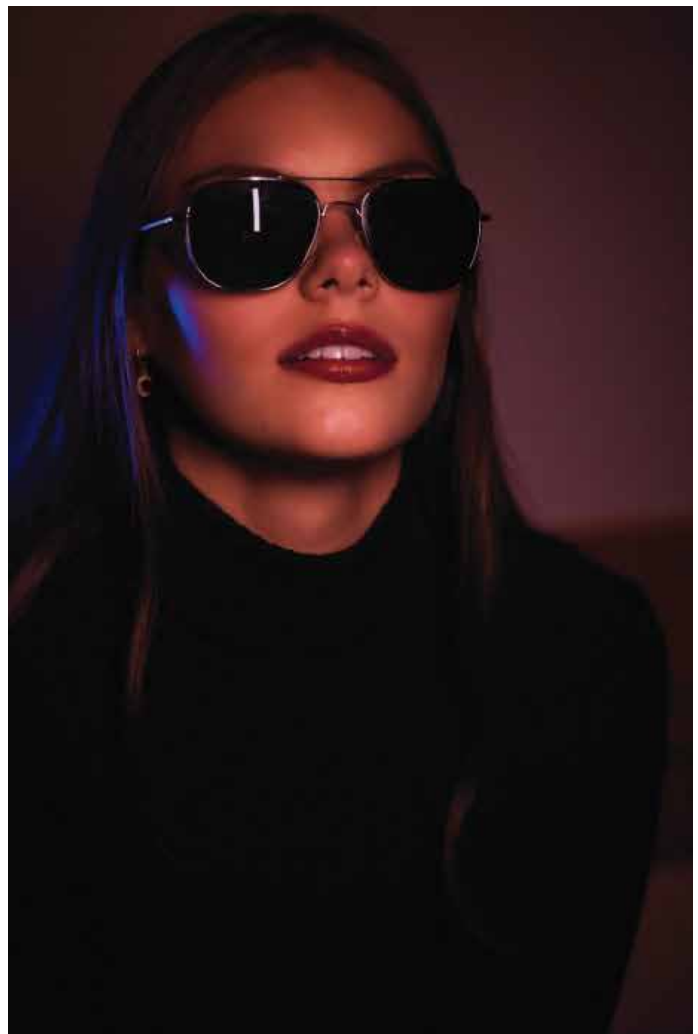
Perhaps you or someone you know served in the United States Coast Guard. Like many of similar backgrounds with shared experiences and struggles, you might appreciate connecting with fellow Coasties in Greene County.

"We are working with the Greene County Museum to add a list of all from Greene County who have served in the USCG," Dan shared. "If you or any family member served in the Coast Guard at any time, now or in our history, please send the name and family stories of their service to dan@militaryavi8tor.com. Or contact the Greene County Museum."

Premiere is also interested in the stories of community members who have served in the USCG to use in the final story of this three part series. Please email information to lindsey@mormediainc.com.

"If we only found one it would validate our efforts to capture USCG efforts in the Western Rivers and the service of Greene County, Arkansas," Dan said. Look for Part 2 of this series in the September issue of Premiere with Part 3 to be published in November.

[1] (United States. National Park Service. "Mississippi River Facts." U.S. Department of the Interior, 16 Mar. 2016. Web. 26 Oct. 2016.)



Andrew Brown  
PHOTOGRAPHY

870-316-1030



Andrew Brown Photography



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# Leigh Sullivan

## Voted Paragould's Best Teacher by Premiere Readers



BY LINDSEY MILLS

History teacher Leigh Sullivan is going on her 39th year of teaching and each and every year brings plenty of change, but 2020 just might take the cake. Leigh, voted Paragould's Best Teacher by Premiere readers, is always ready to roll with the unexpected because at the end of the day what matters most is teaching.

"I love what I do. I love my subject. I love my students," Leigh said with the confidence of a veteran teacher rooted in her words. "That's what keeps me going. And we (teachers) really have to love them; that's the most important thing. I want them to know they can do anything. The best thing we can give them, more than just content knowledge, is confidence."

Leigh has taught a variety of history-based classes over the years: U.S. Government, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, AP European History, AP Geography, AP World History – to name a few. Her education began at Hendrix College but she completed her degree at Arkansas State. In addition to the thousands of students who have come through her classroom, she has helped teach and mentor more than 30 student teachers from Williams Baptist and A-State throughout her career. One of her greatest joys is knowing students she taught are now teaching, too.

Leigh is currently teaching at Greene County Tech High School where she has been since 1985.

Over the years much has evolved in schools and in classrooms. Leigh shared about once creating master copies for worksheets and now files on the computer can be saved and updated in a matter of seconds. She recalled a time of opening the windows to allow for a breeze but worrying about the wasps. Today you will likely find iPads in her classroom and with the use of technology Leigh is able to bring the information of the world before her students.

"Technology of the world at your fingertips," Leigh said. "When we're talking about something, we can pull it up instantly. But it is simply an asset. When you don't have a backup plan and you rely on that technology and then something goes down, you have let your students down. You can't depend on technology."

Many things have changed over the years, but Leigh's love for her role has remained constant.

"History encompasses everything: art,

literature, politics, psychology..." Leigh explained. "Every aspect of our world is shown through history. It's the study of our society and how it's evolved. Our perception, our way of looking at everything."

Leigh said one reason she loves teaching history is because she's a self-proclaimed, proud drama queen.

"It's like a play you've got to present to students," she elaborated. Leigh likes to make sure her students understand the reality of history: real people with real flaws.

Technology did allow Leigh to communicate with her students when the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools. Leigh sent information to her students to help them continue learning and prep for their tests, but the hands-on teacher who described herself as a grandmother to many students says she mourned the loss of time with them. Unable to say goodbye, to help them as she wished preparing for their AP exams, and to go through the annual events seniors normally experience was difficult for someone who, above all else, aims to love her students and make sure they know they are cared for.

"I felt like a ship adrift," Leigh shared. "My classroom is my second home."

Asked what she would like to tell all her students, past and present, she said: "Always remember that I love you. I believe in you. You can do anything you want to; you just have to be willing to work hard. You always have a friend you can call, text, reach out to. I'm always here. I believe in you. You have so much potential. I want you to make a difference in the world and I believe you can."



# NEA Baptist to Open New Pediatrics and Dermatology Clinic

**N**EA Baptist announces plans to begin work on a new location for Pediatrics and Dermatology. Both service lines will soon be offered at the first building project at The Reserve at NEA. The development is an extension of the largest master-planned integrated health care campus in our trade area. A partnership between NEA Baptist and Haag Brown Commercial Real Estate, The Reserve at NEA will become a lifestyle focused medical development that is a virtual extension of the NEA Baptist Medical Campus.

Plans for the new clinic space include nearly 12,000 square feet. The new site will house pediatricians Dr. MaryJoanne Umeora, Dr. Camille Chan, Tomorrow Potter, APRN, and Priscilla Fortner, APRN. NEA Baptist recently signed Dr. Enid Burnett to lead the NEA Baptist Dermatology Clinic.



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## DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD EVENTS



August 24th

Bluegrass Monday with  
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September 19th

Walks Through History:  
Paragould  
Greene County Courthouse  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



September 28th

Bluegrass Monday with  
Greg Blake & Real Country  
Collins Theatre  
7:00 p.m.

*A complete listing of all Downtown events can be found under "Events" at [downtownparagould.com](http://downtownparagould.com) or [facebook.com/oneandonlydowntown/events](https://facebook.com/oneandonlydowntown/events).*

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# Marmaduke Graduation

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Marmaduke's graduating class of 2020 had had enough bad news: no senior trip, no prom, no awards ceremonies, sports cancellations... so when the opportunity to bring something positive into the students' lives arose, administrators were more than happy to get on board.

Adhering to all guidelines set down by the state Department of Education and the Department of Health, Marmaduke High School staged an outdoor graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 and things could not have run much more smoothly.

"We were very happy about it; everything went so well," said Superintendent Keith Richey, mentioning that following the established guidelines "had to happen in order for you to even have a graduation ceremony. Shane Robinson, the high school principal, put that together along with the class sponsors and they did an excellent job."



Because of the coronavirus outbreak most schools chose to forego typical graduation observances but Marmaduke found a way to make it happen. It was different, to say the least, but memorable for the seniors in a year of disappointment. Graduates exited the high school building single file, masks and all, and worked their way to their chairs on the grounds in front of the podium. As speakers came to and then left the microphone, Robinson stood guard with cleaning supplies to sanitize it and the podium in order for the next person on the program to take his or her

place. School officials had marked off 50 squares on the grounds, one for each graduate. "We realized we weren't going to have enough chairs for everyone, so we said bring your lawn chairs and they showed up and took care of that," Richey said.

"We had 50 seniors and we painted 12x12 squares with the liner we use on the baseball field and put them seven feet apart. Each graduate had a square and we put a yard sign with each graduate's picture in his family's so they would

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The advertisement is a vertical rectangular panel. On the left side, there is a photograph of a single-story house with a two-car garage and a lawn. Above the house, the text "NOW LEASING!" is written in large, bold, black letters. In front of the house, there is a small sign with a tree logo and some text. On the right side of the panel, there is a black square containing a white silhouette of three trees. Below the trees, the text "The Villas at Maple Ridge" is written in a cursive font. Below this, the text "COMING SOON: Paragould's NEW 55+ master planned community!" is written in bold, black letters. Underneath that, there is a line of italicized text: "Private Parking for Residents, Large Country Front Porches, Open Floor Plans, Easy Accessible Walk-in Showers." At the bottom of the panel, the text "Walcott Road, Paragould" and "Keith White | 870.476.2588" is written in bold, black letters.



know it was their square. They could put as many inside the square as they'd like and we also had an area at the back with a line drawn and told the ushers to seat anyone else who showed up back there, just to make sure we practiced social distancing and stayed six feet apart."

After valedictorian Reesa Hampton closed her address to classmates, teachers and family it was time for the presentation of diplomas. As students approached, one diploma at a time was sanitized and then placed at the end of a table in an acceptable distance from the rest. Each student picked up his or her diploma, moved in front of the supplied backdrop and handed a cell phone to Assistant Superintendent Bill Muse in order to have a photograph taken to record the moment. Since bunching the students together in a group was discouraged, this way each student had on its own phone a photographic memory of the day.

"We thought, 'This will be a one-time thing and we hope we don't have to experience this again,' but it went so well we might do it in the future," Richey said. "I hope we don't have to have the social distancing but can just tell everyone to bring a lawn chair and let's have an

outdoor graduation. For our first time, I thought our administrators and teachers put it together very well.

"Everyone wanted to make it work and to have something positive for these seniors," Richey added. "The graduates and the parents who came to it are really the ones who made it work so well."



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# Teaching Today

## With Technology in the Classroom

BY LINDSEY MILLS

Walking into a classroom in 2020 likely looks a lot different than it did for teachers and parents when they went through grade school. As technology advances and permeates pretty much every aspect of society to some degree, it has become important to integrate technology into the classroom to prepare students to operate in a tech-dense world.

For Laura McHenry, a young 8th grade English teacher at Brookland, teaching with technology in the classroom presents a few challenges as well as plenty of opportunities. Each student at Brookland has its own Chrome book on which they read, take tests, type essays, and more.

Some students choose to leave the device at school and check them out every day and some students take them home –

they are responsible for any damage that might occur. If they get into trouble at school, they may lose privileges.

“There are a lot of distractions with technology,” Laura admitted, “but there are also plenty of ways it enhances learning.”

Teachers at Brookland use a program called GO Guardian, a Chrome book-based program that allows teachers to monitor each student’s screens all at one time.

“I monitor and walk around still,” Laura said. “But I can’t be fifty places at once, so having the screen is helpful. Things like that help technology be successful in the classroom. Technology can also be a good reward system. I know they love YouTube. Sometimes when they get done with an assignment, they get five minutes

of YouTube, which kind of makes them focus on their task.”

For Laura, a love of literature and for igniting that love in others is what led to her current career, and she recognizes the importance of balancing the use of technology due to its importance, and practicing more traditional skills.

“As an English teacher I’m trying to balance life between technology and teaching them to write with a pencil and paper,” Laura shared. “I want them to get used to writing well and legible, but they type everything. Every test now is administered online. The ACT is done online, so if I’m going to get them prepared for that I have to have them typing in class. So, I just try to do half and half. The beginning of class is written, the last part is online. So that way I do both.”

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When it comes to coping with the acceleration of technology and how it is used in the classroom and therefore at home for schoolwork, too, Laura understands how overwhelming it can be. In this transition era where most upcoming teachers and parents use technology on the daily but likely didn't have computers in every classroom, Laura recommends taking it a step at a time. It's also important to recognize how students learn differently. It's important, as always, to make adjustments to teaching style based on students' needs. "I think dealing with it is kind of personal preference and opinion," Laura explained.



"I use technology like my phone daily, but I'm not deep into technology and I am personally a paper/pencil person. I learn better that way. I think it kind of depends on how each student learns. Some kids are going to learn better on a computer because that's what they're used to. Some students tell me 'Mrs. McHenry, I need you to print that out for me. I need to mark on it, I need to hold it.' I think it's important, really, to have a happy medium between both because they will have to function in a world without technology sometimes. Signing your name, conversations face to face – those are the things I think technology hinders. But also, in situations like this pandemic it greatly helps because without technology, we couldn't have class. So, advice for those like new teachers coming in, I think you just have to find what you're comfortable with."

In an effort to strike that balance in

the classroom, teachers today must learn to embrace technology while also recognizing what might be hindering learning. As for helping students who may know more than the parent does because they've grown up with it all around, Laura would remind parents that we're all learning in that regard.

"Even as teachers have gone through this transition, we've gotten overwhelmed. I think it's important to remember we're all going through it together. I think more people feel that way than not. Teachers are trying to figure out the best way to reach more kids and we can feel overwhelmed, too. We're all in the same boat," Laura encouraged, and emphasized talking to teachers as much as possible. "Reach out to the individual teachers. Because we all use Google classroom but teachers upload things differently. We have different expectations. Just talk to each individual teacher and see what they are looking for

and do the best you can. Really, as long as kids' are making the effort and really trying, that's all we really want. Don't get overwhelmed. Reach out. Take it one step at a time. And just know if it needs to be more paper – we can do that – we can meet kids needs differently and still apply the technology in the classroom."

More than just Chrome books are in classrooms and schools today: Many teachers use projectors, online programs and games to help build skills in other ways, and even virtual reality.

"Our library has an Oculus Rift which is a virtual reality set that has programs such as one called Anne Frank House and it will literally take the kids through the different rooms," Laura shared. "I think that's the future of technology in the classroom. I think that is going to transfer experiences and that's where I'm excited to see technology go as far as education."



# Opportunities Abound

BY DEBBIE HAAS



Education is important and can come in many forms. A four-year university is a great way to get a degree, but it is not the only way. The experience of a technical/community college or trade school can be a better fit for many students. They are more affordable, offer hands-on learning, have lower student-to-teacher ratios, and have job placement programs. We are fortunate to have several options available in Northeast Arkansas.

Arkansas State University-Newport (ASUN), a community/technical college, has grown considerably since it was founded as the White River Vocational Technical School in 1976. Now, ASUN has three campuses located in Newport, Jonesboro, and Marked Tree with enrollment of over 2,500 students. It offers a wide variety of programs and degrees from automotive repair to healthcare professions to cosmetology and welding.

“A community college offers students an option to study close to home in a field that interests them and allows them a faster avenue to a great-paying job,” states Mallory Jordan, Marketing and Communication Specialist at ASUN.

“ASUN offers extra opportunities, especially in our world today. Not all students thrive in a four-year university. Our

technical programs are designed to help students complete their education and go on to making a great living. They can do this in person or online at their own pace.”

ASUN is very economical. There are no application fees, it has open enrollment, and does not require an ACT score. Because it is partnered with Arkansas State University, and others, it is easy to transfer to a four-year university.

Jamie Montgomery, a current nursing student praised ASUN: “I had two of the best instructors who actually love to teach and to nurse. I learned so much, and it was at a pace that helped me. If we didn’t get something, they went back over it with us. I will be friends with them for the rest of my life, and I know that they will always be there for me.”

Jamie was impressed by the programs offered through ASUN that allowed her to go to nursing school and still work. “The issue with nursing is that people think they can’t go to nursing school and still work, but with WIOA and Career Pathways you can.”

These programs help single parents and

individuals from low-income situations to go to school and work part time. They help with tuition, fees, textbooks, and even fuel to get to class.

Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium (ARNEC) allows nurses with an LPN to continue working and go to school to become an RN.

“I graduated with my LPN from ASUN first and now I am working on getting into the ARNEC program to take my career further,” Jessica Murphy stated. She said she learned the most in her clinicals. “The staff was great, and I passed my boards on my first attempt.”

For more information about degrees and programs, check out their website: [www.asun.edu](http://www.asun.edu)

Black River Technical College (BRTC) was founded in 1971 as Black River Vocational Technical School. Since then, the enrollment of 38 students in 6 programs has grown to over 3,000 students in 27 certificate programs and 16 associate degree programs in both Pocahontas and Paragould.

Karen Liebhaber, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, explained why community is so important: “Part of our mission is to respond to our community. Most students that attend a four-year institution come from far away and return home after school. As a community college, we serve local people that study here and stay and work here, which in turn helps the community. We are invested in bettering the community and offering courses and programs that are needed within the community.”

BRTC helps students with grants and scholarships, offering open enrollment, adult education classes, tutoring, and developmental classes to help every student reach its potential.

*Continued on Page 39*

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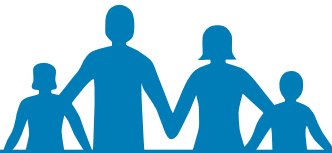
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It has one of only two law enforcement training academies in the state and one of seven gunsmithing programs in the United States. Other programs include respiratory therapy, nursing, ESL, and fire training, to name a few.

The Assistant Chief Nursing Officer at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Teresa Fisher, stated, "When reviewing an application and I see that the higher education the candidate has attended is BRTC, I am confident that the candidate has received quality training and is well prepared to be a valued team member at AMMC. AMMC works closely with BRTC to provide clinical education to not only nursing students, but also CNA students, phlebotomy students, respiratory therapy students, emergency technician students, paramedic students and dietary students. BRTC offers students a variety of options in healthcare which provides AMMC with many healthcare professionals to care for our community."

BRTC also works closely with local industries, including Greenbrier, to provide specialized industrial training for their employees and future employees. Malissa Lewis, Greenbrier's Senior Human Resources Manager, explained,

"BRTC offers classes needed in our industry as well as specialized training specific to our company." What's great about BRTC is that the students can put their training to use immediately upon employment or returning to work.

BRTC meets with the Greene County Industrial Training Center to stay current on the needs of local industry and manufacturing companies. It offers classes to fill specific needs for leadership, computer skills, and the technical side of manufacturing.

"Changing the world's perspective of manufacturing and industry is key to the future," stated Malissa.

The faculty is committed to making personal connections with students. They have a 15-to-1 student-teacher ratio, which enables them to personally get to know their students and their needs.

Maddie McLaughlin shared, "It is a small college that helped me with more one-on-one time. Every professor I had helped me when I didn't understand something. Now I'm a full-time respiratory therapist and I love my job!"

Check out all the programs and benefits of

BRTC on its website: [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org).

Arkansas Dental Assistant Academy (ADAA) offers students an opportunity to become a registered dental assistant in ten consecutive Saturday classes. It uses a hands-on approach facilitated by a highly trained staff of experienced dentists.

"Our program is very flexible for anyone working full-time," explains Shanda Murray, ADAA Director. "In fact, my daughter finished the program during her senior year of high school." To learn more contact ADAA at [www.adaacademy.com](http://www.adaacademy.com). Arkansas College of Massage Therapy (ACOMT) was established in Jonesboro in 2009. Students are trained in general and orthopedic massage therapy through a six-month, 500-hour program. New programs begin each month.

"We have over 30 years combined teaching experience," explained Chris Lovelace, instructor/owner. "We train with ASU athletes and Jonesboro businesses as part of our program."

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Page 34

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Page 43 & 44

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Page 10

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Page 47

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Page 10

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Page 49

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Page 49

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Page 47

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Page 49

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for voting us *Best Employment agency!*

-Scott Holden and Staff





# WINNER: *Alexis Dearing*

Voted Best Hair Dresser

“

Alexis is so much more than just my hair dresser. Not only is she phenomenal at doing hair, but she is just such a great friend. When I go to get my hair done, I feel like I'm going to visit family because she makes every single appointment so much fun. She goes above and beyond for every client, and she will even send me ideas for my hair that she thinks would look good on me. I have never had a hair dresser care so much about me, and I know each and every one of her clients that walk through the door feel just as loved as I do. I would recommend her to anyone I know because she makes everybody feel beautiful and she makes everybody feel loved.

”

-ELLIE STAFFORD, CLIENT



# WINNER: *Block Insurance*

Voted Best Insurance Agency

“

The folks at Block made the whole insurance process painless and easy to understand. As a business owner, it takes some stress away knowing we have all of our commercial and personal policies in one place with a single, reliable agency.

”



-BARRY SPENCE OF KNOCKOUT GRAPHIX

since 2007

# KNOCKOUT GRAPHIX

SCREEN PRINTING EMBROIDERY PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS  
870-236-2883

20 19  
PREMIERE PREMIERE

## Thank You For Voting Us Best Screen Printing & Embroidery

knockoutgraphix.com • 4410 West Kingshighway Paragould, AR 72401

# Business to Business

## WINNERS:

### COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

NEASEM Business Systems

### EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Express Employment Professionals  
expresspros.com



Page 50

### SIGN COMPANY

NEA Signs  
neasignsllc.com



Page 53

### OFFICE SUPPLY/PRINTING

PostNet  
(870)240-0569



Page 52 & 63

### SCREEN PRINTING/EMBROIDERY

Knockout Graphix, LLC  
knockoutgraphix.com



Page 51

# POSTNET

1711 Paragould Plaza | Paragould, AR 72450  
870-240-0569

*We appreciate you voting  
for us!!*



**Design**

Business Stationery  
Marketing Materials  
Personal Projects



**Print**

Copies | Blueprints  
Fliers | Brochures | Signs  
Posters | Direct Mail



**Send**

FedEx® | UPS®  
USPS® | DHL®  
Custom Packing



**Etc.**

Finishing Services  
Binding | Fax & Scan  
Private Mailbox Rentals



*Paragould*

**PREMIERE**

**AWARD WINNER  
2020**

# **NEA Signs**

*Awarded Best*

## **Sign Company**

Thank you for voting us Best Sign Company. Your continuous support for 9 years is greatly appreciated.

# Construction/ New Home Repair **WINNERS:**

## HEAT & AIR

Eaker Heat & Air, Inc.  
(870)239-9226



Page 55

## BRICK & STONE

Reddick Marble & Granite  
(870)932-2551



Page 58

## SIDING

Chris Sims,  
Sims Seamless  
Gutters and Siding  
(870)215-2324



Page 45

## GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Spencer Brown,  
Brown Stone Properties

## ELECTRICIAN

Chase Niedermeier  
Electric, LLC  
(870) 476-5263



Page 57

## FENCE

Maxwell Fence Company

The logo for Lance Beasley Roofing features a stylized yellow roofline above the name 'LANCE BEASLEY' in a large, bold, serif font, with 'ROOFING' in a smaller font below it.  
**870-476-5714**

**THANK YOU**  
for voting us **BEST**  
roofing!



3315 Fairview Road, Paragould | 870.476.5714

## EXCAVATING

Michelle's Excavating  
(870)239-4913



Page 56

## HOME DESIGN

Keith White Custom Homes  
(870)476-2588



Page 57

## OTHER CONSTRUCTION

Hix Equipment Rentals  
hixequipmentrentals.com



Page 55

## ROOFING

Lance Beasley Roofing  
(870)476-5714



Page 54



"Thank you for Voting us Best Heating & Air in Paragould!"



**HVACR104931**  
Your Authorized Dealer  
  
Heating and Air Conditioning

Gary Eaker, Owner  
Rodney Eaker, Owner  
Office (870) 239-9226

Family Owned & Operated for 41 years!  
1308 S. 2ND AVENUE • PARAGOULD, AR 72450



**THANK YOU!!**

Batesville: (870) 793-9303 [www.hixequipmentrentals.com](http://www.hixequipmentrentals.com)  
Paragould: (870) 573-0303  Hix Equipment Rental

It's a **BLAST** to be  
part of the



**FAMILY**

**2020 Michelle's Excavating Company  
Picnic & Fireworks!**

Special Thank You to our "Pyrotechs" -  
Matthew Rushing & Joe Thompson





Thanks Paragould Premiere Readers for recommending  
Keith White Custom Homes as your favorite Building Contractor.  
We appreciate the continued loyalty of our customers.



870.476.2588  
www.keithwhitecustomhomes.com

**KEITH WHITE  
CUSTOM HOMES**  
Building Quality Homes in Northeast Arkansas since 1994

20 16 20 17 20 18 20 19

**PREMIERE AWARDS WINNER** **PREMIERE PARAGOULD WINNERS** **PREMIERE PARAGOULD WINNER** **PREMIERE PARAGOULD WINNER**

*Paragould*  
**PREMIERE**  
AWARDS WINNER 2020

**Celebrating 26 Years in Business!**

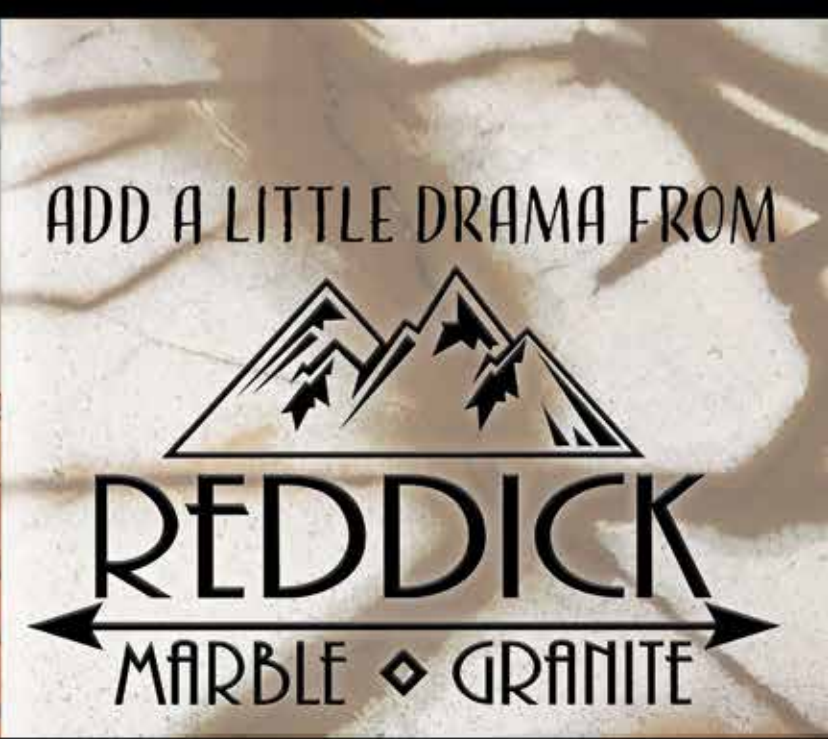
Thank You,  
Premiere Readers,  
for voting



**BEST Electrician**

niedermeier.electric@gmail.com  
870.476.5263





ADD A LITTLE DRAMA FROM



REDDICK

MARBLE ♦ GRANITE



Paragould  
PREMIERE

AWARD WINNER  
2020

*Thank You!*

Voted BEST  
Brick & Stone



Proudly participating in  
the 2020 NEA Home  
Builders Association  
Tour of Homes

# Agriculture WINNERS:

**SEED SUPPLIER**  
Maxwell's Feed & Supply  
(870)236-2902



Page 60

## AGRI EQUIPMENT

Legacy Equipment  
(870)340-2189



Page 46

## LENDER

Focus Bank  
(870)236-7000



Page 9

## FARM SUPPLY STORE

Farm Parts  
2602 E Kingshighway



Page 61

# BROKEN SPOKE TIRE & AUTO CENTER

*Thank you for voting us  
BEST REPAIR SHOP!*



870-240-0090  
300 Airport Rd. Paragould, AR 72450  
WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS



# RAZORBACK CARPET CLEANING

Proudly serving N.E. Arkansas & S.E. Missouri Since 1982

**"Your Satisfaction is our Goal!"**



## Residential & Commercial

- Deep Cleaning
- Sanitizing
- Quick Drying Carpet
- Ceramic Tile & Grout
- Upholstery
- Emergency Water Removal

**Free Estimates!**

**(870) 236-7606 or (870) 476-7606**

**Thank You!**

Best Carpet & Rug Cleaning Service 5 Years in Row!

# Financial WINNERS:

## ACCOUNTANT

Bill Mitchell, CPA  
(870)236-4878



Page 63

## BANK

First National Bank  
fnbank.net



Page 70

## INSURANCE AGENCY

Block Insurance  
(870) 236-8744



Page 61

## CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

Junior Auxiliary

## TITLE COMPANY

Ajax Title Services  
(870)236-2929



Page 62

Custom Feed Mixing **MAXWELL** Bulk Feed & Feed Delivery

**FEED & SUPPLY**  
Mike Ogles Since 1945 505 S. 2nd St.  
(870) 236-2902 Paragould, AR 72450

*Thank you, Paragould,  
for voting us best  
seed supplier!*

**Chipman's**  
AUTO REPAIR  
200 EAST GARLAND PARAGOULD ARKANSAS  
870.335.5296

**THANK YOU**  
to our customers  
for voting us  
**BEST MECHANIC**

200 E Garland | Paragould  
870.335.5296

est. 1914 **BLOCK**

I N S U R A N C E

*Voted Best Insurance Agency*



“ For over 100 years, Paragould has been our home. We are so grateful to have the privilege of serving the citizens of Paragould and the surrounding area. We are honored to receive the award for Best Insurance Agency and very thankful for each and every customer. ”

*-Darla Carter*  
Chief Operating Officer  
and Paragould Location Manager

*Thank You, Paragould!*



**FARM PARTS co.**

**Serving Northeast Arkansas,  
Southeast Missouri, and Western Tennessee  
For 57 Years!**



Thanks for voting us your  
#1 Farm Supply Store!

**Farm Parts Company, Inc.**

2602 E Kingshighway, Paragould, AR 72450  
(870) 236-7522



## FINANCIAL PLANNER

Keith Legrid, Edward Jones

## TAX SERVICE

Jimmy Wilson, CPA

(870)236-6903



Page 68

## MORTGAGE COMPANY

Focus Bank

(870)236-7000



Page 9

THANK YOU FOR AWARDING US  
BEST FURNITURE STORE IN  
PARAGOULD!

The logo for Home Place Furniture, with "Home" in a large, red, cursive font, "PLACE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and "FURNITURE" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. A yellow starburst graphic with the text "Paragould PREMIERE" is positioned to the right.

**AUGUST IS OUR  
ANNIVERSARY  
MONTH!**

No sales tax all month long!  
(free delivery included always)

\*See store for details\*

On Highway 49 between Paragould and Jonesboro • (870)236-6464



## AJAX TITLE SERVICES, LLC

Residential-Farm-Commercial

870-236-2929

**THANK YOU**  
for voting us **BEST**  
title service!

 1007 W Court Street, Paragould





**WINNER:**

**PostNet**

Best Office Supply / Printing

“ PostNet opened saying “Create. Duplicate. Deliver.” One copy or 10,000 copies....we can help. Every day we help fellow businesses, organizations and individuals Create, Duplicate, and Deliver their dreams, their work, and their success! We are thankful to be a part of seeing many local businesses and organizations grow and prosper. We are thankful to be able to give back to our community. We have been a part of seeing new businesses start, established businesses revamp and grow, industries prosper. We have been a part of Bible Schools, ball teams, recitals, music shows and more! Through it all we have grown and learned and become more strongly rooted to our community. And now...We are Thankful for YOUR vote of confidence in us as your local printing and shipping store. We hope that we continue to “Design. Print. Send. Etc.” for Paragould and our surrounding communities for many years to come!

”

-THE POSTNET TEAM



**Thank you Premiere Readers** for voting

We cannot wait to get back to Events Downtown! But for now, we encourage everyone to **SHOP** our local Downtown stores, **EAT** in our restaurants, and **VISIT** our service providers!

**SHOP LOCAL. SHOP SMALL.**

*Discover the One & Only DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD*

**Art & Stroll**

**Best Festival**

**Paragould PREMIERE** GOLD WHEEL 2020

downtownparagould.com • 870.240.0544

**M**

**BILL MITCHELL** CPA, PC  
TAX & ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS

**THANK YOU!**

**Paragould PREMIERE** GOLD WHEEL 2020

905 W Court St, Paragould | 870.236.4878  
billmitchellcpa.com



# For the Home **WINNERS:**

## POOL SPA

Wonder Pools  
wonderpool.com



Page 66

## LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT DEALER

Legacy Equipment  
(870)340-2189



Page 46

## MINI STORAGE

Laubach Storage  
(870)239-2254



Page 67

## PEST CONTROL SERVICE

Hyde's Termite & Pest  
Control  
1(800)347-5955



Page 65 & 73

## CARPET & RUG CLEANING SERVICE

Razorback Carpet Cleaning  
(870)236-7606



Page 59

## INTERIOR DESIGN

R. Hoskins Interiors  
rhoskins2@me.com



Page 67

## FLOORING DEALER

Warehouse Flooring  
1709 N Campground Rd.



Page 64

## FURNITURE STORE

Homeplace Furniture  
(870)236-6464



Page 62

**THANK YOU FOR VOTING US BEST FLOORING!**



*Warehouse Flooring*

**"Make your house new again with floors from Warehouse Flooring"**

1709 N. Campground Road, Paragould, AR (870) 236-1754



# MOVING COMPANY

Exodus Moving, LLC  
(870)450-6914

# EXODUS MOVING, LLC

Page 70

## LANDSCAPING/NURSERY

Adams Nursery & Landscaping

## MATTRESS STORE

Superior Sleep & More

## APARTMENT COMMUNITY

Silverwood Apartments

## APPLIANCE STORE

Lowe's

## LAWN CARE SERVICE

NEA Turf Care



# Reynolds Park

A Paragould Landmark

3307 Reynolds Park Rd, Paragould, AR 72450



Parks Make Life Better.

City of Paragould

**Parks and Recreation**

(870) 239-7530



# THANK YOU

for voting Hyde's  
Termite & Pest  
Control, Inc. **BEST** Pest  
Control for 9 years  
running!

**CONTACT US:**

**1-800-347-5955**

**716 Fairview Road  
Paragould, AR**



**PEST CONTROL - ANIMAL TRAPPING - TERMITE CONTROL  
HYDE'S CONSOLIDATED SERVICES - MOISTURE CONTROL  
NEW HOME PRE-TREATMENT - MOSQUITO CONTROL  
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - COST EFFECTIVE**



*Redefining backyard living.*

**The staff from Wonder Pool Company would like to say **THANK YOU** to Premiere Readers for voting us **Best Pool/Spa!****

wonderpool.com • 870.239.8295 • 1300 S 3rd Ave, Paragould, AR 72450



Thank you!

"I am so honored to be voted best Interior Designer! I love every opportunity to help my client create an environment to enjoy!"  
-R. Hoskins



Rebecca Rowe Hoskins • Paragould, AR • rhoskins2@me.com • (870) 215-3398



LAUBACH  
MINI STORAGE



"COME STORE WITH US"



[www.laubachministorage.com](http://www.laubachministorage.com)

3210 S. 2nd Ave Hwy 69  
Paragould, AR

870-239-2254

Thank you, Premiere readers for voting as your favorite once again in 2020!



**WINNER:**  
*The Collins Theatre*  
 Best Live Entertainment Venue

“ The Collins Theatre is a beautiful historic landmark that maintains a character which can only be achieved by over 90 years of existence. It characterizes the appeal of days gone by while also offering great shows and events for our present day. There is something so special about all the senses being involved in a single moment as one walks through its doors. There is no possibility of any modern place holding the same charm. The Collins Theatre is a regular stop on my memory train and a regularly-scheduled event place in my family’s calendar. We, as a family, truly appreciate the Collins Theatre and all those who make certain that it stays a special place. It is a place to return to yesterday for a moment, and it is a place to build memories for a lifetime.

**T. SEAN SULLIVAN, FAN**



Thank you for voting us as Premiere Magazine Award Winner again in 2020!

**THE PARAGOULD CINEMA 8**

**PARAGOULDCINEMA.COM**

Showtimes 870-240-8060 / Office 870-240-8186 2707 West Kingshighway Paragould, AR 72450

*Jimmy Wilson, CPA*

Thank you for voting us  
**BEST CPA FIRM**

1001 W. Court St.  
 Paragould, AR  
 870-236-6903

# Entertainment/ Relaxation

## WINNERS:

### FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

Paragould Cinema 8  
2707 W Kingshighway



Page 68

### FUND RAISING EVENT

Cheers for Charity

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

Collins Theatre  
collinstheatre.com



Page 68 & 69

### NIGHT CLUB/BAR

Skinny J's

### LOCAL FESTIVAL

Art & Stroll  
downtownparagould.com



Page 63

### EVENT VENUE

The Crossing

### GOLF COURSE

Fox Hills Country Club

Thank you for voting



**COLLINS  
THEATRE**

*Best*

**LIVE  
ENTERTAINMENT  
VENUE**



Also nominated for  
"Country Music Venue  
of the Year"!

# Gifts/Décor Shop **WINNERS:**

## HOME DÉCOR

Perfect Touch  
314 W Garland



Page 71

## WEDDING GIFTS

Perfect Touch  
314 W Garland



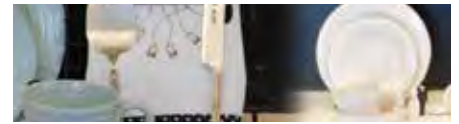
Page 71

## BABY GIFTS

Born to Blaze

## HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Perfect Touch  
314 W Garland



Page 71



**1<sup>ST</sup>** *First National Bank*  
*You First. Always.*

870.215.4000 | [fnbank.net](http://fnbank.net) 

Moving is stressful, but it doesn't have to be!

Exodus 15:2

# EXODUS MOVING, LLC

Professional, Affordable, Commercial & Residential Moving



## Thank You!

We are thankful to be voted  
Paragould's Best Moving Company!



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# Kids

## WINNERS:

### CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY VENUE

Paragould Cinema 8  
paragouldcinema.com



Page 68

### CHILDCARE CENTER

A Touch of Mom

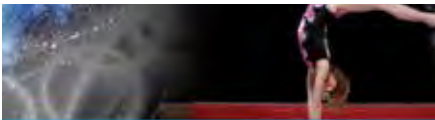
### DANCE STUDIO

Tabatha's Dance Company

### GYMNASTICS

Champions Gymnastics Center

(870)236-3268



Page 73

### COACH

Royce McMillon (CRA)

### MARTIAL ARTS

Paragould ATA Martial Arts

### SCHOOL DISTRICT

Greene County Tech

gctsd.k12.ar.us



Page 72 & 88

### PARK

Reynolds Park

parksandrecreation.com



Page 65

### DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Tabatha Horner

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Chad Jordan - GCT High School

gctsd.k12.ar.us



Page 72 & 88

### TEACHER

Leigh Sullivan - GCT High School

gctsd.k12.ar.us



Page 72 & 28

*Perfect Touch*  
Gifts & Home Decor

**Thank You Paragould!**  
WE ARE SO EXCITED TO BE VOTED FOR THREE PREMIERE AWARDS!

- BEST HOME DECOR
- BEST WEDDING GIFTS
- BEST HOLIDAY DECOR

2019 PREMIERE AWARDS  
Paragould PREMIERE

Mon - Fri: 10AM - 6PM Sat: 9AM - 4PM  
870-236-6322 | 314 W. Garland

# THANK YOU!



*for voting*  
**Greene County Tech  
BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT**



*for voting*  
**Chad Jordan  
BEST SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATOR**



*for voting*  
**Leigh Sullivan  
BEST SCHOOL TEACHER**







**WINNER:**

# Hyde's Termite & Pest Control

Best Pest Control Service

“

I'm very grateful to our loyal customers for continuously voting us as their favorite pest control company. I assure you, we will continue to provide the quality services you expect and deserve.

”

**-JERRY HYDE**



## KNIGHT PRODUCTIONS

VIDEOGRAPHY | PHOTOGRAPHY | GRAPHIC DESIGN | DIGITAL MEDIA

### NOW LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD

### 204 SOUTH PRUETT



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VISIT: [KNIGHTPRODUCTIONS.INFO](http://KNIGHTPRODUCTIONS.INFO)



*"Thank You Paragould for Voting us #1 9 Years in a Row!"*

**CHAMPIONS GYMNASTICS**

870-236-3286 | [championsgymnasticscenter.net](http://championsgymnasticscenter.net) | Like us on Facebook to stay updated!

# Life Events

## WINNERS:

### CATERER

Kiss the Cook  
(870)335-2665



Page 74

### CUSTOM CAKES

Something Sweet  
(870)565-5169



Page 40 & 75

### FLORIST

Alvin Taylor's Flowers  
alvintaylorflowers.com



Page 75

### VIDEOGRAPHER

Knight Productions  
knightproductions.info



Page 73

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Whitney Vassar  
(870)219-2902



Page 75 & 76

### FUNERAL HOME

Heath Funeral Home

### PARTY RENTAL

Vintage Rental Depot

### RETIREMENT CENTER

Chateau on the Ridge

Thank You!

*Voted Best Salad and Catering*

Paragould PREMIERE

"Specializing in Homemade Yum!"

870-335-2665 • 5301 Linwood Drive, Suite A • Paragould, AR • [kissthecookyum.com](http://kissthecookyum.com)



# WINNER: *Something Sweet*

Voted Best Custom Cakes and  
Best Bakery/Sweet Shop



“ By far the best cake I have ever had. Something Sweet did an amazing job with our cakes. ”

-KENDALL FLEMING PRICE, CLIENT

“ I loved my cake. Thank you Tracy and Something Sweet – it was perfect and yummy! ”

-KAYLA GRAMLING, CLIENT



# WINNER: *Whitney Vassar Photography*

“ Whitney has been taking pictures of my family for almost six years. Everything from the mini sessions she offers to maternity, newborn, and milestone pictures of my babies. Whitney prides herself in her work and makes sure to capture the personalities of her clients. I love that Whitney always makes photo shoots fun and enjoyable for everyone! We always share laughs before, during, and after a session. I am forever thankful for the many memories she has captured of me and my family! ”

-THE GILLMORES, CLIENTS



**Alvin Taylor's Flowers, Inc.**  
Flowers for all Occasions  
but we LOVE Weddings!

Thank you for your vote year after year!

7870-236-8704 • alvintaylorflowers.com • 209 N. Pruet • Paragould

Paragould PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2020

# Thank You, Paragould!

**WHITNEY VASSAR PHOTOGRAPHY**  
VOTED "BEST PHOTOGRAPHER!"

*Paragould*  
**PREMIERE**

AWARD WINNER  
2020

**NOW BOOKING  
2021 SENIORS!**

Mention this ad to receive 10% off your Senior Photography Package!



wvassarphotography



Whitney Vassar Photography

Phone: 870.219.2902

Visit: [whitneyvassarphotography.zenfolio.com](http://whitneyvassarphotography.zenfolio.com)

# Professionals WINNERS:

## REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Image Realty  
(870)236-2121



Page 78

## ATTORNEY

Jeff Branch  
(870)239-9581



Page 77

## FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Dr. John Hines -AMMC  
(870)205-2000



Page 80

## REALTOR

Amber Gill, Paragould  
Realty Pro  
(870) 215-2419



Page 84

## LAW FIRM

Branch, Thompson,  
Warmath & Dale  
(870)239-9581



Page 77

## DRY CLEANING

Randy's Dry Cleaners  
(Magic Touch)

## AUDIOLOGIST

Natural Hearing Centers  
(870)239-3072



Page 79 & 88

## HOME HOSPICE AGENCY

Home Health  
Professionals & Hospice  
(870)932-7630



Page 83

## CHIROPRACTOR

Dr. Spencer Neal  
-Inman Chiropractic/Neal  
Chiropractic Physical Medicine

*Thank you*  
**PARAGOULD!**

Jeff Branch  
Paragould's Best Attorney

Branch, Thompson, Warmath & Dale  
Paragould's Best Law Firm

870.239.9581

Paragould  
**PREMIERE**  
AWARD WINNER 2020

Branch • Thompson  
Warmath • Dale

A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

## DENTAL CLINIC

Paragould Family Dentistry  
1224 West Court St



Page 85

## DENTIST

Dr. Kevin Mann  
1224 West Court St



Page 85

## OBSTETRICIAN

Dr. Rose Glynné,  
Paragould OB/GYN Clinic

## HOME HEALTH AGENCY

1st Choice Home Health Care  
(870)222-0088



Page 87 & 96

## NURSE PRACTITIONER

Lyndon Ramirez, ARPN  
(NEA Baptist)  
(870)936-7652



Page 11

## ORTHODONTIST

Westrock Orthodontics

## MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Affordable Medical  
Supplies

(870)239-0997



Page 79

## WOMEN'S MEDICAL CLINIC

AMMC Urgent Care/Women  
Family

(870)205-2000



Page 80

# Thank You!

## FOR VOTING US BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY

## YEARS IN A ROW!

# IMAGE REALTY



8 SOUTHPOINTE DRIVE | 870-236-2121  
WWW.MYIMAGEREALTY.COM

## OPTOMETRIST

Dr. Casey Wells  
-Wells Vision Care  
(870)236-7713



Page 84

## PHARMACY

City Drug  
1512 Linwood Dr.



Page 82 & 88

## OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Alyssa Wenger (Vision Care)

**Affordable Medical**  
Home Medical Equipment & Supplies

**Thank you for voting us Best Medical Supplies!**

Your trusted hometown provider of home oxygen.  
[www.affmedsupplies.com](http://www.affmedsupplies.com)

<b>JONESBORO</b> 4707 E. Johnson Ave. (870) 972-5900	<b>PARAGOULD</b> 501 W. Kingshighway (870) 239-0997	<b>WALNUT RIDGE</b> 308 W. Main St. (870) 886-1260
--	---	--

# Thank You, Paragould!

*"I have dedicated my life to helping the hearing impaired. I know that better hearing can be absolutely life changing because I have seen it firsthand in the many people I've been able to help over the years. Reconnecting people to their world is the absolute best part of my job and I am honored to receive this award. Thank you so very much!"*

*Betty Bailey*

**Natural Hearing CENTERS**

913 West Court Street  
870-239-3072  
[NaturalHearingCenters.com](http://NaturalHearingCenters.com)

## PHYSICIAN/GENERAL

Dr. Leslye McGrath, NEA  
Baptist Paragould Clinic

## PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Chris Enger  
NEA Baptist Paragould  
Clinic

## ULTRASOUND CLINIC

Peek-A-Boo 3D/4D  
Ultrasound & Baby  
Boutique  
peekaboocar.com



Page 81

## PLASTIC/COSMETIC SERVICE

Dr. Joel Epperson  
paragouldplasticsurgery.org



Page 16

## MEDICAL CLINIC

NEA Baptist  
(870)936-7652



Page 11

## COUNSELING SERVICES

Families Inc.  
familiesinc.net

**FAMILIES, INC.**  
counseling services

LIFE IS MEANT TO BE ENJOYED!

Toll-free: 877.595.8869 | familiesinc.net

Page 82

## MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Jamie Gibson, LPC  
Meaningful Journeys  
870-495-2911



Page 94



Arkansas Methodist  
Medical Center

# THANK YOU

## VOTED:

**BEST Women's Medical Clinic**  
Family & Women's Health  
and Urgent Care

**BEST Family Physician**  
Dr. Hines

**BEST Plastic/Cosmetic Service**  
Dr. Epperson

**BEST Obstetrician**  
Dr. Glynne



1110 W Kingshighway, Paragould, AR  
(870) 205-2000







# WINNER: Ajax Title

Best Title Company

“

I have worked with Ajax title for several years. They are very efficient, friendly and a pleasure to work with. They make you feel like you are part of the family. I have never had a delay or issue with any of their work. The staff is very focused on doing the best for the customer. To sum it up they are WONDERFUL!

”

-PHIL ALLEN, PCA & JAA PROPERTIES, LLC




**THANK YOU**  
for voting Jessica Ko  
BEST Speech  
Therapist!



Providing Speech,  
Physical, Occupational  
and Developmental  
Therapy Services  
870-520-8761  
146 Linwood Drive  
handsonlearningllc@yahoo.com



**THANK YOU**  
for voting us **BEST**  
Ultrasound Clinic!



**Peek-A-Boo**  
3D/4D Ultrasound & Baby Boutique

- Heartbeat Keepsakes
- DNA Gender Testing at 8 weeks

Receive 5D Images right to your smart phone to save and share.

Call or message us on Facebook for an appointment!

**HOURS:**  
Tues-Sat: 10AM-5PM

(870) 205-1165 • www.peakabooar.com  
1704 Linwood Drive • Paragould, AR






# Paragould's Best

## Mental Health Counseling Services

**Thank you to our staff, clients and community!**

"For close to 20 years the staff at our Paragould Clinic have done an outstanding job investing in the lives of children, adolescents, and adults in the home, school, and outpatient office. We are proud of this honor for them as we consider them *Premiere* in our *Family* too!"

-Families, Inc. Administration.



**FAMILIES, INC.**  
counseling services

Toll-free: 877.595.8869  
familiesinc.net



Pharmacists: Joy Miller, Mallory Williams, Nikki Houston | Two Drive-Thru's





# CITY DRUG

## PHARMACY

*"A friendly, independent pharmacy proudly serving NEA since 1904"*

1512 Linwood Drive, Paragould | 870.236.8501

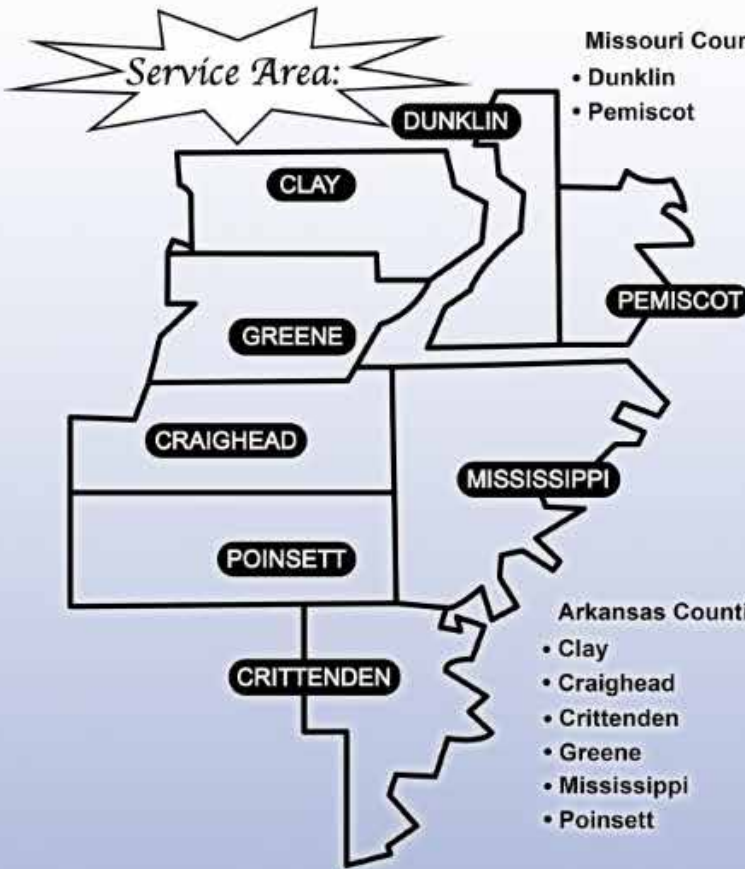
On behalf of all of us here at **HOME HEALTH Professionals & Hospice, Inc.** we would like to thank all the people of Northeast, AR & Southeast, MO that voted for our agency. It's a pleasure serving all the doctors and their patients when we are called to do so. We are a family-run business and **NOT** a stockheld company. We have supported the community for 36 years and continue to do so. So please have your clinic ask for us **HOME HEALTH Professionals & Hospice, Inc.**



**Gina Wilson,  
Administrator**



**Paul Fowler,  
Administrator**



**Alex Cristee,  
PTA**



**Bernard Raley,  
Marketing**



**Bridgett Dogan,  
RN**



**Carrie Ray,  
PTA**



**LaNan Parker,  
RN**



**Lisa Hall,  
In-Take Blytheville**



**Marcus Ballard,  
PTA**



**Mary Johns,  
CNA**



**Pat Fowler,  
Biller**



**Shirley Gudehus,  
CNA**



**Tammy King,  
LPN**



**Shelly Webb,  
RN**



**Tracy Guadalupe,  
PT**



**2222 Spence Circle  
Jonesboro, AR 72401**

**Phone: 870-932-7630  
Fax: 870-932-9422**

**Business Hours:  
Monday-Friday 8:30AM-5PM  
Nurse on call after 5PM for  
Emergency Services.**

## PEDIATRICIAN

Dr. Kristina Wenger

-Paragould Pediatrics, PLLC  
4000 Linwood Dr. Suite H



Page 85

## SPEECH THERAPIST

Jessica Ko

-Hands On Learning  
146 Linwood Dr.



Page 81

## NURSE

Callie Harmon

(NEA Baptist Paragould Clinic)

(870)936-7652



Page 11

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Jennie Bevill (CME Paragould)

## CARDIOLOGIST

Dr. Ammar Al-Hallak

(Cardiology Associates of  
Northeast Arkansas)

(870)239-0779



Page 48

**WELLS VISION CARE**

219 W MAIN STREET  
PARAGOULD, AR  
(870) 236-7713

**THANK YOU  
FOR VOTING US BEST  
EYE CARE!**

*Amber Gill*

215-2419  
ambergillsells@gmail.com

2019 PREMIER PARAGOULD WINNER

Paragould PREMIERE REALTOR WINNER 2018

**Thank You!**  
For voting me  
Paragould's  
Best REALTOR.

PARAGOULD Realty Pro



**Paragould Pediatrics**  
 Kristina Wenger, M.D.

The staff of Paragould Pediatrics would like to say thank you!

(870) 236-7337

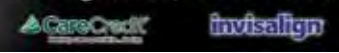
4000 Linwood Dr. Suite H  
 Paragould, AR 72450



Paragould Family Dentistry

**THANK YOU**  
 to our patients and those who voted  
**Dr. Kevin Mann BEST Dentist & BEST Dental Clinic in Paragould!**

**Kevin Mann, DDS**  
 1224 West Court Street  
 Paragould | 239-5518



# Pet WINNERS:

## PET GROOMING SERVICE

Glam Grooms  
(870)240-0177



Page 90 & 94

## PET SUPPLIES

PetSmart

## VETERINARY CLINIC

Linwood Animal Hospital  
(870)236-7778



Page 86

## BOARDING

Unleashed Doggy Daycare  
& Boarding  
(870)476-4367



Page 87

**Linwood**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Thank You  
for Voting for  
*Linwood Animal Hospital*  
"Devoting ourselves to the care of  
our patients and their families"

Paragould  
**PREMIERE**  
AWARD WINNER  
2020

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

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

504 Linwood Drive  
(Next to Walgreens)  
Monday - Friday 7:30am - 5pm  
Drop-off service available.      **870.236.7778**  
Call for an Appointment.

Gracefully  
Southern  
accessories & gifts

Thank You  
For Voting Us  
**BEST JEWELRY STORE**  
In Paragould!

JEWELRY, ACCESSORIES,  
GIFTS, APPAREL & MORE!

870.335.5274 | 203 N. Pruet St. Downtown Paragould  
gracefullysoutherngift.com

2019  
**PREMIERE**  
PARAGOULD WINNER  
Paragould  
**PREMIERE**



**WINNER:**

# 1st Choice Home Health

Best Home Health Agency

“

It helps having someone you can get along with and trust being in your home. We trust Karrie and have since we met her. Karrie helps get our groceries, helps with showers and getting dressed, she prepares and serves meals as well as cleaning the house. She's never failed to do what we've asked her to do. I was only getting two hours of care, two days a week before but the nurse at 1st Choice, Molly, helped get more hours of care and now I have five days a week, 3-4 hours a day. We consider 1st Choice like our family. They take really good care of us. Karrie the CNA is very observant and doesn't hesitate to call the on staff nurse if there is any concern or need for extra care. Molly has made sure we have hand sanitizer, masks and disinfectant wipes since the Covid pandemic started.

”

**-RON COLLIER, CLIENT**



**Unleashed**  
Doggy Daycare & Boarding LLC

**Paragould PREMIERE**  
BEST HOME HEALTH AGENCY

**THANK YOU**  
for voting us **BEST**  
doggy day care!

Monday - Friday: 6am to 6pm  
Boarding 7 Days a Week  
(870) 476-4367

**THANKS FOR VOTING**  
**DR. WENGER**  
AS BEST OPHTHALMOLOGIST

**VISION CARE CENTER**

1221 W. Court, Paragould, AR  
623 E. Matthews, Jonesboro, AR  
visioncarear.com



**WINNER:**

# Greene County Tech

Voted Best School District, School Administrator and Teacher

“ Choosing Greene County Tech was not a decision that our family took lightly. It was a two-fold process for us. We obviously want our kids to have a great education but it was also equally important for us to feel that our kids were being well-cared for with teachers and staff that we trusted.

**-SARAH RUNYAN**



**WINNER:**

# City Drug

Voted Best Pharmacy



I have been a customer at City Drug ever since they opened their store on Linwood Drive. City Drug is the best pharmacy I have ever used. All the pharmacists and all the other workers are so nice to deal with. They know me by name and not a number. They take good care of me and my family with the different medications by letting us know the side effects and reduced prices if there are any that have a discount on them. They have a drive-through that is very convenient or they will deliver prescriptions to your home if you need them to. City Drug is my favorite pharmacy of all time. Happy customer!



**-TAMMY FARMER, CUSTOMER**



**WINNER:**

# Natural Hearing Centers

Voted Best Audiologist

“ [The staff is] warm, friendly, courteous, and professional. They are a pleasure to deal with and have been extremely helpful ... Bottom line, at an age where life seems to be taking things away from me, my hearing has been returned to me thanks to Natural!

**-JOSHUA-PAUL ANDERSON, PATIENT**





# Restaurant

## WINNERS:

### BAKERY/SWEET TREATS

Something Sweet  
221 S Pruet St.



Page 40 & 75

### BREAKFAST

Batten's Donuts & Bakery

### BUFFET STYLE

Simpkins Family Buffet

### BURGER

Hamburger Station

### BBQ

Ironhorse Barbecue  
2801 US 49



Page 89

### CATFISH

Ironhorse Barbecue  
2801 US 49



Page 89

### CHICKEN

Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen

### COFFEE

Shadrachs

1600 W Kingshighway



Page 90 & 95

### ETHNIC

Avanzare Italian Restaurant

### ASIAN

Kimono Japanese Steak House



**IRONHORSE BBQ & STEAKHOUSE**

# THANK YOU

For Voting Us **BEST**  
Barbecue & Catfish. We Appreciate  
the **19 Years** of Patronage!



**IRONHORSE BARBECUE**

49 South | 870-236-7207

49 North | 870-239-9758



Family Owned & Operated

HOME OF THE MOST TENDER PORK STEAK IN ARKANSAS

CATERING | 870-240-4495



**GLAM GROOMS**

*by Autumn Wiggins*

**(870)-240-0177**

**THANK YOU**  
for voting us  
**BEST groomer!**



**2700 Linwood Drive | Paragould**



**Thank You**

**Voted Paragould's  
Best Coffee!**

**1600 W Kingshighway, Paragould  
870-919.7483**



## SANDWICH

Hyde Park Cafe  
(870) 236-8700



Page 91

## SOUP

CHOW at 118

## SALAD

Kiss the Cook

5301 Linwood Dr



Page 74

## PIZZA

Marco's Pizza

1733 W Kingshighway



Page 91

## FAST FOOD

Fazoli's

## MEXICAN

Avocado's Grill

200 N 23rd St.



Page 95

## SEAFOOD

Delta Crawfish



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR VOTING US BEST PIZZA!**



**(870) 240-0401**  
**1733 W Kingshighway**  
**Paragould, AR**

**THANK YOU**  
for voting Hyde Park Café  
**BEST SANDWICH!**



Hyde Park Hours:  
Monday - Friday: 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

113 W Main St, Paragould, AR 72450  
Calls & Catering: (870) 236-8700

# Shopping WINNERS:

## MEN'S CLOTHING

Belk

## TUXEDO

Daughters Boutique

107 N Pruet St.

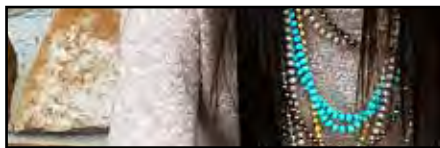


Page 94

## JEWELRY STORE

Gracefully Southern

203 N Pruet St.



Page 86

## WOMEN'S CLOTHING

22 Lou

2405 Linwood Dr.



Page 95

## UNIFORM CLOTHING

NEA Uniforms

## SPORTING GOODS

SDM Pawn

# HILL TOP SPIRITS

1906 Hwy. 49 North, Paragould, AR | 870-236-6150

**Every Tuesday is Wine Day...  
Shop our ENTIRE collection 10% off!**

**Thank you, Premiere Readers!!!**



*Thank you for voting  
us your #1 Flea Market  
4 Years in a Row!*

*"Where you will always find  
something to crow about."  
Owners: Tom & Tonya Wray*

505 S. 2nd Ave. Paragould, AR 72450 | 870.240.8801  Tue.-Sat 10-6

## SHOE STORE

Belk

## PAWN SHOP

SDM Pawn

## WEDDING DRESS

Daughters Boutique

107 N Prueett St.



Page 94

## HARDWARE/TOOL STORE

Gazaway Ace

## THRIFT SHOP

Abilities Unlimited

## FORMAL WEAR

Daughters Boutique

107 N Prueett St.



Page 94

## CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Born to Blaze

## LIQUOR STORE

Hill Top Spirits

1906 US 49



Page 92

## FLEA MARKET/ANTIQUE

Rocking Rooster Flea Market

505 S 2nd Ave.



Page 92

## GROCERY STORE

Hays (Plaza)

## HEALTH FOOD/NUTRITION

Healthy Hub

1704 Linwood Dr.



Page 93

# THANK YOU PARAGOULD

FOR VOTING US  
"BEST HEALTHY FOOD"  
TWO YEARS IN A ROW!



THE HEALTHY  
HUB

870-236-4482  
1704 LINWOOD DR  
PARAGOULD, AR 72450



# WINNER: *Glam Grooms*

“

Autumn has been a part of our dog's life since we first got him as a puppy in 2012. She was new to grooming then and we were new to having a puppy in our life. Coach, our toy poodle, is a little shy but she always puts him at ease when she takes him in her arms -- sometimes even showering Autumn with kisses. It is a comfort as a pet owner to have a groomer he feels secure with. We have always been able to depend on Autumn to keep Coach looking great.

”

**-MARK AND LANA TEDDER, CLIENT**



*“Thank You Again!*  
**2020 has been a challenge for everyone.**  
**My certification in Telemental Health has been a blessing.**  
**We still LOVE face to face- 6 feet apart of course. Either way, let us know if we can help!”**

**Paragould PREMIERE**

**Meaningful Journeys**  
 THERAPY & SUPPORT CENTER

870.495.2911 **f**  
 723 West Kingshighway  
 Paragould, Arkansas

**Jamie Gibson LPC**



**db**

**Thank You!**  
*voted BEST wedding dress, tuxedo & formal wear!*

**107 N. Pruet Street, Paragould | 870.450.5685**  
 daughters-boutique.business.site

**Paragould PREMIERE**

**DAUGHTERS**



# WINNER: *Shadrachs*

Voted Best Coffee

“ My wife and I drink Shadrachs Coffee around five to six times a week, sometimes multiple times a day ... do we have a problem? Absolutely! When I need a pick-me-up, Shadrachs is there to Kahlua kick (drink of choice – four shots of espresso, ALWAYS) my butt back into gear. The service keeps us coming back for more and let’s talk about incentives: Who doesn’t like free coffee?! The staff is great and makes me feel like my cup of coffee is the only cup of coffee that matters to them. I know they’re sprinkling some love in each cup. Thanks Shadrachs, y’all are the real MVPs!

”

**-COLBY MARSHALL, CUSTOMER**



**THANK YOU**  
For voting us Premiere Best Mexican Cuisine!

Sunday-Thursday: 11AM-9PM  
Friday-Saturday: 11AM-10PM  
200 N 23rd St, Paragould, AR 72450  
(870) 236-4677

PREMIER 2018  
PREMIER 2019  
Paragould PREMIERE

**avocado's GRILL**

22 lou  
boutique @22LouBoutique

PREMIER 2019  
Paragould PREMIERE

**Thank You**  
for voting 22 lou Best Women’s Clothing Store!  
shop22lou.com

870.215.7752 • 2405 Linwood Dr. Paragould, AR



WE CARE

1<sup>st</sup> Choice  
HOME CARE  
*"The Best Choice!"*



"Thank you to our office staff, caregivers, & clients for helping make 1st Choice the Best Choice!"

*Alycia Stroud RN, CEO*

## Personable Caregivers

We accept ALL PASSE

### Personal Care

Our personal care services provide Senior and disabled individuals with caring assistance for daily activities that range from dressing to meal preparation.

### Attendant Care

Our attendant services take a compassionate approach to assisting clients with a range of day-to-day living needs. Whatever your level of care requires, we're here for you.

### AR Choices

We're proud to work with ARChoices- a public Medicaid program that offers home care services for Senior citizens over 65 and disabled adults who require assistance.

### Targeted Case Management

Targeted case management (AKA TCM) refers to a Medicaid program that provides care and assistance for Medicaid beneficiaries who reside within certain geographical areas.

### Home Care For Veterans

For our veterans, we are here to provide a level and in home care based on your unique needs. We work with elderly and disabled clients in need of assistance with day-to-day activities.

### Respite Care

Caring for a loved one is one of the most compassionate acts - but occasionally you need a break. That's why we offer respite care to temporarily relieve you and assume those duties.



AWARD WINNING CARE

*Best Home Health Agency*



1stchoicehomecare.net • 870.222.0088



# Happenings



The 9U Rawlings Tigers Team of Jonesboro took the title of State Champs in the USSSA 9AA Tournament on Sunday, July 12, 2020.



Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro and Simmons Bank completed work on the Scott Family home in time for Independence Day.



Paragould native Airman Olivia Lawrence bid farewell to the officers and crew after completing a successful two-year tour aboard the USS Constitution in July. Duty aboard the USS Constitution is one of the Navy's special programs, and all prospective crew members must meet a high standard of sustained excellence and interview to be selected for the assignment.



Congratulations to Sheila Hinson for winning the Paragould Board of Realtors Realtor of the Year Award for 2020.



**NEW OWNER!**

**swirlz**  
frozen treats

**Come Meet Lindsey Hagood & Family!**

**DAILY Specials and NEW Flavors Weekly**  
Indoor + Outdoor Seating | Gift Cards Available

2709 W Kingshighway Unit 1 | 870.573.0990

<p><b>HOURS:</b>                  Mon-Thurs 12pm to 9pm                  Friday-Saturday 12pm to 10pm                  Sunday 1pm to 8pm</p>	<p>Frozen Custard                  NEW Rolled Ice Cream                  Smoothies + Milkshakes                  Gelato</p>
--	---

# 2020 Kids' Events

# August

## Every Weekday

### Storytime

**When:** Every Weekday at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library's Facebook Page

**Info:** [libraryinjonesboro.org](http://libraryinjonesboro.org)

## Every Tuesday

### Virtual Story Hour

**When:** Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Greene County Public Library's Facebook and Instagram pages

**Info:** (870) 236-8711

## Every Friday

### Plaza Fridays

**When:** Every Friday

**Where:** Centennial Plaza

**Info:**

The Foundation of Art's Facebook Page

Tatum Freligh hasn't let any of the worries of the world remove the smile from her face. Tatum, 5, is the daughter of Justin Freligh of Paragould.



# StayTuned

## Agriculture



Fair history, what to expect, and more.

## Farmers Market



A look at seasonal offerings, recipe inspiration, and vendor resources.

## NEA Seniors



Our quarterly NEA Senior edition brings you the good news in our senior community and resources for seniors and their families.

On The Cover: Leigh Sullivan  
Photo By: Amy Reeves Photography

THANK YOU  
FOR VOTING!



Stadium  
**AUTO BODY**  
INC.  
COLLISION CENTERS

1720 Stone Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401 | 870-333-5035  
4606 Stadium Blvd, Jonesboro, AR 72401 | 870-932-4091

BEST AUTO BODY SHOP

BANKWITHSOUTHERN.COM



Southern  
BANK

WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU

We believe in you. In what you're doing. In who you want to be.  
Because we know there is an endless amount of things you can  
do when you're supported by the people around you.

Member FDIC

# Take comfort in expert care.

---

Everyday health issues don't get put on hold for a pandemic – and we don't slow down. We are ready to treat all of your medical needs and protect you from COVID-19 in the process. Schedule an appointment today.



Arkansas Methodist  
Medical Center

---

(870) 239-7000 | [myammc.org](http://myammc.org) |   