

OCTOBER 2024
THE EXPOSITOR



VOTED BEST
Community Role Models

LINDA RICHARDSON & KYLE GOFF

Linda Richardson voted Community Role Model

RACHEL AUBERGER

Staff Writer

Linda Richardson, a well-loved member of the Sparta community, has been honored with the Readers' Choice Award for Community Role Model. This recognition highlights her unwavering commitment to the youth and families of White County, where she has lived since 1974.

Originally from Indiana, Linda moved to Sparta as a youth and instantly fell in love with the charm of the small town. She raised her two children here, instilling in them the values of community and connection that she holds dear. Today, she is a proud grandmother to seven, each of whom keeps her busy with their various sporting events and activities.

"I like the South, the small town, the people of White County. I like our small town and the hometown atmosphere here," she shared,



LINDA RICHARDSON

capturing the essence of her affection for the place she has embraced as her own.

Linda's contributions to the community extend far beyond her role as a grandmother. Known for her warm and inviting personality,

she has a unique ability to connect with everyone she meets.

"I never meet a stranger. I hope I make them feel welcome," she stated, reflecting her genuine desire to create an inclusive environment where all feel valued.

Her approachable nature and infectious enthusiasm have earned her the affection of many, particularly the children she supports.

A passionate advocate for local youth, Linda can often be found on the sidelines of various sporting events, capturing the joy and triumphs of the children in the community. Armed with her camera, she documents their accomplishments, providing them with cherished memories that they can hold onto for years to come.

"My reward is the thanks I get from the kids and seeing them light up when they see the pictures of themselves doing the things they love," she explained.

This selfless approach to photography—never charging for her services—demonstrates her commitment to celebrating every child's journey, regardless of whether they are related to her.

The endearing nickname "Granny," as she is affectionately called by not just her own grandchildren but the numerous youth who she sees every week, showcases the deep bond she shares with the younger generation. Linda's impact goes beyond her own family; she believes in supporting all children in the community, reinforcing the idea that every child deserves encouragement and recognition.

"I love that the kids call me Granny. It makes me feel connected to them," she said, talking about the meaningful relationships she has built over the years.

Linda's vision for the future of White County is one filled with possibilities. She envisions a community vibrant with events and

gatherings that bring people together, allowing them to share their stories and experiences.

"If I could see anything change in White County, it would be to see more community events or businesses where people can gather and share their stories and their lives with each other," she expressed passionately.

She particularly cherishes events like the Lester Flatt celebration held on Liberty Square each fall and hopes to see similar initiatives sprouting in the spring, promoting a sense of unity and shared joy among residents.

Guided by a philosophy that emphasizes simplicity and love, Linda lives her life by the motto: "Find God. Live a simple life. Love your family." This mantra not only shapes her personal life but also inspires her interactions with others.

"White County is a special place, and the love the people here have for each other and the community is something special. I hope new people who move into our town will feel the same way," she remarked, reinforcing her hope for a welcoming community that continues to flourish.

In a heartfelt response to receiving the Readers' Choice Award, Linda expressed her gratitude to those who supported her.

"Thank you to everyone for voting for me. This was completely unexpected," she said, her humility shining through. Her recognition as Community Role Model is a testament to her enduring spirit and the positive impact she has made in the lives of many.

As Linda continues to dedicate her time and energy to uplifting the children and families of White County, she remains a beacon of hope and inspiration.

"I love White County, and the kids here are my heroes," she concluded, encapsulating her deep admiration for the community that has shaped her life.

In every photograph she takes, in every cheer she gives, and in every heart she touches, Linda Richardson exemplifies what it truly means to be a community role model.



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Kyle Goff voted Community Role Model

RACHEL AUBERGER

Staff Writer

Kyle Goff has been honored with the Readers' Choice Award as Community Role Model. This recognition comes as a testament to Goff's unwavering dedication to uplifting the community through his multifaceted roles at the YMCA and as a county commissioner. His efforts have made a profound impact on the lives of many residents, establishing him as a beacon of service and leadership.

Goff's journey with the YMCA began in 2010, where he served in various capacities during his initial four-year tenure. He eventually rose to the position of interim CEO, showcasing his leadership skills and commitment to the organization's mission. After briefly stepping away to explore opportunities in the private sector, Goff received a call in 2018 from a friend connected to the YMCA, which was undergoing a CEO search.

"I interviewed and accepted the job, so it will be 6 years in November," he shared with pride.

Reflecting on his deep-rooted connection to the YMCA, he said, "The Y has been a special part of my life. I met my wife here 16 years ago, and it has been a catalyst for a lot of spiritual and personal growth."

Throughout his tenure, Goff has spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at improving the community, including impactful programs such as BAM (Building Assets, Minds) and Special Warriors, which supports individuals with disabilities. He has also been instrumental in the YMCA's feeding program, which addresses food insecurity in the area.

"It would be almost impossible to single out specific things," Goff remarked, emphasizing the collective efforts made by his team. "I have had the opportunity to actually be involved in the work on a granular level, serving as a Special Olympic Powerlifting Coach, mentoring young kids, handing out food or backpacks."

Goff's hands-on approach to



KYLE GOFF

community service reflects his belief that true leadership involves being actively engaged in the mission. One of Goff's proudest achievements during his time at the YMCA has been the development of a new mission statement, which embodies the organization's values.

"We created our own mission statement, which is to Glorify God by empowering our community to reach its fullest potential in mind, body, and spirit," he explained. Keeping faith at the center of their initiatives, Goff hopes that these Christ-centered principles will remain at the core of the YMCA's operations for years to come.

In March 2021, Goff took on another significant role when he was appointed to the county commission. This position allows him to further serve the community by addressing local needs and concerns.

"I think my role as a commissioner is just another avenue to help people," he stated, saying he believes the most pressing need in the community is not solely about specific legislation but rather a call to character among leaders. "We really only have two major duties, which are to levy property tax and appropriate funds. Most of the time when people reach out, I cannot help them from the County Commission perspective,

but it gives me an opportunity to listen, make people feel heard and seen, and often opens a door for me to help in other ways."

Goff highlighted the strengths of White County, praising the kindness and resilience of its residents.

"The people amaze me with their kindness and grace. It is incredible to see our community coalesce around a family in need when tragedy or loss occurs," he said.

Goff also noted the region's natural assets, including its central location, excellent schools, and breathtaking outdoor spaces, which make White County an attractive place to reside and work.

"We are blessed to have Level 5 schools and strong tourism with an abundance of state parks and river access," he said and shared an interesting fact about the area. "We have more caves, waterfalls, and scenic overlooks per square mile than any area in North America."

As the community continues to grow, Goff is aware of the challenges that accompany such changes. He advocates for a proactive approach to managing growth, emphasizing the need for a clear vision for the future.

"Growth is the hardest thing to manage — and it seems to be happening to us whether we like it or not," he stated.

Goff believes it is essential to ask, "How do we grow well and how do we right-size for our ca-

capacity?" He emphasizes the importance of being intentional and proactive in planning for the community's future, especially about infrastructure, public services, and maintaining the character of White County.

Despite his accolades and recognition, Goff remains humble and grounded.

"I don't know if I feel like a role model. I have a laundry list of inadequacies, but I try to make incremental improvements every day," he admitted and then shared his guiding principles: "I have three objectives in everything I do: does it honor and glorify God, is it best for my wife and daughter, and will it allow me to cast the broadest need in altruistic service of others. That's my strategy screen and filter, so if the answers to those three questions are yes, then I am up for the adventure."

"You can only be as good as the community you serve, and I have the best one," Goff concluded, giving the White County community all the praise for what is being accomplished.

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The Wacky Lemon

2024 Readers Choice

Winner-Favorite Drink Stop
Runner Up- Favorite Food Truck
Runner Up- New Business

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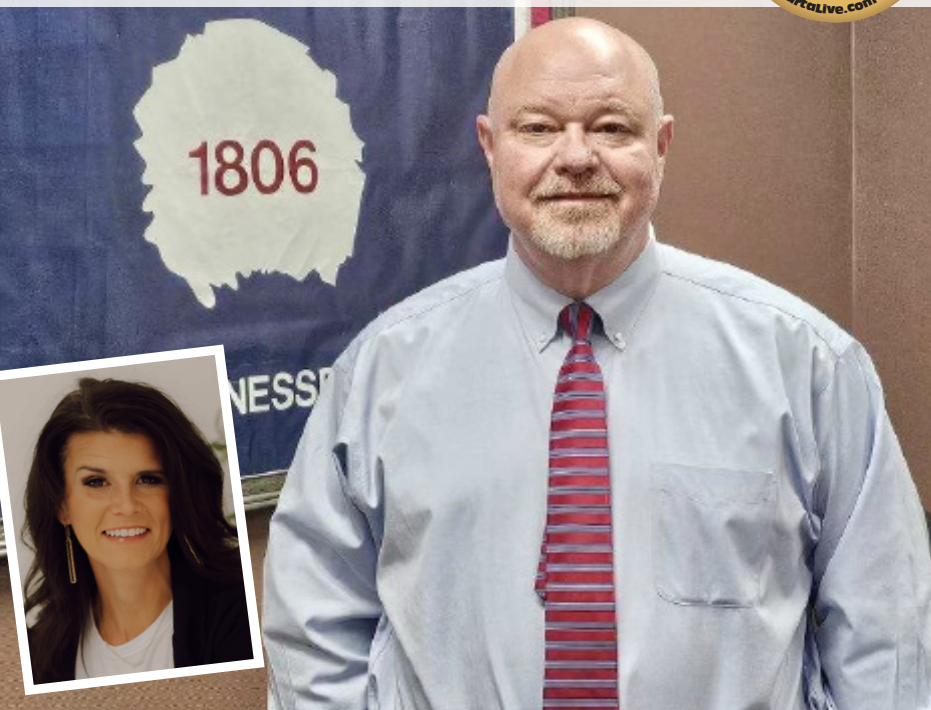
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The Wacky Lemon voted Favorite Drink Stop

RACHEL AUBERGER

Staff Writer

The Wacky Lemon has been crowned the Readers' Choice winner for Favorite Drink Stop, a testament to its growing popularity and community presence in White County. Owned by Kristin Sparkman since October 2023, The Wacky Lemon has quickly become a favorite for residents looking for refreshing beverages.

Sparkman, who grew up in nearby Van Buren County, took over an established business and has since expanded its offerings.

"We've bought a new trailer to work out of, which has allowed us to serve even more events," she shared.

The Wacky Lemon specializes in fresh squeezed lemonade, featuring unique flavors such as Cotton Candy Lemonade, Blue Raspberry Lemonade, and the ever-popular Strawberry Lemonade.

"Each event we see a different favorite, but they all do so well," Sparkman noted, highlighting how even the Classic Lemonade remains a fan favorite.

The Wacky Lemon has made a significant impact in the community, frequently setting up at local events and, when not engaged in festivities, at Life Church's parking lot. Sparkman expressed her love for community involvement, particularly when working with schools.

"We really enjoy working with the schools, getting to see all the kids' faces and being able to give back," she said.

Looking ahead, The Wacky Lemon plans to continue its commitment to serving White County and its surrounding areas.

"We would love to expand our menu, especially for the cooler months, to try and stay available during each season," Sparkman said, adding that the enthusiasm and support from the community have not gone unnoticed. "We have absolutely loved being able to serve White County more this year and getting to see so many familiar faces."

The Wacky Lemon has quickly



become more than just a drink stop; it's a gathering place for friends and families, bringing smiles with every sip. As Sparkman put it, "We always love to see repeat customers and those who seek us out at events. The support means more to us than we could ever express."

For those interested in having The Wacky Lemon at their next event, Sparkman invites everyone to reach out via their Facebook page or by calling them at (931) 644-0133.

"We would love to be a small part of your day," she said.



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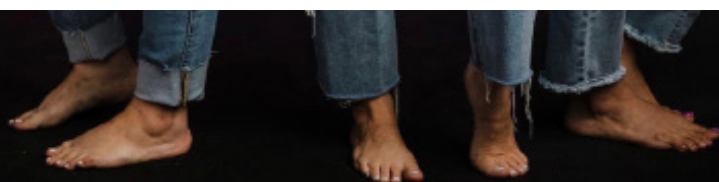
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2nd Runner Up:
Best Builder/Developer

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Runner Up
Pharmacy Tech - Larissa Bolin

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Bargain Supply Warehouse voted Best Sporting Goods and Hunting Equipment Store

RACHEL AUBERGER

Staff Writer

Bargain Supply Warehouse has been named the Reader's Choice Award winner for the Best Sporting Goods and Hunting Equipment store in White County, a testament to the dedication and hard work of owner Daniel Burgess and his team.

Since purchasing the liquidation store in 2020, Burgess has transformed the business from a modest beginning with just one rack of sporting goods into a thriving hub for outdoor enthusiasts. Over the past four years, sporting goods have grown to account for an impressive 75 percent of the store's overall business.

"We're proud to be recognized by our community," said Burgess. "Our growth is a reflection of our commitment to providing quality goods and services at competitive prices."

Bargain Supply Warehouse serves as a direct distributor for notable brands such as Abu Garcia, Berkley, Duckett, Zoom, and Lews, among others. This extensive network allows the store to offer a wide range of fishing gear, with the ability to order any items they may not currently have in stock. While they now carry only night crawlers as their live bait option, Burgess is focused on ex-



panding their offerings to better serve local anglers.

In addition to their retail success, Bargain Supply Warehouse is deeply invested in the community. The store proudly sponsors the school's fishing team and the annual H.L. England Fishing Tournament, fostering a love for the outdoors among young people in the area.

Looking ahead, Burgess is ex-

cited about plans for expansion that will allow the store to stock a wider variety of hunting supplies, although he emphasizes that firearms will not be included in their offerings.

"We want to provide everything our customers need for their outdoor adventures, while maintaining the family-friendly atmosphere we've created," he added.

As Bargain Supply Warehouse

continues to grow, the recognition from the Readers' Choice Awards serves as both an honor and a motivation to keep improving and meeting the needs of the White County community. For those looking for sporting goods and hunting equipment, Burgess and his team are ready to provide the best service and selection available.

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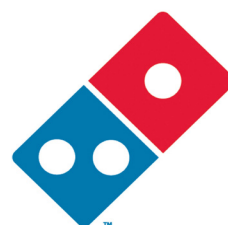
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Runner Up

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2nd Edd Rogers Chevrolet
3rd Edd Rogers Valley Ford

Auto Parts Store
1st O'Reillys
2nd Napa-Jim Brown Auto Parts
3rd Auto Zone

Auto Repair
1st Edd Rogers Valley Ford
2nd Edd Rogers Chevrolet
3rd Triple AAA

Auto Salesperson
1st Roger Clouse - Edd Rogers Chevrolet
2nd Matt Lyons- Edd Rogers Valley Ford
3rd Tucker Nash- Jason Lewis Automotive

Best Tune-Up
1st Edd Rogers Chevrolet
2nd Edd Rogers Valley Ford
3rd James Dodson Auto Repair

Car Wash & Detail
1st Mid TN Detail
2nd Pristine Auto Detailing
3rd Sean Marcus

Gas Station
1st Joses Market
2nd Alcorns Market
3rd Circle K

Mechanic
1st Rick Dildine- AAA Automotive
2nd James Dodsons Service Center
3rd Gulla Automotive- Curt Gulla

New Car Dealership
1st Edd Rogers Chevrolet
2nd Edd Rogers Valley Ford
3rd Jason Lewis Automotive

Oil Change
1st Edd Rogers Valley Ford
2nd Triple AAA
3rd James Dodson Service Center

Tire Store
1st Luna & Son Tire
2nd Bailey Tire
3rd Sparta New & Used Tires

Used Car Dealership
1st Edd Rogers Valley Ford
2nd Edd Rogers Chevrolet
3rd Jason Lewis Automotive

Wrecker Service
1st Jeffs Body Shop
2nd Edd Rogers Chevrolet
3rd Triple AAA- Hollis Mabe

BEST ALL AROUND

Adult Beverage
1st Happy Trails Brewery
2nd Franks
3rd Calfkiller Brewing Company

Business
1st YMCA
2nd Life Care Center of Sparta
3rd Sew Charmed

Cupcake
1st Duck Pond Manor
2nd Becky Shockley
3rd Amber Weatherly Sunshine's Kitchen

Customer Service
1st Floyd's Cash Saver
2nd First National Bank of Tennessee
3rd White County Highway Department

Facebook Page
1st Spotlighting Sparta
2nd Jerry Sawyer- Road Superintendent
3rd YMCA

Industry
1st BASF
2nd Rebo Lighting
3rd BBB Industry

New Business
1st Granny's Soft Serve and More
2nd The Wacky Lemon
3rd Franks at Cane Hollow

Place to Worship
1st Life Church
2nd First Christian Church
3rd West Sparta Church of Christ

Store Front
1st Jongees Gifts & Fine Furnishings
2nd Xceed Limitz
3rd Sew Charmed

Accounting Firm
1st McBride & Associates
2nd Buddy Dicus- CPA
3rd Lisa Putney- CPA

Auction Company
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2nd TN True North
3rd 931 Auctions

Auctioneer
1st Roy Whited- Tri Star Real Estate & Auction Company
2nd Cade Clark - TN True North
3rd Turner McKinney

Back Hoe Service
1st Parsons Construction
2nd Royce Young

Baker
1st The Bakery at 1871
2nd Becky Shockley
3rd Farmer's Storehouse

Bank
1st First National Bank
2nd One Bank
3rd Citizens Bank

Builder/Developer
1st J.A. Sergio & Sons
2nd Cole Crosland
3rd Thompson Construction

Building Supply
1st Potter's Ace
2nd Savages Building Center
3rd Parker Metal Supply

Bull Dozer Service
1st Passons Construction
2nd Landworks Excavation
3rd Meeks Construction

Catering
1st Magnolia Catering at Duck Pond Manor
2nd Templetons BBQ
3rd Miss Marandas Tea Room

Chiropractor
1st Wellspring - Damien Dornbier
2nd Nickels Chiropractic

Clothing Boutique
1st Jongees Gifts & Fine Furnishings
2nd Xceed Limitz
3rd Pearl Poodle

Computer Service/Repair
1st Computers Plus

Concrete Company
1st Sparta Block & Tank
2nd Card Concrete
3rd David Sparks Concrete

Convenience Store
1st Joses Market
2nd Circle K
3rd Regas Shell

Day Care Facility
1st Life Church MDO
2nd Tracey Evans
3rd Tendercare

Dog Groomer
1st 931 Groom
2nd Canine Cutz
3rd Rhonda Parker

Drive-Thru Window (Bank)
1st First National Bank
2nd One Bank
3rd Citizens Bank

Drive-Thru Window (Public Utility)
1st Middle Tennessee Natural Gas
2nd Ben Lomand Connect
3rd Caney Fork Electric

Drive-Thru Window Service
1st Ben Lomand Connect
2nd Payless Family Pharmacy
3rd Sparta Drug Center

Farm Equipment
1st White County Farmers CO-OP
2nd Tractor Supply
3rd Snyder

Farm Supply Store
1st White County Farmers CO-OP
2nd Tractor Supply
3rd Crooked Stick

Feed Store
1st White County Farmers CO-OP
2nd Crooked Stick
3rd Tractor Supply

Fence Company
1st Cloyd's Fencing
2nd Halliburtons Fencing
3rd Rice Fencing

Finance Company
1st First National Bank of Tennessee
2nd Us Bank
3rd Citizens Bank

Fishing Equipment
1st Bargain Supply Warehouse
2nd Walmart
3rd Youngs Hunting and Fishing

Florist
1st Duck Pond Florist
2nd Sparta Flowers & Gifts
3rd Dewey Howell

Funeral Home
1st Hunter Funeral Home
2nd Oaklawn Funeral Home
3rd Thurman Funeral Home

Gift Shop
1st Jongees Gifts & Fine Furnishings
2nd Sew Charmed
3rd The Hitch

Grocery Store
1st Floyd's Cash Saver
2nd Save A Lot
3rd Farmers Storehouse

Hair Salon
1st Brooklynne On Spring
2nd Magnolia Salon
3rd The Pretty Parlour

Hardware Store
1st Broadway Hardware
2nd Savage Building Center
3rd Potters Ace Hardware

Heating & Air Service
1st Tramont Heating & Air
2nd Sparta Heating & Air
3rd Marks Heating & Air

Herbal/CBD Specialty Store
1st Synergy Herbal Works
2nd JWs Healthy Hemp
3rd Loyalty Leaf

Hunting Equipment
1st Bargain Supply Warehouse
2nd DelToro Ammunition
3rd White County Farmers COOP

Insurance Agent
1st Randy Wallace- Wallace Insurance
2nd Julie Cheek- Cheek Insurance
3rd Ryan Qualls - Farm Bureau

Insurance Company
1st White County Farm Bureau
2nd Wallace Insurance
3rd Cheek Insurance

Internet Service
1st Ben Lomand Connect

Investment Brokerage
1st Don Randolph & Associates
2nd Edward Jones & Co.
3rd Turney Financial

Jewelry Store
1st Jongees Gifts & Fine Furnishings
2nd Sew Charmed
3rd Imprints Metal Stamping & Accessories

Lawn Care
1st The Yard Goat- Matt Brummet
2nd Daddy and Son's Lawncare
3rd Copelands Lawn Service

Lawn or Garden Center
1st Buds & Blooms
2nd Tractor Supply

Liquor or Beer Store
1st Peacock Wine & Spirits
2nd Northfield Vineyards
3rd Happy Trails

Meat Dept.
1st Hillis Custom Processing
2nd Floyds Cash Saver
3rd Farmers Storehouse

Medical Facility
1st Cumberland Family Care
2nd Sparta Medical Clinic
3rd Providence Family Care

Metal Buildings & Carports
1st Cumberland Carports
2nd Parker Metal Supply

Mini Storage
1st Guardian Self Storage
2nd S&A Mini Storage
3rd Red-y Lock & Roll Storage

Nursery - Greenhouse
1st Buds & Blooms
2nd Payne's Nursery
3rd Smith's Nursery

Nursing Home
1st Life Care Center of Sparta
2nd NHC Healthcare

Office Supply
1st Brady Printing

Optical Service
1st Eye Centers of Tennessee
2nd Mullins Vision
3rd Ray Sparks-Wal-mart

Paint Store
1st Potter's Ace Hardware
2nd Savage Building Center
3rd Walmart

Pest Control
1st Brad's Pest Control

Pet Supply
1st IAS- Integrative Animal Solutions
2nd Tractor Supply

Pharmacy
1st Sparta Drug Center
2nd Payless Family Pharmacy
3rd Wal Mart

READERS' CHOICE 2024 WINNERS

<p>Phone Service</p> <p>1st Ben Lomand Connect</p> <p>2nd Possitive Connection</p> <p>3rd Verizon</p>	<p>Travel Agency</p> <p>1st Keys to Dream Travel - Mindy Coble</p> <p>2nd Share The Magic Travel - Mary Graham</p>	<p>Doctor</p> <p>1st Ty Webb -Cumberland Family Care</p> <p>2nd Cornerstone Medical- Chad Griffin</p> <p>3rd Dr. Mollie Dodson- TLC</p>	<p>Nurse Practitioner</p> <p>1st Amber Moore- Sparta Medical Clinic</p> <p>2nd Marla Moore- Cumberland Family Care</p> <p>3rd Kelly Lyons - Cornerstone Family Medical</p>	<p>Biscuits</p> <p>1st Jose's Market</p> <p>2nd Rise and Shine</p> <p>3rd Sunshine Kitchen</p>
<p>Physical Therapist</p> <p>1st Ramsey McCoy- Life Care Center of Sparta</p> <p>2nd Jessica Jones - NHC Healthcare Sparta</p> <p>3rd Samantha Johnson-NHC Healthcare Sparta</p>	<p>Trucking Company</p> <p>1st CB Trucking</p> <p>2nd Roberts Trucking</p> <p>3rd Passons Construction</p>	<p>Electrician</p> <p>1st Rob Adcock- Adcock Electrical</p> <p>2nd Sam Davis</p> <p>3rd Matt McCulley</p>	<p>Paramedic/EMT</p> <p>1st Mike Kerr</p> <p>2nd Jimmy Savage</p> <p>3rd Nikki johnson</p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>1st CH Donut</p> <p>2nd Farmer's Storehouse</p> <p>3rd Yert Nutrition</p>
<p>Printing Company</p> <p>1st Brady Printing</p> <p>2nd Xceed Limitz</p> <p>3rd One Heart</p>	<p>Veterinarian</p> <p>1st Denton Caldwell- Sparta Vet</p> <p>2nd Bluegrass Vet - Kristin Edds</p> <p>3rd White County Veterinarian Office -Dr Headrick</p>	<p>Elementary School Teacher</p> <p>1st Lauren Elam-Findlay</p> <p>2nd Lorie Broyles-Cassville</p> <p>3rd Lacey Clark - Findlay</p>	<p>Pharmacist</p> <p>1st Beth Kirby- Sparta Drug Center</p> <p>2nd Jennifer Cranford- Payless Family Pharmacy</p> <p>3rd Jim King- Sparta Drug Center</p>	<p>Buffet</p> <p>1st Panda Garden</p> <p>2nd Mountain Sno & Salads to Go</p> <p>3rd KFC</p>
<p>Produce Dept.</p> <p>1st Floyd's Cash Saver</p> <p>2nd Farmers Storehouse</p> <p>3rd Walmart</p>	<p>Wedding Venue</p> <p>1st Duck Pond Manor</p> <p>2nd Chestnut Falls Venue</p> <p>3rd Macedonia Meadows</p>	<p>Eyelash Artist</p> <p>1st Kimberly Herrin-The Pretty Parlour</p> <p>2nd Dovie- Dovies Spa & Beyond</p> <p>3rd Nikki Hood-CNH Beauty Studio</p>	<p>Pharmacy Tech</p> <p>1st Rebekah Kirby - Sparta Drug</p> <p>2nd Nick Trusty- Sparta Drug</p> <p>3rd Rebecca Presley - Payless Family Pharmacy</p>	<p>Burger</p> <p>1st Franks</p> <p>2nd Jack's Top BBQ</p> <p>3rd The Tasty Trailer</p>
<p>Public Utility</p> <p>1st Middle Tennessee Natural Gas</p> <p>2nd Ben Lomand Connect</p> <p>3rd Caney Fork Electric</p>	PEOPLE – WHO & WHERE THEY WORK			<p>Coffee</p> <p>1st The Mad Raven</p> <p>2nd Coffee Collective</p> <p>3rd McDonald's</p>
<p>Real Estate Agent</p> <p>1st Missy Selby- RECO</p> <p>2nd Tammy Price- Tri Star Real Estate & Auction Co.</p> <p>3rd Sara Farris - TN True North</p>	<p>Bank Teller</p> <p>1st Crissy Roberts- US Bank</p> <p>2nd Kaci Odum -First National Bank</p> <p>3rd Lana Gamble- Citizens Bank</p>	<p>Hair Stylist</p> <p>1st Kara Richmond- Brooklynne on Spring</p> <p>2nd Terrenia Zuber - Magnolia Salon & Spa</p> <p>3rd Kimberly Herrin- The Pretty Parlour</p>	<p>Photographer</p> <p>1st Pamela Claytor</p> <p>2nd Julia Morris</p> <p>3rd Maria Tolbert</p>	<p>Desserts</p> <p>1st The Mad Raven</p> <p>2nd Miss Marendas</p> <p>3rd Grannys Soft Serve</p>
<p>Real Estate Company</p> <p>1st Tri Star Real Estate & Auction Company</p> <p>2nd The Real Estate Collective Sparta</p> <p>3rd TN True North</p>	<p>Barber</p> <p>1st Ronnie Reed 19th & Gracey</p> <p>2nd Larry Daniels- Passin Time Barber Shop</p> <p>3rd Brent England- Spring Street Barber Shop</p>	<p>High School Teacher</p> <p>1st Jaclyn Broyles</p> <p>2nd Roger Mills</p> <p>3rd Jerrica Demps</p>	<p>Physican Assistant</p> <p>1st Cameron Heady- Cumberland Family Care</p> <p>2nd Katina England Huff- Providence Family Care</p>	<p>Drink Stop</p> <p>1st The Wacky Lemon</p> <p>2nd Toro Nutrition</p> <p>3rd The Coffee Collective</p>
<p>Receptionist</p> <p>1st Mary Judd -White County Farm Bureau Insurance</p> <p>2nd Brooke Luna- White County Executive's Office</p> <p>3rd Ashley Humphrey-Caney Fork Electric</p>	<p>Boss</p> <p>1st Jerry Sawyer - White County Hwy Department</p> <p>2nd Jason Deltoro- Deltcorp</p> <p>3rd Kyle Goff- YMCA</p>	<p>Law Enforcement Officer</p> <p>1st Brent Copeland</p> <p>2nd Kenny Dobson</p> <p>3rd Justin Cunningham</p>	<p>Public Official</p> <p>1st Denny Wayne Robinson- White County Executive</p> <p>2nd Jerry Sawyer- White County Road Superintendent</p> <p>3rd Sasha Wilson- White County Clerk</p>	<p>Drive-Thru Window (Food)</p> <p>1st CH Donuts</p> <p>2nd Mountain Sno & Salads to Go</p> <p>3rd Domino's Pizza</p>
<p>Recreational Business</p> <p>1st Kayaking Adventures of Tennessee</p> <p>2nd Happy Yaker</p> <p>3rd Sunseeker Outfitters</p>	<p>CNA</p> <p>1st Vicky Cole - Life Care</p> <p>CNA 2nd Nicole Fignar-Lifecare</p> <p>CNA 3rd Pam Ferguson-NHC Sparta</p>	<p>Loan Officer</p> <p>1st Christy McCaleb - First National Bank</p> <p>2nd David Miller - Citizens Bank</p> <p>3rd Kenya Reed- First National Bank</p>	<p>RN</p> <p>1st Marcie Kinnard - White Co Schools</p> <p>2nd Mike Teeples- Highlands Hospital</p> <p>3rd Kayla Finch-Lifecare</p>	<p>Fast Food Restaurant</p> <p>1st Dominos Pizza</p> <p>2nd Sonic</p> <p>3rd Burger King</p>
<p>Roofing Company</p> <p>1st Richards & Son Roofing</p> <p>2nd Tanner Paul</p>	<p>Community Role Model Mr.</p> <p>1st Kyle Goff</p> <p>2nd Jason DelToro</p> <p>3rd Jerry Sawyer</p>	<p>LPN</p> <p>1st Lisa Braddom- Life Care</p> <p>2nd Destiny light- Life Care</p> <p>3rd Charity Locke- Life Care</p>	<p>School Bus Driver</p> <p>1st Eugene Pinkston</p> <p>2nd Dane Selby</p> <p>3rd Lonnie Crouch</p>	<p>Fish/Seafood</p> <p>1st Foglight Foodhouse</p> <p>2nd Jacks Top BBQ</p> <p>3rd Trailhead Grub</p>
<p>Screen Printing</p> <p>1st Xceed Limitz</p> <p>2nd Brady Printing</p> <p>3rd Halo</p>	<p>Community Role Model Mrs/Ms</p> <p>1st Linda Richardson</p> <p>2nd Latessa Morris</p> <p>3rd Jamie Sawyer</p>	<p>Massage Therapist</p> <p>1st Christina Cope -Renewals Skin Solutions</p> <p>2nd Staci Goodwin</p> <p>3rd Michielle Vaughn</p>	<p>School Coach</p> <p>1st Curtis Beaty-WCHS Football</p> <p>2nd Aaron Brown- WCMS Football</p> <p>3rd Whitney Brown Crouch-WCMS</p> <p>Cheer Coach</p>	<p>Food Truck</p> <p>1st Templetons BBQ</p> <p>2nd The Wacky Lemon</p> <p>3rd Old Kentucky Original</p>
<p>Skin Care</p> <p>1st Renewal Skin Solutions Skin Care</p> <p>2nd Barbie Tollison- The Pretty Parlour</p> <p>3rd Nikki Hood-CNH Beauty Studio</p>	<p>Customer Service Rep</p> <p>1st Dyson Reece- Ben Lomand Connect</p> <p>2nd Kim McDonald - Ben Lomand Connect</p> <p>3rd White County Farm Bureau (Mary Judd)</p>	<p>Medical Assistant</p> <p>1st Janie Whitman- Providence Family Medical</p> <p>2nd Hannah Page - Cornerstone Family Medical</p> <p>3rd Buffy Howard - Cornerstone Family Medical</p>	<p>School Principal/Vice Principal</p> <p>1st Montueka Murray-WCMS</p> <p>2nd Rebecca Ryan - Findlay</p> <p>3rd Melea Johnson- Doyle Elementary</p>	<p>Home Cooking</p> <p>1st Jacks Top BBQ</p> <p>2nd The Mad Raven</p> <p>3rd Grannys Soft Serve</p>
<p>Sporting Goods</p> <p>1st Bargain Supply Warehouse</p> <p>2nd Walmart</p> <p>3rd The Hitch Outfitters</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>1st Karen Keen- Haston Dentistry</p> <p>2nd Brittany Stockton-Spring Street Dental</p> <p>3rd Donisa Daniels</p>	<p>Middle School Teacher</p> <p>1st Regina Cooley</p> <p>2nd Deanna Underwood</p> <p>3rd Leah Wilhite</p>	<p>Waiter/Waitress</p> <p>1st Phylcia Qualls - Yannis</p> <p>2nd Caitlin High - Frank's</p> <p>3rd Sophia C - Yanni's</p>	<p>Lunch</p> <p>1st Yannis Grille</p> <p>2nd The Mad Raven</p> <p>3rd El Tapitio</p>
<p>Tanning Salon</p> <p>1st Sparkle City</p> <p>2nd Ultimate Cuts</p> <p>3rd Dovie's Spa & Beyond</p>	<p>Dental Hygienist</p> <p>1st Kayla Holland (Spring St Dental)</p> <p>2nd Susie - Waymon Haston's office</p> <p>3rd Cheryl Lack</p>	<p>Nail Tech</p> <p>1st Jennifer Rodriguez- Polished</p> <p>2nd Tori Sapp- Brooklynne on Spring</p> <p>3rd Missy Dorsey - The Nail Suite</p>	<p>All Around Restaurant</p> <p>1st Yannis</p> <p>2nd Franks</p> <p>3rd Jacks Top BBQ</p>	<p>Pizza</p> <p>1st Dominos Pizza</p> <p>2nd Marioochi's Pizzeria</p> <p>3rd Yanni's Grille</p>
<p>Television Provider</p> <p>1st Ben Lomand Connect</p>	<p>Dentist</p> <p>1st Heath Phillips- Spring Street Dental</p> <p>2nd Waymon Haston-</p> <p>3rd Dr. Greg Boston</p>	<p>Barbecue</p> <p>1st Chestnut Oaks Farm Kitchen</p> <p>2nd Templetons BBQ</p> <p>3rd Jack's Top BBQ</p>	<p>Sub</p> <p>1st Subway</p> <p>Sub 2nd Yanni's Grille</p> <p>Sub 3rd Frank's</p>	

The Bakery at 1871 voted "Favorite Baker"

RACHEL AUBERGER

Staff Writer

Megan Starr, owner and head baker at The Bakery at 1871, shared the story of how she and her husband, Rob, came to Sparta and eventually opened a new bakery in an old, historic home, on North Main Street. She also gave credit to Emilee Rogers who, along with being a baker and scone maker, Megan describes as the "welcoming face behind the counter" and "the saving grace that pulls together so many of the daily things we need to make it all happen."

Here's their story:

"The Bakery just happened. It was never planned and, had you asked me in 2021 if I would ever open a bakery, I couldn't have imagined it. My life had gone in many directions, but never this one. I have been baking for over 30 years for family and friends and anyone I could share it with. I adore it. But baking as a career was only something I secretly dreamed of and never thought could happen. Looking back, it feels like so many little puzzle pieces of my life finally fit together for the first time. However, even when all the pieces were lining up, I still needed a graceful nudge.

"In the summer of 2021, Rob and I were putting the last of the paint brush strokes and cabinet knobs on what we thought would be our forever house. We had spent three years remodeling, down to the finest detail. It was, or so we thought at the time, perfect. But life has a way of changing things, dramatically, when you least expect it. Beyond our quiet home and hilly acres, things were rapidly becoming unfamiliar - day by turbulent day. And not for the better. We were feeling more and more unsettled in the same town where we had met in high school - so many years ago. Then, one afternoon I smelled the distinctive haze of smoke and looked up to see a thick, pink sky. A funny thing happens when you live in an area rampant with wildfires. It becomes normal to have a go-box with invaluable essentials next to



your door, at all times, during the summer months. You have planned for the moment, knowing exactly what you need to load and when. It's a grace and a curse, in many ways. It is chaotic, but the kind of semi-organized chaos that allows your mind and heart a little bit of time to feel. So, we did what we could do. Then opened our pre-loaded apps to the fire alerts and sat, for hours, watching the fire grow and the evacuation boundaries enlarge. By luck, grace, and skill those firefighters stopped the spread when that red line was less than one mile from us. And, for the second time in three years, we were spared by less than a fingertip on a map.

"Sometimes, whether through life changes, growth, or even wildfires, home stops being home. The ties fade, the differences and unsettling feelings grow, and you realize all you really need is each other and an opportunity to build a new life you love.

"In August 2021, Rob and I packed up the few things we couldn't live without, said good-

bye to the home we built piece by piece, and drove 2,500 miles. Several exhausting days later, in the middle of the night, we pulled into a 151-year-old house we bought sight unseen - with no electricity or water and barely a moon glow. If I'm being honest, everything about that night was terrifying. Being surrounded by a town we didn't know, walking on loud creaky floors, and asking ourselves what in the world we just did. Not quite ready to go into the main house, we blew up an air mattress and did our best to sleep on the floor of the old soda shop building. Then the sun came up.

"We took our first steps into the house's foyer and watched the sunlight glow on the original wood banister. We looked up and found a ceiling with exposed, hand-hewn wood beams and old, square nails. And we looked out at the vibrantly blue hydrangea leaves through panes of old, rippled glass. Room by room, we could feel the history and stories of this beautiful old house surrounding us. When we stopped

and looked at each other, we knew it had to be shared.

"Old houses have souls. They have stories. That have held lives lived with tragedy and happiness. They stood long before us, and (if we do our job) they will continue to shelter, protect and support many after us. I think they absorb little bits of everyone who walks through the halls. The smells of cooking in the old fireplaces, the lost pieces of a child's artwork that fell behind a cabinet, the notches on wood from furniture moving in and out, and the whims and inspirations of layers and decades of fancy new wallpapers. Our stories become part of the house. We all become part of its history. There's nothing more beautiful than that.

"Within a year of moving in, I found myself with too little work and more idle time than I would like. I think we were also feeling like we hadn't made this town our home. The holidays were approaching, and I was missing baking for family. I didn't realize how much I loved filling holiday tables with every imaginable dessert. One day in November, I asked Rob if I should bake a Thanksgiving tart and offer it on the community Facebook page. He absent mindedly said "sure" and went on with his work. So, I baked a pumpkin tart and did my best to photograph it in a beautiful, but very dark, wood-filled house. Then I hit post, having already decided no one was ever going to respond. For the most part, that was true. Then the nicest woman messaged and asked for one for her Thanksgiving table. I set out to bake my very best. I made a butter tart crust and roasted the pumpkin. Spiced the custard with just the right balance of cinnamon, ginger, and clove. Watched impatiently and nervously through the oven door glass as it baked. Then drizzled it with a homemade salted caramel sauce. On the morning of Thanksgiving, I received a message from the woman that she had gotten sick and wasn't going to be hosting. However, she still wanted to

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pick up the tart and send it with her daughter to a friend's house. And she did.

"About a day later, I got a message from Synergy Herbal Works that said they had gone to a friend's house for Thanksgiving and had the most amazing pumpkin tart. She was hoping I would do a pop-up at the store for their Small Business Saturday event. I was so excited, I said "yes!" long before I realized I had no idea what a pop-up was. Everyone there was so incredible, they explained it and let us borrow a table and cloth. I baked everything I could, from bread to cake, for 24 hours straight. Still not finishing in time. Rob carried totes of baked goods over and did his best to set up an attractive table setting. Hour by hour, I brought more and more. The truth was, I had no idea how to bake enough to fill an intimidatingly sized table, and I was shuffling in and out of a home oven as fast as I could. But I was terribly slow and threw half of it away thinking it wasn't good enough. As I walked through the doors to Synergy with a delivery and finished spreading the pieces out, a customer walked in and turned the corner. She looked at our table and the cards I had rushed to make, and exclaimed, "You're 1871! I am so excited you're here; I've been looking at your pictures online and wanting to try your baked goods!" You could have knocked me over where I stood. How did this woman know who we were?

"From that moment, it never stopped. Week after week, orders would come in, and I would bake everything I could. After a few months we began setting up a table in the foyer of the old house and inviting people to come in. It was the world's smallest bakery display on a round table, which still stands in the entry today.



And it was all I could do to fill it. A few more months passed, I got a little better at baking quantities, and we were filling that table several times over each day. Rob and I moved my great-grandmother's

furniture out of the dining room, and he built a case to hold the bread and pastry. That case became two and a register table and, before we knew it, there was a tiny bakery next to an old fire-

place, under hand hewn ceiling beams, in a 153-year-old house. Somehow it just fit.

"For the past two years we have been learning and growing slowly. Somehow slower, and faster, than we'd often like. The old B&B kitchen that cooked meals for guests years ago was now baking racks of sourdough bread and anything that sparked an inspired whim. We saved every penny we could and bought equipment, piece by piece, desperately trying to keep up. We made plans, and more plans, and have endlessly dreamed of what the future would be, all while baking fresh to open our doors Wednesdays through Saturdays. And as we have grown, through every trial and success, we have known that this little hidden dream of mine was somehow meant to be in this very unlikely location. In the walls of a little piece of Sparta's history, shared with a community that welcomed strangers and gave us a home, which is why Mr. Amazing named it all after the year its story began, in 1871.

"We are open for reservations and walk-in guests Wednesday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. As was true the day we began, we continue to bake everything from bread to pastry in a handmade, small batch process. Always baked fresh each day. We spend the days we are closed sourcing and testing the very best ingredients and being inspired by new whims, which is why our menu changes every day. Each Monday, we post a new menu on our website for the upcoming Wednesday through Saturday, focusing on a selection of artisan breads and seasonal pastries.

"As for the future? I'll just say we have lots of inspiration and pages of plans. Because when you find your new home, it's time to build everything you dream of for life."

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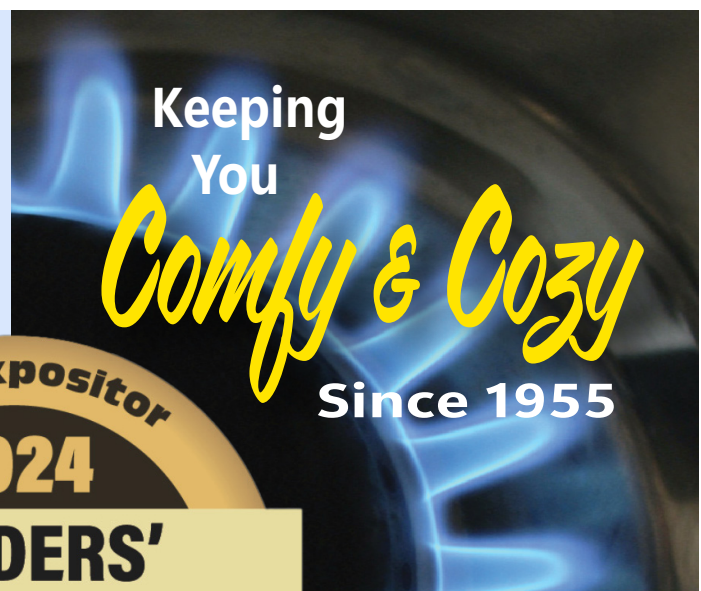
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2nd Runner Up - Medical Facility



L-R: Front Row: Katina Huff-PA-C, Janie Whitman-CMA, Back Row: Debbie Baker, Pat England, Angie Carter, Ellie Dodson, Andrea Baker, Angela Coonrod, Kristy Hall.



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RUNNER UP



**COMMUNITY
ROLE MODEL**

RUNNER UP



**THANK YOU
SPARTA!**

THE EXPOSITOR

Your hometown newspaper since 1876



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**WINNER:
Tanning Salon**



*Sparkle City
Tanning
Salon & Boutique*

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Thank you to all who voted us

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1st Place

- Skin Care
- Massage - Christina Cope

We are honored and blessed
to have such great clients!



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CLOYD'S FENCING



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Call: Mike Stewart | Hm: 761-7005 • Cell: 931-256-5399

THANK YOU

*Thank you to all those we serve.
We are proud to be a part of this supportive community!*

- Ty Webb, MD and CFC Staff

2024 Award Winner



Best of the Best
1st Place
Medical Facility

Best of the Best
1st Place
Physician Assistant
Cameron Webb

Best of the Best
1st Place
Doctor - Dr. Ty Webb

Runner Up
Nurse Practitioner
Marla Moore



457 Vista Drive
Sparta, TN
(931) 738-3383



Thank you Sparta,

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support has meant the world to me and my small business, 931 Groom. From the day we opened our doors, we have felt the love and encouragement from this incredible community, and it has helped us grow and thrive.

Whether you've trusted us to groom your beloved pets, shared kind words, referred a friend, or simply followed along on our journey, your support has made all the difference. It's because of you that we're able to do what we love—caring for your furry family members—and for that, we are endlessly thankful.

Running a small business comes with its challenges, but knowing that we have such a loyal and caring community behind us keeps us motivated and inspired every day. We look forward to continuing to serve you and your pets with passion, quality, and the same dedication that you have shown us.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for choosing to support local and for believing in 931 Groom. Here's to many more years of growing together!

With heartfelt appreciation,
Halle Sowell
931 Groom | 931-837-DOGS



AAA AUTO CENTER

Exhaust Work - Auto Repair

Winner: Mechanic - Rick Dildine
 Runner Up - Oil Change
 2nd Runner Up- Auto Repair

2306 Smithville Hwy, Sparta
 Rick Dildine, Owner
 931.738.9090



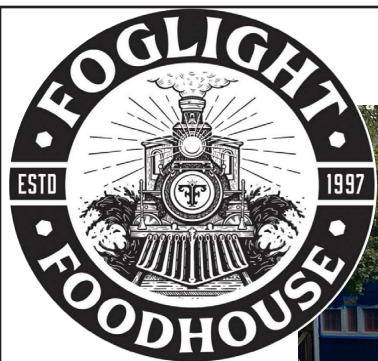
Champions of Care

- Skilled nursing & short-term therapy
- Assisted living • long-term care
- Memory care services

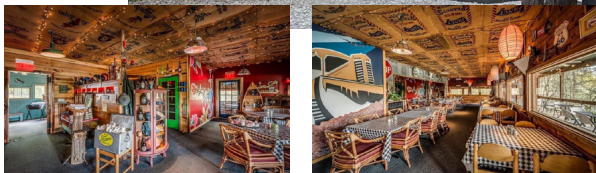


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 Tues-Fri 5-8
 Saturday 4-8



2024 Readers Choice

- Winner - Best Nursing home
- Winner - Physical Therapist - Ramsey McCoy
- Winner - CNA - Vicky Cole
- Winner - RN - Kayla Finch
- Winner - LPN - Lisa Braddom

- Runner Up - Best Business
- Runner Up - CNA - Nicole Fignar
- Runner Up - LPN - Destiny Light

Runner Up - Community Role Model - Latessa Morris

Call 931.738.9430
 to schedule a personal tour.



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WINNER Best Fish & Seafood

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Thank You



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**CITIZENS
BANK**



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RUNNER UP

Loan Officer-David Miller

2ND RUNNER UP

Best Bank

2ND RUNNER UP

Drive Thru Window- Bank

2ND RUNNER UP

Finance Company

2ND RUNNER UP

Bank Teller - Lana Gamble

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Polished

117 S Wilson St, Sparta, TN

Thank you to our loyal customers! We love you!



Winner - Nail Tech

Jennifer Rodriguez

Amanda Ryan
(931)787-2829

Maria Templeton
(931) 235-9060

Jennifer Rodriguez
(931) 808-8011



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Thank You for
your Support!

WINNER
Electrical Service

Mr & Mrs Community Role Model 2nd Runners Up - Jerry & Jamie Sawyer

Facebook Page

WINNER - Spotighting Sparta / Jamie Sawyer

1ST RUNNER UP - Jerry Sawyer White County Hwy Superintendent

Best Boss

WINNER

Jerry Sawyer

Public Official

1ST RUNNER UP

Jerry Sawyer

We love our community and being able to be a small part of it. We are so thankful for the continued support that we receive in our small town. Thank you!!

Jerry, Jamie, Maddox, and Walker Sawyer



24/7
coverage

SPARTA LIVE



2nd
Runner Up
BEST BOSS
KYLE GOFF

1st
BEST BUSINESS

2nd
Runner Up
FACEBOOK PAGE



THANK YOU!







Congratulations to the 2024 Readers' Choice Winners



Elementary Teacher

Winner: Lauren Elam
(Findlay Elementary)

Runner Up: Lorie Broyles
(Cassville Elementary)

2nd Runner Up: Lacey Clark
(Findlay Elementary)

WCMS Teacher

Winner: Regina Cooley
Runner Up: Deanna Underwood
2nd Runner Up: Leah Wilhite

Registered Nurse - Winner: Marcie Kinnard - White County Schools

WCHS Teacher

Winner: Jaclyn Broyles
Runner Up: Roger Mills
2nd Runner Up: Jerrica Demps

Principal / Vice Principal

Winner: Montyeka Murray
(White County Middle School)
Runner Up: Rebecca Ryan
(Findlay Elementary)
2nd Runner Up: Melea Johnson
(Doyle Elementary)

School Coach

Winner: Curtis Beaty
(White County High School)
Runner Up: Aaron Brown
(White County Middle School)
2nd Runner Up: Whitney Brown Crouch
(White County Middle School)

School Bus Driver

Winner: Eugene Pinkston
Runner Up: Dane Selby
2nd Runner Up: Lonnie Selby

***Y'ALL
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AT THE
BARN!***
Chestnut Oaks
FARM STORE & KITCHEN



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Gifts & Furnishings



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 important part of the Jongee's family! We love you!*
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Best Veterinarian
Denton Colwell, DVM

Denton Colwell, DVM
James Everett, DVM
Patrick Hackett, DVM
Makenzie Hoffmeyer, DVM



www.SpartaVetServices.com
spartaveterinaryservices@gmail.com





James and his crew go above and beyond for the community. Along with exceptional service at the garage. James is an Assistant Fire Chief with Jordan & Jamie being Volunteer Firemen.



L-R: Jamie Graham, Andrew Sparks, Glen Conley, Kayla Bullard, Jordan Dodson, Patty Dodson, James Dodson

- 1st Runner Up - Best Mechanic
- 2nd Runner Up - Best Oil Change
- 2nd Runner Up - Best Tune Up

James Dodson SERVICE CENTER, LLC

Service
All Makes
& Models

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Thank You

FOR VOTING FOR ME!

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SERVE YOU FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.



WINNER
BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT
MISSY SELBY

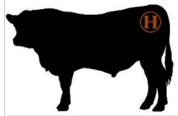


Cell: 931-510-7213 • Office: 931.837.8371
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Thank you for voting us

WINNER
Best Meat Department



- Ground Beef Patties
- Bacon Burgers
- Jumbo ALL BEEF Hot Dogs
- Steaks - Variety of Choice Grade Cuts
- Chicken - Variety of Cuts
- Catfish Fillets
- Pork Chops
- Sausage
- Frog Legs
- Biscuits
- Many other items not listed!



Thank you
from the Tramont Family



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