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June  
2020

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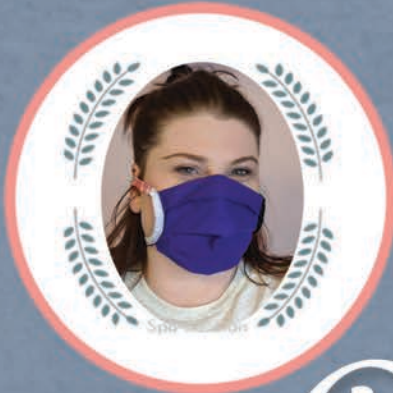
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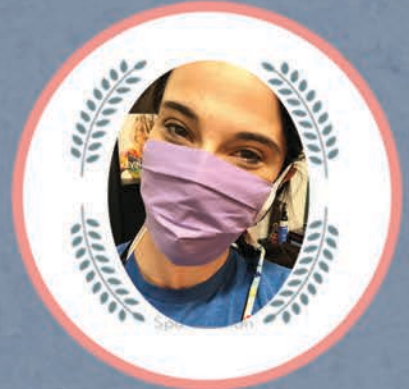
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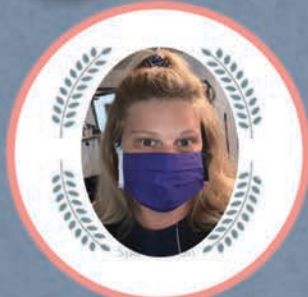


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# From The PUBLISHER... DINA MASON

“

2020 has brought many “extraordinary” things, no doubt. I keep hearing “extraordinary times” and I think every time that has always meant “extra good” things to me, but then I am the glass half full person. And even in these times I still see “extraordinary” as being extra good.

While many things are strained and difficult, there are things that have been a positive out of all this crazy. I have heard of families cooking and eating dinner at the table; parents reading – in front of their kids - and not just on Facebook or their phones; walks outside as a family; acts of kindness, like the meals bought from local restaurants by concerned citizens as an effort to help the local small business and to feed those in need.

We all have the opportunity to look for the “extra

ordinary good” in every situation and I hope you use the information you find in Premiere every month to exercise your positive impact through lending a hand to an organization you read about; or even if it is just that you choose to spend your earnings at one of our local business advertisers - we can all “be the good” in our community.

Our annual Premiere Awards for Jonesboro publish in this edition and the Paragould Premiere Awards will be in the August edition. Keep them around or look them up at [premiere-magazine.com](http://premiere-magazine.com) each time you are looking for a local business that offers what you need — you will find “extraordinary” goods and services and local businesses will appreciate your efforts. I know this local, small, family owned business appreciates your reading and letting our advertisers know you found them in Premiere Magazine.

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# GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



"A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself."  
-- Josh Billings

I make no apologies for being a dog person. I like people -- most of them, anyway -- but I love dogs. Always have, always will ... and I will walk several hundred feet out of my way to maybe get to pet a dog while from the same distance I will wave or nod at a human and go on about my business. Most people I know don't like to be petted anyway.

From the earliest moments I can recall about life, my family had dogs. We lived in the country and my dad kept foxhounds around, both as an alarm for times when strange vehicles pulled into the driveway and for sporting purposes. He and his pals would load their hounds up in their trucks, set up a campsite somewhere in the woods familiar to them and then let the dogs out to chase foxes. Dad and the rest all died believing they could detect their dogs' barks from those of the rest, but on the few occasions that I tagged along it just sounded

like a pack of hounds barking in unison.

"That's Dell out in front," my dad would say, looking off into the darkness in the direction of the yelping.

"Nah, that's old Martha," someone else would contribute, going into great detail how he could distinguish her unique bark from that of all the others, and if old Martha happened to come walking back into camp all tuckered out at that precise moment it provided unbridled hooting and hollering from the other dog owners. I was most often asleep by that time, having eaten a couple of hotdogs cooked over a charcoal bucket. Only after daylight would I learn that the guys had a great race while I slept in the truck. I have no way of knowing if anyone's dog actually won the competition, because I don't know how it was decided in the first place.

One of Dad's dogs was named Casey, and he and I bonded early on. According to me, a momma dog laid a bunch of puppies in the dog pen one day and Dad came running for my help. Seems Mom had dug out a cool spot and gotten all comfortable underneath the dog house and gave birth to a litter, but the runt of the bunch was wedged in a tight spot and faced the possibility of choking to death on dirt and sawdust. Dad summoned me from the house and -- since I was the runt of the family litter -- told me I needed to crawl under the structure and see if I could free the pup.

I did, and when I pulled him free he snuggled close, eyes still not yet open. But the strange thing was, from that day forward I was his best friend. My job was to

enter the pen and feed the dogs twice daily and they always charged the kid with the food bucket. Once it was distributed into feeding pans they sprinted for the food ... all except Casey. He got up on his hind legs and put his front paws on me, begging for me to sit on a bench and play. He licked and I laughed and we grew closer day by day. If someone held the gate open too long and some of the dogs escaped, I was the only one Casey would come back to.

Once I called his name and then knelt down he'd come running and tackle me and it was easy to get him back into the pen. And sometimes at the end of a hunting escapade some of the hounds would not have returned by the time the men had to go home in the early morning hours, and they'd have to return later in the day to blow on a horn and summon their troops. Any time Casey was one of the AWOL hounds, Dad had to take me with him on the return trip because the dog didn't want to interact with many humans other than me.

Maybe that's where it started, I can't say for sure. But today when someone has a dog and it decides to jump into my lap or give me a big old wet kiss, I dismiss their apologies by saying, "It's okay; I love dogs." One named Zoey lives in my house now and she is the true picture of the phrase "lap dog." She's a rescue animal and wants constant contact with her humans. I'm okay with that and I'm okay knowing that when I've been gone for a while she will be the first to greet me, either at the back door or by hopping up on the end table and wagging her tail. My wife and daughters have never done that for me, so I feel special when this little one gives me that kind of attention.

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# LIVING A Better Story

BY JARED PICKNEY

**W**e have a manhood crisis in our culture. Ninety-four percent of all prison inmates and 80% of all suicides are males. Men in our culture are confused, disappointed, lonely, hurting and simply drifting through life with no grand vision.

This leaves us with one burning question: What exactly does it mean to be a man? In short, a man is one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously and invests eternally.

1. Rejects Passivity. A real man isn't afraid to serve. He doesn't sit back and wait for others to meet a need. He takes initiative for the benefit of another.

2. Accepts Responsibility. A real man is one who stops making excuses for why his life is a mess and begins to take responsibility for it. He provides for and protects his family. He works a hard and honest job. He cares for the things God has entrusted him with.

3. Leads Courageously. A real man lives a life that others want to follow. He sets an example that other men want to mimic.

4. Invest Eternally. A real man doesn't waste his life on things that will be in a graveyard 50 years from now. He lives in the reality that life is short, and that he needs to make it count for an eternity. How are you doing in these areas? Take

time to ask your wife, family and closest friends.

The truth is, only one man has ever lived up to this call perfectly. Jesus Christ flawlessly rejected passivity, accepted responsibility, led courageously and invested eternally.

It is only by growing in our dependence on this man, Jesus, that we can truly become the men God made us to be.

That said, let's admit our need for Jesus. Let's run after him together. And let us settle for nothing less than who we were designed to be as men. There is nothing greater to give our lives to.

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# Parade of Cheers

On Monday, May 18, Block Insurance, in partnership with Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and many nursing homes around Paragould, put on the “Parade of Cheers” in an effort to spread a little cheer – at a safe distance.

“At Block Insurance we had been trying to think of ways we could show our support to the healthcare workers that are making daily sacrifices to keep our community safe and tending to our loved ones in the nursing homes and retirement community,” said Allison Hestand, who came up with the idea for the parade.

The Paragould Police Department helped lead and provide the caboose of the parade that also included Greene County Rescue Squad vehicles, and a Paragould Fire Department truck. Brian Osborn of MOR Media Inc. developed a parade soundtrack and even offered a live remote broadcast through much of the event.

“We had a great night and like things like this usually go ... I think many of us received a greater blessing by having the opportunity to thank them, our healthcare workers, and to try to put a smile on the residents’ faces in the midst of our current uncertain times,” Allison said. “It was so much fun and was a great reminder of what makes Paragould one of the best communities around!”



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# I N B E T W E E N

BY LINDSEY MILLS



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I thought I knew exactly what I would write about for this column this month given the pet theme. But often times nothing in life goes as expected and I find myself in wonder at how quickly things can change.

We adopted our first dog as a couple three years ago, in June, actually. Kona was the perfect addition to our pack from the get-go: She went to work with us, loved to be outside more than anything, and trained rather easily. She's good natured, well behaved and loves adventure. Kona has been to the desert and the mountains, the lake and the river. Wherever she is, that's our home.

Two weeks ago, our family grew suddenly -- by four paws and two big ears. I've always wanted a second dog, but this adoption was not something we planned. Mira was rescued from rough living conditions and though we weren't at that moment contemplating getting another dog, we knew we wanted to give her the life we think she deserves.

In my personal opinion, dogs are the very best of us. Their love is truly unconditional and I feel we owe them nothing less than a respectable place in our families. When I saw Mira, I couldn't bear the thought of her not running down trails, swimming in rivers and curling up in the bed. She was born to run and play and craves attention. Sometimes we have to tell her to stop "wiggling" because she just gets so excited when we shower her with attention.

My biggest concern after realizing the commitment we'd just made was how Kona would deal with this. Would she think we loved her any less? It hurt my heart to think about. But in a matter of days her demeanor changed: She spars with the pup, lets her join us for cuddles, and even allows her to join in the excitement of Mom and Dad coming home. She still snaps at her when she pushes too far but she's accepted her into our pack nonetheless.

I'm in awe: Kona so quickly realized we need to accept Mira for all her good, her bad, and everything in-between.

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# Sounds Like... Summer!

BY SARA BROWN

A playlist for June

## 1. In The Summertime – Mungo Jerry

a. This is one of those songs that you know, but you don't realize it. It's been used in quite a few movies and TV shows, and for good reason. It's a bouncy, light song that really gets you into that summer state of mind. Put it on and it'll just make you want to go out and relax on the water

## 2. River Man – The Last Bandoleros

a. Speaking of going out on the water, the river is a popular place in the summer, and this song is perfect to crank up to get your party started. It's fun, it's catchy, and it sounds great – what more could you ask for? That undeniable rock 'n' roll sound combined with their country flair and perfect harmonies will get you on your feet and ready to jump right into the water!

## 3. Surfin' Safari – The Beach Boys

a. Nothing says summer quite like The Beach Boys. It's got those classic Beach Boys harmonies and it makes you feel like you're right there on a California beach watching the surfers on the waves. You won't be able to resist moving just like the waves when you listen to this one.

## 4. El Camino – Frankie Ballard

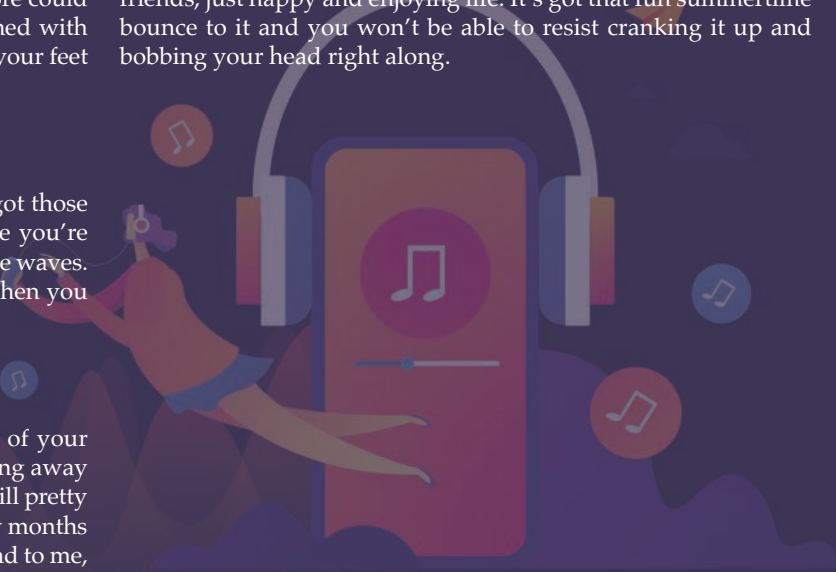
a. This is the perfect song to put at the very beginning of your summer road trip playlist. It's about taking off and running away from it all to escape heartache, but I think the message is still pretty applicable to all of us right now who've spent the past few months wanting to escape quarantine. It's a fun, energetic song, and to me, it just screams summer.

## 5. California Sun – The Rivieras

a. This is another one of those fun, retro surf rock tunes. Unlike The Beach Boys, this song focuses less on vocal harmonies and more on the surf rock sound with that guitar and the organ sounds. It's a fun song that'll make you feel like you're in one of those beach party movie scenes!

## 6. Road Trippin' – Dan + Shay

a. This is another good starter for your road trip playlist. It's all about taking a last-minute summertime road trip with all your friends, just happy and enjoying life. It's got that fun summertime bounce to it and you won't be able to resist cranking it up and bobbing your head right along.



An advertisement for Amy Reeves Photography. On the left, there is a text box with the tagline "Capturing the moments that mean the most to you." Below this is the company logo, which features a camera lens icon and the text "AMY REEVES PHOTOGRAPHY". The address "218 A Union St. Downtown Jonesboro" is listed, along with Facebook icons and the text "Amy Reeves Photography" and "Church Street Station Venue". To the right of the text box are three photographs: a bride and groom kissing, a bride running through a shower of confetti, and a bride in a white dress petting a dog.



# PET OF THE MONTH


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BY JAIME CLAYTON

Roscoe was actually just a few weeks old when he showed up at our doorstep eight years ago. He belonged to our neighbor's litter of boxer/lab puppies and he managed to somehow slip out of the fence. I carried him back to the neighbor's house, knocked on the door, and asked, "How much?" The neighbor said in a couple of weeks when he was weened, he could be all mine free of charge because he had clearly chosen his new home all on his own. I'm so thankful HE picked US because he has been the perfect addition to our family. Roscoe's sweet, calm, and gentle disposition has made him the perfect pup to tote to many community events such as


soccer games at the Paragould Community Center, T-ball and baseball games at Bland Baseball Park, Race for the Cure in Jonesboro, Trunk or Treat at my church and many other local gatherings. Roscoe loves kids and especially loves when they give him treats.

If Roscoe could talk, I think he would mostly beg for people food, ask to go on Jeep and Ranger rides, and tell everyone how much he loves a good ear scratch. He loves naps in his bed, tug toys, pizza, howling at sirens and playing with his sister Dixie(dog). You can often see Roscoe around town with his head out of my shotgun window!




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# College Tips by a College Student

BY SARA BROWN



It's June, we did it – we made it through the semester in one piece! We got through it, and unless you decided to take summer classes, we're done until fall. Now's the time to congratulate yourself for a job well done – you finished a semester of college during a global pandemic. That's something you should be proud of, so give yourself a pat on the back and some time off from learning this summer. Here are some tips on how to balance summertime relaxation with preparation for the future for wherever you find yourself in your college experience.

Tip one: For those graduating within the next year who wish to pursue further schooling, be aware of deadlines and what they mean. If you're looking to apply for some kind of program within the next year that has a required exam to get in, you need to be aware of the application deadline so you can make sure you take that exam in advance. Also, if the program requires any letters of recommendation or essays, you need to be aware of the deadlines so you can get letters from your professors and write the necessary essays ahead of time. Knowing these deadlines and planning accordingly will save you a lot of stress down the line.

Tip two: For those who know what they want to do with their degrees, but they aren't sure how to do it, talk to people. Your professors might be able to help you, people in your major might be able to help you, they might know people who can help you and can get you in touch. And if that doesn't work, Google might be your best friend. You can find just about any graduate program out there on Google with the right search, so chances are it has exactly what you're looking for. You

just have to take the time to find it.

Tip three: For those who don't quite yet know what they want to do with their degrees, carve aside time to think about what you want to do. Some people start college knowing exactly what they want to do with their lives, graduate, and end up doing exactly what they always said they would. For most of us, however, that isn't the case, and if you aren't graduating next year (or even if you are), summer is a great time to start thinking about what's next for you after you graduate. Once you think you know what you might be interested in pursuing with your degree, you can start looking either directly for that, or for the necessary programs you'll need to complete if graduate training is required.

Tip four: For those who are feeling unsure about the path they're on, figure out why. It may be that you aren't happy with the path you're on with your major. Like I mentioned earlier, some people know exactly what they want to do when they start college and that's exactly what they end up doing, but that's not the case with so many of us and it can even be that you love your major, but the path you had in mind with it isn't what you want to do now.

And finally, tip five: For everyone, make sure to work in a little time to relax. We've all just finished a crazy semester that we never could have predicted. Make sure you're still planning for your future, but don't be too hard on yourself. I'd say we all deserve a bit of a break after this semester so we can recharge and do it all over again this fall (on campus, I hope!). Don't stress, you're doing amazing and you've got this!



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# Quarantine Creativity

BY KAROLE RISKER



Sure, who hasn't spent their quarantine hours watching "Tiger King" and judging Carol Baskin (who totally did it, by the way)? Which of us can't say we haven't slept in a bit, visited our refrigerators a little more often, and cleaned out closets because there was simply nothing left to do.

Luckily, though, some of us have found other ways to wile away the hours.

Grant Pickney, of Anytime Fitness, has been sharing live workouts on Facebook. He teamed up with Olivia Prichard, full-time Personal Training Director and Group Exercise Coach.

"We know that people are creatures of habit, and we also know that a lot of people have trouble motivating themselves," said Grant. "We wanted

to keep people on a routine so that they wouldn't lose results that they'd worked so hard for, and we wanted to provide the accountability and encouragement that so many people need. Going LIVE on Facebook twice a day every day while we were closed also gave us plenty of opportunities to demonstrate creative exercises and techniques that were new for many people. Since reopening we've received many requests to launch a virtual program similar to what we were doing while we were closed. We announced in mid-May that we will be launching a virtual training program soon. In addition, we also offered weekly Zoom workouts to provide even more accountability and motivation for those who wanted/needed interaction with fellow members. We've even had people reach out to us from other states requesting that we resume the virtual

training. I just want to make healthy happen for as many people as I possibly can."

Or, how about this great idea from the Biggs house? "My husband, Jeremy Biggs, had been watching someone on Twitter who would show a daily horse race using a toy horse racing game from his living room. We looked on Amazon and found the exact same toy so, of course, we had to start hosting our own at-home race, via Facebook Live," said his wife April.

"For the last four weeks, we have hosted a live horse race every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night from our dining room with four of our favorite horses: Gloria, Canadian Bacon, L.C. Hunter and Your Mom. Tonight, we held the final race between the two horses with the most wins, Gloria and Canadian Bacon. Gloria



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won! It's completely silly but we have had so many people reach out to let us know they or their kids looked forward to our races so much. It provided some laughter to people during this crazy time, which was our goal. My daughter Ava and I worked behind the scenes with the camera and music, so it was a family project for sure!"

When classes turned online and students headed home, Hannah Risker, a junior at Arkansas State University, used the extra hours tackling the bonus room in her house, turning a boring gray-paneled room with a curio cabinet full of Precious Moments into a hip hangout, complete with a '70s-style rainbow on the back wall.

"I finally had a lot of time where I could concentrate on doing something that required me just being at home," Hannah said. "Watching movies projected on the wall every night makes quarantine easier and the new space inspires me to work on other artsy things I've put off." Hannah estimates she worked for about five hours just free-hand painting the rainbow. Worth it!

Austin Chunn, a junior at Crowley's Ridge Academy, decided to use his time building a computer. "I was needing a computer since I'll be going off to college in a few years so I thought it would be cheaper to make one than to buy one. It was a lot of learning as I was going, but I enjoyed doing it as I figured it out.

"I just went on YouTube and looked up tutorials on how to build computers. I kind of researched the different parts that would work with this. Once I got all the

parts, it took me just over seven hours. My mom, Bridgette, helped me a little." Austin is already using it for school, downloading things, searching the web, and playing games.



Travis Rainbolt, a local website designer and music chair for the Greene County Fine Arts Council, had been missing theatre and singing during the quarantine (he has played Buddy the Elf and Seymour Krelborn, among others). So he did what many others have done and took to social media to find a way to showcase his talents. He teamed up with New York pianist Dewey Fleszar and did a short video on the Greene County Fine Arts Council's Facebook page for "Tunes on Tuesday," comprised of posts of folks who have performed with the council in the past. (By the way, Dewey Fleszar hosts karaoke-style sing alongs where some of his proceeds go to local NYC charities through Dewey's Piano Party.)

The Council also teamed up to perform William Shakespeare's "As You Like It," where the cast dressed up as characters from the famous play and acted the parts via Zoom. Their Zoom name was the character's name from the play. The show is on their Facebook page if you'd like to see it. Shani Barnhill, who played Duke Frederic in the play, said this about it: "Now that we are doing shows online I'm

having fun picking props and costume pieces from my son's toys or around the house. Now I highlight my script on the computer and check to make sure my mic and headphones are working. Now my college aged son's room is an acting studio."

Ella Oxley, 13, a 7th grade student at Crowley's Ridge Academy, made a picnic table for the squirrels that visit her yard. "She had a little help," said her mom, Amber. "Her dad set the angles on the table saw but that's it. She found the idea on Pinterest; she was bored and looking for something to do. It took her about two hours to complete the project." And yes, the squirrels do hang out there.

It's not just people working outside the box, either. Paragould First United Methodist Church hosted a Palm Parade on Palm Sunday where church members arrived in their cars waving palm branches, both real and handmade. They then lined up and drove in a parade route that went through Downtown Paragould since church members couldn't meet in person. The church has also offered church services online at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and broadcasts on 103.7 FM at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Each week they also have a variety of ways for church members to connect, from story time to worship moments to Zoom Bible study, to online talks with counselors.

Hey, as long as we are living through such different times, we might as well seize the opportunities that come with it. Hopefully we've inspired you to exercise, to play, to paint, to sing, to create, or to reach out!

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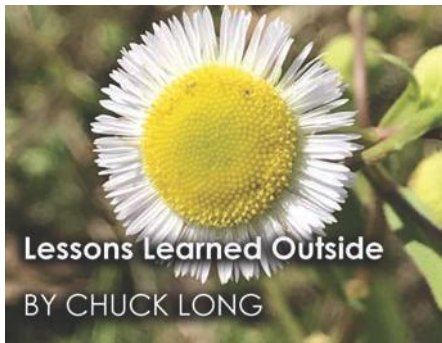
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To say the last couple of months have been a difficult time would be an understatement. The school year was canceled, churches were vacant, the only televised sports were reruns, there was a shortage of toilet paper and canned goods, the home office culture emerged, and a gregarious Southern people were asked to avoid contact. Recent events have changed the way this world and society are viewed and the chances of it reverting to what we considered normal are highly unlikely in the near future.

Yet some good things have come out of this. We have been reminded who the true “essential” workers are. Life has been driven by moments, not schedules. Household appliances including the stove and oven have been heavily used and families have become families once again.

And people have returned to the outdoors, in a big way. The unique turn of events in the world has reignited the interest of many in getting outside. Retailers have experienced unprecedented demand for gardening and do-it-yourself supplies. Though there have been some restrictions and even closures that have impacted opportunities to visit, parks, hiking trails and natural areas have once again become major destinations. Country

drives and slow afternoons in the backyard have once again been given a place in our society.

Some states have limited the use of waterways during the pandemic, but many others have embraced the times with promotion of fishing and the outdoors. Many states have offered “Free Fishing” time periods that dropped the license requirements required for fishing. Arkansas offered a week of free fishing in March, but requirements are now back in place. There has been an uptick in fishing license sales and in a press release from mid-April, Vermont called the increase in its license sales “unprecedented.” Many other states have experienced the same impact. The increased number of anglers has put a strain on bait dealers as well, causing some shortages in fish bait like worms, crickets and minnows.

I tend to look for the good in most situations, and from my viewpoint the renewed involvement in the outdoors has been one positive from a tough situation. In all the negatives that have surrounded the pandemic, the rekindling of the outdoor fire in many will provide positive long term benefits. One of my favorite quotes is from an unknown author and says, “Into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul.” The outdoors have a way of clearing the mind and allowing a refocus of our lives and mindset and teaching wonderful life lessons.

As a youngster I yearned to be on a ditch bank, on a river or in the woods. Fishing and hunting were always on my mind and the intent was a full cooler or game pouch for the return trip home. Success was measured by birds in the bag or fish on a stringer. At that time I did not realize the real bounty was not a full game bag, but the positive impacts the outdoors

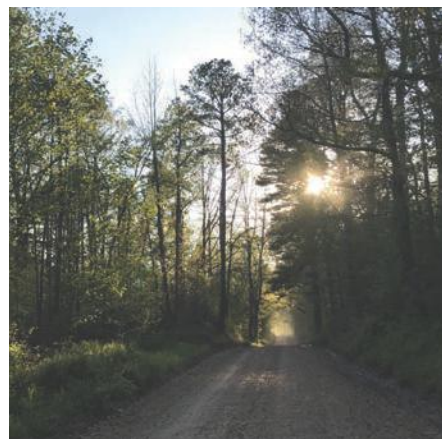


## CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

were having on my life and the building blocks they were providing for the future. I learned that patience was an important part of fishing as with any part of life. I learned that concentration and attentiveness were keys to outdoor success. I learned that confidence in your bait, deer stand or dog was an important part of each day. I learned from gardening that you reap what you sow, but not without lots of work from planting to harvest. I am reminded almost every day about some of those things I learned. Those lessons have become very evident as I have grown older and dealt with the many situations of life, including these last few weeks.

Due to the pandemic, the opportunity is there to teach some wonderful lessons to our young folks. Whether it be hunting, fishing, gardening, kayaking, or hiking, now is the time. Take advantage of the lack of distractions and teach a few basic life lessons through an outdoor experience. An interesting quote says, “Parents don’t frame pictures of their kids playing video games – kids belong outdoors.” Be careful and follow the social distancing and safety equipment guidelines that have been set forth and then get out and enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends. I hope to see you out there!





# Special Creatures

BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE



Samantha Ferrell and her husband Dylan connected over their love of animals and conservation of natural habitats. Those passions eventually led to their two current pets that aren't the typical cat or dog: an axolotl and a gecko.

Aristotle the Axolotl and Heck the Gecko joined the Ferrell household two to three years ago as "tiny babies."

"We want all animals to have comfortable lives and I'm a bleeding heart for animals cooped up in pet stores," Ferrell said. "So when we saw Heck for the first time I had to bring him home." She added her husband had been obsessed with axolotls for a while before deciding to get Ari, who joined the family after Heck. "He was a scrawny little thing at first, but he's fat and happy now," Ferrell said of the axolotl.

Axolotls, also known as the Mexican walking fish, are related to tiger

salamanders. Their smiling faces and strange bodies make it look like they come from another planet but the very Earth-bound amphibians are native to Mexico and reach adulthood without undergoing metamorphosis. They never develop lungs and instead, remain aquatic.

"Ari loves to swim with all his might and then stop suddenly and float down to land on his plants," Ferrell said. "It's the cutest thing to watch." She added she thinks most people believe reptiles and amphibians don't have much personality, but she disagrees. Ferrell loves watching Ari and Gecko go about their lives and believes they are truly happy creatures.

"And Heck and our cat have a very special relationship," she said. "I swear sometimes it seems as if they are teasing each other. Heck will stick to the glass and just stare at Scar."

While cute, geckos and axolotls do need

a certain type of care. Ferrell admitted on the surface they seem low maintenance, as they don't need to be walked or played with, but the pets can be a lot of work.

"Their habitats should really mimic the environment they would naturally live in," she said. "For Heck, that means we have to adjust the humidity in his terrarium and cycle the temperature and lighting as well. When we leave for vacations my mom watches our furry animals at her home, but we have to ask friends and family to check on Heck and Ari every day almost."

Ferrell said Heck and Ari have added much joy to her and her husband's lives and they have loved watching them mature, but she doesn't recommend geckos or axolotls as pets to anybody who is not willing to put in effort to learn about the species. "They're really special creatures and they deserve just as much love as any other living being," she said.



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# Part of the Family

BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

A Husky and German Shepard mix, Ax and Arrow, might greet visitors at Jordan Jetton's house. But another furry critter could come crawling out, too: Andi the raccoon.

Since May of 2018, Jetton has raised the raccoon after it was abandoned on the side of the road, injured.

"I have a friend who rescues and rehabs wildlife animals and returns them to nature once they are well," Jetton said. "She received a call about a baby raccoon who was abandoned on the side of the road. She nursed her to health. I got to help."

During Andi's healing time they quickly realized she wasn't behaving in normal raccoon fashion. Jetton said the animal had trouble standing and walking on her own, and that she had vision problems. A veterinarian confirmed the raccoon had more than likely fallen from a tree and suffered brain damage.

"Knowing this, we knew she couldn't be released back to nature safely. So she became my fur child," Jetton said.

Jetton now helps to dispel myths about raccoons after raising Andi. She said the critters are very smart and love to eat human snacks, with their hands, just

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like a person would. She also added that many people believe seeing a raccoon in daylight means it has rabies.

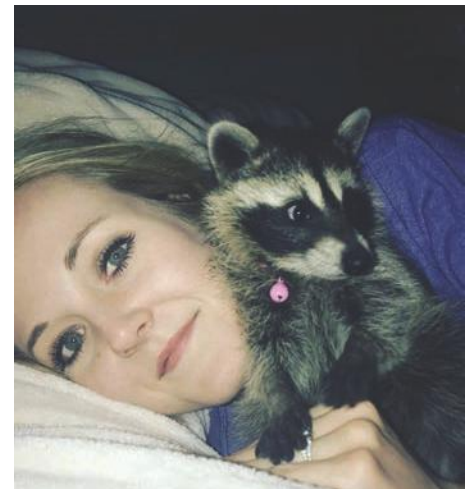
"This is not true," Jetton said. "A lot of the time, a raccoon spotted during the day is a mom who is out searching for food for her babies while they are tucked safely away in their nest."

Despite cute eating habits, Jetton added that in general, raccoons don't make very good pets because they are nosy and messy, which can lead to a lot of unwanted cleanup for the owner.

"For the raccoon's benefit, though, if you happen to rescue one, it is best that once it's well to be released back to nature," she said. Jetton's situation differs slightly, however, and she has come away with many interesting memories with Andi in the past two years. Before Andi moved to her outdoor enclosure she spent her time in the house. Her curious nature led her to stowing away underneath Jetton's bathtub not just once, but twice.

"It took lots of snacks and sweet talking, but she finally came out," Jetton said. Jetton always loved animals but wants to house even more now that she has Andi.

"One of my goals in life is to open a wildlife sanctuary where all the animals who need homes can come and live out their lives," she said. "Especially raccoons."



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# Who Rescued Who?

BY BETHANY GALLIMORE



When the Scott family saw the gentle ears and deep brown eyes of Hubble on the Humane Society's adoption website, they knew he was the one.

While the Scotts had been considering adding a new puppy to their family for over a year, the parents decided this spring was the right time to get a bit closer to a new adoptee. "There's something about spending that time with an animal, especially right now," Sarah said. "We gravitate toward things that make us feel safe, loved, and comfortable. There's something about the love of a pet that does that." Now, Hubble trots happily along behind the Scott children through their back yard and across their driveway, family members and dog pleased and grateful to have found one another.

Success stories like Hubble's help show the reward of adoption in Northeast Arkansas — both for the animal and for the adopter. Jeff Moore, assistant director of Jonesboro Animal Control, has seen how working and volunteering with animals often creates lifelong bonds. "Most of the officers up here have a dog that they've gotten attached to and have

ended up adopting themselves," he said. "You have to care about animals to do what these guys do every day."

In Jonesboro and Paragould, lost and abandoned animals depend on area rescues to offer them a second chance. Brenda Ramthun, founder and director of the Greene County Animal Farm, knows that helping more animals be adopted means more opportunities to save other animals in need. The Greene County Animal Farm rescues and rehabilitates a wide range of at-risk animals, from dogs and cats to horses, goats, and even ducks. "For some animals, this is more of a sanctuary — they're never going to leave," Ramthun said. "The end goal for most of them, though, is to find them homes."

Ramthun has been involved with animal rescues across the U.S., but she sees a disturbing trend in Arkansas. "In this area, animals are more disposable than in many other states. The random drive-by throwing puppies out ... we just didn't experience it to the same level in Florida or Michigan as we do here," she said. Particularly for those who have been injured or abandoned, Ramthun finds

reward in ultimately helping animals find a good home. "It's showing you that all your work was not for nothing," Ramthun said. "It's nice to see the family happy, the dog happy, and often these were dogs who had come in sick or hurting. To see them going out to loving homes to be happy, it's like, 'Yay!'"

That feeling of victory often motivates past adopters to continue "paying it forward" to other animals in need. Anna Bell, executive director of the Northeast Arkansas Humane Society, says her experience with adoption helped motivate her decision to work in animal rescue full-time. "I have four dogs, they're my world," Bell said. "I started volunteering because I wanted to be able to help other animals. Nomad, my oldest dog, turns 12 this year. He spent six years in the shelter. I want to make sure no other animals have to go through that. We can get dogs into the right homes so they don't have to have a life like what his was."

Ultimately, Bell believes the mission of animal rescue is well worth the extra effort and time. "We're the voice for those that don't have a voice. The dogs, the cats,

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they don't get to say, 'Help me.' We try to be the voice and advocate for them in this area," she said.

Compatibility between pets and people is the main priority for Theresa Johnson, founder and director of A Love For Animals (ALFA) in Jonesboro. The rescue focuses on fostering as well as adoption to help animals and adopters create lasting connections. "We get to know our animals, we treat them like our own," said Johnson, who believes the most important element of a successful adoption is a lifestyle match between the animal and the adopter. "People tend to want 'pretty pets' and designer breeds, but the pet really has to fit your lifestyle in order for it to work," she explained. Particularly

with larger or misunderstood breeds like pit bulls, a dog can go overlooked in a shelter even when it might be perfect for a potential adopter.

Gianna Confer and Alex Hickman broke that pattern when they adopted their pit bull Gretta from Jonesboro Animal Control in February. Though Gretta was the smallest of her four-sibling litter, she quickly came to occupy a big space in the couple's lives. Since her adoption, Gretta has eagerly joined the pair hiking, paddleboarding, and even kayaking. "She's a little adventure puppy!" Confer laughed. Confer, who is a lifelong supporter of adoption, also points out the dilemma some shelter dogs face with breed stereotyping. "There are so many puppies and dogs that need to be adopted," she said. "I understand the appeal to having your purebred dogs, but I also love the mutts. It's like a little surprise, you don't know what you're going to get."

Like some dog breeds, rescued or surrendered cats can often go overlooked for months — and sometimes years — before connecting with the right adopter. That's what Kayla Davis found out when she adopted Kingsley, an orange

tabby who had been previously selected for adoption, but never brought home by his potential new owners. Learning Kingsley's history helped Davis know she could offer him the life he hadn't had before. "I always wanted to adopt," Davis said. "The animals in the shelter aren't guaranteed a long life unless someone gives them a home. They're the ones who really need us."

Now, after having Kingsley by her side (and occasionally, on top of her kitchen cabinets) through navigating a new job and adapting to social distancing, Davis is even more grateful for his companionship. "Adopting a pet is really rewarding, both for the pet and for the person adopting them," Davis said. "My mom gave me this sign when I adopted Kingsley: 'Who rescued who?' I feel like it goes right along with that."

Moore encourages potential pet owners to get to know the shelters in their area and consider adoption when they are ready to commit to a new pet. "It's almost like adopted animals appreciate the home that they're in," Moore said. "Those are always going to be the best pets."



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# A Doggone Good Friend

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT



They say that dog is man's best friend but dog's best friend might be Darla Carter. The Marmaduke resident has taken it upon herself to find homes for dogs with no families to cling to, a practice conceived in the heart and carried out with love.

"I was thinking about how I started doing it, and I don't know," the area's "find a dog a home" lady said. "I think it was when I got on Facebook at least five years ago -- maybe longer. I probably opened a Facebook account in 2014 and just started sharing my dogs. People around here know me and know if someone needs help I'll try to help them and I would see these little dogs and share that they were lost or needed a home. Some people here in Marmaduke personally reached out and we stepped up and rescued and got some saved from euthanization."

Darla said people would tag her via social media "because they know my heart. I can't 'not help.' Just can't. I got in touch with Angie Heringer with Arkansas Angels for Animals in Jonesboro ... I hooked up with her and it allowed me to get rescues in places like Omaha, the Chicago area and in Georgia. Since we

don't have shelters to house animals here, Arkansas is overrun with strays and abandonments because the laws are not real strict. So I send them up North. So many foster homes are already open up there and the dogs out of our area they adopt through them. The people at the shelters do home checks and vet the adopters thoroughly; they make sure the dog is going to a good home. A rescue knows when it is rescued. They can feel the love."

Darla said her family generally had pets when she was growing up but might not have unearthed her love for dogs until "it just kind of happened. Whenever we got Rasmus I had never had an inside dog. No way a dog would stay in my bed, is what I said. And he was supposed to be an outside dog. In fact, he's supposed to be our son Elijah's dog. But that first night he was out there crying and I said, 'I've got to go get him.' So I brought him in, and well ..."

Rasmus is a 9-year-old chocolate Labrador Retriever and is joined in the Carter house by 5-year-old Grace, a black Lab, and Jed, described by Darla as "some kind of terrier. He's about 5, and he's fully

blind from a genetic disorder." Together, the trio makes quite the welcoming committee. "There is no love like a dog's love," Darla said. "When I come home they are so happy. The older I get it's like something that's meant for me to do. My husband (Cliff) does his Make-A-Wish stuff; that's his thing and I admire him for that. But these dogs have no voice; I have to be their voice. If I can help a few, so be it. I stay up late at night looking at the computer. If I can save a dog ..."

So that's what she does. Trips to St. Louis in one direction, Memphis in the other are not uncommon. When someone has puppies needing a home, she considers herself on call. "I'll drive to St. Louis, and Mom is my co-pilot sometimes, because if it's a bunch of puppies I need help," Darla said. "I've done it several times. It's usually getting them out of the South and to the North; there are so many more homes there."

She said before a dog or cat is adopted from a rescue the complete vetting process is put into motion and the animals are spayed or neutered.

"It's so rewarding but I cry every single

time. I don't know why; it's like they're family after you've had them a while. It's so rewarding knowing they will have a full life and not be on a chain. Most of the time they get to be an inside dog and cared for, happy and healthy. The rescues I work with vet all the homes out. It's an amazing network. They even fly them to Washington state. That's what it's all about.

"I do it on my own," Darla explained of all the time and effort required to connect dogs to families. "I'm always willing to help. All the trips to Illinois, that's with my own money, my own time. But it's worth every penny I spent, worth every minute."

Darla said having a trio of dogs in her own house is bound to have its challenging moments, especially when a couple are as ready to play as Rasmus and Grace are. The Carters live close to Marmaduke's city park and often exercise the dogs there, so it made sense to Rasmus when he escaped the confines of the home to sprint to the park. It mattered not to him that a Little League baseball game was in progress.

"He got out one night and ran over there and out onto the field," Darla recalled, shaking her head, "and he got their ball and was running around the field with it. The boys were chasing him and that just fueled the fire as far as he was concerned. The coach tried to pick him up but he thought that was no big deal. I was so embarrassed. All those parents were there and my dog comes shooting out the gate and steals the ball. I had to get the Ranger and chase him down."

She said people who know her will often bring stray dogs to her and she thinks some others just drop dogs off in the cover of darkness, figuring she will care for them, but she said it's not that simple. "Our shelters are full," she said. "If you are interested in a dog, or getting a home for a dog, find me on Facebook. I'll try to help."



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# Dr. Mac

BY LINDSEY MILLS



**D**r. Roger McMillan has been taking care of pets for a long time – 52 years, actually. A graduate of Oklahoma State University, today the veterinarian helps care for animals through the NEA Humane Society where he is well loved and appreciated by those around him.

“I could literally go on and on about him; he’s the best,” shared vet tech, Zoie. “Dr. Mac is like my grandpa, and I admire him so much.”

Dr. McMillan has helped develop care at the humane society to aid in serving those who might have trouble affording what their pet needs. This includes low cost spay and neuter services and a surgery suite that helps provide as much care as possible. The NEA Humane Society runs entirely on donations, and Dr. McMillan helps stretch those dollars to make sure animals in need are cared for. Zoie said it’s easy to understand why so many love “Dr. Mac,” but the veterinarian himself is quite humble.

“I’m an old veterinarian,” he laughed when asked to share about himself. “I’m a grandpa, about ten times over. I retired about six years ago from a small vet practice –” a practice he helped build, Zoie informed “– and I guess I don’t know what else to say!”

In the many years he’s practiced, the vet has had many kinds of experiences working with all kinds of animals. “I’ve seen a whole lot of everything,” Dr. McMillan said. One story that came to mind was in the early days of his career, learning something they don’t teach in school. “There was a time when we regularly de-scented skunks. My first

instruction from a practicing vet was how to de-scent a skunk. The first rule is to go outside, so I learned how to do this out there on this vet’s front lawn.”

Dr. McMillan chuckled at the memory, but said there are many more stories he could recount about his days with animals of all kinds. “Never too many days go by that I don’t see something I haven’t seen before,” he shared. “It’s interesting. It keeps me going.”

Dr. McMillan says he’s been very lucky to work with good people all of his career, and especially now at the shelter. “Zoie, she’s a wonderful helper,” he said. “I would have a really tough time getting along without her. She’s one of the reasons I’m still working. This work, it’s a labor of love and there’s a lot of people who work really hard and don’t get enough credit. We all hope we’ve made a good difference in people’s lives and that makes life a little bit sweeter.”

He has two cats of his own but still has plenty of love to shower on the animals at the shelter. “He goes out of his way to do things for the staff and for the animals,” Zoie shared. “Dr. Mac is the best person I know.”

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# Hero

BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

**A** loof, lazy, nonchalant, mischievous — all words often used to describe cats. But what about “lifesaving?” For Jackie Click, that’s exactly the category her feline would fall under.

Click rescued Killmeowski, or “Baby,” from P.A.W.S. in 2015. She originally walked into the shelter expecting to leave with an adult cat, but came across a kitten that had just been given shots.

“She boldly walked up to me and started rubbing her cheeks against mine, marking me as hers with the scent glands cats have in their cheeks and foreheads,” Click said. “I realized I had been chosen.”

Before she adopted Baby, roughly 12 years ago, Click was diagnosed with sleep apnea. She struggled with the initial CPAP machine and would awaken several times throughout the night. When Baby came along, the smart cat caught Click in the middle of an episode.

Click was awakened one night to Baby, six months old at the time, pouncing on her chest in the same way she would pounce a toy.

“I was gasping for air and choking on my saliva,” Click said. “I had aspirated.”

Thankfully for Click, it wasn’t a one-time occurrence of Baby’s being smart and tuned in to her owner’s condition.

“She also nibbles on fingers or toes if I am sleeping on my side,” she added.

Click never trained Baby but, as is often the case, the cat has trained the owner. Click said she can tell by Baby’s meows if she wants dry or canned food, and when the litter box hasn’t been cleaned fast enough the cat becomes vocal until Click does the job. Baby isn’t the first pet for Click. Throughout her life the Paragould native has owned other cats, dogs, birds, and even a guinea pig and turtle, but this cat is the one that has been truly special to her.

“This is the only one that I’ve thought of as my fur baby,” she said.

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# Helping Hands – and Paws

BY LINDSEY MILLS



When the Holmes' adopted a puppy a few years ago they could only imagine what kind of impact she would have on their lives. What they couldn't possibly have imagined is the impact she would have on the lives of many others.

Abby, a four-year-old golden retriever, is a therapy dog that "works" at NEA Baptist with patients who are staying at the hospital between 10 and 21 days and need occupational, physical, or speech therapy -- or all three -- in addition to her working at University Heights Middle School.

"Really, I just let her do what she does," said Abby's owner, Bryce Holmes. After training their dog from the time she was seven weeks old to one year old, the Holmes took Abby to the nearest testing center, the Alliance of Therapy Dogs in Memphis, where she passed on her first go despite her young age.

Bryce knew his wife would be able to take Abby where she worked as an occupational therapist, but he wondered where he might take her, too. NEA Baptist welcomed Abby and since February of 2017 Abby has been visiting patients on the rehab floor being their comfort, their support, and their companion.

"Interacting with a dog increases dopamine oxytocin and serotonin; in short the chemicals that make us happy," Bryce explained. "She comes in, is there for 15-20 minutes, and she just lets people pet her and love on her. The transformation that happens in this time can be astounding. People in this sterile environment are often stressed or worried, and they transition to happy. It's incredible; we as humans can put all our heavy emotions on them and they bear it with no trouble."

One of Bryce's favorite stories of Abby is when she met a patient suffering from "midline neglect," which Bryce described as a condition where the patient no longer realizes one side of their body exists, unable to see, sense, or feel anything on one side of the



body. When Abby approached one side, the patient reached down to pet her. When they moved Abby to the patient's "midline" their eyes tracked her there, but as she crossed it, they didn't follow her and did not see her on their opposite side. However, after another repetition of these movements, the side suffering from neglect responded and the patient's former non-responsive hand reached out to pet Abby.

"What we do with Abby is excite the brain," Bryce said after sharing the story of this particular patient. "We increase the right chemicals and decrease the right chemicals – just by pure nature he was able to overcome."

The patients aren't the only ones who appreciate Abby. The staff at NEA is grateful for her and Bryce.

"Bryce and Abby are a true Godsend to not only the patients at NEA Baptist Rehab Unit, but also to the staff of nurses, therapists, and other support staff," said Stephanie Privett, the rehab manager at NEA Baptist. "We always joke and get so excited that Abby is here and nonchalantly say, 'Oh, Hi Bryce.' But Bryce is just as soothing to the soul and

stress level as sweet Abby. Our patients' faces light up when they walk into our therapy gym and down our halls. Abby comes in wagging her tail and makes us all forget about the negative for those moments."

When things are "normal" Abby spends two days a week visiting the kids at University Heights School of Medical Arts. Her impact there is no less astounding than it is at the hospital. Research proves therapy dogs in schools improve test scores and help decrease overall anxiety in students.

"As soon as Abby comes into the building there's a complete difference in our scholars; they smile immediately," shared Lisa Hogan, the assistant principal at University Heights. "It's remarkable. We just love the days Abby comes."

At school, Abby assists with the READ Program, designed to help students learn to read by reading to dogs.

"She doesn't notice their stutter or correct them," Bryce explains. "She just looks at them like they're the hero of the world."

Abby helps in a number of other ways,

able to help kids adjust to difficult tasks and fears in nearly whatever way necessary: She walks with kids, lets them pet her when they're taking a test, even goes down the slide.

"The moment I see a kid who's ready to give up on a task but they keep working because Abby is there, seeing that moment, you can see their demeanor change and they look at the task differently," Bryce shared. "Kids realize at the end of the day whether they pass or fail, that Abby is going to wag her tail when they leave the room." Perhaps everyone needs a dog in their corner, so that whether we succeed or fail, there's someone to wag their tail and root for us to try again.



# Congratulations!

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- Dr. Turano  
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## ESTHETICIAN/MAKEUP

Melissa Alonso, The Basic Bee Spa

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Page 38 & 39

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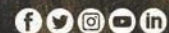
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## MORTGAGE COMPANY

First Financial Mortgage  
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## FINANCIAL PLANNER

Jarod Wesson  
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## TAX SERVICE

H&R BLOCK  
(870) 935-4372



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## TITLE COMPANY

Community Abstract and  
Title  
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## For the Home

# WINNERS:

## POOL SPA

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## MATTRESS STORE

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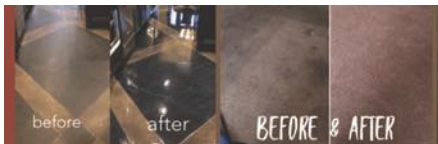
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**PEST CONTROL SERVICE**  
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**LAWN CARE SERVICE**  
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**APARTMENT  
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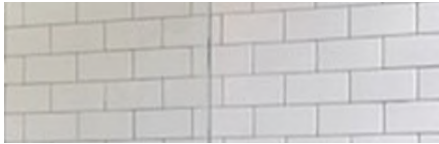
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## FLOORING DEALER

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## INTERIOR DESIGN

Interiors by Design

## FURNITURE STORE

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## LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT DEALER

R&R Farm Equipment

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# Gifts/Décor Shop **WINNERS:**

## HOME DÉCOR

Full Sun Gifts

606 Southwest Dr.



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## BABY GIFTS

Basketcase

## WEDDING GIFTS

The Everyday Chef

## HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Bennett's Flowers

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**WINNER:**

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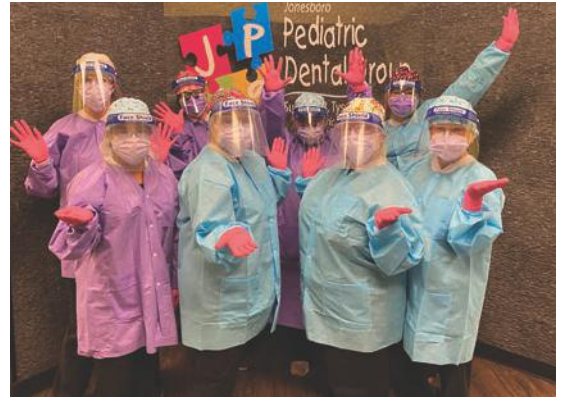
Voted Best Dentist

“

Dr. Summer and the entire staff at JPDG are absolutely amazing: My 3-year-old looks forward to her dental appointments. It is such an inviting and friendly atmosphere. The staff is educated, personable, efficient and SO loving. I cannot say enough kind things about this group. Highly recommend them to everyone!

”

-MEAGAN, CLIENT



**WINNER:**

*Andrea Andrews*

Compass Rose Realty

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“

Andrea is amazing! She helped us find the perfect house. She showed us every house we were interested in, and she found others we might like as well. She also made the process of buying so easy for us as first-time home buyers.

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## CHILDCARE CENTER

St. Mark's Episcopal  
Day School

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## COACH

Bobby Gross (Brookland)

## DANCE STUDIO

Christie McNeill Dance  
Studio

272 Southwest Dr.



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## DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Abby Broadway - The Floor

## GYMNASTICS

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Valley View Public Schools  
valleyviewschools.net



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## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Dale Case - Principal at  
Visual & Performing Arts  
Magnet School

## MARTIAL ARTS

Lee's Martial Arts

## TEACHER

Maggie Sullivan -  
Brookland Elementary

## PARK

Miracle League Park

## Life Events WINNERS:

### CATERER

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### FUNERAL HOME

Faith Funeral Service

### PARTY RENTAL

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## FLORIST

Bennett's Flowers  
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## VIDEOGRAPHER

James Bickham

## CUSTOM CAKES

Jeny's Cakery

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# Professionals WINNERS:

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Reeves Photography  
218 Union St.



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## RETIREMENT CENTER

Morningside of Jonesboro  
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## DRY CLEANING

Magic Touch

## REALTOR

Andrea Andrews -  
Compass Rose Realty, LLC  
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## ATTORNEY

Doug Brimhall

## REAL ESTATE COMPANY

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## LAW FIRM

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Jonesboro  
Pediatric  
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Summer B. Tyson, DDS  
Pediatric Dentist

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## AUDIOLOGIST

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## CHIROPRACTOR

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## HOME HOSPICE AGENCY

Flo & Phil Jones Hospice House at St. Bernards

## DENTAL CLINIC

Wright Family Dentistry

## DENTIST

Dr. Summer Tyson,  
Jonesboro Pediatric Dental Group  
620 Southwest Dr.



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## NURSE

Molli Hall, LPN -  
The Children's Clinic

## HOME HEALTH AGENCY

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## NURSE PRACTITIONER

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## ORTHODONTIST

Kollin Weaver -  
Weaver Orthodontics

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## OPTOMETRIST

Cade Wilson, OD  
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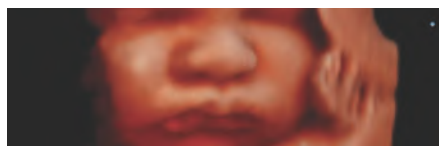


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**ULTRASOUND CLINIC**  
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**PHYSICIAN/GENERAL**  
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## PEDIATRICIAN

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## PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Jason Edwards

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

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## SPEECH THERAPIST

Lena Manning - KidSPOT  
1801 Grant Ave.



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## FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Dr. Nathan Turney, M.D.



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# Thank you Premiere Readers!

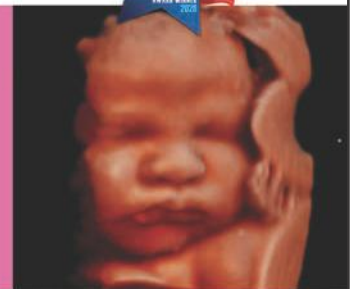


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### BUFFET STYLE

Golden Corral

### BURGER

Fat City Steak & Grill House

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### CATFISH

Ed's Catfish

### CHICKEN

Chick-fil-A

1800 Red Wolf Blvd.



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### STEAK

Houlihan's

### ASIAN

Hiro Japanese Cuisine

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SHADRACHS COFFEE



## FROZEN TREATS

Andy's Frozen Custard  
1327 Red Wolf Blvd. &  
232 E Highland Dr.



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## SANDWICH

Munchy's  
1320 S Caraway Rd.



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## COFFEE

Shadrachs  
2930 Red Wolf Blvd.  
3326 E Nettleton Ave.  
2501 Southwest Square  
2916 S Caraway Rd.



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## SOUP

Sue's Kitchen Express

## SALAD

Roots Restaurant

## PIZZA

Lost Pizza Co.  
906 Southwest Dr.



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## FAST FOOD

Chic-fil-A  
1800 Red Wolf Blvd.



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# THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

## BEST CHICKEN AND BEST FAST FOOD

We appreciate your support during  
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you, Northeast Arkansas!

 **Turtle Creek**

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Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401  
(870) 910-6611



## MEXICAN

Papitos  
4409 E Johnson Ave



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## ETHNIC

Hiro Japanese Cuisine

## SEAFOOD

The Madden Crab

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**ADARA BOUTIQUE**

Thank you for voting  
*Best Women's Clothing*

*Jonesboro PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2020*



# Shopping WINNERS:

## MEN'S CLOTHING

Orville's Men's Store  
2612 E Nettleton



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## TUXEDO

Men N' Black Tuxedos

## JEWELRY STORE

Sissy's Log Cabin

## SPORTING GOODS

Play It Again Sports

## SHOE STORE

Kiddly Toes

## WOMEN'S CLOTHING

Adara Boutique  
240 Union St.



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## UNIFORM CLOTHING

Healthwear, Inc.  
1320 Red Wolf Blvd.



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## WEDDING DRESS

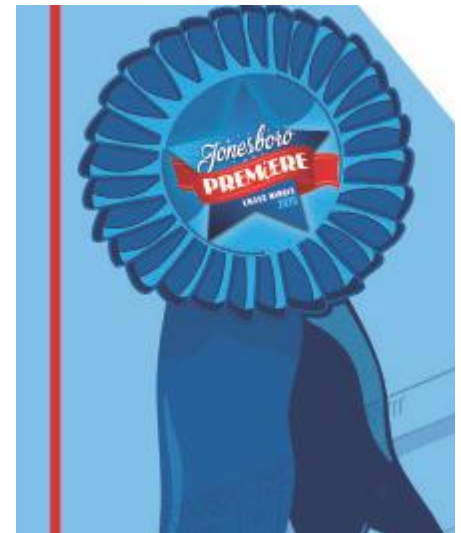
Jessica's Bridal & Formal

## Formal Wear

Cinderella's

## CONSIGNMENT SHOP

Style Encore & Plato's Closet



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**WINNER:**

# Adara Boutique

Voted Best Women's Clothing

“

Adara has a wide, affordable selection for all styles and body types. Locally owned with top notch customer service. Adara makes shopping easy by sharing new inventory on Facebook and allowing orders to be shipped or picked up in store. When shopping in store Adara makes you feel like you're the only customer in the building.

”

-COURTNEY FRANCOMANO



**Cutie Patootie**  
Children's Boutique

**Voted Best Children's Clothing Store**

**New Jonesboro Store Coming Soon!**

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Thank you for voting

**BEST FLEA MARKET/ ANTIQUE**

**49 SOUTH ANTIQUES**

**Jonesboro PREMIERE Award Winner 2020**

3202 Southwest Dr. | Jonesboro, AR | (870) 932-4538



## CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Cutie Patootie  
(870) 215-2625



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## LIQUOR STORE

Mr. T's Riverside  
462 US-412 Cardwell, MO



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## FLEA MARKET/ANTIQUE

49 South Antiques  
3202 Southwest Dr.



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## PAWN SHOP

Express Pawn, Inc.

## GROCERY STORE

Bill's Fresh Market  
Cost-PLUS

## HEALTH FOOD NUTRITIAN

The Truck Patch

## HARDWARE/TOOL STORE

Gazaway Ace



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Mr. T's  
**Riverside**  
Inc.

Cardwell, MO

**Jonesboro PREMIERE AWARD WINNER 2020**

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

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thank you

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Matthew Richardson, LPC



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# BIRTHS

## *Maelynn Marie Mora*

Kristina and Daniel Mora of Jonesboro welcomed a daughter, Maelynn Marie Mora, to the family on May 7, 2020.

Maelynn, delivered at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital, weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Maelynn is also welcomed by grandparents Lynn and Margetta Hetler and uncle Justin Hetler.



## *Mckinlee Blair Brown*

Kord and Morgan Brown of Paragould welcomed a daughter, Mckinlee Blair Brown, to the family on April 30, 2020.

Mckinlee, delivered at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital, weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Mckinlee is also welcomed by grandparents Jennifer and Gary McCord and Thelma Smith and Shannon Brown.



## *Rylan John Gilbert*

Riley and Jessica Gilbert of Paragould welcomed a son, Rylan John Gilbert, to the family on April 22, 2020.

Rylan, delivered at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital, weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Rylan is also welcomed by sister Ryleigh Jay, and grandparents John and Sheryl Ridge, John and Crystal Gilbert, Allen and Ashley Gilbert, and Kimberly Ford.



# Create@State Symposium 2020 Winners Recognized ●●●

The 10th annual edition of “Create@State: A Symposium of Research, Scholarship & Creativity” took a much different course this year, as more than 165 undergraduate and graduate students presented their research projects in a new online format. The change was made necessary by the coronavirus pandemic.

This year’s Create@State at Arkansas State University was livestreamed over three days and is still available on [ASU.edu/WatchCreateAtState]Create@State’s YouTube channel, with production by ASU-TV.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

**Dean’s Award for Undergraduate Oral Presentation:** Sara Brown of Paragould, “Impact of educational television viewed in childhood on college students;” Dr. David Saarnio, mentor.

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Dean’s Award for Undergraduate Oral Presentation:** Vu Nguyen of Jonesboro, “Face recognition attendance checking assistant for classroom on android smartphone;” Dr. Jake Qualls, mentor.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND COMMUNICATION:

**Undergraduate Creative Media (Info Ready Endowed Award):** Kierra Crenshaw of Jonesboro, “Parental Guidance;” Dr. Katherine Baker, mentor.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

**Dean’s Award for Undergraduate Poster Presentation:** Ashlyn Blankenship of Jonesboro, “Micra Transcatheter pacing system;” Donna Caldwell, mentor.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

**Dean’s Award for Undergraduate Poster Presentation:** Rebecca Martin of Paragould, “Synthesis of new 2-Aminopyrimidines;” Dr. John Hershberger, mentor.



Sara Brown, Dean’s Award for Undergraduate Oral Presentation

An advertisement for 'Gracefully Southern accessories &amp; gifts'. The background is a photograph of a woman with long dark hair and sunglasses, wearing a black floral top and blue jeans, standing on a stone path. The text 'Hello Summer!' is in the top right. A circular logo with a tree silhouette contains the brand name 'Gracefully Southern accessories &amp; gifts'. Below the logo, it says 'JEWELRY ACCESSORIES GIFTS, APPAREL &amp; MORE!'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'Shop on line and pick-up curbside or watch our Facebook for store hours. 870.335.5274 • 203 N. Pruett St. Downtown Paragould gracefultsoutherngift.com' with social media icons for Instagram and Facebook.



# 2020 Kids' Events

# June

## 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



With ballparks and ballgames unavailable so far lots of kids have discovered other forms of outdoor entertainment. Brylee Burnside, 8, found fishing at Reynolds Park to her liking. She is the daughter of Angela King and Harold Burnside.



StayTuned

Back to Business



Showcasing a strong, resilient community and the businesses working hard to continue serving Northeast Arkansas.

Savoring Summer



July is National UV Safety Month and National Ice Cream Month ... let's talk staying safe and enjoying the sunshine.

Summer Events



Summer events are sure to look differently but we're sure there's still plenty of fun to be had and we'll cover the good news.

On The Cover: Bryce Holmes & Abby  
Photo By: Amy Reeves Photography

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