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# THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould



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[media@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:media@blackrivertech.edu)  
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## In the December 7, 2021, edition:

- [BRTC Student, Madeline Pillow, Selected as 2021 State National 4-H Congress Scholarship Winner](#)
- [BRTC Acquires Virtual Reality Headsets Through Grant](#)
- [Scotty Burgess EMT/Paramedic Scholarship Established through BRTC Foundation](#)
- [Paint Yourself Happy "A Cow's Christmas"](#)
- [First National Bank of Lawrence County Donates to Black River Technical College](#)
- [BRTC's Career and Technical Center Students Hear from Guest Speakers in Various Occupations](#)

## [BRTC Student, Madeline Pillow, Selected as 2021 State National 4-H Congress Scholarship Winner](#)

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 07, 2021 08:00 am*



*Student Spotlight: Madeline Pillow*

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State National 4-H Congress scholarship winner.

Pillow will be attending the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA later this month where she will participate in educational programs and tours. She will also attend a ceremony to be recognized for her advanced achievements in 4-H.

Christina Derbes, Dietetics Instructor, brought Pillow's achievement to the college's attention and stated, "I am very proud of my student's hard work and accomplishments. Madeline, keep it up; we love seeing you succeed!"

For more information about the programs offered at BRTC, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/academics>.

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## **BRTC Acquires Virtual Reality Headsets Through Grant**

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 06, 2021 08:00 am*



*Chuck Coe, BRTC Gunsmithing Instructor*

POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 6— Black River Technical College's Career & Technical Center recently received 5 TransfrVR (Oculus Virtual Reality) headsets through a grant opportunity from the Office of Skills Development, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services.

The virtual reality headsets will be used in technical programs and in corporate & community training. The college will be able to use the headsets during recruitment events as well. The BRTC faculty and staff member who will be using the technology in their classes attended a training on Friday, November 5th.

For more information about BRTC's Career & Technical Center, visit

[https://blackrivertech.org/about/departments/career\\_and\\_technical\\_center](https://blackrivertech.org/about/departments/career_and_technical_center).

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## Foundation

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 03, 2021 08:00 am*



*Scotty and LeAnne Burgess*

POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 3— A Scotty Burgess EMT/Paramedic Scholarship has been established through the Black River Technical College Foundation.

Scotty Ray Burgess was a longtime Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in Randolph and surrounding counties before working in industrial construction as an industrial site safety professional. As an industrial safety professional, Scotty analyzed industrial working environments for potential hazards in order to improve the safety of the facility to workers. He spent 20 years traveling across the United States improving the working environment of industrial employees.

Scotty was married to LeAnne Burgess for 25 years. They lived in Pocahontas with their children Jessica, Savanna, and Tyler. After a 30-year battle with diabetes, 7 of those years spent enduring kidney failure, Scotty received a kidney transplant in 2017. In December 2020, Scotty lost his battle with COVID-19.

field.

For more information about the BRTC Foundation Scholarships, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/financial-aid/scholarship-opportunities>.

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## Paint Yourself Happy “A Cow’s Christmas”

*By Cally Shore on Dec 02, 2021 04:03 pm*

### Paint Yourself Happy “A Cow’s Christmas”



Come join BRTC for the Paint Yourself Happy “A Cow’s Christmas” class, instructed by art enthusiast Rayna Beaver.

How to Create an Abstract Painting Similar to Clarissa Hagenmeyer Designs on canvas, fun & easy paint techniques, and the method of mixing colors.

**ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED**

The class will be on Tuesday, December 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Please call (870) 248-4180 for additional information.

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## **[First National Bank of Lawrence County Donates to Black River Technical College](#)**

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 02, 2021 08:00 am*



*Melissa Davis, BRTC Foundation Chair; Chad Chester, First National Bank; Martin Eggensperger, BRTC President*

POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 2— First National Bank of Lawrence County recently donated \$5,000 to the BRTC Foundation as part of its pledge.

For more information about the BRTC Foundation or to give to the Foundation, visit

**<https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-foundation>**.

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## **[BRTC's Career and Technical Center Students Hear from Guest Speakers in Various Occupations](#)**

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 01, 2021 08:00 am*





*Jana Caldwell, Guest Speaker*

POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 1—During the month of October, Black River Technical College's Career and Technical Center (CTC) students, high school juniors and seniors earning college credit, heard from guest speakers in various occupations.

On October 15, BRTC's CTC students heard from local realtors, Beth Cupp of Doty Real Estate in Paragould and Jana Caldwell of Carter Realty in Pocahontas. Cupp and Caldwell shared that buying a home is the largest purchase in most people's lifetime and explained the importance of a good credit score, what FHA and Rural Development loans are, and the necessity of homeowner's and renter's insurance.

On October 22, Craig Weisenbach, foreman, and Lyndal Hutsell, safety manager, of Clay County Electric spoke to the class. Weisenbach and Hutsell discussed career opportunities in their field, ranging from being a journeyman lineman to working in human resources, IT, or customer service.

Later in the day on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, students also learned about various careers in the healthcare industry from BRTC faculty and staff, Jason Linam, Director of Respiratory Care; Dana Clay, Academic Advisor for Allied Health; and Christina Derbes, Dietetics Instructor.

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the volunteers who took time out of their day to speak to the CTC students by stating, “I truly appreciate the speakers’ willingness to come to campus and share valuable information with BRTC students.”

For more information about the Career and Technical Center, contact Darenda Kersey by phone at (870) 248-4000, ext. 4184 or by email at [darenda.kersey@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:darenda.kersey@blackrivertech.edu), or visit [http://blackrivertech.org/about/departments/career\\_and\\_technical\\_center](http://blackrivertech.org/about/departments/career_and_technical_center).

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**In the December 14, 2021, edition:**

- [\*\*BancorpSouth Contributes \\$1000 BRTC Foundation to Help Students with Course Materials\*\*](#)
- [\*\*BRTC Agriculture Scholarship Awarded to Matthew Wade Exum\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Southern Recollections One Day Scrapbooking Crop\*\*](#)
- [\*\*BRTC Announces its Fall 2021 Commencement Plans\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Four BRTC Employees Change Positions within the College\*\*](#)
- [\*\*BRTC Students Administer Over 300 Flu Shots\*\*](#)

**[BancorpSouth Contributes \\$1000 BRTC Foundation to Help Students with Course Materials](#)**

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 14, 2021 08:00 am*



*Melissa Davis, BRTC Foundation Chair; Rhonda Sade, Bookstore Assistant; Reena Triska, BancorpSouth; Dr. Martin Eggensperger, BRTC President*

POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 14— BancorpSouth recently contributed \$1000 to the Black River Technical College Foundation to help students needing extra assistance purchasing required school supplies such as textbooks, classroom materials, and other required items.

The award letter from BancorpSouth stated, “We sincerely value your mission and are honored to advance your efforts.” Karen Liebhaber, BRTC’s Vice President of Institutional Advancement, responds by stating, “We are very grateful for BancorpSouth’s generous gift. We value their support and appreciate the impact they are making in the lives of our students.”

For more information about the BRTC Foundation, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/brtc-foundation>.

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## **BRTC Agriculture Scholarship Awarded to Matthew Wade Exum**

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 13, 2021 08:00 am*

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*Matthew Exum*

POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 13— Matthew Exum of Paragould has been awarded the BRTC Agriculture Scholarship.

Exum is a 2021 graduate of Greene County Tech High School and is the son of Derek and Lisa Exum. He was a member of the Greene County 4-H and the Greene County Tech FFA.

The BRTC Agriculture Scholarship supports a BRTC student majoring in agriculture. The student is awarded \$600 (\$300 each semester).

For more information about creating or supporting a scholarship, contact Karen Liebhaber at (870) 248-4185 or email her at KarenL@blackrivertech.edu.

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## [Southern Recollections One Day Scrapbooking Crop](#)

*By Cally Shore on Dec 10, 2021 04:32 pm*

# SOUTHERN RECOLLECTIONS *One Day Scrapbooking Crop*

**Hosted by Corporate & Community  
Education Department**

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hosted by the Corporate & Community Education  
Department  
Saturday, March 5, 2022  
Black River Technical College  
Randolph County Development Center  
for additional information call 870-248-4180, e-mail  
cally.shore@blackrivertech.edu, or visit our website at  
<http://www.blackrivertech.org/pocahontascce>

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## BRTC Announces its Fall 2021 Commencement Plans

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 10, 2021 08:00 am*



POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 10— Black River Technical College will hold its Registered Nursing pinning and graduation ceremony on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas Campus.

BRTC's Fall 2021 commencement will be held in the RCDC on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

BRTC invites family and friends of the graduates to attend the ceremonies.

For more information about BRTC, visit  
<https://blackrivertech.org/>.

## Four BRTC Employees Change Positions within the College

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 09, 2021 08:00 am*



POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 9— Four BRTC employees have changed positions within the college. Black River Technical College is pleased to announce that Linda Anderson has accepted the position of Payroll & Human Resources Specialist, Mr. Jason Crow has accepted the position of Skilled Trades Assistant, Lisa Robertson has accepted the position of Fiscal Support Specialist- Accounts Payable, and Tamela Thurman has accepted the position of Adult Education Instructor.

Anderson, previously employed as BRTC's Fiscal Support Technician, started her new position on October 1. She is a 2013 home school graduate who received an Associate of Arts degree in General Education from BRTC in 2016.

Crow vacated his previous position of Maintenance Assistant and began working in his new position on November 2. He is a 1997 graduate of West Side High School and attended Delta Technical Institute from 1997-1999. Before accepting a position at BRTC, Crow was self-employed in the HVAC industry.



of Crowville High School in Crowville, Louisiana. She was the owner of Lisa's Gift Shop and Boutique in Pocahontas.

Thurman started her new position on November 1. Previously, she was the SNAP E & T Coordinator on the Paragould campus. Thurman earned a Bachelor in Music Education from Union University in 1982 and a Master of Education from Southwest Baptist University in 1994.

For more information about employment opportunities at BRTC, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/employment>.

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## **BRTC Students Administer Over 300 Flu Shots**

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 08, 2021 08:00 am*



*Haley Davis, Melanie Sutton, Mallory Bennett, Paycia Smith*

POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 8— Black River Technical College's Traditional Registered Nursing (TRN) students volunteered to administer flu vaccinations to Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's employees. Over 300 vaccinations were given to AMMC employees by the college's TRN students.

For more information about BRTC's TRN Program, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/academics/allied-health/nursing-programs>.



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## In the December 21, 2021, edition:

- [Fall 2021 Commencement](#)
- [Spring Cupcake Decorating Workshop](#)
- [Occupational Welding](#)
- [BRTC Fire Science Program Ranked in the Top 10](#)
- [Learn to Duck Call with Kent Cullum](#)
- [Paint Yourself Happy "MOO-ving on Up"](#)
- [BRTC Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week](#)

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## Fall 2021 Commencement

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 17, 2021 01:58 pm*



POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 17— Black River Technical College held its Fall 2021 Commencement on December 16 in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas

Degrees were conferred by BRTC President Dr. Martin Eggensperger and awarded by Vice President of Academic Affairs Brad Baine.

BRTC awarded 822 degrees and certificates to 330 graduates. Some students completed more than one certificate or degree. Degrees awarded included two-year associate of arts, associate of science, and associate of applied science degrees as well as one-year technical certificates and one-semester certificates of proficiency.

For more information about the programs offered at BRTC, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/academics>.

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## [Spring Cupcake Decorating Workshop](#)

*By Cally Shore on Dec 17, 2021 10:20 am*

### *Spring Cupcake Decorating Workshop*



### *Three Decorative Designs*

Join BRTC for the Spring Cupcake Decorating Workshop with Stephania Edwards.

Participants will learn about materials and equipment required for each cupcake design, basic butter buttercream icing techniques, how to use pastry bags and piping methods, and the art of cupcake design.

The class will be on Tuesday, February 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The deadline for registration is Thursday, February 17. Please call (870) 248-4180 for additional information.

## Occupational Welding

*By Cally Shore on Dec 17, 2021 09:51 am*



## Occupational Welding

Take this opportunity to learn a basic understanding of Mig Welding and attain new skills in a short period of time. Topics include welding safety, adjusting welding machines to metal thickness, and welding thin metals. Participants will complete a project of their choice.

Join BRTC for Occupational Welding, taught by BRTC welding instructor, Rickie Gunn

This class will be held on Tuesdays, January 25 - February 22, from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The deadline for registration is Thursday, January 20, or until class is full. Please call (870) 248-4180 for additional information.

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## BRTC Fire Science Program Ranked in the Top 10

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 16, 2021 08:00 am*



POCAHONTAS, AR Dec. 16— Online Schools Guide has ranked Black River Technical College's Online Associate of Science in Fire Service Administration #6 in the Top 10 Online Associate's in Fire Science for 2022.

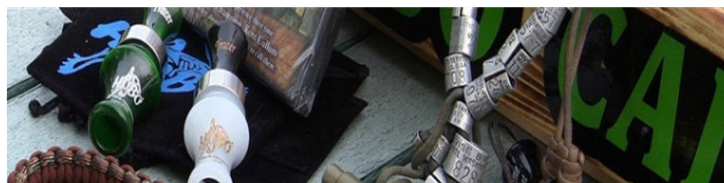
Alan Haskins, Director of Fire Science, states, "I am very excited about this ranking. We have been working very hard to improve the Fire Programs here at BRTC, and this ranking shows that we are headed in the right direction."

Visit <https://www.onlineschoolsguide.net/top-online-associates-fire-science> to see the rankings. For more information about BRTC's Fire Science programs, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/academics/service-programs/fire-training>.

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## [Learn to Duck Call with Kent Cullum](#)

*By Cally Shore on Dec 15, 2021 04:09 pm*



## Learn to Duck Call With Kent Cullum

Come join BRTC for the first Duck Calling Class with professional Nine-Time World Champion Duck Caller;



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- 4 Quacks
- 3 Types of Hail Calls
- 2 Types of Comeback Calls
- 3 Feed Calls
- All Duck Cadences
- Calls for Different Hunting Situations
- How to Tune a Duck Call

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**[Paint Yourself Happy "MOO-ving on Up"](#)**

*By Cally Shore on Dec 15, 2021 03:48 pm*

## **Paint Yourself Happy "MOO-ving on Up"**



Join BRTC for the Paint Yourself Happy "MOO-ving on Up" class, instructed by art enthusiast Rayna Beaver.

Learn How to Create an Abstract Painting on canvas, fun & easy paint techniques, and the method of mixing colors.

**ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED**

The class will be on Tuesday, February 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Please call (870) 248-4180 for additional information.

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## **BRTC Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week**

*By Elizabeth Collins on Dec 15, 2021 08:00 am*



PARAGOULD, AR Dec. 15— To celebrate the U.S. Department of Labor's annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), Paragould Local Electrical Apprenticeship program hosted a dinner for the Electrical Apprenticeship students at Black River Technical College's Paragould campus.

Established by The U.S. Department of Labor, NAW celebrates the impact apprenticeships have in helping Americans learn skills for jobs in growing industries. This nationwide celebration offers leaders in business, education, and labor a chance to express their support of apprenticeship programs and apprenticeship partners the opportunity to showcase their program, facility, and apprentices to the community. More than 600 events and activities will take place across the country During NAW spanning across multiple industries including electrical,

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Instructors Mark Graftenreed and Dennis Gregory and BRTC Electrical Coordinator Patricia Sanderson treated each electrical apprentice to a dinner provided by Ironhorse Barbeque. Afterwards, the students participated in a codebook and a wire connector challenge, electrical challenges created by the instructors. The winners of the challenges were awarded prizes provided by the Paragould Local Electrical Apprenticeship.

For more information about the Electrical Apprenticeship Program, visit <https://blackrivertech.org/workforce-corporate-and-community-training/pocahontas-corporate-community-education/electrical-apprenticeship-program>.

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In the December 28, 2021, edition:

- [Dance Fitness Line Dance Class](#)

## [Dance Fitness Line Dance Class](#)

*By Cally Shore on Dec 21, 2021 03:08 pm*



Join BRTC for Dance Fitness, taught by line dancing enthusiast, Rhonda Blevins.

This class will be held on Tuesdays, January 11 - February 8, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The deadline for registration is Monday, January 10, or until class is full. Please call (870) 248-4180 for additional information.

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