




2015

Every year since we began our Reader's Choice awards in 2010, it's gotten bigger and better, and this year proved no different. With more than 25,000 submissions, our readers voted for their favorite plumbers, doctors, nurses and of course, where to get the best barbecue. We thank our readers for their continued support of this annual publication, and look forward to seeing it grow even more next year.

You can see a winner's directory in our online edition at www.annistonstar.com/readers_choice_2015.

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The Anniston Star
Reader's Choice

The Anniston Star would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Reader's Choice!

When the going gets hot, Dunn gets it done

When a central air unit goes out in the middle of July, there's no question it'll need to be repaired. The question is how much it'll cost to fix.

"When we go out on a job, we try to be professional and honest with the customer," said Donnie Dunn, owner of Dunn's Heating and Cooling. "Instead of telling them what they need or have to have, we give them options that some other contractors don't give them."

Dunn says that he offers recommendations to customers based on a tier-system, going from budget products to good, better and best choices. He educates while providing choices, making sure that his clients know what the differences between products are, and what that actually means for them day-to-day.

"These services aren't cheap, so I want customers to have all the info they need," said Dunn.

He's also put together a strong following online, running contests

with prizes like \$100 Visa gift cards and YETI coolers. The idea to hold giveaways comes from Dunn's self-described seminar addiction, learning in a business growth seminar that customer involvement makes a big difference.

Reviews on Facebook all point to dependability; one reads, "Even in the middle of a hot summer's night, when our unit went out, Donnie was there and had us cool again in no time."

To Dunn it's just part of the job, behavior picked up over 12 years working in the HVAC field. The last two years on his own have already made him a rising star in the Reader's Choice Awards, and he hopes to continue building relationships with his customers by delivering quality service.

"They're going to get honest service at a fair price," said Dunn. "I'm going to do a good job and I'm going to guarantee my work, and do whatever it takes to make the customer happy."

Dunn's Heating and Cooling
2nd place, Best Heating
and Cooling Service

1 Zoe Ct, Weaver
(256) 454-6610
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Donnie Dunn, right, owner of Dunn's Heating and Cooling in Weaver, is seen with Barry Brown, the winner of one of Dunn's YETI cooler giveaways.

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#1 Best Children's Clothing Store

#1 Best Shoe Store

#3 Best Women's Clothing Store

WAKEFIELDS

#3 Best Department Store

#2 Best Men's clothing Store

HEALTH		
ASSISTED LIVING <ol style="list-style-type: none">Autumn Cove, AnnistonNHC Place, AnnistonLegacy Village, Jacksonville	EMERGENCY CARE FACILITY <ol style="list-style-type: none">Regional Medical Center, AnnistonC.A.R.E.S., OxfordRegional Medical Center, Jacksonville	MEDICAL SUPPLY <ol style="list-style-type: none">ALAMED, AnnistonDowney Medical, AnnistonGrizzard Living Aids, Anniston
INDEPENDENT LIVING <ol style="list-style-type: none">Autumn Cove, AnnistonNHC Place, AnnistonHome Helpers, Jacksonville	EYE CARE PROFESSIONAL <ol style="list-style-type: none">Robert Ellis, AnnistonDavid Chandler, JacksonvilleDarlene Harris, Anniston	NURSE <ol style="list-style-type: none">Ashley Barker (Alacare), AnnistonChase Thomas (Pediatrics Plus), AnnistonKendale Burgess (Stringfellow), Anniston
NURSING HOME <ol style="list-style-type: none">NHC Place, AnnistonJacksonville Health & Rehab, JacksonvilleAutumn Cove, Anniston	FITNESS/HEALTH CLUB <ol style="list-style-type: none">YMCA of Calhoun County, AnnistonCrossFit Thelo, JacksonvilleAnniston Family Fitness, Anniston	PEDIATRICIAN <ol style="list-style-type: none">Naresh Purohit (Purohit Pediatrics), multiple locationsElizabeth Patrenos (Pediatrics Plus), AnnistonJose Caballero (Physicians Center), Anniston
CHIROPRACTIC <ol style="list-style-type: none">Ryan Chiropractic, OxfordBolton Chiropractic, AnnistonWade Chiropractic, Oxford & Jacksonville	HOME HEALTH AGENCY <ol style="list-style-type: none">Alacare HomeCare and Hospice, Anniston/OxfordAmedisys, AnnistonGentiva Home Health and Hospice, Anniston	REHAB CENTER <ol style="list-style-type: none">Anniston Orthopedics, AnnistonChampion Sports Medicine, OxfordClinton Ray Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Oxford
COSMETIC/PLASTIC SURGERY <ol style="list-style-type: none">Ken Urquhart, AnnistonShelley Ray, OxfordDavid Chandler, Anniston	HOME HEALTH SUPPLIES <ol style="list-style-type: none">Lincare, AnnistonDowney Medical Supply, AnnistonAnniston Health & Sickroom, Anniston	PARAMEDIC/EMT <ol style="list-style-type: none">Nathan Harper (Anniston Army Depot)Kyle Cruse (Oxford Rescue Squad)Barry Perry (RMC ER)
DENTIST <ol style="list-style-type: none">Oxford Dental Center, OxfordDavid Gibson, AnnistonDavid Cummings, Anniston	HOSPITAL <ol style="list-style-type: none">Regional Medical Center, AnnistonStringfellow Memorial Hospital, AnnistonRegional Medical Center, Jacksonville	PHARMACIST <ol style="list-style-type: none">Johnnie Ellis (Downey Drug), multiple locationsPaul Graham (Downey Drug), multiple locationsMike Parris (Martin's Pharmacy), multiple locations
DOCTOR/PHYSICIAN <ol style="list-style-type: none">Edwin Keel, OxfordShan Young, JacksonvilleDavid Chalk, Anniston	MASSAGE THERAPIST <ol style="list-style-type: none">Ginger Bunn (Body Kneads), JacksonvilleLaura Covey (Salon 6), AnnistonEmily Carden (Salon Alon), Jacksonville	WEIGHT LOSS SERVICE <ol style="list-style-type: none">Oxford Primary Care & Weight Loss Center, OxfordYMCA of Calhoun County, AnnistonMedi Weight Loss Clinic, Anniston
DRUG STORE <ol style="list-style-type: none">Downey Drug, multiple locationsCrow Drug, JacksonvilleCalhoun Compounding Pharmacy, Anniston	MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICE <ol style="list-style-type: none">Regional Medical Center, JacksonvilleLabCorp, AnnistonRegional Medical Center, Anniston	



Ryan Huff, director of Champion Sports Medicine in Oxford, was voted Best Physical Therapist.

Huff provides human connection with care

All it takes is a few minutes watching physical therapist Ryan Huff, director of Oxford's Champion Sports Medicine, to see why he won the Reader's Choice award for best physical therapist in the area.

Huff walks from patient to patient, checking in with each. A woman stretching her legs on a cot smiles as he approaches; he offers some advice, shows her how to move her feet to make the most of the motion, offering her encouragement. Even when he takes a few minutes off the floor to talk, it's easy to tell he's itching to get back out to his clients.

"It's very rewarding, seeing patients go from unable to perform functional activities to being able to do them pain free or in a better way," said Huff.

Huff is young, fresh-faced and only six years out of college, a graduate of Alabama State University in Montgomery. He joined Champion as director two years ago and put importance on fine details, insisting the doors open a half-hour earlier every day and that the waiting room be for accompanying family members only, with patients moving straight from the door to the exercise area.

He learned to emphasize human connections by watching his mother tangle with the medical industry, visiting multiple doctors for help with an ailment to no success. The problem was finally solved, says Huff, when she met with a doctor who took the time to get to know her and discuss the issue. Soon after, the problem was solved.

Ryan Huff
1st place, Best Physical Therapist

2111 US-78 #2, Oxford
(256) 832-1988
www.myphysio.com

"She finally got good care from a doctor, and I decided that's what I wanted to do," said Huff.

He's had a focus on personal care ever since. Along with a small team of employees, Huff is at the facility almost all the time, working with clients to get them the help they need.

"They deserve it and they need it," said Huff. "Why else would they come to us?"

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Miller Funeral uses technology to meet needs

The funeral industry is changing.

"Traditions have changed, and families have changed," said Dudley Miller, vice president of Miller Funeral Home, voted number one funeral home in the Reader's Choice Awards.

According to Miller, traditional funerals -- black clothes, somber proceedings and quiet services -- are starting to go by the wayside. Now, families want to celebrate the lives of loved ones with comfortable services, with multimedia presentations that allow grieving attendees a chance to connect with their loved ones. The use of technology goes beyond DVD presentations, however.

"We are the only funeral home in the area that's using software that makes us portable," said Miller, introducing Family Connections, a web application that allows families to plan out the entirety of a funeral service from their home, allowing them to choose their comfort level with and distance from the commercial aspects of funerary service.

"A lot of families come to us that may not know us, and might feel we would try to influence their decisions," continued Miller, citing comparisons between car lots and casket showrooms as being typical. "This way, they're able to educate themselves about their options and decisions, and familiarize themselves totally on what



they're going to do before they come to the funeral home."

Miller's Funeral Home is one of the only funeral homes in the area to actively modernize, says Miller, and he believes that's one of the reasons why they received the award.

"I want people who come to pay tribute to that life to have the opportunity to share their stories about that person," said Miller. "With a website, people can share those stories on that person's online tribute, and the family can go and read those."

According to Miller, as traditions change and families look for not only convenience, but a more positive experience in funeral services, the way funeral homes carry out their business will continue to evolve to meet those needs.

"I think that 20 years from now there will be very little resemblance to what we do today," said Miller.



Dudley Miller of Miller Funeral Home says the business has modernized to meet the needs of the community. His father, Toby Miller, pictured left, started the business in 1970.

Miller Funeral Home
1st place, Best Funeral Home

50 Hamric Dr E, Oxford
(256) 831-4611
www.millerfuneralhome.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LOCAL ARTIST

1. Riley Green
2. Larry Martin
3. Randy Young

LOCAL ENTERTAINER

1. Riley Green
2. Maggie Beam
3. Robby Jordan

LOCAL MUSICIAN/GROUP

1. Riley Green
2. Gypsy Begonias
3. McPherson Struts

BEST RADIO/TV PERSONALITY

1. Steve Stevens (K98)
2. Chris Wright (Rock 105.9)
3. Jock Burgess (K98)

LOCAL TOURIST ATTRACTION

1. Cheaha State Park
2. Coldwater Mountain Bike Trail
3. Anniston Museum of Natural History

PLACE FOR LIVE MUSIC

1. Oxford Performing Arts Center
2. Cheaha Brewing Company, Anniston
3. Peerless Saloon, Anniston

PARK

1. Oxford Lake
2. Cheaha State Park
3. Weaver Park

RADIO STATION

1. WVOK (97.9)
2. Rock 105.9
3. WHMA (95.5)

APPLIANCE DEALER

1. Clevenger's Appliance, Anniston
2. Smith Appliances, multiple locations



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Artistic Addictions makes its mark on Anniston

There’s no mistaking Artistic Addictions for anything other than a tattoo shop, even from the outside.

Twin tattoo needles five or six feet tall cross like the bones of a Jolly Roger flag on the outside wall, painted in blue and gold and grey. The interior of the shop is lined with artwork, hundreds of drawings of potential tattoos for customers to look through. There’s a light table behind the counter where artists draw custom artwork, before porting it over to a desktop computer to finalize designs. It’s exactly what you’d expect -- at least until you get into the equipment.

“Some people feel like they’re in a doctor’s office,” joked Lee Caston, owner of the Best Tattoo Shop Reader’s Choice Award. “Our stuff and dental stuff is really similar.”

Caston, who has been a tattoo artist since 1980, opened the Anniston tattoo shop in 2004. He and his staff have impressive portfolios full of tattoo and piercing photographs, like Lee’s set of divine hands picking up a boy (“The man’s son died, they’re God’s hands reaching out of heaven”) or a 9/11 firefighter memorial piece by the mononymous artist Turtle, who has 18 years of tattooing experience behind him.

Caston shrugs when asked why his shop took the award - that the place is larger than most shops, even in larger cities, that



Lee Caston, owner of Artistic Addictions, opened his shop in Anniston in 2004. The shop won Best Tattoo Shop for 2015.

they’ve got a big selection of pre-made art to choose from - but it might be their experience and understanding of the craft that makes them a favorite, with more than a half century of tattooing between just Caston and Turtle.

“There’s a tattoist and a tattoo artist; give a tattoist a design and he can do it, where a tattoo artist will sit down and draw their own stuff, too,” said Caston. “We’re tattoo artists.”

Artistic Addictions
1st place,
Best Tattoo Shop

500 Quintard Ave, Anniston
(256) 240-7075

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BUILDING SUPPLY

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- 2. Jacksonville Home Center, Jacksonville
- 3. Lee Dawson Seamless Gutters

CARPET/FLOORING DEALER

- 1. Abbey Carpet and Flooring, Anniston
- 2. Foote Brothers, Anniston
- 3. Floors to Go, Anniston

FURNITURE STORE

- 1. Midtown Outlet, Anniston
- 2. Haverly’s, Anniston
- 3. Room By Room, Oxford

HOME & GARDEN STORE

- 1. Oxford Lumber, Oxford
- 2. Downing’s General Store, Anniston
- 3. B&B Produce, Anniston

HOME RENTAL AGENCY

- 1. Century 21 Harris-McKay Realty, Anniston
- 2. ERA King, Anniston
- 3. Keller Williams, Anniston

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

- 1. Mizzell Heating & Air, Oxford

- 2. Dunn’s Heating and Cooling, Weaver
- 3. Mr. Refrigeration, Jacksonville

LAWN CARE SERVICE

- 1. Ryan Turf Management, Anniston
- 2. Scott’s Lawn Care Plus, Jacksonville
- 3. Preacher’s Lawn Care, Anniston

MOVING SERVICE

- 1. Hill’s Moving and Storage, Anniston
- 2. H & W Transfer And Storage, Anniston
- 3. David Daniels Moving, Jacksonville

PEST CONTROL

- 1. Monday’s Pest Control, Anniston
- 2. Havard Pest Control, Jacksonville
- 3. Danny’s Pest Control

PLUMBING SERVICE

- 1. Perez Plumbing, Oxford
- 2. Mr. Dan’s Plumbing, multiple locations
- 3. Climate Flow, Anniston

HOME ACCESSORIES STORE

- 1. Midtown Outlet, Anniston
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- 3. Design World, Oxford

LAWN EQUIPMENT DEALER

- 1. Snead Ag, Oxford
- 2. Beshear’s Tractor and Equipment, Oxford
- 3. C & C Small Engines, Anniston

MATTRESS DEALER

- 1. Mattress Max, multiple locations
- 2. Bedzzz Express
- 3. Mattress & Springs

REAL ESTATE COMPANY

- 1. Keller Williams Realty Group, Anniston
- 2. ERA King, Anniston
- 3. Century 21 Harris - McKay Realty

REALTOR

- 1. Ken and Selena Butler (Keller Williams), Anniston
- 2. Bret Reaves (ERA King), Anniston
- 3. Annie Brunson (Buyer’s Edge Realty), Anniston

APARTMENT COMPLEX

- 1. Mountain View Apartments, Anniston
- 2. Tyler Green Apartments

See a directory of all the winning businesses online at
www.annistonstar.com/readers_choice_2015



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Cooter Brown's Rib Shack in Jacksonville attributes much of its success to its staff. Pictured are Mackenzie Brannon, Keshia Diesing, Patrick Clines, Barbara Johnson and Tim Johnson.

Cooter Brown's little shack delivers big taste

If there's ever been a restaurant that feels like home, it's got to be Cooter Brown's Rib Shack.

It's not a big place by any stretch, but it's cozy, comfortable, and decked out like it could be your grandad's garage, with license plates and memorabilia hanging next to police and firefighter patches left up by customers over the years.

A staircase quietly hidden in the corner transports visitors to an upstairs landing that overlooks the restaurant, with a few booths for a handful of lucky customers that get to eat in style. The comfort level is high, and that's one reason owners Tim and Barbara Johnson think their business was voted for in the Best Ribs in the Reader's Choice Awards.

"We wanted this place to be the place

where, if you wanted ribs, this is where you'd come," said Tim.

The couple make their own sauces, rubs, potato salad and more from their own recipes, some of which are handed down from Barbara's mother, others of her own devising. The couple had never been involved in the food industry before.

"We just wanted our own business," said Barbara. "That's the American dream."

The restaurant is like home for more than just the customers; the pair say that their employees make the business work, with positive attitudes and friendships that carry on even after they've moved on to other jobs. The restaurant recently hosted an employee-organized reunion for past employees, which they're hoping to make an annual event.

Cooter Brown's Rib Shack
1st place, Best Ribs

8464 Alabama Hwy 204, Jacksonville
(256) 435-1514
www.cootersribs.com

"Our staff is what makes the restaurant," said Barbara. "We've been blessed with good employees from the time we opened."

Cooter Brown's is an easy place to like. The Johnsons come across as friendly, good-natured folks, with no particular strategy to make their business likable save for being themselves and letting that be enough.

"We try to treat people right, the way we want to be treated," said Tim.

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- 2. Lori James, Anniston
- 3. Bill Miller, Anniston

CHILD CARE

- 1. The Children's Place (First United Methodist Church), Anniston
- 2. New Adventures Learning Center, Oxford
- 3. First Baptist Church of Saks, Anniston

INSURANCE AGENCY

- 1. Parnell Insurance, Oxford
- 2. Insurance Planning Services, Anniston
- 3. Reaves Insurance Agency, Anniston

WAITER/WAITRESS

- 1. Angel (Los Mexicanos)
- 2. Kylee Wilson (Struts)

3. Tara Terry (Cheaha Brewing Company)
COMMUNITY EVENT

- 1. OxfordFest, Oxford
- 2. Noble Street Festival, Anniston
- 3. Relay for Life, Anniston

DEPUTY SHERIFF

- 1. Paul Star (Calhoun County)
- 2. Lee Wooten (Calhoun County)
- 3. Matthew Wade (Calhoun County)

FIREFIGHTER

- 1. Carl Wilson (Anniston)
- 2. Gary Sparks (Oxford)
- 3. Justin Minton (Jacksonville)

NEIGHBORHOOD

- 1. Cider Ridge, Oxford
- 2. Buckhorn, Weaver
- 3. Sherwood Forest, Oxford

POLICE OFFICER

- 1. Scott Glanze (Oxford)
- 2. Bill Partridge (Oxford)
- 3. Mike Kelley (Weaver)

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

- 1. Steven Waits (Oxford)
- 2. Leon Smith (Oxford)
- 3. K.L. Brown (Jacksonville)

PLACE OF WORSHIP

- 1. Golden Springs Baptist Church, Anniston
- 2. Coldwater Baptist Church, Oxford
- 3. Hillcrest Baptist Church, Anniston

CHURCH CHOIR

- 1. Golden Springs Baptist Church, Anniston
- 2. Hillcrest Baptist Church, Anniston
- 3. Edgewood Congregational Church, An-

Jackson Mortgage wins loyalty with hard work

If you ask Larry Jackson what makes his business, Jackson Mortgage, different from every other financing company, he'll tell you straight up: it's work ethic.

"No one's going to outwork me," said Jackson, who took the top spot in the Reader's Choice Best Home Mortgage category. "When I get on a loan, that loan's going to close by the day it's supposed to close."

He pulls out his smartphone to show a text message from a realtor, jokingly asking who on earth would ever get a loan closed ahead of schedule and offering congratulations. It's not typical for most mortgage companies, says Jackson, but it's typical for him.

"I don't go play golf on Wednesday or take off early on Fridays," he said. "The purchase of a home is such an important event in someone's life, and I'm going to devote all my attention to that to make sure it happens in a timely manner."

Jackson has worked in the Anniston area for more than two decades. His business is famous for the "Call My Daddy" advertisements, featuring his daughter, Kelsey, as she's grown from an infant to young adult right in front of the community. It's that closeness with the community that makes Jackson's customers send testimonials by the stack and refer their friends to him when they need to buy a home.

"The thing customers understand about me is I'm touchable, I'm personable," he said, before pointing out that while his loan products are very similar to any other financial institution's offerings, his customer service is anything but. That he's available anytime, in-person, to handle customer concerns and make sure home buying goes smoothly, is Jackson's mission.

"I want them to know that my biggest thing is the reward that I get when they leave knowing, 'That man right there, he's going to make sure my paperwork is handled properly, gets done in the right time frame, he actually cares,'" said Jackson.



Larry Jackson of Jackson Mortgage has helped Calhoun County residents secure home lending for more than two decades.

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- 1. Artistic Addictions, Anniston
- 2. Skin Deep, Oxford
- 3. Infinity Ink, Anniston

PUBLIC SCHOOL

- 1. Oxford City Schools
- 2. Calhoun County Schools
- 3. Jacksonville City Schools

PRIVATE SCHOOL

- 1. The Donoho School, Anniston
- 2. Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School, Anniston
- 3. Faith Christian School, Anniston

AFTER SCHOOL CARE FACILITY

- 1. YMCA of Calhoun County, Anniston
- 2. New Adventures Learning Center, Oxford

3. Kid's First Childcare, Anniston

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

- 1. Ryan Huff (Champion Sports)
- 2. Treacy Hunter (Anniston Orthopedics)
- 3. Whitney Brown (RMC Jacksonville)

LAUNDROMAT

- 1. Gamecock Laundry, Jacksonville
- 2. Washin Coin Laundry, Anniston

See a directory of all the winning businesses online at www.annistonstar.com/readers_choice_2015

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☐ GROUND BLINDERS

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☐ CAMO JACKET

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☐ BACK PACK

MATTHEW-MISSION-PSE-TEN POINT

The Anniston Star

Reader's Choice

2015

Customers are floored by Abbey Carpet



Ted Gregerson, owner of Abbey Carpet and Flooring, says his business won Best Carpet/Flooring Dealer because of the convenience and variety the store supplies.

The thing about putting in new carpet is, someone has to move all the stuff that's sitting on the old floor.

"We try to simplify the process: we'll get the furniture, install the carpet, put everything back and vacuum before we leave," said Ted Gregerson, owner of Abbey Carpet and Flooring. "All they have to do is open the front door."

Gregerson believes that his company won Best Carpet/Flooring Dealer in the Reader's Choice Awards thanks to the convenience and variety that Abbey Carpet provides. Customers are commonly surprised that furniture is handled by the company, who will move pool tables and grand pianos with ease. That they've also got an amazing warranty only sweetens the deal.

"If we install your flooring, for any reason in the first 60 days, even if they didn't like the color, we'll replace the flooring absolutely free," said Gregerson.

Installation crews treat customer homes like their own, and view each job as a chance to beautify a home and give homeowners something they can be proud of. Being able to inspire confidence in the community has helped the business thrive for nearly 20 years, says Gregerson.

It also helps that installation crews are versatile: installation ranges from flooring and carpeting to more surprising elements, like bathtubs and countertops. There's no job too big or too small; if a customer needs a specialized tub with a ramp that allows wheelchair access, it can be done.

"We treat every job as a custom job," said Gregerson.

Gregerson extended his thanks on behalf of the entire Abbey Carpet team to the community for voting his business number one.

"We realize that customers have a choice when it comes to where they purchase their new flooring, and we appreciate Calhoun County's support of the last 19 years," said Gregerson.

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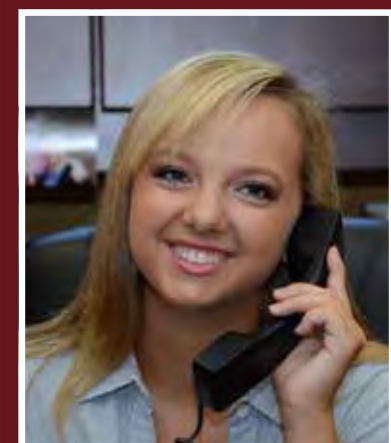
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Larry Jackson has always been an Anniston local, graduating from Saks High School and Jacksonville State University before beginning his three-decade career as a certified lender. He has served the Calhoun County community's home financing needs for more than two decades at his business, Jackson Mortgage. Larry lives in Anniston with his wife, Karen, and his three children.



The Anniston Community has watched Kelsey Jackson grow up on local billboards as part of Jackson Mortgage's infamous "Call My Daddy!" advertisements. Kelsey became the company spokeswoman at only one year old at her mother's suggestion and continues to represent the company as she nears adulthood.

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2. Opportunity Center Printing, Anniston
3. Crawford Office Supply, Anniston

COMPUTER DEALER

1. Gamecock Computers, Jacksonville
2. Matt's Computer, Jacksonville
3. Hawkins PC Solutions, Jacksonville

CONVENIENCE STORE

1. Chevron, Oxford Exchange
2. Samco, Oxford
3. Grub Mart, Jacksonville

DEPARTMENT STORE

1. Martin's Family Clothing
2. Willow Tree Boutique, Jacksonville
3. Wakefield's, Anniston

DRY CLEANER

1. Smith's Cleaners, Anniston
2. Oxford Cleaners, Oxford
3. Mike's Romac Cleaners, Oxford

FLORIST

1. Jackie's Floral Gallery, Anniston
2. Miller Florist, Oxford
3. Pinson's Florist, Anniston

FUNERAL HOME

1. Miller Funeral Home, Oxford
2. K.L. Brown Memory Chapel, Anniston
3. Chapel Hill, Anniston

GIFT SHOP

1. Frey Boutique, Oxford
2. The Willow Tree, Jacksonville
3. Rabbit Hutch, Anniston

HOBBY STORE

1. Design World, Oxford
2. Lenlock Hobby Shop, Anniston
3. CD Cellar, Anniston

PAWN SHOP

1. B&B Pawn and Jewelry, Anniston
2. Oxford Pawn & Gun, Oxford
3. Mike's Treasure Chest, Anniston

PET/PET GROOMING STORE

1. Piper's Playhouse, Anniston
2. Head To Tail, Oxford
3. Lylia's Poodle Boutique, Anniston

OFFICE SUPPLY STORE

1. Crawford Office Supply, Anniston
2. Davie's School Supply, Anniston
3. ABS Business Systems, Anniston

PHOTO STUDIO

1. Claire Caballero, Anniston
2. Bob Crisp Photography, Oxford
3. Jerrod Brown Studios, Anniston

SHOE STORE

1. Martin's Family Clothing, multiple locations
2. Gem Shoe Repair, Anniston

SPORTING GOODS STORE

1. Shotgun Sports, Anniston
2. Campus Spirit, Oxford
3. Champion Archery, Anniston

TRAVEL AGENCY

1. R & R Travel, Oxford
2. Magnolia Vacations, Anniston

VETERINARIAN

1. Tracy Whitaker (Rolling Hills), Anniston
2. Bill Brom (Greenbriar Animal Clinic), Anniston
3. Barry Nicholls (Animal Medical Center), Anniston

CONSIGNMENT/THRIFT SHOP

1. Center of Hope, multiple locations
2. Growing Trends, Anniston

GROCERY STORE

1. Christian Corner Meats, Anniston
2. Dorsey's Super Market, Oxford
3. Edwards Grocery, Jacksonville

WINE/LIQUOR STORE

1. Tyson Fine Wines and Things, Anniston
2. Smokin' Joes, Anniston
3. Chevron (Golden Springs), Anniston

BUTCHER/MEATS

1. Christian Corner Meats, Anniston
2. Thompson's Meat, Alexandria
3. Dorsey's Super Market, Oxford

PRODUCE

1. B&B Produce, Anniston
2. Anniston Farmers Market, Anniston
3. Pickette's Curbside Market, Anniston

FOOD & DRINK

BAKERY

1. Artisanal Baked Goods, Anniston
2. Mad Hatter Cupcakes, Jacksonville
3. Bonnie Ray's Bake Shoppe, Anniston

BAR/LOUNGE

1. Cheaha Brewing Company, Anniston
2. Peerless Saloon and Grille, Anniston
3. Heroes, Weaver

BARBECUE

1. The Rocket, Jacksonville
2. Smoke-N-Hot BBQ, Anniston
3. Dad's BBQ, Anniston

BREAKFAST

1. CJ's Family Restaurant, Oxford
2. Peerless Saloon and Grille, Anniston
3. Chef T's, Anniston

BUFFET

1. Classic on Noble, Anniston
2. Garfrerick's, Oxford
3. Beans and Greens, Alexandria

CATERING

1. Classic on Noble, Anniston
2. Smoke-N-Hot BBQ, Anniston
3. Alexander's The Great Event, Oxford

CATFISH

1. Top O' The River, Anniston
2. The Ark, Riverside
3. Brad's BBQ, Oxford

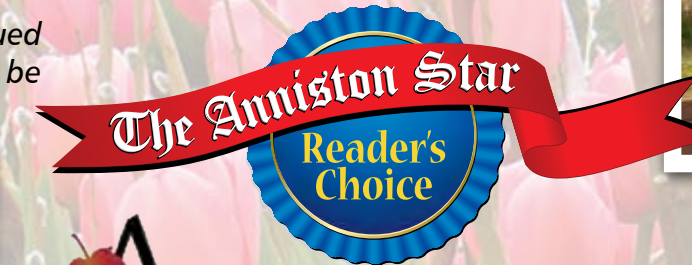
CHICKEN FINGERS

1. Struts, multiple locations
2. Top O' The River, Anniston
3. The Rocket, Jacksonville

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God the Father, we believe in
Jesus Christ, we believe in the
Holy Spirit and He's given us
new life. We believe in His
crucifixion, we believe He rose again and we
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Oxford Lumber builds relationships

According to Oxford Lumber owner Bill Newman, there are three types of shopper that visit the home and hardware store:

"We get the mission shopper, the browser and the project person," said Newman. Oxford Lumber employees are trained to look for lists-in-hand to know shoppers on a mission, to hear questions for advice about building decks and installing cabinetry and know they've got a weekend project to help with. The variety keeps things fresh.

"We're fortunate in that we get a lot of different kinds of customers in here; no two days are alike," said Newman.

His comfortable familiarity with his customers comes from experience. Newman's family has operated the business since 1958, when it was founded by his father, Charles. Generations of families have shopped with the store in the years since; Newman recalls frequently being told by customers that their fathers shopped at the store when Charles still managed it.

Newman credits their longevity to understanding that customers want quality service more than anything else.

"My people know that there's nothing more important than taking care of that customer who comes through the door," said Newman. Everyone on the sales floor is empowered to make decisions to help the customer get what they need, which in turn makes working at the business a retail experience that surpasses most. Sales manager Danny Jones has been with the business for more than 20 years.

"We all work as a team, and anybody on the floor can be the smartest person here thanks to these," Jones said, grinning and gesturing to a walkie-talkie on his hip that keeps him in constant contact with the sales floor.

Both Jones and Newman say that their Reader's Choice award for Best Building Supply Store comes down to a commitment to incredible customer service.

"The red carpet's out every day around here," said Newman.

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Oxford Lumber has a commitment to incredible customer service, which is why they were voted Best Building Supply Store and 2nd place for Best Home & Garden Store, said owner Bill Newman.

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COFFEE SHOP

1. Java Jolt, Jacksonville
2. Southern Girl Coffee, Oxford
3. Solid Rock Cafe, Piedmont

DINNER

1. Effina's, Jacksonville
2. Classic on Noble, Anniston
3. Cheaha Brewing Company, Anniston

DONUT

1. Lamar's Donuts, Oxford
2. Bonnie Ray's Bake Shoppe, Anniston

FAST FOOD

1. The Rocket, Jacksonville
2. Dad's BBQ, Anniston
3. Legghorn's, Jacksonville

FINE DINING

1. Classic on Noble, Anniston
2. Garfrerick's, Oxford
3. Effina's, Jacksonville

FRENCH FRIES

1. Struts, multiple locations
2. The Rocket, Jacksonville
3. Dad's BBQ, Anniston

FRIED CHICKEN

1. Struts, multiple locations
2. Betty's BBQ, Anniston
3. CJ's Family Restaurant, Oxford

HAMBURGER

1. Struts, multiple locations
2. The Rocket, Jacksonville
3. Cecil's Place, Jacksonville

HOT DOG

1. Alexandria High School Valley Dog
2. Struts, multiple locations
3. The Rocket, Jacksonville

ICED TEA

1. Betty's BBQ, Anniston
2. Top O' The River, Anniston
3. The Rocket, Jacksonville

MILKSHAKE

1. Cecil's Place, Jacksonville
2. Struts, Jacksonville
3. Sweet Cups, Oxford

PIZZA

1. First Class Pizza, Anniston
2. Mata's Greek Pizza, Anniston
3. The Pizzeria (Carpenetti's), Anniston

PLATE LUNCH

1. Betty's BBQ, Anniston
2. Dad's BBQ, Anniston
3. The Rocket, Jacksonville

RIBS

1. Cooter Brown's, Jacksonville

2. Dad's BBQ, Anniston
3. Smoke-N-Hot BBQ, Anniston

STEAKS

1. Garfrerick's, Oxford
2. Classic on Noble, Anniston
3. Cheaha Brewing Company, Anniston

SANDWICHES

1. Classic Too, Anniston
2. Cheaha Brewing Company, Anniston
3. Peerless Saloon and Grille, Anniston

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

1. Mata's Greek Pizza, Anniston
2. Effina's, Jacksonville
3. First Class Pizza, Anniston

ASIAN RESTAURANT

1. Fuji's, Oxford
2. China Luck, Oxford
3. Ono Grill, Anniston

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

1. Los Mexicanos, Oxford
2. Loco Mex, Jacksonville
3. Los Arcos, Anniston

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1. Classic on Noble, Anniston
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ACCOUNTANT

1. Theresa Lackey (Lackey Inc.), Anniston
2. Phyllis Kelley (H&R Block), Anniston
3. Randy Lovvorn (Lovvorn and Associates), Anniston

BROKERAGE/INVESTMENTS

1. Joe Bynum (Raymond James), Anniston
2. Ike Brown (Merrill Lynch), Anniston
3. Larry A. Young (Insurance Planning Services), Anniston

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

1. Alabama Teachers Credit Union, multiple locations

2. NobleBank & Trust, multiple locations
3. AOD Federal Credit Union, multiple locations

HOME MORTGAGE

1. Jackson Mortgage, Anniston
2. Alabama Teachers Credit Union, multiple locations

SPORTS & REC

3. Cheaha Bank, multiple locations

GOLF ACCESSORIES

1. Cider Ridge, Oxford
2. Silver Lakes, Gadsden
3. Anniston Country Club, Anniston

GOLF COURSE

1. Cider Ridge, Oxford
2. Cane Creek, Anniston

3. Anniston Country Club, Anniston

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE DEALER

1. Bama Powersports, Oxford
2. Camping World, Oxford
3. ATV & Golf Carts, Anniston

GUN SHOP

1. B&B Pawn and Jewelry, Anniston
2. Shotgun Sports, Anniston

3. Creedmoor Armory, Anniston

SWIMMING POOL/SPA DEALER

1. Marie's Pool Store, Anniston
2. Pool Doctor, Piedmont
3. Freedom Pools, Anniston

BEAUTY & FASHION**DAY SPA**

1. Spa at McClellan, Anniston
2. Prestige Medical Spa, Oxford
3. Spa Lillie, Oxford

TANNING/SPRAY TAN

1. Always Summer, Oxford
2. Tans Down Under, Anniston
3. Club Paradise, Oxford

BARBER SHOP

1. Classy Cuts, Piedmont
2. Jack's Barber Shop, Weaver
3. Craven's Barber Shop, Jacksonville

BEAUTY SHOP

1. Salon 6, Anniston
2. Amy's Design Studio, Anniston
3. Classy Cuts, Piedmont

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

1. Martin's Family Clothing
2. Growing Trends, Anniston
3. The Rabbit Hutch, Anniston

JEWELRY STORE

1. Couch's Jewelers, Anniston
2. Diamond Depot, Oxford
3. B&B Pawn and Jewelry, Anniston

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

1. Kahoots Boutique, Anniston
2. The Willow Tree, Jacksonville
3. Martin's Family Clothing

MEN'S CLOTHING STORE

1. Martin's Family Clothing
2. Wakefield's, Anniston
3. On Time Fashions, Oxford

LOCAL BOUTIQUE

1. Frey Boutique, Oxford
2. The Willow Tree, Jacksonville
3. Kahoots Boutique, Anniston

See a directory of all the winning businesses online at
www.annistonstar.com/readers_choice_2015

ATCU emphasizes connection with customers

When it comes to Alabama Teacher's Credit Union's success, it's not about the money: It's about the people.

"It's a personal relationship that employees have with the members," said Emily Mayben, marketing director of Alabama Teacher's Credit Union, explaining why she believes the business won a Reader's Choice Award for Best Financial Institution. "They know their names, their families, what's going on with them."

Emphasizing a connection with customers is a priority for credit union staff members, who organize events like bottled water days, with the children of employees handing out refreshments on hot days to make the heat a little more bearable for visitors. Sometimes customers reciprocate; Mayben says that entire branches have been treated to food from customers, from donuts in the morning to catered barbecue lunches.

"When people have ownership of something, they care

about it more," said Mayben.

The major difference between a credit union and a bank comes down to ownership. Members of the credit union are in charge of voting to determine policy, as opposed to a board of directors, so customers actively participate in governance. Individual branches are empowered to operate autonomously, meaning there are no calls to corporate offices in distant lands, with customer issues handled quickly.

The union's success has helped it expand in recent years, serving five counties and allowing not only teachers, but those working, living or attending school in Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah and Marshall counties to become members.

"We're all teachers in some aspect, whether you're a coach teaching someone to play baseball, a sister sharing a recipe with her mother," said Mayben. "We were started by educators, but we're all teachers."

Alabama Teachers Credit Union

1st place, Best Financial Institution

230 Hwy 431 N, Anniston; 256-238-1161
 1209 Snow St Suite A, Oxford; (256) 831-2112
www.atcu.com

RIGHT TOP: Employees of the Oxford branch of ATCU.
 RIGHT BOTTOM: Employees of the Anniston branch of ATCU.



Thanks for voting for us!

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Owner: Lee Caston



Thank you
for voting Oxford Number One
in the following categories:



#1 Best Community Event: Oxfordfest

#1 Best Place to hear live music: Oxford Performing Arts Center

#1 Best Public School: Oxford City Schools

#1 Best Police Officer: Scott Glanze; Oxford Police Dept

#2 Best Police Officer: Bill Partridge; Oxford Police Dept

#1 Best Public Official: Steven Waits; Council President; Oxford City Council

#2 Best Public Official: Leon Smith; Mayor of Oxford

#1 Best Park: Oxford Lake

#2 Firefighter: Gary Sparks; Oxford Fire Dept

#2 Paramedic/EMT: Kyle Cruse; Oxford EMS

#4 Paramedic/EMT: Tyler Smith; Oxford EMS

#1 Golf Course: Cider Ridge

#1 Golf Accessory Store: Cider Ridge

#1 Neighborhood: Cider Ridge

Thank You from the City of Oxford:

Leon Smith, Mayor

Steven Waits, Council President • Mike Henderson, Council ProTempore

Phil Gardner, Councilmember • Charlotte Hubbard, Councilmember

Chris Spurlin, Councilmember

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AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO SERVICE

1. Brown Radiator, Anniston
2. Langley Performance, Anniston
3. Grover and Sons, Oxford

AUTO SALESPERSON

1. Carl Wilson (Sunny King Ford), Anniston
2. Nick Pope (Sunny King Honda), Oxford
3. Wayne Rawlings (Sunny King Honda), Oxford

BODY SHOP

1. Skinner's Body Shop, Oxford
2. Anniston Auto Trim and Glass, Anniston
3. Alabama Body Shop, Oxford

CAR WASH

1. Ultimate Touch, Anniston
2. Extreme Auto Spa, Anniston
3. Anniston Car Wash, Anniston

MECHANIC

1. Chris Zanzaig (Brown Radiator), Anniston
2. Dennis Langley (Langley Performance), Anniston
3. Marc Musselman (Marc's Auto Repair), Jacksonville

NEW CAR DEALER

1. Sunny King Ford, Anniston
2. Benton Nissan, Oxford
3. Sunny King Toyota, Anniston

OIL CHANGE

1. Sunny King Ford, Anniston

2. Cobb Automotive, multiple locations
3. Mike's Tire and Auto, Anniston

TRANSMISSION SHOP

1. Cobb Automotive, multiple locations
2. Mike's Tire and Auto, Anniston
3. Fred's Transmission Service, Oxford

TIRE STORE

1. Grover and Sons, Oxford
2. Brooks Tire, Anniston
3. Mike's Tire and Auto, Anniston

USED CAR DEALER

1. Lenn Costner Auto Sales, Alexandria
2. Buster Miles, Heflin
3. Mike Lipscomb, Anniston



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Sean Perez of Perez Plumbing and Gas has been voted Best Plumber for four years in a row. Perez' wife credits his success to his kind personality and strong work ethic.

Perez loves the job and the people

Sean Perez can replace all the pipes in your house, bail out a flooded basement and completely revise a septic system. The only thing he can't do is brag about it. "I'm honest, loyal, straightforward; I try to treat people like family," said Perez about why customers respond so well to him. He chuckles: "I'm not really good at talking myself up."

He ends up recruiting his wife, Angie, to talk about why he's the top-voted plumber in the Read-

er's Choice Awards for the fourth year in a row. According to her, it's his personality and his work ethic. He's the sort of worker that does his job for a living, but not for the money.

"I've known him to do jobs and not charge out of the kindness of his heart," said Angie. "He gives advice over the phone, 'Let me tell you, try this and see if that'll work,' that kind of thing."

Perez has been a plumber for

more than two decades, 11 of them operating his own business, founded shortly after the couple was married. He's come home soaked head to toe, gotten laughs for flirting with old ladies and been an over-the-phone plumbing doctor for plenty of families. According to Angie, it's no accident that he's been the top-voted in his category every year.

"He works hard, and his reputation speaks for itself," she said.

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