

Jonesboro OCCASIONS

THE CITY MAGAZINE

JULY 2024
VOL. XXI NO. 12

OCCASIONS

21st Annual

**READERS' CHOICE
AWARDS**

SPECIAL SECTION:
SELLING JONESBORO

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Scott Hoke - Best Family Practice Physician

Finalists:

Richard Stevenson - Best Cardiologist

Norbert Delacy - Best OB/GYN

Michael Isaacson - Best Cardiologist

Scott Dorroh - Best Oncologist

Stacy Mott - Best Speech Therapist

Tommy Nix - Best Ophthalmologist

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- Animal bites
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A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair, smiling and looking down. She is wearing a light pink halter-neck top. Her jewelry includes a gold and silver chain necklace with a pearl pendant, a matching pearl earring, a pearl ring on her ring finger, and a multi-strand bracelet with gold and silver links and pearls. The word "LAGOS" is overlaid in large white serif font across the center of the image.

LAGOS

*Sissy's
Log Cabin*



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Welcome to Fabulous JONESBORO!



Our July issue marks the 21st consecutive year for *Occasions'* Readers' Choice Awards, so we've decided to celebrate all the fabulousness of Jonesboro this year with a playful nod to Vegas.

For more than two decades, *Jonesboro Occasions* has invited readers to vote for their favorite foods, people, places, artists, businesses, restaurants and more. Our readers begin voting online in May, and after all votes have been tallied, winners are notified in June. Winners are revealed and celebrated in the July issue.

The *Occasions* staff has been honored to be a part of recognizing local businesses, services, venues, events and individuals who help make Jonesboro a better place. Whether you are in search of the best burger in the city, the best local park for a family outing or the best architect for your next construction project, our readers have weighed in, and we are pleased to announce this year's winners.

In celebration of this year's award winners, *Occasions* Art Director Brittney Osborn came up with the Fabulous Jonesboro theme for this issue. She and graphic design intern Kennedy Crawford spent several weeks putting a Vegas spin on the cover and inside the Readers' Choice section.

In addition to the complete list of winners in our 2024 Readers' Choice section, you'll find stories about local people, businesses and events in this issue. Read about two new art exhibitions at Bradbury Art Museum; discover the story behind downtown's Lemonade House Grille and the couple who brought the new restaurant to life; find out how one man's love for animals led him to create Northeast Arkansas' only mobile petting zoo; and get an inside look at the city's first golf lounge and what it offers golf enthusiasts in the area.

As you read through the many winners recognized inside this issue, please remember to continue to support locally-owned businesses whenever possible. We are thankful for those who continue to invest their time, effort and resources in Jonesboro and hope you will find old favorites, as well as new places to try, among our list of Readers' Choice winners.

Congratulations to our 2024 winners and finalists! You help make Jonesboro fabulous and deserve to be celebrated!

Audrey Lott Poff, Publisher & Editor
audrey@jonesborooccasions.com



FIND MORE OCCASIONS ONLINE:



Jonesboro OCCASIONS

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AUDREY LOTT POFF PUBLISHER & EDITOR
audrey@jonesborooccasions.com

AUDREY HANES EDITOR-AT-LARGE
ahanes@jonesborooccasions.com

BRITTNEY OSBORN ART DIRECTOR
brittney@jonesborooccasions.com

RODNEY POFF ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
rodney@jonesborooccasions.com

MEGAN MORRIS SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
megan@jonesborooccasions.com

RACHEL GUERIN ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
rachel@jonesborooccasions.com

DONNA FINCHER BUSINESS MANAGER
donna@jonesborooccasions.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERN
KENNEDY CRAWFORD

PHOTOGRAPHERS

KENNEDY CRAWFORD **MELISSA DONNER**
DESTINY MCGEE **BRITTNEY OSBORN**
AUDREY LOTT POFF **REBECCA WORTHINGTON**

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

AUDREY HANES **EMILY MERRILL**
BRITTNEY OSBORN **CINDY PAUL**
AUDREY LOTT POFF **LISA TEDDER**
SOPHIE WATKINS

HOW TO REACH US

For advertising and editorial information, contact us at:
P.O. Box 1681, Jonesboro, AR 72403-1681
Office 870.931.0012 Fax 870.931.0023

jonesborooccasions.com

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OUR MISSION: Occasions Publishing Group is a people-focused, purpose-driven organization committed to reaching, inspiring and informing readers across Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas.



Help your child start school with confidence.

Prepare now for kindergarten 2025.

Written by Kelli Hilburn, Better Beginnings Program Administrator

Getting ready to start school

Preparing for school begins at birth. Daily interactions with family and other caregivers promote learning. Talking, reading, and playing may seem simple but are critical activities that help children's minds and behaviors develop.

Family involvement will continue to be a major factor in school success. Better Beginnings online resources provide fun and interesting hands-on activities for learning with family.

Kick off 2025 kindergarten readiness this summer

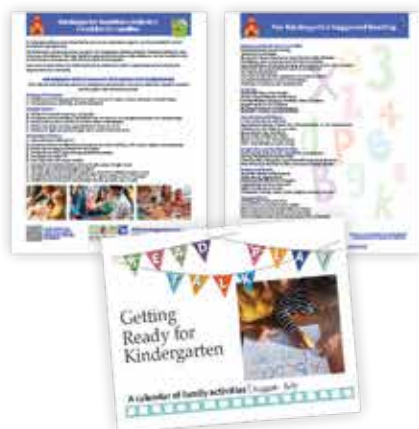
The **Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar** guides families, week-by-week, with activities and suggested reading that help children learn literacy and math basics and creative activities to help them develop the fine motor control needed to hold a pencil correctly and use scissors – essential skills for kindergarten. Children are encouraged to develop self-help and problem-solving skills as well as various social skills.

The *Kindergarten Readiness Checklist* helps families focus on areas of development their child may need help with before starting school. All resources are free and available online for download.

We encourage families to partner with their child's early educators to help their child start kindergarten with confidence.



Scan the code or click *Kindergarten Readiness* in our website footer for the tools to get started.



The year before kindergarten is the ideal time to focus on children's readiness for school.

Looking for your early education partner?

Better Beginnings early care and education providers prepare children for kindergarten with positive experiences, research-based curriculum, and learning through play.

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The Fabulous 2024 Readers' Choice Awards

PRESENTING OUR LUCKY WINNERS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRITTNEY OSBORN

The votes have been counted, and it's finally time to make the results of *Jonesboro Occasions'* 2024 Readers' Choice Awards official.

Each July, *Occasions* introduces you to the very best of everything in Jonesboro as determined by our loyal readers. You voted, we tallied and now the winners are presented in this issue.

In conjunction with our 21st annual Readers' Choice Awards contest, this year's theme, created by *Occasions'* Art Director Brittney Osborn, has a fun nod to Vegas as we celebrate Fabulous Jonesboro in the July issue. From illustrations of the iconic "Vegas Vic" and "Vegas Vickie" to symbols of luck, good fortune and casino magic, we are excited to announce and celebrate this year's winners with a Vegas vibe.

We are thankful to everyone who took the time to share their favorite things about Jonesboro, from top picks for the city's best food to shopping and entertainment venues and more.

We hope that our readers will use this list to help make all the important decisions in life—like where to have brunch, get coffee or see live music this weekend.

Congratulations to each of our fabulous winners and finalists!

The complete list of 2024 Readers' Choice Award recipients begins on page 30.



OCCASIONS

21st Annual

READERS' CHOICE

AWARDS

777

DEDICATED



Wade Shapp

WILD ONES RANCH

A PETTING ZOO ON THE MOVE

BY EMILY MERRELL, PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ever since he was a child, Wade Shapp has had a knack for caring for animals and making other people smile. He has blended his two passions to create Wild Ones Ranch, a mobile petting zoo aimed at sharing Shapp's love for and knowledge of all kinds of furry friends.

Growing up in Indianapolis, Shapp had the opportunity to grow his expertise with animals by volunteering hundreds of hours at the Indianapolis Zoo. When he moved from Indianapolis to Jonesboro to attend Arkansas State University, Shapp chose to follow another of his dreams to work in professional sports and graduated in 2015 with a degree in sports management marketing. He then pursued a career in game operations, working with minor league baseball, the NFL and the NHL Dallas Stars for four years.

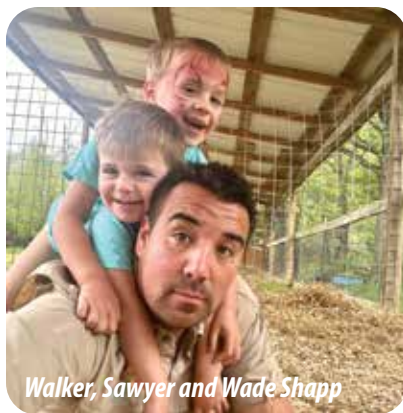
"My position there afforded me the ability to use the talents God had blessed me with to make people happy," said Shapp. "This goes hand and hand with the Wild Ones Ranch. I love to bring happiness to people, whether that be with my creative talents or animals."

Five years ago, Shapp moved back to Jonesboro with dreams of sharing his love for animals with others.

"Since moving back to Jonesboro in 2019, I had the concept of bringing a mobile petting zoo to NEA," he said. "The main driving force was the demand I saw. NEA is home to many marquee events, and the closest mobile petting zoo is (in) Little Rock."

"The passion for animals was there and I saw the potential, so we went for it. We started in October 2023 with a 10-by-10 pop up tent with cattle panels. We had a few goats, emu chicks, a baby calf and a joey. We were small, and I really just viewed it as a hobby. It wasn't until we got booked at Christmas in the Park that our business took off. The exposure we received from that one event propelled us from a hobby into a business. We are forever grateful for Adam Sartin and his family."

Wade cares for the animals of Wild Ones Ranch with the help of his wife, Mandi, and sons, Walker (6) and Sawyer (3). The ranch is currently home to several goats, a miniature donkey, a miniature Highland cow, a potbelly pig, a baby alpaca, a red kangaroo, a 38-pound Sulcate Tortoise, an African crested porcupine, a Patagonia cavy, and their newest addition, a baby ringtail lemur. Shapp's children help to feed and water the animals, as well as help



Walker, Sawyer and Wade Shapp



"People see us at events and think we have the coolest job in the world, which is true. We love sharing God's creations with the public and helping people make lasting memories. But these animals are a 24/7 job. No matter if we have a gig or not, they require our care and love."
-Wade Shapp



Wade and Mandi Shapp



assist and educate guests during events.

Wild Ones Ranch has already brought joy to many different kinds of events, and the Shapps hope to continue to share their animals in a wide variety of ways.

"Festivals and other public events have been our primary gigs," said Shapp. "We have done some birthdays. Most of our events have been around NEA, but we have traveled as far as Conway to a renaissance festival.

"This summer we have seen huge interest from summer camps and daycares. Loading a bus full of kids can be costly, but by us coming to them, it allows for a safer and more cost-effective field trip. From public to private events, we do it all. We can handle smaller children's birthday parties to larger events like county fairs. We offer many different options to accommodate our clients. It doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing approach. Of course, we would love to bring our whole ranch to your next event, but you also can book just a single animal encounter."

While his current plan is to keep Wild Ones Ranch mobile, Shapp wants to add more animals to their collection in the coming months.

He also plans to roll out an educational program in fall 2024 that will be aimed at teaching children more about the exotic animals.

Although Shapp says caring for his ranch is a full-time commitment, it is worth it to see the smiles his animals bring to others.

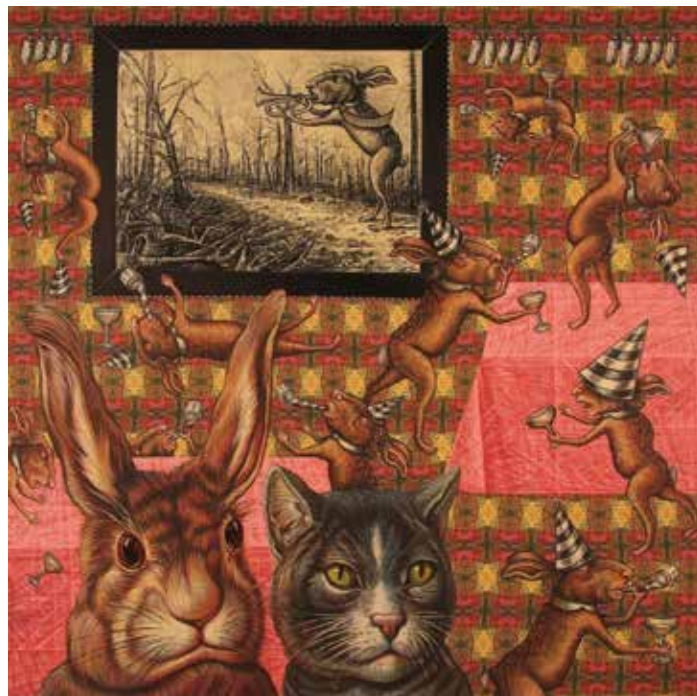
"People see us at events and think we have the coolest job in the world, which is true," said Shapp. "We love sharing God's creations with the public and helping people make lasting memories. But these animals are a 24/7 job. ... No matter if we have a gig or not, they require our care and love. If we have an event at 9 a.m., we are up at 5 a.m. preparing by loading, cleaning and feeding these animals. When we are done at 5 p.m. ... we have to do it all over again in reverse. There is so much more that happens behind the scenes.

"We wouldn't change a thing about it though. The most rewarding part of sharing our animals with people is the joy and smiles it brings to them."

To learn more about Wild Ones Ranch, visit wildonesranchar.com, follow them on Facebook, call (870) 520-0061 or email wildonesranchar@gmail.com.



Kristy Deetz, "Rabbit and Kitty Boy Escape the Postmodern Radar, Through the Veil," 2013, acrylic paint, 20 x 20 x 1 1/5 inches



Kristy Deetz, "New Year's Eve Pawsing, Holidays Unfolding," 2020, acrylic paint and embroidery on digital pattern printed on silk, 36 x 36 x 1 1/2 inches

BAM OPENS NEW EXHIBITIONS

STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Bradbury Art Museum (BAM) at Arkansas State University recently opened two new exhibitions, "Threads, Folds & Rabbit Holes: Kristy Deetz" and "Exploring the BAM Collection: A Tribute to Evan Lindquist and Cheryl Wall Trimarchi."

An opening reception for both exhibitions was held June 27. Admission to the exhibitions is free.

"Threads, Folds, and Rabbit Holes" is a traveling exhibition featuring paintings from two of Deetz's series, "Holidays Unfolding" and "Through the Veil."

"Exploring the BAM Collection" gathers prints made by, given by and given in honor of the late Evan Lindquist, emeritus professor of art, to Bradbury Art Museum, and prints that have entered the BAM collection through the gifts of Ms. Cheryl Wall Trimarchi.

"Threads, Folds and Rabbit Holes"

"Threads, Folds and Rabbit Holes" features two series of works by Kristy Deetz, an emerita professor at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. Her "Holidays Unfolding" series investigates the historic use of decorative drapery and the artistic category of still life. The paintings examine the contradictory feelings that accompany loss or nostalgia and, as a result, become meditations on life's transience.

"I explore new possibilities between a complex interface of painting, textiles and digital technology, while producing a product that maintains the richness of slow work by hand," said Deetz.

Each painting in Deetz's "Through the Veil" series begins with a rendering from a closely observed fabric with wrinkles and folds. These works draw upon the structures of art by artists from



Maritza Davila, "Guta," 1987, color collagraph, 30 x 22 1/8 inches.



Evan Lindquist, "Energy," 2008, engraving, 16 9/8 x 16 5/8 inches.

both the past and the present. The artist says, "The fabric in these paintings acts as a limen or threshold that places the viewer into multiple, often conflicting, layers of space and meaning."

Deetz's paintings good-humoredly deconstruct imagery from pop, outsider and high culture to create new "spaces" of meaning. A shape-shifting rabbit recurs throughout the artworks, moving between images and spaces.

Along with writer/scholar Edward Risen (whose pen name is Edward Louis), Deetz has published the books "The Singular Adventures of Rabbit and Kitty Boy" and "Holidays Unfolding: The Continuing Adventures of Rabbit and Kitty Boy." Risen creates stories in response to Deetz's paintings. The two enjoy presenting their books together.

"Exploring the BAM Collection: A Tribute to Evan Lindquist and Cheryl Wall Trimarchi"

The exhibition "Exploring the BAM Collection" is a tribute to the late Evan Lindquist and Cheryl Wall Trimarchi. Lindquist is a central figure in the history of art at Arkansas State University, where he taught from 1963 until his retirement in 2003.

In 1996, Lindquist launched the Delta National Small Prints Exhibition, which has been held annually ever since. Curt and Chucki Bradbury of Little Rock honor Lindquist annually by giving prints from the DNSPE exhibitions, several of which are in this exhibition. The late Cheryl Wall Trimarchi was an artist who lived in Jonesboro and contributed funds to add numerous outstanding prints from Delta National Small Print Exhibitions to the BAM collection.

Lindquist's engravings are beautiful examples of this medium he championed when it was rarely practiced. In 1969, he began a series of elegant engravings examining such abstract concepts as "Identity," "Tension" and "Consciousness," through graceful images of twisted strings or threads. Lindquist continued to make prints until his passing in 2023. His gifts to the BAM collection demonstrate that Lindquist was also a knowledgeable and sensitive print collector with strong connections to his fellow art professors.

Bradbury Art Museum is located in the Fowler Center, 201 Olympic Drive. Hours of operation are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Viewers may also schedule a tour of the exhibitions by contacting curator Madeline McMahan at mmcmahan@astate.edu or (870) 972-3434. More details about these shows are available online at BradburyArtMuseum.org.



Brock, Mandy and Barrett Bullard

DIVOTS GOLF LOUNGE

Taking a Swing into the Future of Golf

BY AUDREY HANES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELISSA DONNER

As the Greensborough Village area of Jonesboro grows to include more entertaining options for the community, the launch of Divots Golf Lounge has been a welcome addition. Owners Brock and Mandy Bullard launched the new indoor golf entertainment venue in April, putting a new spin on one of Jonesboro's favorite pastimes.

The Bullards opened Divots Golf Lounge on April 1, creating an environment that is accessible to non-golfers looking to have a great time, beginners looking to get into the game privately and experienced golfers looking for technology to improve their game. The 8,000-square-foot, six-bay venue – with room to expand – also features a chip and putt area and plenty of posh lounge furniture for relaxing.

"I have always loved golf, and Mandy started playing Topgolf when she could, so we decided we wanted to do something in golf," said Brock. "Mandy has always wanted to start some sort of business, and as indoor golf has grown in popularity, we began the journey to explore this as a business opportunity. Plus, with my knowledge and passion for the game, it was a good fit for what we enjoyed. They're huge up north, so when a friend of ours opened one, we went up and saw what it was about and played it and really liked the fit. As we really started to dive into beginning a business plan for Divots, we started to come up with a name for our business, (so) we turned to social media. We wanted something we could have the original of, from website link to Instagram handle and so on."

The name Divot, which is the name of the couple's 11-year-old calico cat, seemed like the perfect fit. There is a large portrait of her behind the receptionist desk at the entrance of the golf lounge.

"Cody McPherson, who (is co-owner of) Crumbl and Potbelly, helped us a lot with finding local connections in Jonesboro to get started," said Brock. "We never could have imagined we would be able to capture the location we have if it wasn't for Cody helping us get in contact with Gary Harpole. From there we ventured downtown to talk to Gary and the Halsey Thrasher team, and they agreed it was exactly what was needed in the Greensborough Village area.

"(As it is for) most new business owners, finding the right lending was scary; thankfully, we had a connection with Bryan Wagner, the senior vice president of commercial banking and business development at Armor Bank, who is a huge golf enthusiast and loved our idea. He walked us through the process of finding the right lender for first-time business owners like us."

Brock, who is originally from Blytheville, earned a bachelor's degree in sports management and business from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kans., where he also played golf on a college scholarship. After gaining experience in the golf realm at Jonesboro Country Club, the Ridges at Village Creek and the PGA Agronomy team at TPC Southwind, he currently works at Nucor Yamato Steel in addition to his role at Divots. He and Mandy, who is originally from Houston, Mo., also lived in Wynne and



Cobey Riddle, Dylan King and Barrett Bullard

Jonesboro before settling down in Manila with their 6-year-old son, Barrett.

The couple had a very specific ambiance they wanted to create with their establishment.

"I wanted to create a modernized country club aesthetic, like this is what country clubs in the future could look like," said Mandy, who serves as the day-to-day manager of Divots. "I took inspiration from the Master's green and many other locations around Jonesboro to create an upper class feel. There are so many great, beautifully decorated and unique restaurants and storefronts here locally, we wanted to have that same feel."

Whether it's a child who has never picked up a club or an experienced adult looking to work on their drives, Divots is user- and family-friendly.

"You don't have to be able to golf," said Brock. "People that don't golf almost enjoy it more. It's easy, it's in the air conditioning and it's a good place to learn. When you hit a ball, it's captured by multiple cameras and sensors that allow you to view a slow-motion replay, so you get to see what your club is doing to the ball and visualize any changes you need to make for the result you're looking for."

Being able to use your own clubs and a regular golf ball is what sets us apart from many other businesses like ours. That's a big deal to many of our golfers, because they can actually dial in with their customized clubs or be able to try any ball they want to see if they like something better for their game and can go out and apply it

on the course."

The state-of-the-art technology that allows for the highest-tech indoor golf experience, along with the screens that are rated for up to 250 miles per hour, are thanks to TruGolf Apogee and E6 connect out of Centerville, Utah. All the equipment is designed and manufactured in the U.S., which was a staple for the Bullards when they decided on Divots' business plan.

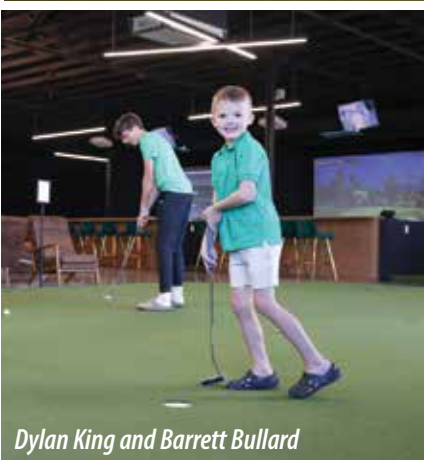
Each bay is rented by the hour. Renters can look at a binder and choose from a long list of popular courses from around the world, such as Pebble Beach in California and Oslo in Norway. They can also choose courses based on who designed it, if it was awarded any type of accolade or if it has hosted any professional tournaments. There are game options for golfers looking to have a bit of fun, including High Score (a Topgolf twin), Ice Trolls, Carnival, Longest Drive – Vegas and Closest to the Pin. For those who need it, club rental is available for just \$5.

"Golf got so popular during COVID and the Masters this year that people realize it's a sport for everyone," said Brock. "You'll see a lot of it on YouTube and TikTok, people who are average golfers or just learning are more fun to watch. It's more relatable to watch people out there playing and having a good time – watching that has really turned into a big thing, and we want that here. You can come and – depending on the day – pay \$40 plus tax for up to five people for an hour while playing some of the best courses in the world. We are bringing world class courses at a good price to

BEYOND BUSINESS



Barrett and Brock Bullard



Dylan King and Barrett Bullard



Jonesboro. You can go on the range and hit balls all day long, but in here you get a lot of feedback.”

In the near future, the business owners have plans to add four more bays for a total of 10 simulator bays, along with a multi-sport option in one or more of the bays that will allow customers to play sports like frisbee golf, baseball, dodgeball and football. They also have an important software update from E6 Apex coming by the end of 2024 that will allow golfers to choose any course in the world, even local courses in Jonesboro.

Divots is open to the public, but for those looking to visit regularly, there are three different levels of memberships available that start at 10 hours of play for \$125 a month on up to 25 hours of play for \$250 a month. Members can access the bays whenever they like, even after-hours or before Divots is open, and the putting green is a perk reserved for members only. Simulator leagues and tournaments are also offered, and many Divots golfers participate in competitions with prizes as part of a national league called PinSeeker.

The Bullards say that Arkansas State University and its athletic programs have already played a huge role in Divots’ successful launch.

“We partnered with the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce and A-State right away,” said Brock. “The college is a big reason this is such a good fit here. Their men’s and women’s golf teams have both boasted very successful years, and we wanted to give them a place to practice and have some fun. A-State football and basketball teams have brought some aspiring recruits and hosted some fun parties here.”

Divots is available for birthday parties and private parties of up to 120 people. Several children’s birthday parties have already been

held at the venue, which goes to promote the sport for younger golfers, one of the Bullards’ reasons for opening Divots.

“We have a lot of people bringing kids in, because they can learn in here and they’re not losing balls,” said Brock. “Divots is such a good place for kids to learn how to play because they can see what they are doing and get better and be in the AC. We hired all local high school or college golfers, so that’s been beneficial for them, too. We want to get more kids playing golf. Hopefully this coming winter we can get more kids involved, because the junior golf scene here is so large.

“Really, Jonesboro is such a rich golf community, and it’s only getting better. There are a lot of great golfers in this area. This is the perfect place to practice year-round.”

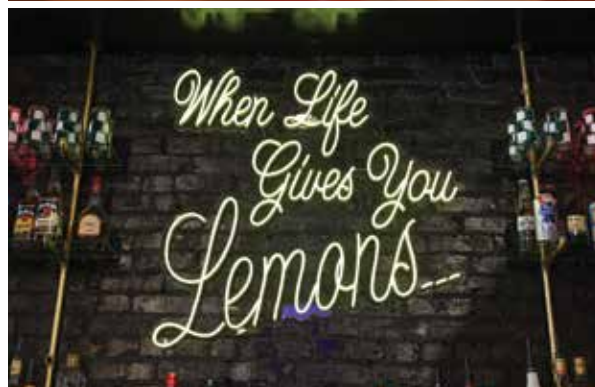
Mandy said that because Jonesboro has so many amazing restaurant options, they didn’t want to compete. They do have Dippin’ Dots and some concessions available, but they encourage their customers to DoorDash from area eateries like The Social and JTown’s Grill.

“We hope we are giving Jonesboro something else to do,” said Brock. “It’s a fun game, and we want to get more people interested in golf. If you own your own business, the best deals are made with a handshake on the golf course, and this is a perfect place to learn. We are so excited to be here. It’s been a really exhilarating process, and we’re happy to be a part of this extremely fast-growing community.”

Divots Golf Lounge, located at 928 Chancery Lane, is currently open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information or to book online, visit divotsgolflounge.com or find the business on social media.



Monica and Chad Campbell



A TASTE OF NOSTALGIA at Lemonade House Grille

BY AUDREY HANES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELISSA DONNER

The people of Jonesboro love their restaurants, and the opening of Lemonade House Grille in Downtown Jonesboro has been met with open arms. Owners Chad and Monica Campbell opened the restaurant in November of last year to make an investment in the community and bring nostalgic, all-American food and handcrafted lemonade to Downtown Jonesboro.

Chad and Monica Campbell came to the restaurant industry after 21 years in the railroad industry and 20 years in the school system, respectively. They were new to food, but they were confident that they could learn quickly and that a place like Lemonade House Grille (LHG) would be a perfect fit.

"We decided we wanted to do something together," said Chad. "We had some friends who ... kept talking to us about opening (a restaurant) in Jonesboro, so we finally gave in and decided to go for it. We thought downtown would be a perfect spot for it.

"We purchased the building here because we really wanted to make an investment in downtown," added Monica.

The entire family has worked to make the investment and put their stamp on the new eatery. The Campbells have six children; while they all help any way they can, their daughter, Grace, serves as the host and floor manager of the restaurant, and their future daughter-in-law, Ellie, serves as the "lemonista" and handles the marketing for the establishment. Grace also did the vintage-look artwork featured throughout the restaurant.

"The vibe downtown is really good, and we want to bring people downtown that might not come here normally," said Monica. "We are very family-oriented here, and we've gotten a lot of feedback about that and how welcome it is."

Chad says the walkability and foot traffic was a big factor, as well. "We were really set on having an outdoor eating area where people could mingle, and we thought downtown would be the best for that," said Chad. "When you're downtown, you're surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the area. This is the heart of the city. Us being down here pulls more people into the heart of the city. Being able to sit on the sidewalk and watch people go by, you feel that nostalgia."



The nostalgia is reflected in LHG's decor and menu. Diners enjoy numerous vintage items layered into the décor with the hope of bringing back special memories, such as a speaker wall, vintage furniture, a phone in the bathroom and the scenes of Grace's artwork. Even the hostess stand is the front end of an actual vintage car.

"When you have a past memory that really sticks out to you, many times it's about food, family and community," said Monica. "The downtown area, combined with our menu, gives us a bit of all of that. We have such a broad range of menu items. Families can come in and get a great meal and awesome atmosphere for under \$10 per person. We wanted to bring in a lot of the younger kids down on Main Street, and we have a lot of high school students and ASU students all working here, too."

Dishing up the all-American cuisine is experienced Chef and Kitchen Manager David Smith.

"The best thing about LHG is the environment we create in the kitchen," said Smith. "The motto is 'fun, fresh food,' and the first word is the most important for me. We are very much about collaboration and helping each other out, and the environment we have created here is outstanding. We all get along and have fun, even in the heat of the rush, and that's the best thing that happens here. The quality of the food goes up the more enjoyable the experience here."

Smith, an amateur comedian who also works behind the bar, says that he wants to start introducing more specials and has plans to do music-inspired cocktails on Tuesday nights to accompany the

weekly Singo BINGO night.

The menu itself features many appetizers and flatbreads to start the meal, with lemon flavors, such as lemon zest, thrown in whenever possible. The Tower of Onion Rings is very popular, as are the Crispy Brussels Sprouts, Main Street Egg Rolls and fried pickle spears called Frickles. Also available are the restaurant's Trash Can Fries; the Original Trash Can features a pile of homemade fries topped with pulled pork, aioli, parsley and butter. Beale Street Fries with pork, slaw and barbecue sauce, Big Papi Fries with sirloin, bell peppers, grilled onions, grilled tomatoes, cheddar cheese, jalapeños and spicy mayo, Big Loaded Fries with bacon, cheddar cheese and freshly made ranch, and Big Barnyard Fries with grilled chicken, bacon, cheddar cheese, barbecue sauce and homemade ranch are also variations.

Gourmet salads, such as the Red, White and Blue, offer diners fresh, colorful menu items to choose from.

"The Red, White and Blue Salad, with blueberries, strawberries and feta cheese, is one of our most popular," said Monica. "We use really fresh, quality ingredients. From our salads to our hand-pattied burgers, it's all fresh."

Next up is an assortment of Urban Tacos and Dogs, which are popular with both adults and kids. Maui Tacos with grilled chicken, teriyaki glaze, pineapple and pico de gallo, and Charleston Carolina Tacos with pulled pork, slaw and Carolina barbecue sauce are joined by Bourbon Tacos, Fajita Tacos, Gulf Coast Tacos,



Chicken Caesar Tacos, Chicken Bacon Ranch Tacos and Philly Steak Tacos. Hot dog options include Maui, Memphis, Austin Texas and Bronx Bomber options.

Wraps and Grinders, like the Nashville Hot Sandwich and the Sirloin Chipotle Wrap, are popular, but many customers keep coming back for Lemonade House Grille's juicy burgers. The Main Street Burger features a battered onion ring that rests on a double bacon smash burger topped with American cheese and homemade fry sauce. Options like the Vegas All Nighter, with a fried egg and bacon, the Butler Burger, with bacon, sauteed onions, mushrooms and jalapeños, and the Route 66, an all-American burger, have all been well-received.

Larger "Mains" round out the menu and include Loaded Mac & Cheese, Kickin' Shrimp, Main Street Sirloin, Brown Sugar Pork Chops, Coconut Shrimp and Chicken Brochette.

To finish the meal, LHG offers specialty desserts, such as the Root Beer Float, served in vintage glasses, Campfire Churros, mini bundt cakes topped with ice cream and, of course, Lemon Italian Crème Cake with fresh lemon zest.

"So many of our customers come here for the lemonades," said Monica. "They're all hand-squeezed and fresh, and we have 37 flavor options. We use nothing artificial. You can try just one, like the gummy bear or strawberry sunrise, or do a flight of four different flavors."

All the lemonades are available in a "Speakeasy" version with

alcohol for the adults, including flights. There are five options for sugar-free lemonades and speakeasy orders, and lemonades are also available to purchase by the gallon to take home.

"Jonesboro has really welcomed what we are doing here," said Chad. "We have had a lot of really good feedback. Everyone is really enjoying it and is glad we are here. Jonesboro really supports new restaurants. We have had a lot of different demographics and age groups eat here, and they love it. It's really confirmed to us that we made the right choice by bringing Lemonade House Grille to Downtown Jonesboro. ...

"When everybody is here for Singo BINGO, and the restaurant is full of people laughing and singing, those are the things we see, and it's so worth it. Those are the times we want people to remember and that will make them keep coming back and bringing their friends with them."

"It's a lot of work, but when we see how people enjoy it, it makes it all worth it," said Monica. "We work harder now than we have ever worked, but because it's ours and we have ownership, it's so worth it. We love seeing people enjoy what we have created."

Lemonade House Grille, located at 273 S. Main St. in Downtown Jonesboro, is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information and the full menu, visit lemonadehousegrille.com or find Lemonade House Grille – Downtown Jonesboro on Facebook.

THAT ONE THING



THAT ONE THING

A SPIN ON RED, WHITE & BLUE

BY CINDY PAUL

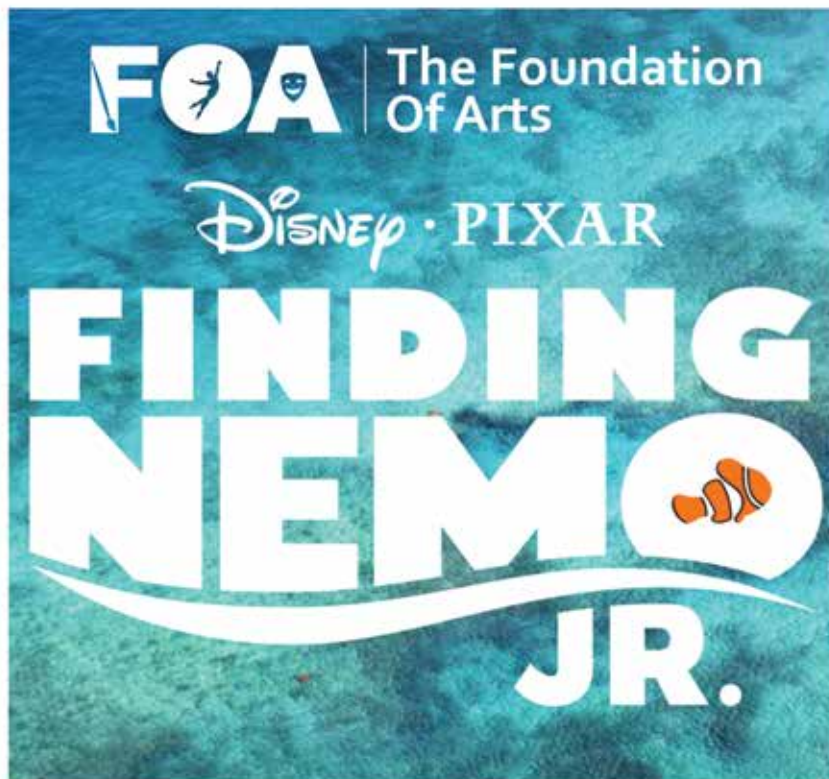
Fireworks, parades, picnics and patriotism - all elements of the holiday we celebrate in July. Independence Day is a holiday that is near and dear to all of our hearts.

I'm going to be the optimist that I am and assume that one would be hard pressed to find Americans ignoring Fourth of July celebrations. My guess is that grills will be firing up all across the country. Watermelons will be cut, and strawberries sliced as the preparations ensue. Barbecue, corn on the cob and slaw will sit center stage on holiday tables, and many a table will feature Stars and Stripes motifs, complete with small flags and red, white and blue gingham. However, there are ways to style an Independence Day table using a unique approach to the traditional decor one would expect.

Instead of the usual checked paper plates and napkins, why not opt for a fun tablescape that incorporates patterns, colors and textures that provide an unexpected variation of the typical Fourth of July decor. Chinoiserie urns in blue and white could hold hydrangeas for a classic dressed-up centerpiece. Linen napkins in solids or prints could offer a more polished feel to the holiday table. Any shades of blue, from baby blue to royal, can offer a departure from the usual navy, and pinks or corals could stand in for the reds.

For casual table settings, woven natural placemats and baskets filled with fresh flowers in an array of colors could mingle among more traditional reds, whites and blues. Napkins could be tied with ribbon or rope, and random candlesticks could hold white candles. And, when washing dishes is just not in the cards, an endless array of disposables is available that do offer alternative looks for a fresh, celebratory table.

Of course, ultimately, it matters less about the trappings and more about the gratitude with which we celebrate the Fourth of July. I hope "That One Thing" that we can all appreciate this July is this country that we call home. This "land of the free and home of the brave" is not just a song lyric, it's a place provided for us by the blood, sweat and tears of those who came before us. Let us not forget that it is a privilege to live here. Happy Fourth of July, and God bless the U.S.A.



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July 28th @ 2:00

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Arts Council



illustration by Brittney Osborn

OCCASIONS

EVENTS & NEWS SPOTLIGHT

- 20 : ST. BERNARDS TRIPLE SWING
- 24 : DARE 2 SHOW YOUR RIDE CAR SHOW
- 26 : CITY OPENS PARKER PARK POOL
- 28 : MAGNOLIA SOAP COMPANY GRAND OPENING
- 29 : JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF JONESBORO PASSING OF THE CROWN TEA

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

TRIPLE SWING KICKS OFF WITH TROPICAL THEME

St. Bernards Triple Swing took guests on a “Permanent Vacation” June 21, kicking off the event with a Jimmy Buffett-themed fundraiser at St. Bernards Auditorium. Guests enjoyed dinner and dancing to the sounds of Bluffett, an Arkansas-based Jimmy Buffett tribute band. The annual Triple Swing golf scramble was held June 24-25, and the Triple Swing Pickleball Tournament was held June 25, both at RidgePointe Country Club. This year’s Triple Swing events raised funds for a linear accelerator and cancer treatment technologies that will allow patients to receive the necessary care and treatments for optimum recovery and remission. *(photos by Rebecca Worthington)* For more event photos, visit jonesborooccasions.com and click on Event Pics.

-
1. Alicia Storey, Leann Morrow, Dr. Mazen Khalil, Jessica Hill, Michele Polk
 2. Tonya Harris, Gavin, Mark, Lindsey and Brooklyn Jordan
 3. Drs. Matt and Courtney Hoffman
 4. David and Amye Peacock
 5. Hayley Hays, Lydia Parkey
 6. Caleb and Carol Proffer, Guy and Tony Pardew
 7. Myles Copenhaver, Mayor Harold and Kathleen Copenhaver, Lauren Nunnally
 8. Hytrol Conveyor Co. group
 9. Lindsey and Reed Wingo
 10. Lori and Phillip Poston
 11. Marie and Josh Morrison
 12. Zach and Paige Phillips
 13. Hannah Sills, Kim Futrell, Matt Sills
 14. Alden Weeks, Brandon Stevens, Pat Farmer





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EVENT SPOTLIGHT

TRIPLE SWING (CONTINUED)

For more event photos, visit jonesborooccasions.com and click on Event Pics.



1



2



3



4



5

1. Bluffett Band
2. Rodney and Audrey Poff
3. Bluffett Band
4. Ethan and Charlene Dunnam
5. Ryan and Hayley Tripod

...

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EVENT SPOTLIGHT

CITY OPENS PARKER PARK POOL

Mayor Harold Copenhaver and other city officials were on hand June 14 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the grand opening of the new pool at Parker Park Community Center, 1506 N. Church St. Special guest LaToshia Woods had the honor of cutting the ribbon in memory of her late husband, Rennell Woods, former city councilman and advocate for Jonesboro youth. Summer hours are 1-6 p.m. daily. Admission is \$6 for adults (16 years and older), \$4 for youth (15 years and younger; must be accompanied by an adult) and \$4 for seniors. *For more event photos, visit jonesborooccasions.com and click on Event Pics.*

1. Dr. Anthony Coleman, Dr. Charles Coleman, Mayor Harold Copenhaver, John Street, Janice Porter, Ann Williams
2. LaToshia Woods (center) and city officials



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YOUR PODCASTS.
YOUR ARKANSAS.**

ARKANSAS STATE FOOTBALL 2024 HOME GAMES



Tulsa



8.31

6 PM

9.7

6 PM

PAINT THE STADIUM RED
& BAND DAY

10.5

6 PM

HOMECOMING

10.26

6 PM

11.23

2 PM

HEROES DAY

11.30

2 PM

SENIOR DAY &
FAN APPRECIATION DAY



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SOCCER 2024 SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION

8.06	NW MISSISSIPPI	JONESBORO, AR 5:30 P.M.
8.09	UT MARTIN	JONESBORO, AR 5:00 P.M.

8.15	UALR	JONESBORO, AR 4:00 P.M.
8.18	SOUTHERN INDIANA	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
8.25	MURRAY STATE	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
8.29	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	JONESBORO, AR 4:00 P.M.
9.01	LOUISIANA TECH	AUSTIN, TX 1:00 P.M.
9.05	KANSAS STATE	JONESBORO, AR 3:00 P.M.
9.08	WESTERN KENTUCKY	BOWLING GREEN, KY 1:00 P.M.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

9.20	SOUTH ALABAMA	JONESBORO, AR 3:00 P.M.
9.26	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	JONESBORO, AR 3:00 P.M.
9.29	APPALACHIAN STATE	BOONE, NC 12:00 P.M.
10.04	TEXAS STATE	SAN MARCOS, TX 7:00 P.M.
10.10	ULM	MOORE, LA 6:00 P.M.
10.13	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
10.18	LOUISIANA	JONESBORO, AR 3:00 P.M.
10.23	JAMES MADISON	HARRISONBURG, VA 7:00 P.M.
10.27	OLD DOMINION	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
10.30	TROY	TROY, AL 1:00 P.M.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

11.02	ROUND 1	FOLEY, AL
11.04	QUARTER FINAL	FOLEY, AL
11.06	SEMI	FOLEY, AL
11.09	FINAL	FOLEY, AL

HOME AWAY

VOLLEYBALL 2024 SCHEDULE

A-STATE INVITATIONAL

8.30	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
8.30	OLE MISS	JONESBORO, AR 7:00 P.M.
8.31	SAINT LOUIS	JONESBORO, AR 2:00 P.M.

WOLF BROTHERS MATCH

9.06	LEHIGH	MURFREESBORO, TN 4:00 P.M.
9.07	AUSTIN PEAY	MURFREESBORO, TN 10:00 A.M.
9.08	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	MURFREESBORO, TN 3:00 P.M.

ULM VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

9.13	NORTH ALABAMA	FLORENCE, AL 10:00 A.M.
9.13	ULM	FLORENCE, AL 4:00 P.M.
9.14	JACKSONVILLE STATE	FLORENCE, AL 12:00 P.M.

WESTERN KENTUCKY CLASSIC

9.20	WESTERN KENTUCKY	BOWLING GREEN, KY 11:00 A.M.
9.20	AUSTIN PEAY	BOWLING GREEN, KY 5:00 P.M.
9.21	EASTERN ILLINOIS	BOWLING GREEN, KY 11:00 A.M.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

9.27	GEORGIA STATE	JONESBORO, AR 6:00 P.M.
9.28	GEORGIA STATE	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
10.03	SOUTHERN MISS	HATTIESBURG, MS 8:00 P.M.
10.04	SOUTHERN MISS	HATTIESBURG, MS 8:00 P.M.
10.11	ULM	JONESBORO, AR 6:00 P.M.
10.12	ULM	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
10.18	TEXAS STATE	SAN MARCOS, TX 5:00 P.M.
10.19	TEXAS STATE	SAN MARCOS, TX 1:00 P.M.
10.24	TROY	JONESBORO, AR 6:00 P.M.
10.25	TROY	JONESBORO, AR 6:00 P.M.
11.01	LOUISIANA	LAFAYETTE, LA 8:00 P.M.
11.02	LOUISIANA	LAFAYETTE, LA 3:00 P.M.
11.08	SOUTH ALABAMA	JONESBORO, AR 6:00 P.M.
11.09	SOUTH ALABAMA	JONESBORO, AR 1:00 P.M.
11.14	OLD DOMINION	NORFOLK, VA 6:00 P.M.
11.14	OLD DOMINION	NORFOLK, VA 12:00 P.M.

11.20-24 SBC TOURNAMENT

FOLEY, AL | TBD

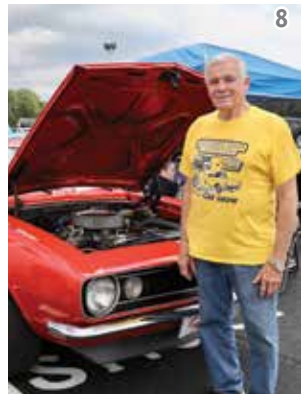
HOME AWAY

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

CAR SHOW BENEFITS D.A.R.E PROGRAM

The Engines Inc. DARE 2 SHOW YOUR RIDE Car Show was held June 22 at Nettleton Baptist Church in Jonesboro. The second annual event included food vendors, games and music played by KLEK 102.5 FM. All proceeds from the show benefit the Jonesboro Police Department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program, which reaches more than 1,400 fifth-grade students within Jonesboro. *For more event photos, visit jonesborooccasions.com and click on Event Pics.*

-
1. Chris Pfeifer
 2. Mary Richardson (Newark)
 3. Kevin and Jennifer Wallin (Wynne)
 4. JPD Cpl. Jamie Seaborn, Ptl. Mekhi Williams
 5. Lauren, Spencer, Kynzlee and Kai Haywood
 6. Connie Moore (Searcy)
 7. Lloyd, Linda, Cameron and Ashlee Wofford
 8. Jerry Allison
 9. Matt McQuay
 10. JPD Chief Rick Elliott, Melissa Elliott





EVENT SPOTLIGHT

CAR SHOW (CONTINUED)

For more event photos, visit jonesborooccasions.com and click on Event Pics.

1. Danny Ward
2. Julia and Billy Huey
3. Jacin Hammett
4. Saifam Khan



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EVENT SPOTLIGHT

MAGNOLIA SOAP HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

Magnolia Soap & Bath Company, located at 2411 Race St. in Jonesboro, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 14. Owned by Maryanne and Josh Carter, Magnolia offers plant-based bath, body and home items for the whole family. For more information, visit mymagnoliasoap.com/jonesboro or call (870) 393-1112. *For more event photos, visit jonesborooccasions.com and click on Event Pics.*



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EVENT SPOTLIGHT

JA HOLDS PASSING OF THE CROWN TEA

The Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro Provisional Class of 2024 was recently welcomed during the Passing of the Crown Tea held June 18 at Centennial Bank Stadium's Woodard McAlister Family Club. The new slate of Junior Auxiliary officers was also introduced at the Touchdowns and Tea themed event. Hosted by the 2023 Provisional Class, the event also honored members of the JA Class of 2008, who were promoted to life status, and members of the Class of 2018, who were promoted to associate status. Members of the 2024 Provisional Class include Caitlin Green, Cali Tedder, Courtney Adams, Danielle Kelley, Elizabeth Tate, Emily Rainwater, Hannah Conkling, Karen Graham, Keelee Holladay, Kellie Watson, Mia Couto, Sarah Newbern, Savannah Hart, Stefanie Spencer, Victoria Couch, Alyssa Richardson, Kamesha McCary and Kaitlyn Simmons. *(photos by Destiny McGee, courtesy of Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro)* For more event photos, visit jonesborooccasions.com and click on Event Pics.

1. 2024 Provisional Class

2. Ashley Snider, Mary Pat Beatty, Lauren Nunnally, Brittani Escue, Lacey Harris, Jennifer Smith, Kelsey Schmidt

3. Shanda Rogers, Dione Goad, Andrea Alpe, Stacy Stockdale, Bridget Burris, Patty Cole, Meredith Cook, Rhonda Qualls, Amy Davis



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Goes in Jonesboro Occasions*

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JONESBORO OCCASIONS
READERS' CHOICE
AWARDS



illustration by Brittney Osborn

BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

WINNER: JTOWN'S GRILL

Finalists: 501 Steakhouse, Omar's Uptown

BEST AMERICAN FOOD

WINNER: JTOWN'S GRILL

Finalists: Lemonade House Grille, Fat City Steak & Grillhouse

BEST DELI

WINNER: MUNCHYS

Finalists: HoneyBaked Ham, Newk's

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: LAZARRI ITALIAN OVEN

Finalists: Olive Garden, Pastaria 49

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

WINNER: ORIENTAL EXPRESS

Finalists: Hong Kong, Chin Chin

BEST JAPANESE FOOD

WINNER: SUMO

Finalists: Fuji, MammaSang

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: LOS ARCOS

Finalists: Casa Blanca, Papitos

BEST TACOS

WINNER: TACOS 4 LIFE

Finalists: Los Arcos, Casa Blanca

BEST THAI RESTAURANT

WINNER: MAI PAI THAI

Finalists: Spice Girls, Mamma Sang

BEST GREEK/MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: ATHENS

Finalists: Pella Café, Partovi's

BEST DOUGHNUT SHOP

WINNER: SHIPLEY'S

Finalists: Krispy Kreme, Dunkin' Donuts

BEST DESSERT SHOP

WINNER: DESO CHOCOLATE

Finalists: Southern Confections, Crumbl Cookies

BEST BBQ RESTAURANT

WINNER: DEMO'S SMOKEHOUSE

Finalists: Que 49 Smokehouse, Blue Ember Smokehouse

JTOWN'S GRILL

BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

BEST AMERICAN FOOD

BEST BUSINESS LUNCH

BEST HAMBURGER

BEST FRENCH FRIES



DESO CHOCOLATE

BEST DESSERT SHOP





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CATERER**



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BEST FAMILY FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

WINNER: GINA'S PLACE

Finalists: Fat City Steak and Grill House, JTown's Grill

MOST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

WINNER: 501 STEAKHOUSE

Finalists: Omar's Uptown, Lazarri Italian Oven

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

WINNER: LEMONADE HOUSE GRILLE

Finalists: KPOT, Blue Ember Steakhouse

BEST COFFEE HOUSE

WINNER: SHADRACHS

Finalists: IV Kings Coffee, 7 Brew

BEST BREAKFAST

WINNER: FAT CITY STEAK AND GRILLHOUSE

Finalists: Eggsellent Café, Sue's Kitchen Express

BEST BRUNCH

WINNER: THE PARSONAGE

Finalists: JTown's Grill, The Social



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BEST CHIEF JOHN WILLIAMS



BEST BUSINESS LUNCH

WINNER: JTOWN'S GRILL

Finalists: The Parsonage, Fat City Steak and Grillhouse

BEST PLATE LUNCH

WINNER: SUE'S KITCHEN EXPRESS

Finalists: Gina's Place, Chef's In

BEST BUFFET

WINNER: CHEF'S IN

Finalists: Golden Corral, Ron's Catfish

BEST FAST FOOD/QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANT

WINNER: CHICK-FIL-A

Finalists: Newk's, Slim Chickens

BEST FOOD TRUCK

WINNER: SPICE GIRLS

Finalists: Tacos Daisy, Auntie Anne's Pretzels

BEST BAKERY

WINNER: SOUTHERN CONFECTIONS

Finalists: Abby Cakes, Sandy's Mexican Bakery

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BEST STEAK



photo by Brittney Osborn

BEST HAMBURGER
WINNER: JTOWN'S GRILL

Finalists: TJs Burgers, 5 Guys

BEST FRENCH FRIES
WINNER: JTOWN'S GRILL

Finalists: 5 Guys, Lemonade House Grill

BEST WINGS
WINNER: WINGS TO GO

Finalists: JTown's Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings

BEST CHICKEN/CHICKEN STRIPS
WINNER: GUTHRIE'S

Finalists: Slim Chickens, JTown's Grill

BEST BBQ SANDWICH
WINNER: QUE 49 SMOKEHOUSE

Finalists: Demo's Smokehouse, Blue Ember Smokehouse

BEST BBQ RIBS
WINNER: DEMO'S SMOKEHOUSE

Finalists: Que 49 Smokehouse, Blue Ember Smokehouse

A large red banner with a white and black stylized 'S' logo on the left. The text 'THANK YOU!' is in large white letters. Below the logo, it says 'Thank you for voting us Best Coffee House!'. A gold medal graphic reads 'Jonesboro OCCASIONS Readers' Choice WINNER 2024'. A photo of three young people (two women and one man) holding coffee cups is in the center. A QR code is in the bottom right corner, and the text 'Find Your Fuel!' is at the bottom right.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for voting us
Best Coffee House!

Jonesboro
OCCASIONS
Readers' Choice
WINNER
2024

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BEST STEAK

WINNER: 501 STEAKHOUSE

Finalists: Omar's Uptown, Texas Roadhouse

BEST SEAFOOD

WINNER: PIER 88

Finalists: Red Lobster, 501 Steakhouse

BEST PIZZA

WINNER: THE LOST PIZZA CO.

Finalists: Pizza Chef, Upper Crust

BEST SALAD

WINNER: NEWK'S

Finalists: Salad Station, Upper Crust

BEST DESSERT

WINNER: DESO CHOCOLATE

Finalists: Southern Confections, Nothing Bundt Cakes

BEST FROZEN DESSERT

WINNER: ANDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD

Finalists: Local Culture, Lolly's Gourmet Pops

THE LOST PIZZA CO. BEST PIZZA



photo by Kennedy Crawford



BEST
BRUNCH

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BEST SUSHI

WINNER: HIRO

Finalists: Sumo, MammaSang

BEST CATERER

WINNER: BISCUITS & GRACE

Finalists: All Events Catering, JTown's Grill

BEST CHEF

WINNER: OMAR BARRY (OMAR'S UPTOWN)

Finalists: John Myers (The Parsonage),

John Williams (Sue's Kitchen Express)

BEST WEDDING REGISTRY

WINNER: THE EVERYDAY CHEF

Finalists: Dillard's, Target

BEST WEDDING CAKE

WINNER: ABBY CAKES

Finalists: Southern Confections, Jeny's Cakery

BEST WEDDING VENUE

WINNER: THE SILOS

Finalists: Houston's, The Gardens at Harmony

BEST BRUNCH

Best Business Lunch

Thank You!

Best Chef John Myers

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thank you!

to our amazing community for voting us "Best Wedding Registry" for the past 9 years! We are beyond grateful to our amazing community for your continued support and trust in us. It's an honor to be a part of your special moments. Here's to many more years of helping couples create their dream registries.

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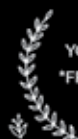
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June 1, 2024

McKenzie Chavers & Drace Provost

June 8, 2024

Taylor Sandusky & Britton McCall

June 8, 2024

Mason Murphy & Grant Hughes

June 8, 2024

Jennibeth Thrasher & Kendrick Lyskowski

June 14, 2024

Sophia Moore & Christopher Isom

June 15, 2024

Haley Jo Lovell & Eric Jeffries

June 15, 2024

Ashlynn Adams & Logan Engler

June 21, 2024

Bailee Jackson & Mason Busby

June 21, 2024

Emily Gibson & Creston Sweet

June 22, 2024

Sunnie Cunningham & Blayne Sparks

July 1, 2024

Malorie Raulerson & Baughn Merideth Jr

July 18, 2024

Grace Neill & Ben Scholtens

July 19, 2024

Blair Kennon & Whitt Bassham

August 3, 2024

Mary Kate Wendal & Sam Edwards

August 3, 2024

Gracie Miller & Sam Gray

August 10, 2024

Riley Bethell & Clay Harris

August 17, 2024

Alexis Jarvis & Dalton Varvell

August 17, 2024

Olivia Greenwell & Kyle Collins

August 24, 2024

Sophie Watkins & Reid Roberts

August 31, 2024

Chloe Tynor & Dylan Wallis

September 7, 2024

Grace Ann Lite & Will Edwards

September 7, 2024

Megan Smith & Jamison Bridger

September 7, 2024

Mackenzie Walters & John Scholtens

September 21, 2024

Carly McCrary & Mason Summers

September 28, 2024

Halle Willard & Tanner Liles

October 12, 2024

Abby Phillips & Jackson McClintock

October 19, 2024

Kaytie Bradley & Cannon Smith

October 19, 2024

Maggie Jones & Hunter Mattix

October 19, 2024

Kobe Garner & Jackson Clayton

October 26, 2024

Madison Tyer & Drake Merritt

October 26, 2024

Taylor Halsey & Landon Wilson

October 26, 2024

Caroline Romano & Brent McQuitty

November 2, 2024

Emily Blalock & Corey Carr

November 2, 2024

Sydni Rebstock & Jennings Stanley

November 2, 2024

Laura Dacus & Kelly Stroh

November 9, 2024

Brooke Hathaway & Stephen Beck

November 15, 2024

Allie Deranger & Will Bartels

November 22, 2024

Kennedy Crawford & Will Baker

November 23, 2024

Tori Stafford & Alec Ray

December 14, 2024

Candace Ginn & Nick Gregory

December 14, 2024

Lilian Adair & Thomas Fletcher

March 8, 2025

Erin James & Tiffany Gaston

March 22, 2025

Hannah Walker & Lane Campbell

April 26, 2025

Bella Spinks & Ryley Rapert

May 29, 2025

Caroline Rose & Cameron Hockle

June 21, 2025

Jordan Wilkison & Ethan Casey

May 30, 2026

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WINNER: JESSICA'S BRIDAL AND FORMAL
Finalist: Emma & Kait's

BEST TUXEDO SHOP
WINNER: MEN N' BLACK TUXEDOS
Finalist: Men's Wearhouse

BEST WEDDING RINGS
WINNER: SISSY'S LOG CABIN
Finalists: Gorgeous Custom Jewelry, Pagan's Jewelers

BEST WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER
WINNER: JAMES BICKHAM VISUALS
Finalists: Melissa Donner Photography, Knight Productions

BEST WEDDING VIDEOGRAPHER
WINNER: JAMES BICKHAM VISUALS
Finalists: Knight Productions, Grant Keller

Thank you for your votes!



James Bickham
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Karen Griffin
BEST AESTHETICIAN



Sherri Merriman
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WEDDING PLANNER

WINNER: SAMANTHA MCFADDEN (PLANNED BY SAM)

Finalists: Besty Smith (I Do Wedding Planners)

Kimberly Hall (Houston's)

BEST PET BOARDING

WINNER: HOUNDS HIDEAWAY

Finalists: Magnolia Dog Ranch, Bonesboro

BEST PET GROOMING

WINNER: HOUNDS HIDEAWAY

Finalists: Scalawags Grooming & Boutique, Boss Dog

BEST PET FOOD SUPPLY

WINNER: HOLLYWOOD FEED

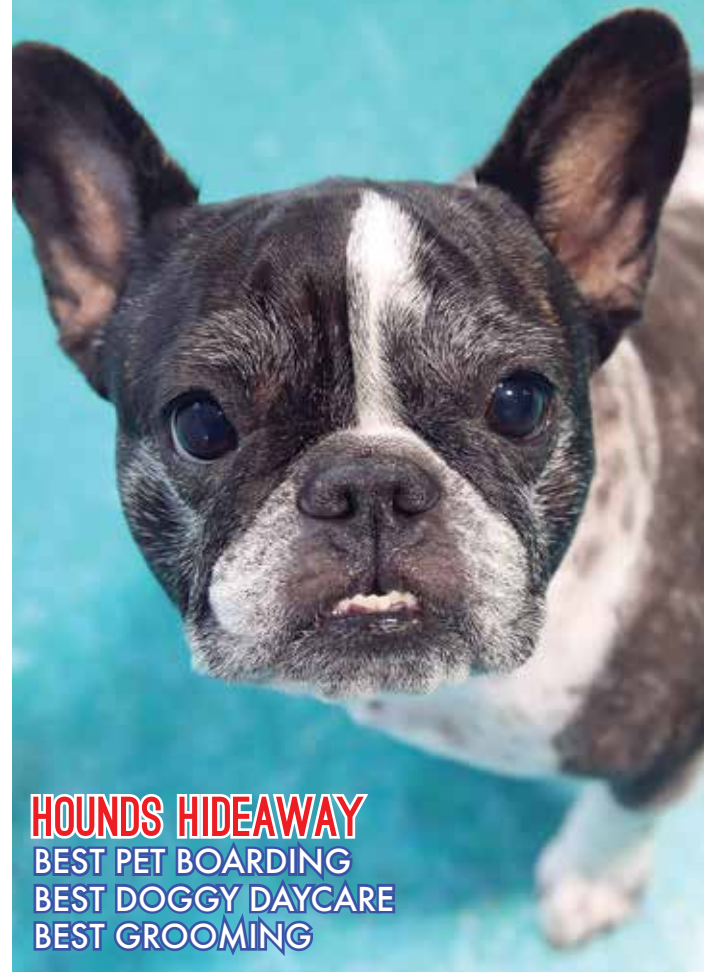
Finalists: PetSmart, PetCo

BEST DOGGY DAYCARE

WINNER: HOUNDS HIDEAWAY

Finalists: Magnolia Dog Ranch, Bonesboro

photo by Melissa Donner



HOUNDS HIDEAWAY
BEST PET BOARDING
BEST DOGGY DAYCARE
BEST GROOMING



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Best Spa

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BEST GENERAL DENTISTRY



photo by Brittney Osborn

BEST VETERINARIAN

WINNER: DR. MARK LAWRENCE
(WOODSPRINGS ANIMAL CLINIC)

Finalists: Dr. Sarah Owens (Cato), Dr. Kristen Sullivan (AR Pets)

BEST AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT

WINNER: GREENWAY EQUIPMENT

Finalists: Tractor Supply Co, Cox Implement

BEST AGRICULTURAL LENDER

WINNER: FARM CREDIT MID-AMERICA

Finalists: Rabo AgriFinance, First National Bank

BEST CHIROPRACTOR

WINNER: DR. JASON SHERROD (SHERROD CHIROPRACTIC)

Finalists: Dr. Jeremy McElroy (Back in Action),
Dr. Andy Snider (Snider Performance Plus)

BEST GENERAL DENTISTRY

WINNER: DR. TROY BARTELS (BARTELS FAMILY DENTISTRY)

Finalists: Dr. Emily Gairhan (Gairhan Dental Care),
Dr. Jeremy Adams (Hilltop Family Dentistry)

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BEST COSMETIC DENTISTRY

WINNER: DR. SHANE SMITH (FAMILY DENTAL CARE)

Finalists: Dr. Kristi Rowe (Rowe & Rowe),
Dr. John Rowe (Rowe & Rowe)

BEST ORTHODONTIST

**WINNER: DR. KELLY-GWYNNE FERGUS
(FERGUS ORTHODONTICS)**

Finalists: Dr. Kolin Weaver (Weaver Orthodontics),
Dr. Todd Higginbotham (Higginbotham Family Dental)

BEST ORAL SURGEON

**WINNER: DR. MATT MCDONOUGH
(NEA CENTER FOR ORAL AND MAXXILOFACIAL SURGERY)**

Finalists: Dr. James Phillips (NEA Center for Oral and
Maxxilofacial Surgery), Dr. Bryan Darling (The Oral and
Implant Surgery Center)

BEST PEDIATRIC DENTIST

**WINNER: DR. SUMMER TYSON
(JONESBORO PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY)**

Finalists: Dr. Jennifer Daniel (LEAP Kids Dental),
Dr. Ken Wood (Children's Dentistry)

SISSY'S LOG CABIN

**BEST WEDDING RINGS
BEST JEWELER**



photo by Kennedy Crawford

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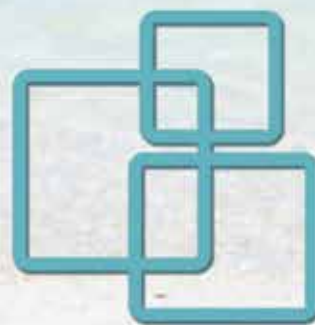
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BEST ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON



photo by Brittney Osborn

BEST DERMATOLOGISTS

WINNER: DR. MALLORY HURST
(ST. BERNARDS DERMATOLOGY CLINIC)

Finalists: Dr. Adam Sills (Sills Dermatology),
Dr. Colton Nielson (St. Bernards Dermatology Clinic)

BEST EYE SURGERY CENTER

WINNER: SOUTHERN EYE & ASSOCIATES

Finalists: Vision Care Center, Arkansas Eye Site

BEST MENTAL HEALTH/COUNSELING SERVICES

WINNER: RENEW MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Finalists: Families Inc., The Practice

BEST OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

WINNER: TEDDY DODD (ST. BERNARDS REHABILITATION)

Finalists: Holly Sheridan (Hands on Learning Pediatric Therapy), Sarah Milligan (St. Bernards Therapy)

BEST PHYSICAL THERAPIST

WINNER: CARLY SWAIN (ST. BERNARDS SPORTS MEDICINE)

Finalists: Tracy Jones (Tracy Jones Physical Therapy),
Sheri Ratley (Hands on Learning Pediatric Therapy)

A promotional advertisement for Sage Meadows Country Club. The background is a lush green golf course. In the foreground, a female golfer in a white shirt and blue pants is captured mid-swing. To her right, a white golf ball sits on the grass. Above the golfer, a row of 21 gold medals is displayed, each inscribed with "WINNER" and a year from 2004 to 2024. The text "THANK YOU FOR VOTING US BEST GOLF COURSE SINCE 2004" is prominently displayed in the center. On the right side, a large gold medal graphic reads "Jonesboro OCCASIONS Readers' Choice WINNER 2024". At the bottom, the club's name "Sage Meadows country club" is written in a large, elegant script. The footer contains contact information: "4406 CLUBHOUSE DRIVE JONESBORO, AR 72405", the phone number "870-932-4420", and the website "sagemeadows.com".

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BEST SPEECH THERAPIST

WINNER: BROOK GASTON
(HANDS ON LEARNING PEDIATRIC THERAPY)

Finalists: Stacy Mott (NEA Baptist), Hope Higginbotham (Jumping Jelly Beans Pediatric Therapy)

BEST CARDIOLOGIST

WINNER: DR. DEVI NAIR (ST. BERNARDS HEART & VASCULAR)

Finalists: Dr. Michael Isaacson (NEA Baptist Cardiology), Dr. Richard Stevenson (St. Bernards Heart & Vascular)

BEST OPTOMETRIST

WINNER: DR. MATT HOFFMAN (VISIONARY EYE CARE)

Finalists: Dr. Megan Moll (Hilltop Eye Care), Dr. Brian Gay (Arkansas Eye Site)

BEST OPHTHALMOLOGIST

WINNER: DR. RUSSELL HARRAL (VISION CARE CENTER)

Finalists: Dr. Tommy Nix (NEA Baptist), Dr. Thomas Stank (Southern Eye & Associates)

DR. DEVI NAIR
BEST CARDIOLOGIST



photo by Melissa Donner

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Finalists: Dr. Carroll Scroggin (NEA Baptist Cancer Center), Dr. Scott Dorroh (NEA Baptist Cancer Center)

BEST ULTRASOUND CLINIC

WINNER: SNEAK A PEEK

Finalists: St. Bernards Pregnancy Clinic, NEA Baptist Women's Clinic

BEST OB/GYN

WINNER: DR. ANDREW DUNHAM (OBGYN ASSOCIATES)

Finalists: Dr. Norbert Delacey (NEA Baptist), Dr. Serena Vance (OBGYN Associates)

BEST ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

WINNER: DR. JEREMY SWYMN (JOSM)

Finalists: Dr. Jason Brandt (NEA Baptist), Dr. Brian Dickson (JOSM)

BEST FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN

**WINNER: DR. SCOTT HOKE
(NEA BAPTIST WOODSPRINGS)**

Finalists: Dr. Brandon Treece (NEA Baptist Woodsprings), Dr. Mark Wiggins (St. Bernards)

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Date: September 06, 2024 **Location:** Running Threads

***Congratulations, Dr. Devi Nair, on once again
being named Best Cardiologist by the
readers of Jonesboro Occasions!***



DR. DEVI G NAIR, MD FACC FHRS
Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology & Research
St. Bernard's Medical Center & Arrhythmia Research Group





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BEST PLASTIC SURGEON

WINNER: DR. THOMAS MAJEWSKI
(MAJEWSKI PLASTIC SURGERY)

Finalists: Dr. Nolan Jaeger (St. Bernards),
Dr. Joel Epperson (Paragould Plastic Surgery)

BEST PEDIATRICIAN

WINNER: DR. JANE SNEED (THE CHILDREN'S CLINIC)

Finalists: Dr. Kris Nwoji (KION),
Dr. Kevin Rouse (The Children's Clinic)

BEST PHARMACY

WINNER: GARNER FAMILY PHARMACY

Finalists: The Medicine Shoppe, Soo's Family Pharmacy

BEST HOME HEALTH AGENCY

WINNER: ST. BERNARDS HOME HEALTH

Finalists: AllCare Home Care, 1st Choice Home Care

BEST HOME HEALTH SUPPLY STORE

WINNER: SOUTHERN HOME HEALTH

Finalists: Delta Medical, Medical Solutions

GARNER FAMILY PHARMACY
BEST PHARMACY

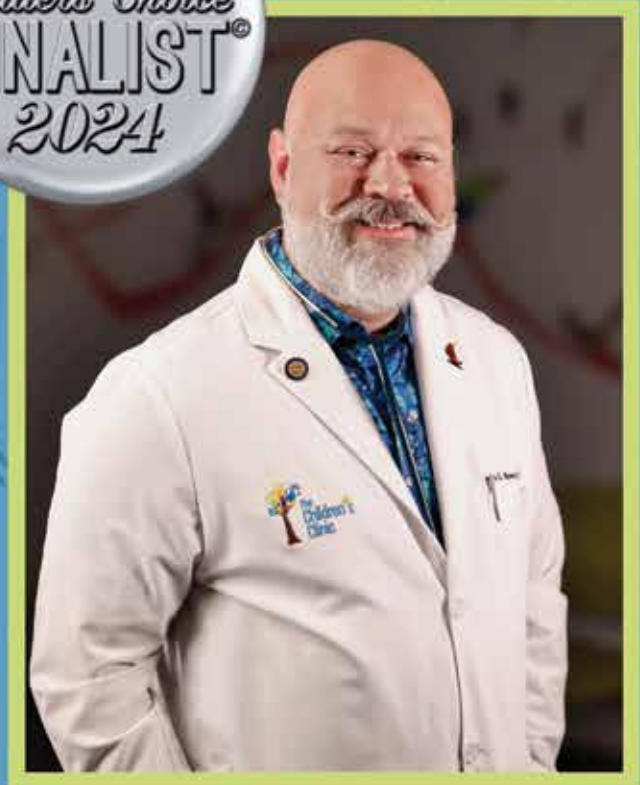


photo by Brittney Osborn

Thank You!



Dr. Jane Sneed



Dr. Kevin Rouse



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Thank you for voting both
Kevin Pulliam and Ash Pulliam
Best Financial Planner Finalists!



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BEST HOSPICE AGENCY
WINNER: ST. BERNARDS HOSPICE

Finalists: Dierkson Hospice, Elite Hospice

BEST PHYSICAL REHABILITATIVE SERVICE
WINNER: ST. BERNARDS SPORTS MEDICINE

Finalists: NEA Baptist Rehab, Encompass

BEST ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
WINNER: ST. BERNARDS VILLAGE

Finalists: Liberty Park, Bungalows of Jonesboro

BEST WEIGHT LOSS CENTER
WINNER: DOWNTOWN MED & SPA

Finalists: Defyne Weight Loss, McClurkan Clinic

BEST HEALTH/FITNESS CLUB
WINNER: THE TRIM GYM

Finalists: St. Bernards Health & Wellness,
Workout Anytime

BEST YOGA STUDIO
WINNER: SOUL SHINE

Finalists: Nirvana, Eastern Livity



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WINNER: ALEX CRAWLEY (SOUL SHINE)

Finalists: Crystal Taylor (Nirvana), Jaime Crouch (Soul Shine)

BEST AMBULANCE SERVICE

WINNER: EMERSON

Finalist: Medic One

BEST NEW CAR DEALERSHIP

WINNER: CENTRAL DEALERSHIPS

Finalists: Cavanaugh Auto Group, Honda of Jonesboro

BEST USED CAR DEALERSHIP

WINNER: NEBO AUTO

Finalists: Bayird Preowned, Car Choice

BEST WRECKER SERVICE

WINNER: KEG TOWING

Finalists: Double D Towing, Tow Daddy

BEST AUTO BODY REPAIR

WINNER: STADIUM AUTO BODY

Finalists: Collision Repair, Wreck Doctor

THE EVERYDAY CHEF
BEST WEDDING REGISTRY



photo by Kennedy Crawford



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COMPANY**



NIX TITLE
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BEST AUTO TIRE SERVICE

WINNER: GATEWAY TIRE

Finalists: Plaza Tire, Joe's Tire & Auto

BEST AUTO MAINTENANCE & CARE

WINNER: GATEWAY TIRE

Finalists: Joe's Tire & Auto, Smith's Tire & Auto

BEST CAR WASH

WINNER: TOMMY'S EXPRESS CAR WASH

Finalists: Tidal Wave, Take 5

BEST AUTO/HOME GLASS REPAIR/ REPLACE

WINNER: UNION GLASS

Finalists: NEA Glass, Delta Glass

BEST OIL CHANGE

WINNER: GATEWAY TIRE

Finalists: Take 5, Express Mobile Lube

BEST TRUCK ACCESSORIES

WINNER: DNW

Finalists: Russell's Truck Accessories,
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BEST WINDOW TINTING

WINNER: SUPERTINTS

Finalists: Eclipse, The Tint Shop

BEST ATTORNEY

WINNER: LANCE OWENS (OMG LAW FIRM)

Finalists: Chad Oldham (Oldham Law Firm),
Curt Hawkins (Waddell, Cole & Jones)

BEST LAW FIRM

WINNER: OMG LAW FIRM

Finalists: Waddell, Cole & Jones,
Stanley & Woodard

BEST BANK

WINNER: FIRST COMMUNITY BANK

Finalists: Signature Bank, First National Bank

BEST BROKERAGE FIRM

WINNER: BENJAMIN EDWARDS

Finalists: Merrill Lynch, Stephens Inc.

GATEWAY TIRE

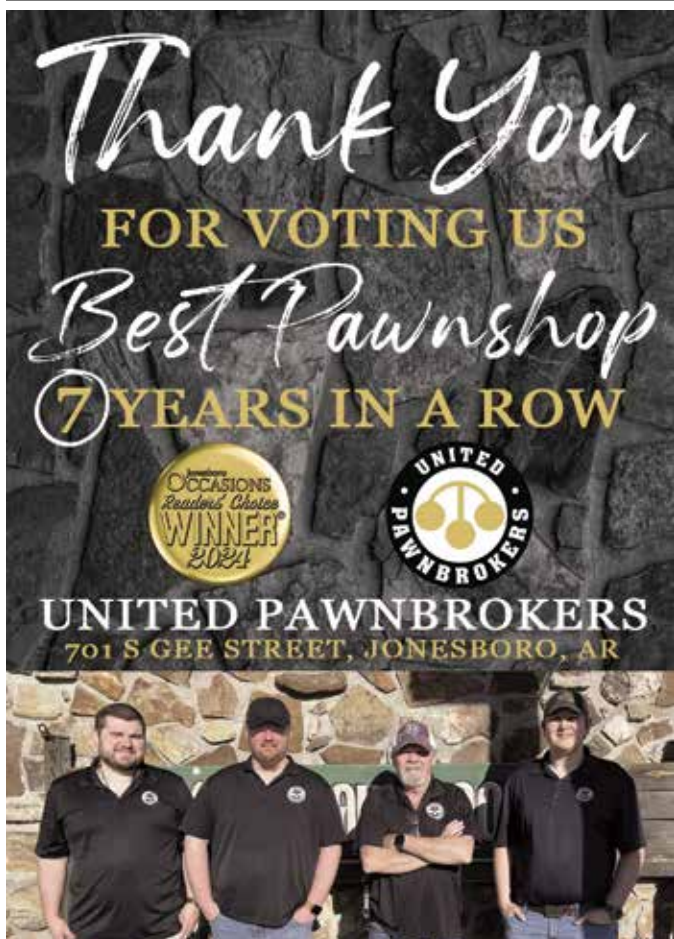
BEST AUTO MAINTENANCE & CARE

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BEST TIRE SERVICE



photo by Brittney Osborn





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Finalists: Kevin Pulliam (Sharp Financial),
Ash Pulliam (Sharp Financial)

BEST MORTGAGE LENDER

WINNER: ADDI BURGI (MOTTO MORTGAGE)

Finalists: Jelena Veteto (First Community),
Mary Tucker (First Financial)

BEST TITLE COMPANY

WINNER: NIX TITLE

Finalists: Professional Title, Lenders Title

BEST TAX SERVICE

WINNER: THE LEDGER COMPANY

Finalists: Dudley Bowden,
Thomas, Speight & Noble

BEST CPA/ACCOUNTANT

WINNER: BRENT G. CASSIDY

Finalists: Jeff Wicker (Thomas, Speight & Noble),
Dudley Bowden



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WINNER: STATE FARM (CLAYTON FLETCHER)

Finalists: Farm Bureau, Jonesboro Insurance Group

BEST INSURANCE AGENT

WINNER: CLAYTON FLETCHER (STATE FARM)

Finalists: Johnny Sweet (Pruitt Agency), Blake Rogers (Shelter)

BEST EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

WINNER: A.I.D.

Finalists: Productive Staffing, Express

BEST EMPLOYER (LESS THAN 50 EMPLOYEES)

WINNER: OMG LAW FIRM

Finalists: Garner Pharmacy, JTown's Grill

BEST EMPLOYER (MORE THAN 50 EMPLOYEES)

WINNER: HYTROL

Finalists: St. Bernards Medical Center, First Community Bank



OMG LAW FIRM

BEST LAW FIRM

BEST ATTORNEY - LANCE OWENS

BEST EMPLOYER (LESS THAN 50 EMPLOYEES)

photo by Brittney Osborn

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BEST SIGN COMPANY

WINNER: GIBSON'S SIGN MART

Finalists: Crenshaw Sign, Jonesboro Sign Company

BEST EVENT PLANNER

WINNER: SAMANTHA MCFADDEN (PLANNED BY SAM)

Finalists: Besty Smith (I Do Wedding Planners),
NEA As You Wish

BEST HEALTHCARE APPAREL

WINNER: HEALTHWEAR

Finalist: Aramark Uniform Service

BEST FLORIST

WINNER: THE BEARDED BOUQUET

Finalists: Posey Peddler, Bennett's Flowers

BEST DRY CLEANERS

WINNER: WEST'S DRY CLEANERS

Finalist: Magic Touch

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WINNER: EMERSON FUNERAL HOME

Finalists: Gregg, Langford, Bookout, Roller Farmers

BEST TRAVEL AGENCY

WINNER: JONESBORO TRAVEL, CRUISE & TOUR

Finalists: Van Provence (Take the Vacation), The Concierge Exchange (formerly International Travels)

BEST DAY CARE

WINNER: DISCOVERY ISLAND

Finalists: The Goddard School, Hands On Learning

BEST BARBER SHOP

WINNER: SPORT CLIPS

Finalists: Ideal Barbershop, Black Rose Barbershop

BEST HAIR SALON

WINNER: BEAUTIFUL YOU

Finalists: VANSTONE, Enhancements

BEST NAIL SALON

WINNER: THE NAILHOLIC

Finalists: Angels Nails & Spa, Amy Nails

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photo by Brittney Osborn



Meet The MVB Team

Cory Lambert
owner

Zach George

Mike George

Lucas Clonts

Northeast Arkansas baseball just keeps getting better compared to other regions in the state! And it's no coincidence, with what we are providing to better our athletes. At Max Velocity Baseball, we provide individual and group lessons on hitting, pitching and defense as well as workouts. MVB has 10,000 square feet of indoor heated and cooled baseball turf space with outside cages and full size baseball field. Our indoor facility specializes in any baseball and softball lessons to help kids develop into great athletes. MVB has 4 full time instructors with years of college and major league experience. We have 97 college commitments and have travel teams for 7u-14.

Hear What Our Athletes Have To Say

"Max Velocity Baseball and Cory Lambert helped develop my skills as a pitcher. Whether it was pitching lessons, workouts, or helping with recruiting, Cory Lambert and Max Velocity Baseball helped develop my game and help me to become a D1 baseball player. With all the tools that are available, Max Velocity has been a big part of my baseball career."

Zane Ryne Neves
University of Arkansas Little Rock

"Max Velocity has helped me take my development to the next level."

Slade Caldwell
Ole Miss

"Max Velocity isn't any ordinary indoor facility. Yes, it has all of the bells and whistles you could ever dream of as a baseball player, but there's more that comes out of training at Max Velocity. I've been training at MVB since it opened, and through the years, watching the consistent improvement of every player around me is something special to witness. Not only do all these players improve as athletes, they improve as people, as leaders, and as role models for future athletes. Growing up, I was able to form some of my best memories and relationships while training at MVB. I will forever recommend every young athlete in Northeast Arkansas to dip their toes into baseball, if they haven't already, just so they can experience exactly what I did with Coach Cory and staff at Max Velocity."

Josh Hyneman
University of Arkansas

"Max Velocity has been a place where I can not only hit, but I can also get my lifts and throwing in at the same place. It's just a place that everyone gravitates towards and knows about."

Lawson Ward
Arizona State University

"Max Velocity has been a second home since it has opened. It doesn't matter what day or time but you can go put work in. I am very thankful for a place like Max Velocity where I am able to get help if needed, and be able to be around the game of baseball. Without Cory Lambert, and Max Velocity Baseball, I wouldn't be the baseball player I am today."

Eli Crecelius
University of Arkansas

"I have been going to Max Velocity since I was 14 years old. It has helped me develop my skills as a player and just an overall person as well. Going to see Cory Lambert in the offseason at Max Velocity has never let me down."

Reese Robinette
University of Arkansas

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Best Sports Training Program for Kids



BEST TANNING SALON

WINNER: PALM BEACH TAN

Finalists: Glo Tanning Salon, Club Tan

BEST SPA

WINNER: BODY INDULGENCE

Finalists: Eden Medical Spa, Downtown Med Spa

BEST AESTHETICIAN

WINNER: KELSEY OWENS (DOWNTOWN MED SPA)

Finalists: Karen Griffin (Body Indulgence),
Megan Lamb (Esthetique)

BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST

WINNER: STACHA IMHOFF (MOHSTA LYF)

Finalists: Sherri Merriman (Body Indulgence),
Lee Miller (Snider Performance Plus)

BEST PERSONAL TRAINER

WINNER: PRICE HARRELL (THE TRIM GYM)

Finalists: Kara Fowler (St. Bernards Health & Wellness),
Hannah Powell (Robert Nelson Personal Trainers)





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BEST TATTOO ARTIST

WINNER: FREDDIE BOWERS
(BLACK ARROW TATTOO CO.)

Finalists: Luke Combs (Wild Rose Tattoo),
Shannon Caples (Wild Rose Tattoo)

BEST HOTEL

WINNER: EMBASSY SUITES

Finalists: Hilton Garden Inn, The Hotel at Huntington Square (formerly Intersect 311)

BEST PAWN SHOP

WINNER: UNITED PAWN BROKERS

Finalists: Express Pawn, Jim's Pawn Shop

BEST APARTMENT COMMUNITY

WINNER: RESERVE AT SAGE MEADOWS

Finalists: Stadium View, Deerfield Crossing

BEST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

WINNER: ST. BERNARDS VILLAGE

Finalists: Bungalows of Jonesboro, South Wind Heights



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WINNER: SAGE MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB

Finalists: Jonesboro Country Club,
Ridgepointe Country Club

BEST LAWN CARE/LANDSCAPING

WINNER: TOSH LAWN CARE

Finalists: Pope Lawn Care,
Augusta Lawn Care Services of Jonesboro

**BEST COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
CLEANING SERVICE**

WINNER: SOL'S ENTERPRISES

Finalists: Swept Away, NEA Pro Clean

BEST NURSERY/GARDEN CENTER

WINNER: MID-SOUTH NURSERY

Finalists: Gremard Gardens, AllScapes

BEST PEST CONTROL

WINNER: ADAMS PEST CONTROL

Finalists: Guardian Pest Control, Acme Pest Control

A black and white dog with a white blaze on its face is holding a large, shiny gold trophy cup in its mouth. To the right of the dog is a circular silver award seal that reads "Jonesboro OCCASIONS Readers' Choice FINALIST 2024".

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photo by Kennedy Crawford

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WINNER: ROOF RAIDERS

Finalists: Jonesboro Roofing Company,
Southern Roofing

BEST HOME IMPROVEMENT STORE

WINNER: LOWE'S

Finalists: Home Depot, Ditta Ace Hardware

BEST FENCE COMPANY

WINNER: DACUS FENCE

Finalists: Round Tuit Fencing, John Yates Fence & Deck

BEST CARPET CLEANING SERVICE

WINNER: WASHED NEW

Finalists: Jim Heath Floor Care, Wooldridge Tile & Carpet

BEST FLOORING STORE

WINNER: LAW'S FLOORING & RUGS

Finalists: E.C. Barton's, Lowe's

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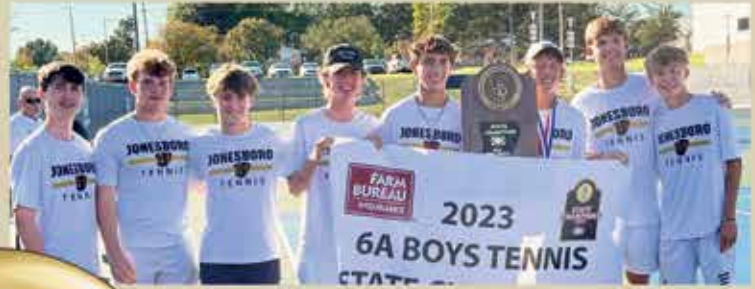


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photo by Melissa Donner

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Finalists: Air Today, ACE Heating/Cooling

BEST PLUMBING SERVICES

WINNER: CHRIS WEST PLUMBING

Finalists: Cody Binkley Plumbing & Construction, Adams & Cooper

BEST ELECTRICIAN

WINNER: SPEAKES ELECTRIC

Finalists: Owens Electric, Springle Electric

BEST GARAGE DOOR COMPANY

WINNER: JONESBORO OVERHEAD DOOR/TRI-STATE

Finalists: Ditta Door/NEA Overhead Door, Quality Overhead Door

BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER

WINNER: KERRI FELTS (INTERIOR DESIGNS PLUS)

Finalists: MG Meyering (Interiors By Design), Kim Biggs (The Vibe Interiors)





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WINNER: BETHUNE PAINTING

Finalists: Bibiano Painting, Hernandez Painting

BEST HOME FURNITURE STORE

WINNER: GAMBLE'S HOME FURNISHINGS

Finalists: Harris Furniture, Hank's Fine Furniture

BEST COMMERCIAL FURNITURE STORE

WINNER: ALLIED CORPORATE FURNITURE

Finalists: Gamble Home Furnishings,
Hank's Fine Furniture

BEST OFFICE EQUIPMENT

WINNER: FORREST OFFICE MACHINES

Finalists: Office Max, RJ Young

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Finalists: Safe Ship, FedEx

BEST PRINT SHOP

WINNER: PAKMAIL

Finalists: Safe Ship, Art Advertising

BEST REAL ESTATE FIRM

WINNER: CENTURY 21 PORTFOLIO

Finalists: Westbrook & Reeves, New Horizon

BEST REALTOR

WINNER: MARISSA BROWN (WESTBROOK & REEVES)

Finalists: Jordan Tyler (Century 21 Portfolio),
Abby Lee (ERA Doty)

BEST TECH SUPPORT/IT SERVICES

WINNER: KALMER SOLUTIONS

Finalists: Pinnacle IT, PC Doc

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AS THIS YEAR'S BEST EMPLOYER
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W. Lance Owens, Managing Partner



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BEST ARCHITECT

WINNER: TIM COOPER

Finalists: John Mixon, Jeff Steiling

BEST HOME BUILDER

WINNER: DEREK DANIELS

Finalists: Mark Morris, David Onstead

BEST COMMERCIAL BUILDER

WINNER: CONSTRUCTION NETWORK INC.

Finalists: Bailey Construction, Ramsons Construction

BEST POOL/SPA BUILDERS

WINNER: TALLULAH POOLS INC.

Finalists: Pool Masters, Aloha Pools USA - Jonesboro

BEST POOL SUPPLY/MAINTENANCE

WINNER: TALLULAH POOLS INC.

Finalists: Aloha Pools USA - Jonesboro, Pool Masters

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photo by Brittney Osborn

BEST SELF STORAGE UNITS
WINNER: DACUS MINI WAREHOUSES

Finalists: All Climate Self Storage, Halsey Self Storage

BEST APPLIANCE REPAIR
WINNER: STRONG ARM

Finalists: Sergeants Appliance Repair, Appliance 911

BEST APPLIANCE RETAIL STORE
WINNER: METRO APPLIANCE

Finalists: Tucker's Appliance, Lowe's

BEST SUPERMARKET
WINNER: KROGER

Finalists: Harp's, Aldi

BEST ANTIQUES STORE
WINNER: 49 SOUTH ANTIQUES

Finalists: Fancy Attic, Double B Vintage Market

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WINNER: ABILITIES UNLIMITED

Finalists: Goodwill, Double B Vintage Market

BEST GIFT SHOP

WINNER: FULL SUN GIFTS

Finalists: Hallmark, Market Bliss

BEST BABY REGISTRY

WINNER: CUTIE PATOOTIE

Finalists: Full Sun Gifts, Target

BEST MUSIC SUPPLY STORE

WINNER: BACKBEAT MUSIC

Finalists: All Star Music, Mr. Crisso's Music

BEST TROPHIES & AWARDS

WINNER: CROWN TROPHY

Finalists: Mr. Trophy, Lyons Engraving and Awards

BEST JEWELER

WINNER: SISSY'S LOG CABIN

Finalists: Custom Jewelry, Pagan's Jewelers



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Finalists: Battery Outfitters, Battery Warehouse

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WINNER: ELITE EYE CARE

Finalists: Lensmasters, Visionary Eye Care

BEST HOME DÉCOR

WINNER: GAMBLE HOME FURNISHINGS

Finalists: Blu D'or Interiors, Homegoods

BEST MATTRESS STORE

WINNER: GAMBLE HOME FURNISHINGS

Finalists: Hank's Fine Furniture, Mattress King

BEST FASHION ACCESSORIES

WINNER: DILLARD'S

Finalists: The Refinery, Steamroller Blues

BEST WOMEN'S CLOTHING/BOUTIQUE

WINNER: DILLARD'S

Finalists: Body Indulgence, Adara



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WINNER: THREADS

Finalists: Gearhead Outfitters, Dillard's

BEST MEN'S CLOTHING/BOUTIQUE

WINNER: DILLARD'S

Finalists: Gearhead Outfitters, Kohl's

BEST MEN'S SHOES

WINNER: DILLARD'S

Finalists: Gearhead Outfitters, Carter's Corner

**BEST CHILDREN'S CLOTHING/
BOUTIQUE**

WINNER: CUTIE PATOOTIE

Finalists: Once Upon a Child, Dillard's

BEST CHILDREN'S SHOES

WINNER: CUTIE PATOOTIE

Finalists: Dillard's, Target



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CROWN TROPHY

BEST TROPHIES & AWARDS



photo by Brittney Osborn

BEST RESALE/CONSIGNMENT CLOTHING STORE

WINNER: ONCE UPON A CHILD

Finalists: Plato's Closet, Style Encore

BEST SCREEN PRINTER/SHIRT DESIGNER

WINNER: RUNNING THREADS

Finalists: Pink Ink, Elite Graphics

BEST SPORTING GOODS STORE

WINNER: PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS

Finalists: Gearhead Outfitters, DNW

BEST OUTDOOR/HUNTING STORE

WINNER: DNW

Finalists: The Camo Shop, Gearhead Outfitters

BEST MOTORCYCLE/ATV STORE

WINNER: JONESBORO CYCLE & ATV

Finalists: Harley Davidson of Jonesboro, Big Bore Bikes

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Finalists: Hijinx, Little Lattes Play Café

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WINNER: CHRISTIE MCNEILL DANCE

Finalists: The Floor, The Foundation of Arts

BEST SPORTS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR KIDS

WINNER: SHARK WAVE AQUATIC TEAM (SWAT)

Finalists: Premiere Training Academy, Max Velocity

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WINNER: CLARK'S TUTORING

Finalists: TLC, The Apple Group

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WINNER: BRICKHOUSE GRILL

Finalists: JTown's Grill, The Forum



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SARA HOWELL
BEST ARTIST
BEST ART GALLERY



photo by Brittney Osborn

BEST ART GALLERY

WINNER: SARA HOWELL

Finalist: Bradbury Art Museum (BAM)

BEST ARTIST

WINNER: SARA HOWELL

Finalists: Kayla Scercy, Mikel Wewers

BEST BAND/MUSICIAN

WINNER: THE BAND TRIPPP

Finalists: Drew Pulliam, Vikki McGee

BEST RADIO STATION

WINNER: 104.9 THE FOX

Finalists: 107.9 KFIN, 101.7 KISS

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WINNER: TREY STAFFORD

Finalists: Brandon Baxter, Kelly Perry

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WINNER: KAIT

Finalist: KJNB

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WINNER: MELISSA DONNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Finalists: James Bickham Visuals,
Lauren Tyler Photography

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Finalists: Blessed Sacrament School,
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Finalists: Sandy McCall (Brookland),
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**WINNER: JENNIFER SHRABLE
 (ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY)**

Finalists: Tina Townsley (VPA),
 Carrie Hembrey (Brookland)

BEST COACH

WINNER: WES SWIFT - JHS

Finalists: Bobby Gross (Brookland),
 Josh Allison (Valley View)

BEST LOCAL FESTIVAL

**WINNER: DOWNTOWN
 JONESBORO BBQ FESTIVAL**

Finalists: Local Fest,
 Oasis Arts & Eats Festival

BEST LOCAL PARK

WINNER: CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK

Finalists: Miracle League Park,
 Joe Mack Campbell Park

BEST NONPROFIT

**WINNER: MAGNOLIA MENTAL HEALTH
 (RENEW MENTAL HEALTH)**

Finalists: NEA Humane Society,
 The Foundation of Arts

BEST FUNDRAISING EVENT

**WINNER: JUNIOR AUXILIARY
 CHARITY BALL**

Finalists: Have-A-Heart Wish-a-Thon,
 St. Bernards Triple Swing

**JUNIOR AUXILIARY
 CHARITY BALL**

BEST FUNDRAISING EVENT

photo by Brittney Osborn

SPECIAL SECTION

SELLING JONESBORO

An inside look at real estate in Jonesboro and the surrounding area



This month's featured home: 1716 Chickasaw Avenue, Jonesboro

Listing courtesy of Chrissie Wright, Century 21 Portfolio.

To schedule an appointment to view this luxury listing, contact Audrey or Rodney Poff, Century 21 Portfolio, at (870) 926-4726 or (870) 926-5224, or Chrissie Wright at (870) 930-8112.



Luxury Listing

\$875,000

1716 Chickasaw Avenue, Jonesboro

This stunning, architect-designed home is conveniently located near the center of Jonesboro, while offering the privacy of a quiet subdivision.

The updated traditional design boasts timeless elegance. Upon entering this 5,500-square-foot home, you will be struck by the dramatic front entry featuring Quantum Entry Iron Doors. The warm and welcoming monochromatic paint color throughout the home, along with the plantation shutters on the windows, create a cozy and inviting atmosphere.

This spacious home offers four bedrooms and five bathrooms, with all four bedrooms en suite and featuring walk-in closets. The primary and guest en suite are located on the main floor, while the other two bedrooms and large bonus room are upstairs. The primary bathroom is equipped with a large Jacuzzi tub and a steam shower, perfect for relaxing after a long day.

The open concept floor plan of this home features soaring ceilings in the living room, allowing for plenty of natural light to fill the space. The tile and carpet flooring provide a clean and polished

look, while the large Gilmore Custom Kitchen is equipped with two new dishwashers, a Sub-Zero refrigerator, a KitchenAid oven, a built-in under counter ice-maker and a new commercial disposal.

Other impressive features of this home include an exercise room, laundry chute and a large patio courtyard, perfect for entertaining. The .8-acre lot is beautifully landscaped with mature trees, large, raised planter beds in the front and a fenced-in backyard. The sports court and Bald Eagle Barn storage building hidden in the corner of the lot provide plenty of outdoor activities for the whole family. The home also has a side-entry, two-and-a-half stall garage and a circle drive, making it easy to come and go.

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac in the Jonesboro School District, this home is just a three-minute golf cart ride away for anyone looking to be close to the Jonesboro Country Club golf course.

Additionally, the home has a sprinkler system that has just been dewinterized, ensuring that the landscaping stays lush and green all year round. Don't miss the opportunity to own this incredible home.



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Local Listings



\$399,000

1405 White Oak St. Jonesboro, AR 72401

4 Beds / 4 Baths / 3446 sq. ft.

Listing courtesy of Century 21 Portfolio

To view this property, call Audrey Poff at (870) 926-4726.



\$849,900

416 County Road 793

Brookland, AR 72417

5 Beds / 6 Baths / 5203 sq. ft.

Listing courtesy of Century 21 Portfolio

To view this property, call Colby Brooks at (870) 243-7037



\$659,000

2902 Ridgepointe Drive

Jonesboro, AR 72404

4 Beds / 4 Baths / 3987 sq. ft.

Listing courtesy of Westbrook and Reeves

To view this property, call Steve Bowen at (870)-897-8530



\$2,950,000

3304 LaCoste Drive

Jonesboro, AR 72404

7 Beds / 10 Baths / 20,928 sq. ft.

Listing courtesy of ERA Doty

To view this property, call Kim Stem at (870) 897-3450



\$509,900

2234 Addison Cove

Jonesboro, AR 72404

4 Beds / 3 Baths / 2,847 sq. ft.

Listing courtesy of Century 21 Portfolio

To view this property, call Karen Crittendon at (870)-634-6700



\$449,900

4221 Sage Meadows Blvd

Jonesboro, AR 72404

4 Beds / 3.5 Baths / 2905 sq. ft.

Listing courtesy of Century 21 Portfolio

To view this property, call Colby Brooks at (870)-243-7037



\$859,900

2213 Doral Dr

Jonesboro, AR 72404

5 Beds / 6 Baths / 6500 sq. ft.

Listing courtesy of Century 21 Portfolio

To view this property, call David Hunter at (870) 219-7119.

To have your property listing included here, call (870) 931-0012 to reserve space.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Hardy



Sharp-Hardy Wed in Beach Ceremony

An outdoor ceremony at Shell Beach in Orange Beach, Ala., was the setting for an afternoon wedding on May 12 uniting **Dara Sharp** of Jonesboro and **Mitchell Hardy** of Columbia, Mo.

The bride is the daughter of **Don Sharp** of Jonesboro and the late **Debra Sharp**. A graduate of Arkansas State University, she is currently the manager of Hockman Interiors in Columbia, Mo.

The groom is the son of **Dale and Vickie Hardy** of Muskego, Wisc. A graduate of Arkansas State University, he is employed as assistant director of football operations at the University of Missouri.

THE DETAILS

Wedding Officiant: Aaron Baker

Coordinator/Planner: Miriam Novello

Florist: Beach Weddings Alabama

Photographer: James Bickham Visuals

Videographer: James Bickham Visuals

Reception Venue: Festiva Wedding and Events Center

HOW THEY MET

The couple met through mutual friends, Luke and Madison Ferguson, on the field at the Arkansas State Spring Football Game in April of 2016. They had their first date about a week later at the Arkansas State Library, when Mitch said he had a “paper” due for finals. Dara later learned that the “paper” was not due for another two weeks, but the couple hit it off from the start and the rest is history.

THE PROPOSAL

Mitch works in college football so when he has time off, we try to get away. It was spring break for Utah State (where he worked at the time), so we took a trip to Gulf Shores. It was early March of 2023, so there were not many spring breakers in town yet. I had been texting my best friend, Taylor, all week to tell her that I thought he was going to propose. I just had a feeling. Following a phone interview for a position at the University of Missouri on

the morning of March 8, I texted Taylor and said, ‘Today is the day.’ When Mitch returned from the interview, however, he was cool, calm and collected, so I texted Taylor back and said, “Well, just kidding. It’s not happening today.” A little while later, we went to get ready for dinner. I got ready for beach pictures and set the tripod up. When I turned around, Mitch was on one knee. I cried like a baby and called my mom immediately after the proposal.

THE DRESS

I found my dream dress at Jessica’s Bridal and Formal in Bay. Following lunch with a group of family and friends, I tried on what felt like a thousand dresses, but when I tried on my wedding dress, everyone knew it was the one. I added a belt to the dress to add some sparkle, and with the veil, it was everything I had dreamed of for my wedding day.

THE BIG DAY

Our big day was dreamy and exceeded all of my expectations. It was everything I could’ve have imagined. Since I was a little girl, I have dreamed of having a beach wedding. From getting ready with my girls to having photographer James Bickham pose and capture every single moment, it was a dream. When I walked down the aisle to the love of my life, I knew I was walking down to my forever. Our reception was everything we could have asked for – it was the perfect mix of excitement and relaxation knowing we had just said yes to forever with each other. Our send-off was not traditional. Instead, we chose to end the night in the pool/hot tub back at our condo celebrating with all of our wedding guests.

FIRST DANCE

Dara and Mitch chose “Thank God” by Kane and Katelyn Brown as the song for their first dance during the reception.

Following a trip to Cancun, Mexico, the couple now resides in Columbia, Mo.

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Beat the Heat

BY LISA TEDDER

Summer of 2023 was the Earth's hottest since global record keeping began in 1880, and, so far, this summer looks to be on repeat. In May, temperatures in Miami were nearly 10 degrees hotter than average at 96, and howler monkeys literally dropped dead from heatstroke in Mexico. The frequency, intensity and length of heat waves are increasing and happening earlier in the year. As we head into the hottest part of summer, pay attention to the forecast, and be prepared to deal with heat-related problems.

The biggest threat to people's lives from climate-related weather is heat, not storms. While heat is not always the direct cause of death, heat exacerbates other health problems because the body must work harder to keep organs at a healthy temperature, placing a strain on the cardiovascular system. In hot weather, people with pre-existing conditions are more likely to have heart attacks, strokes or complications from diabetes and Alzheimer's. Drug overdoses rise as drugs may affect users' awareness of heat or inhibit sweating. Many prescription drugs like blood pressure medicines, diuretics and antipsychotics can lead to problems like dehydration in extreme heat.

Scientists are working on new ways to inform the public of potential health risks during heat waves, because we aren't used to thinking of heat as dangerous. The National Weather Service working with the CDC released a new tool called NWS HeatRisk, a website to monitor heat and health risks across the U.S. People can use the map to assess the health risk in their area. The website tracks how unusual the temperature is for the time of year, the projected duration of the heat wave and the CDC's projections of possible health threats from the heat to provide up-to-date information.

Be aware of heat conditions and know the signs of heat-related illnesses to keep your family safe. Children and older people are more susceptible to the heat. Children get hot faster and don't handle the heat as well because their systems are immature. They sweat less and may not be drinking enough fluids. Older people are more likely to have chronic diseases that affect their body's ability to regulate temperature and maintain a normal fluid balance, and their medications may make things worse. Older adults may not drink enough due to dementia or for other reasons. Others more likely to be affected by the heat are the homeless, emergency responders such as firemen, athletes, those who work outdoors, pets and other animals.

Heat-related problems can develop rapidly and may not be obvious until it becomes life threatening. Learn the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and the steps you should take to prevent things from deteriorating when someone is struggling with the heat.



- **Heat rash** is a skin irritation caused by excessive sweating and clogged pores. It may cover large areas of the body but often occurs on the neck, chest, groin, under the breasts or in elbow creases. It looks like a red cluster of pimples or blisters and can be very uncomfortable and lead to secondary infections. Shower in cool water, avoid oily moisturizers and keep skin dry and cool.

- **Heat cramps** affect people who have sweated excessively after engaging in strenuous outdoor activities; they have lost too many salts and fluids, resulting in painful muscle cramps in the stomach, arms, legs or other body parts. Rest, drink plenty of fluids with electrolytes, stretch or massage the affected area, and avoid strenuous exertion for several hours.

- **Heat syncope** or fainting occurs in individuals who are not used to the heat or are dehydrated and experience low blood flow to the brain. It may occur if you are standing for long periods or wearing heavy equipment such as football pads that increase sweating and dehydration. Move the person to a cool, shady area and have them lie down. Elevate their legs and monitor vital signs to ensure their condition does not continue to deteriorate. Give them water or a sports drink.

- **Heat exhaustion** means the body has overheated. The person may have cool skin with goose bumps, heavy sweating, faintness, dizziness, weak or rapid pulse, low blood pressure, cramps, nausea or headache. Move the person to a cool place and rest. Give plenty of cool water or a sports drink.

- A **heat stroke** is life threatening; it can damage the brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. The body can't control its temperature, causing the temperature to rise rapidly. The patient may be confused, agitated, irritable or have slurred speech. The skin may feel hot and dry or slightly moist. Other symptoms include red skin, rapid breathing and a racing heart rate. Call 911, and take action to cool the person quickly, including hosing or using ice.

Minutes matter when someone is suffering from the heat. If you think someone is having a heat-related problem, get them inside where there is air conditioning or the coolest place you can find, and get them fluids. Get emergency help if they do not feel better within a half hour or so or symptoms worsen.

Stay safe this summer. Keep your home cool or find somewhere cool to stay as much as possible. Drink extra water or sports drinks, especially when outdoors. Wear light clothing and take frequent breaks when working or playing outdoors. Keep pets indoors if possible or in the shade with plenty of water or fans.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



**BY DR. LAUREN HANNAH, DSW, LCSW
PIVOT INTEGRATIVE HEALTH**

Have you ever had a day so bad that made you want to crawl into bed and hibernate? For people living with depression, these feelings of defeat and sadness are constant. The most common treatments for depression are antidepressant medication and counseling. However, medicine does not work for everyone, and some people cannot engage in psychotherapy without symptom relief. People become more overwhelmed the longer symptoms persist.

The term “treatment resistance” describes symptoms that are unresponsive to traditional remedies. However, as we continue to see mental health awareness grow post-pandemic, many researchers now realize the treatments being used were simply ineffective for some people. In a crisis like the pandemic that caused a significant spike in the number of people struggling with depression, it became crucial to utilize all available options for symptom relief.

Ketamine Assisted Psychotherapy (KAP) and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) are both known to effectively alleviate treatment-resistant symptoms. TMS uses gentle magnetic pulses to stimulate nerve cells in regions of the brain that have decreased activity during depression. While KAP utilizes a low dose of ketamine, a dissociative anesthetic medication, to reboot the brain giving it back the ability to form connections and self-repair. Immediate symptom relief helps people engage in therapy to reset negative belief systems causing depression in the first place. Both options have become more mainstream, because they offer accelerated treatment results to the people who need it most.

Those who have battled depression without finding symptom relief in the past may benefit from one of these new treatment options.

Pivot Integrative Health is located at 323 S. Church St. To learn more about the services they offer, contact Pivot Integrative Health at (870) 336-6450 or visit pivotintegrativehealth.com.

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JULY

Events

Throughout July

The Bradbury Art Museum will present **"THREADS, FOLDS & RABBIT HOLES"** by Kristy Deetz and **"EXPLORING THE BAM COLLECTION"** throughout July. "Threads, Folds, and Rabbit Holes" is a traveling exhibition featuring paintings from Deetz's series "Holidays Unfolding" and "Through the Veil." Exploring the BAM Collection gathers prints from the late Evan Lindquist, emeritus professor of art, and prints that were gifts from Ms. Cheryl Wall Trimarchi. Admission is free. Viewing hours are noon to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday. Info: (870) 972-3687 or bradburyartmuseum.org.

Help support the ministry of the Jonesboro Church Health Center by supporting its **ANNUAL PEACH DRIVE**, the nonprofit organization's only fundraiser each year. Purchase a box of Georgia peaches for a donation of \$125 and help meet the health care needs of those who cannot afford health care services. The deadline to order is July 15. To order, visit jonesborochc.com. The pick-up location will be announced at a later date.

Wednesday, July 3

EAB Media Group will host **4TH FEST 2024** at Joe Mack Campbell Park. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m. with the show synchronized to patriotic music.

Thursday, July 4

EAB Media Group will present its **RED, WHITE & BLUE COLOR RUN** at Joe Mack Campbell Park. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with start time for the race at 9 a.m. The cost is \$20 for adults, and \$10 for kids 12 and under. A portion of the proceeds will help support A-State student-athletes through the Impact Club. For more information, visit kfin.com.

Jonesboro Radio Group will host **FREEDOM FEST** at Southside Softball Complex at 9:30 p.m. Families can gather for a free fireworks show and music broadcast by Jonesboro Radio Group. For more information, visit thefox1049.com

Friday, July 5

The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library will host the **JACKSON POLLOCK PAINT ALONG** at 4 p.m. in the Round Room. Registration is required. Supplies will be provided. Info: (870) 935-5133 or visit libraryinjonesboro.org.

Thursday, July 11 - Sunday, July 14

NEA GAME FEST, hosted by the NEA Gamer's Guild, will take place at Hilton Garden Inn in Jonesboro. The event will include four days of open gaming, game demos, board games, miniature games, tournaments and more. Proceeds will benefit a local charity. Info: visit neagamefest.com.



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Saturday, July 13

The NEA Gamer's Guild will host a **TABLETOP GAME DAY** at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library from noon to 4 p.m. Info: (870) 935-5133 or visit libraryinjonesboro.org.

Friday, July 19

St. Bernards Healthcare will host a free **COMMUNITY WELLNESS SCREENING** at St. Bernards Auditorium from 7-10 a.m. The screening will measure blood pressure, height, weight, BMI, anemia, glucose and hemoglobin A1C. A free lipid panel and a colon cancer screening will also be available. Fasting at least 12 hours is suggested for accurate results. Info: email tdunigan@sbrmc.org or visit stbernards.info/events/.

Saturday, July 20

The Foundation of Arts will host the **METAL MAYHEM FEST 2024** at Brickhouse from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. This night of heavy metal music will feature musicians such as I Am the Catalyst, Burning Genesis, Sinz of Eden, OrphanCrippler, TreTura, Pool, Death's Fog, Sleuthfoot, The Weeping Gate, Kingdom Falls, MOTHWIND, AETOS and Face the Wheel. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$30 at the door. To reserve a ticket, call (870) 935-2726 or visit foajonesboro.org.

The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library will host a **GENEALOGY NIGHT** in the Round Room from 5-8 p.m. This is an event for all family history research skill levels. Library staff and members of the Genealogy Society of Craighead Co. will be on hand to help with questions. Registration is required. Info: (870) 935-5133 or visit libraryinjonesboro.org.

Friday, July 26 – Sunday, July 28

The Foundation of Arts will present **"YOUNG ARTIST THEATRE: FINDING NEMO JR."** at The Forum Theatre in Downtown Jonesboro. Tickets may be purchased online or at The Forum Box Office. Info: (870) 935-2726 or foajonesboro.org.

Saturday, July 27

Local Mpact, a nonprofit organization that supports families who have experienced the loss of a baby, will hold its **MOTORCYCLES ON A MISSION** fundraiser. The ride begins at Harley Davidson of Jonesboro. Kickstands up at 9:30 a.m. For more information, follow Local Mpact on social media.



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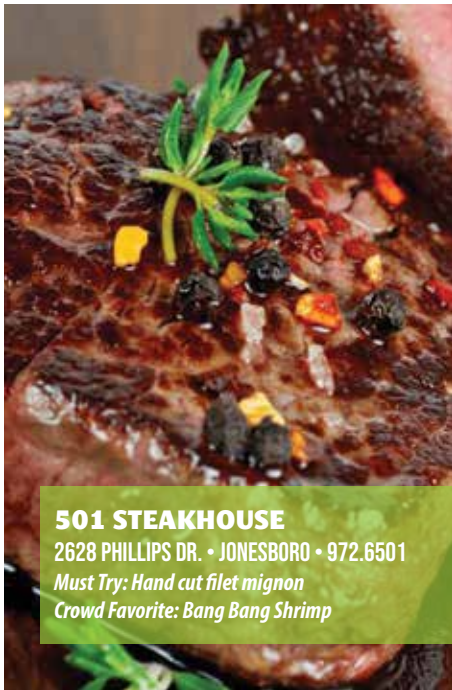
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JONESBORO OCCASIONS DINING GUIDE

Every effort is made to keep the listing current, but readers are urged to call ahead to confirm hours of operation, as schedules and menu items may change.



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2610 E JOHNSON AVE. • JONESBORO • 275.6514

Must Try: JTown Burger
Crowd Favorite: JTown's Ultimate Dip



THE CAJUN CAFE

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Must Try: Crawfish Etouffee
Crowd Favorite: Fried Boudin Nuggets



THE LOST PIZZA CO.

906 SOUTHWEST DR. • JONESBORO • 520.6227

Must Try: The Lucille
Crowd Favorite: Delta Hot Tamales



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Crowd Favorite: The OMG

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The Occasions Lady and...

Fireworks of the Future

BY AUDREY POFF

While the annual fireworks displays held in Jonesboro are scheduled to take place as usual this year, more cities across the country will be replacing traditional fireworks shows with drone-based shows.

Although Fourth of July celebrations have long been associated with fireworks displays, more towns in the U.S. are beginning to abandon the usual pyrotechnics shows, citing noise, safety and environmental concerns.

I know many people who dread Independence Day each year because of the loud noises associated with fireworks. Bombs bursting in the air and rockets shrieking across the sky can be unsettling for young children and animals.

Safety is another major concern. While most professional fireworks shows entertain crowds without a hitch, there are accidents that make the news every year highlighting damage to property, people and pets. Most injuries from fireworks, however, are the backyard variety. Regardless of local ordinances preventing the discharge of fireworks within city limits, you would be hard pressed to find many neighborhoods in Jonesboro where fireworks are not lighting up the nighttime sky on the Fourth of July.

As a child, I remember shooting fireworks in our yard in Blytheville with my brother and friends in the neighborhood. It wasn't uncommon to hold a firecracker a millisecond too long or to have a rocket reverse its direction and come right back at you. We were fortunate and avoided any significant injury.

My son is an emergency room doctor at U.A.M.S. and has mentioned the injuries that they typically see on the holiday. I don't think ER doctors look forward to working on the Fourth of July. Burns are reported to be the most common injury, with the most frequently injured body parts being the hands, head/neck and eyes. Some accidents result in major trauma or even death.

As for environmental concerns, ongoing drought issues increase the risks associated with traditional fireworks shows, as the ashes can quickly ignite already dry areas and increase the risk of wildfires. Other municipalities cite concerns over the fumes and chemicals released from fireworks shows as the reason to favor drones.

Will drone-based shows be the fireworks of the future? I suspect the cost of drone shows, which can easily top \$20,000, will be the main factor in how quickly we see traditional fireworks shows replaced. Big cities with big sponsors will be your best bet for catching a drone show again this Fourth of July. Nashville has one scheduled in conjunction with the holiday.

While it's not part of an Independence Day celebration, Arkansans can experience a drone show this summer at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville. "The Portal: An Art Experience by Jewel" will continue Thursdays to Sundays through July 28. "The Portal" is described as an immersive journey at the intersection of music, wellness, technology and art created by four-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter and mental health pioneer Jewel. The collaboration between Jewel and Crystal Bridges features one-of-a-kind, 200-piece aerial drone shows choreographed by Jewel and set to an original score by the artist, in addition to other works of art. For more information, visit crystalbridges.org.

A drone show in Northwest Arkansas is one thing, but in the opposite corner of the state, you'll probably still want to stay inside your vehicle for safety – I mean safety from the mosquitoes, not the fireworks. Anyone who has ever attempted to watch a Fourth of July fireworks show in an area surrounded by rice fields knows the mosquitoes will carry you off.

It makes me wonder though: If you can light up the sky with hundreds of drones programmed to create amazing visual formations, can someone not program them to also fly around and zap mosquitoes? High-flying drones creating works of art with mosquito-zapping abilities – what a beautiful thing that would be.

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