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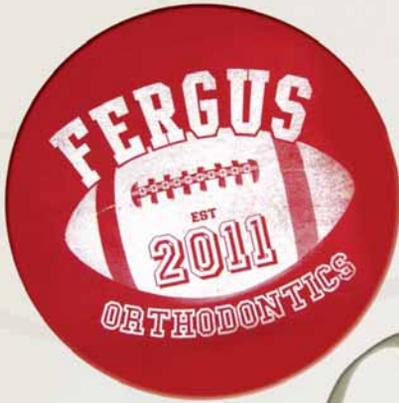
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What about vaccinations?

This month's focus is a topic that has traditionally been one of the primary reasons for routine wellness care, and in particular, how this aspect of veterinary medicine is evolving. Nearly everyone that has a pet has received that "reminder card" in the mail saying their pet is due for a visit. Many times it's the vaccines that are emphasized at these visits, when in fact the exam and consultation often prove to be the most valuable part. With the recent changes in vaccine scheduling, it is important to keep this in mind.

So what has changed about the vaccines? For puppies and kittens a lot remains the same. Multiple boosters are still needed during the 6-15 week period. The most notable change takes place after the initial vaccines. Within the past 10 years, notably, there have been multiple studies demonstrating that the long standing trend of "annual vaccines" was overkill for many of the most common vaccines. One of the biggest changes took place on January 1, 2010 when the state of Arkansas recognized a rabies vaccine for its labeled duration of immunity. This allowed the currently labeled "3 year rabies vaccine" to be given only every 3rd year (after being boosted once at 1 year of age).

The distemper, parvo, and adenovirus vaccination is another available 3 year vaccine that has emerged over the past few years. While, other vaccinations such as leptospirosis and bordatella, however, have a limited duration of immunity which is one year or less depending on the vaccine.

Feline vaccines have also changed substantially over the years. An exciting change came in the feline specific rabies vaccination! In years past, the same rabies vaccination was administered to both dogs and cats. Huge advancements have been made, however, in the development of a feline specific rabies vaccine that eliminates the risk of a deadly "vaccine associated sarcoma" (Google it!). These tumors have been known to develop from the more common "killed vaccine". The "HCP" or herpes, calici, and panleukopenia vaccine, normally given to cats on a yearly basis, is also currently available as a 3 year vaccine. The feline leukemia vaccine is still one to use with caution and is now typically only recommended for kittens.

These are just a few of the main points on the topic of vaccinations and the recent developments in this aspect of veterinary medicine. Remember, though, that all vaccines are not created equal! Some vaccines are safer and offer a longer duration of immunity. To know exactly what your pet needs please consider the importance of the exam and consultation, and ask your veterinarian to develop a vaccination schedule that is best for your particular pet!

God Bless!
Brent Reddick, DVM



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On the cover: Norma Davenport
Photo by Tim Rand Photography



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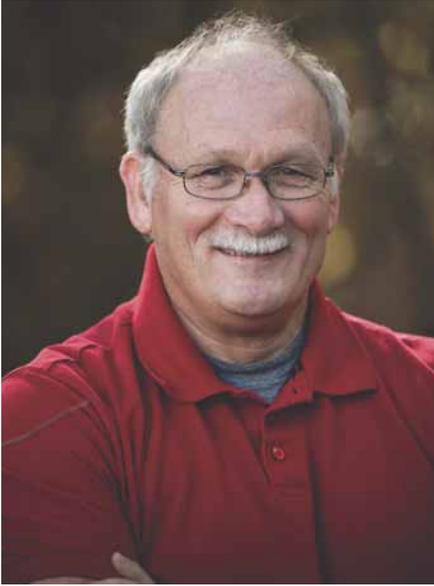
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From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

One of the really good things about this month's issue is that it gives the readers a chance to be heard.

For starters, we asked who you liked in the

classroom as our area's "Outstanding Teacher," and you came through in a big way, selecting Greene County Tech's Norma Davenport. The fifth-grade instructor was the December selection as the top teacher in our monthly contest and won the overall honors in voting done by our reading audience. Norma's story can be found on page 30.

Even more winners were revealed in our "I Recommend" campaign, where readers voted for their favorite businesses and individuals in a number of categories. We reveal their choices in a special section of this month's Premiere, and we congratulate all the winners on their popularity with customers.

We had our cameras out at the Big Bang Blowout, Paragould's free fireworks display. The Paragould Jaycees deserve a big pat on the back for getting the ball rolling and bringing the fireworks show back to the city by serving as one of the driving forces behind lining up the necessary financial support from local businesses.

MOR Media helped out in that manner and

with the organization and staffing of the show, which seemed to please the large crowd on hand. See some of the fireworks and some of the people who attended on pages 8 and 9.

You can also check out more than 50 fireworks photos on our Facebook page.

The August edition also focuses on Back To School news and notes, from shopping adventures and suggestions to feature stories on the people who will be on campus when the first bell rings.

Megan Koller provided photographs from the send-off for the 1039th Engineer Company, part of the 875th Engineer Battalion of the Arkansas Army National Guard, as they headed out on a mission to clear roadways in central Afghanistan.

As always, we also offer regular features meant to educate and entertain -- mostly entertain -- as staff writers present their personal columns and feature stories for your reading pleasure.

Find out what's happening in and around town in this month's Premiere. ♦

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Big **BANG** Blowout

Fireworks were on display to help celebrate the 4th of July holiday, thanks to the efforts of several local businesses and organizations, particularly the Paragould Jaycees, First National Bank, McDonald's of Paragould and MOR Media, which consists of 107.1 Jack FM, 1490 KDRS AM and Paragould Premiere Magazine.

MOR Media, which helped organize the event, provided free 107.1 Jack FM tattoos, free radio promotional stickers and copies of Premiere Magazine for those who dropped by their booth.

Also contributing much-appreciated financial support, in addition to the sponsors listed above, were Larry's Auto Sales, Focus Bank, Prestolite, Bayird Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep-Ram, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Lakeside Metal, Liberty Bank, KNL, Glen Sain Motors, ARI and Allen Engineering.

The event was held at Paragould's Rotary Park softball complex and was free to the public. ♦

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Paul Smith, P.J. Smith and Kelly Smith were among the first to arrive and set up camp; Alex and Paige Cooper relaxed while waiting for the fireworks show to start; Sydney Peek admired her Jack FM tattoo; Bryan Butts prepared the fireworks for the show; Mallory Brown strummed the guitar; and Jaycees showed up in force, even with family members along, to work the event.



1039th gets big sendoff from family and friends before deployment

A large crowd gathered in Jonesboro to send off the 1039th Engineer Company, part of the 875th Engineer Battalion of the Arkansas Army National Guard, on a mission to clear roadways in central Afghanistan.

Ninety five men headed out with the 1039th's engineer company to train in Texas for two months, then it's on to Afghanistan to work clearing Afghan roadways of IEDs. The 1039th will deploy with both a route clearance mission and a mission to assist in training the Afghan National Army. ♦



The entire 1039th Company gathered with family and friends before officially deploying. Below from left are SPC Nathan Reeves and his son, Aiden; National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution members displaying a banner expressing their gratitude; and, at right, SPC Josh Smothers, SPC Nathan Greer, SPC Nathan Reeves and SGT Doug Taggart.



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At long last, a crown:

Donna Kingston named Ms. Senior Arkansas

By Richard Brummett

"It only took 40 years to get a crown," Donna Kingston said with a smile. "I always wanted to wear the Homecoming crown, but never got to. I just had to wait for my time."

The time for the Paragould resident was in June during the Ms. Senior Arkansas Pageant in Alma, when she was chosen as the overall winner for 2012.

Kingston is no stranger to the pageant, having been the first runnerup for three years prior to her victory. "I wasn't going to compete this year," she said, "but the girls here convinced me to. And look what happened."

The owner of Paragould's Merle Norman Studio, Kingston said she became interested in the competition "through Judith Burgess, who is now a good friend. She heard me talking about Children's Hospital in Little Rock, something she was interested in, and she stopped to discuss that and all of a sudden she stopped and she said, 'How old are you?' I asked her why she wanted to know and she told me about the pageant and said, 'You need to enter.'"

"I didn't know such a thing even existed. Thus began my addiction to the Senior Arkansas Pageant."

Contestants must be 60 years of age or older and must have been an Arkansas resident for at least six months. They are judged in four categories: Interview, Evening Gown, Philosophy of Life, and Talent.

"Someone asked me if we did bathing suits," Kingston noted, "and I said, 'Are you out of your mind? A bunch of 60-year-old women parading around in bathing suits?' But the way it is, it's kind of demanding. You have to give your philosophy of life in 35 seconds, and that's kind of hard."

Her viewpoint is that "life can be ho-hum, drudgery, or it can be an exciting experience with mystical overtones. I call it the 'wow factor.' It's all a matter of attitude."

Kingston said she feels she has "been given

the gift of life. It should be lived to the fullest ... enjoy every phase ... it's like looking through a magical portal."

As Arkansas' Senior Ms. winner, Kingston, 63, will travel around the state to promote the pageant, and "also promote senior citizens. We have purpose, we have vitality, we still have relevance to society. I want to let people know if they have a dream, something they've always wanted to do, just say, 'Hey, I can.' Anyone healthy or energetic enough can pursue it. Life doesn't end at 50 ... or 40."

Kingston's next stop on the pageant circuit is scheduled for August 7, when she represents Arkansas in the Ms. Senior America contest in Atlantic City, New Jersey. ♦



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Dina Mason enjoys seeing business grow

Dina Mason, General Manager/President of MOR Media, began selling advertising in 1991 and has done the same for MOR Media since 2002.

She said she enjoys the close of every sale but the best part "is being a part of a successful campaign that helps a business grow. If I was independently wealthy I would have so many different businesses (and yes, many would be Downtown in beautifully restored buildings on a streetscape to die for!) but since I am not, I can feel like I am a part of many businesses by being their marketing partner and helping them in any way I can to be more successful."

Dina got her start when her marketing class at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, organized a job fair. She was so busy with the

event she didn't take time to apply for any jobs but a recruiter for the Gannett Newspaper Group convinced her to send him a resume and a packet that his company used to admit graduates into a management training program ... and the rest, she says, is history.

She grew up "all around ... mostly after I married and my husband was in the Army. As a kid I lived in Oregon and visited there for several summers after I moved back to Arkansas in the 5th grade. So I would be



Dina Mason

made fun of as a southerner when in Oregon and then when I got back to Arkansas they would say I sounded Yankee.

"I went to school in Van Buren and I think that is where I fell in love with downtowns. When I left in 1980 the downtown was dilapidated and when I came back from Germany three years later it was BEAUTIFUL! I know we can get there someday!"

Dina has been married to Perry Mason, Sr., since 1980 and they have two married sons, Perry Jr. and Sarah, and Brandon and Ashley, plus two grand-dogs, a niece, Megan Koller, and a great-niece-dog, Lily.

"We call ourselves 'Team Mason' and are involved in Lawn Mower Racing, old home restoration and fishing," she said. "I love serving my community and watching it make a difference in peoples' lives. My family and I are proud to call Greene County our home." ♦

For 'The Big O' interaction is key

Brian Osborn, co-owner of MOR Media and Program Director for KDRS AM and FM, has been in the advertising sales field for 15 years, the last 10 of them in his current position.

He said he likes "to sell a product. It started with cars, then clothes, then radio, and then print advertising."



Brian Osborn

The daily interaction with listeners, readers and clients keeps him going.

"I love all personalities, for one reason or another," he said. "And

there's nothing like accomplishing an advertiser's goal. Put us to work!"

Born in LaGrange, Illinois, Osborn moved to Paragould in 1965 "so I consider myself 'from here,'" he said.

He is married to the former Lesa Wood of Finch and they have two children -- daughter Quincy, who is 9, and son Griffin, 5.

Big O, as Osborn is known to radio listeners, also said the family recently added Patches, a kitten they rescued and one to which he is "highly allergic." ♦

Newest member of team 'loves' sales

Ashley Mason said she hadn't ever thought much about a sales career until she was asked about the possibility of joining the MOR Media team.

"My past job experiences have been in a very structured environment," said Mason, the company's newest Media Consultant.

"I was approached about this job and thought it was interesting. Little did I know that a few

months into it I would love being in sales."

Ashley grew up in Paragould and was an accomplished high school athlete, and still enjoys "coaching basketball, playing volleyball ... anything to do with athletics." Along those lines, she also likes to relax while fishing, boating or enjoying other activities on the water.

She said the best part of the new job is "being able to get out and meet people in our community."

Ashley is married to Brandon Mason. Her parents are Grady and Kaye Cooper of

Paragould and she has four sisters: Carrie Fortune, Kelly Stewart, Shelly Wilkins and Amber Ellis.

Ashley and all of the MOR Media

sales consultants can be reached by calling 870-236-7627. ♦



Ashley Mason

ASU Golf Tournament

The Paragould Country Club hosted the 26th ASU Golf Classic in June.

Members of the ASU athletic staff teamed with local business groups and individuals to raise money for the Red Wolves' sports programs.

Tournament sponsors this year were Hog Air Aviation, Holiday Liquor, Community Title and Escrow and Mr. T's Riverside. ♦



Arkansas State University was well represented at the annual ASU Golf Classic in June. Brad Bobo, Director of Corporate Sales, Athletic Director Dr. Dean Lee, and head football coach Gus Malzahn each briefly addressed the crowd.



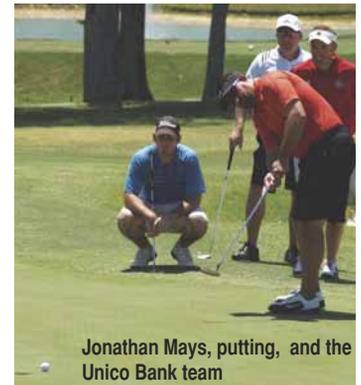
Before hitting the course, local director Richard Hartness, far left, thanked participants and helped introduce ASU staff members while PCC member and ASU supporter Ray Rankin was surprised with a cake for his 90th birthday. At right, Kenny Ford and his son Carter prepared to begin play.



Tim O. Brown and Chris Robinson



ASU's Sonja Tate and partner Ashley Bolen



Jonathan Mays, putting, and the Unico Bank team

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Local artist has work on display in Memphis' Brooks Museum of Art

By Jennifer Thompson

Many artists visit museums and can only dream of their works being featured in such grand places, but for local resident and artist Mandy Maxwell, that dream is quickly becoming a reality. Maxwell, 26, submitted a painting to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art for a contest, and her work was accepted for display.

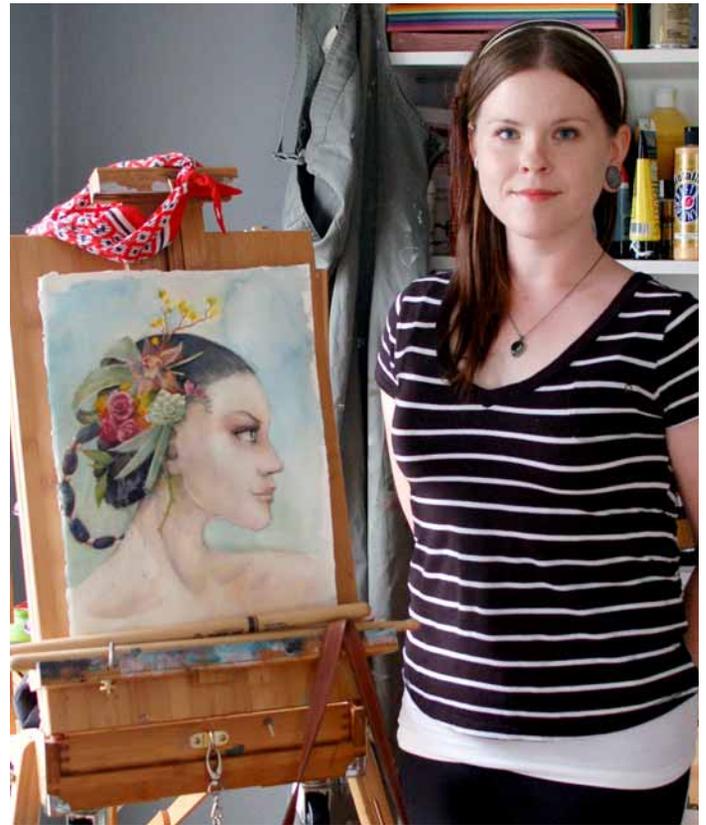
The Brooks partnered with Graceland to host an international art contest in honor of the 35th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death. The museum accepted original artworks in all media created in response to the theme, "If I Can Dream". A professional panel of judges selected artwork for an exhibition to be held in the museum from July 21 through September 16. From those selections, the judges will award first, second, and third place prizes in three divisions: professional, non-professional, and youth. The remaining submissions will be on exhibition via PowerPoint in the gallery. Visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to vote for "Fans' Favorite" through the end of Elvis Week (August 19th).

Maxwell said, "I submitted a piece called Great Heights. I feel like my painting is very dreamy and romantic. It is a painting of a tree based off one I have out front in my yard. The imagery represents daydreaming and shows that your mind can be in the clouds and still be branching out. I feel like my painting very much goes with the theme the museum chose because dreaming makes everything possible."

"Everything," was the answer to a question posed to Maxwell regarding her inspiration. "Mostly, I like a challenge. I like things that are going to take all my skills to accomplish it, or as much as I can put into a painting as I can. I really do mean 'everything'. I always have something in the back of my mind that I am wanting to do or try next. This is huge for me, though. I grew up going to the Brooks. A lot of things have been big for me lately, though. I hope it continues."

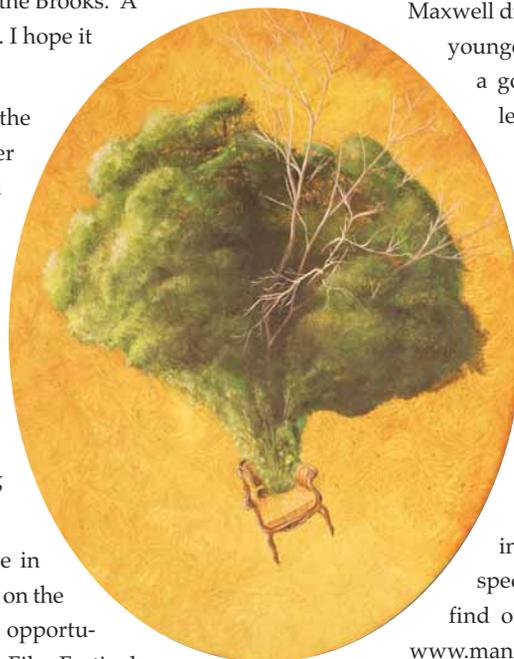
In addition to Maxwell's art being featured at the Brooks, she also recently worked on another project she is extremely proud of, one that will make its debut sometime in October. That project is a movie, made by another Paragould resident, Juli Jackson, called 45 RPM. The movie revolves around artists in Arkansas and features a number of paintings provided by Maxwell.

She said she created a total of 17 different pieces for the movie in a variety of formats ranging from paintings to drawings and sketches. The movie is set to premiere at the historic theatre in downtown Batesville in October. While working on the movie, Maxwell said she was also afforded the opportunity to do some work for the Arkansas Foothill's Film Festival.



Local artist Mandy Maxwell poses with one of her pieces of artwork. Below is a photo of her work entitled "Great Heights," which was chosen for display in the Brooks Museum of Art in Memphis.

That work included some film festival branding, t-shirts, logos and more. All of her work for the project was later featured in its own show in the same Batesville theatre.



Maxwell did not attend public school for much of her younger years, and she believes she can attribute a good portion of her success to having to learn most of what she knows on her own.

"In the age we are in today, you can learn anything you want as long as you're motivated to do so. So many people give up or move off so they will stand out more. I love Arkansas. I think the beauty of this state outshines everything else."

Maxwell grew up in Earle with her parents, Galen and Debbie Maxwell. She studied digital printmaking at ASU and currently works for FlowerShop Network in Paragould as their design and marketing specialist. To see more of Maxwell's art, or to find out more about her, visit her website at www.mandyatlarge.com . ♦

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Greene County Fairgrounds getting facelift

Addition of air conditioning, new paint job on schedule

By Richard Brummett

When visitors to the Greene County Fair stroll through the exhibit buildings this year they will notice a significant change. Not only will the facilities present a much more attractive look, they will also be cooler.

The Commercial and Family Living buildings are undergoing serious facelifts, with the major addition being the installation of air conditioning.

"Especially there in the Commercial Building," said Fair Manager Rodney McClelland, "the air conditioning is going to be really appreciated. That's where the vendors' booths are and some of the vendors have gotten older and it's just been so much hotter the last few years ... some of the older vendors have had to drop out because of that. This is something we as the Fair Board have been trying to do for the last several years, and this year we are able to do it. The Fair Board members are constantly working together to try and improve the fairgrounds every year."

The \$50,000 overhaul will include new glass double doors at the entry way to the Commercial Building and single doors for it and the Family Living structure. Walls will be painted all one color, the concrete floors will be painted as well, all new lights will be installed and the vendors will have new booth dividers.

"We're taking out all the old wood dividers and replacing them with a curtain," McClelland said. "When we're done, it's going to be a much more modern facility."

When the fair starts up on September 3, it will mark the 125th year of operation. McClelland said in recognition of that milestone, the Fair Board decided to show its appreciation to loyal fair-goers.

"On Wednesday night of that week, we're going to give back to the public that's been

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so good to us," he said. "On that Wednesday, there will be no admission charge at the gate. All day will be free admission."

On Gospel Day, Jeff and Sheri Easter will perform and there will be no extra charge for their performance, just the regular fair admission ticket.

The same goes for Thursday's show with headlining act, The Kentucky Headhunters. Events like the Hot Rod Tractor Pull and the SPBR bullriding will require an extra fee to attend.

McClelland said vendor booths "are filling up as we speak" and anyone wishing to secure one for the fair needs to call him at 870-239-2218 and leave a message. ♦



Greene County Fair Manager Rodney McClelland points to an area of the Commercial Building that will see a major overhaul before the fair starts.

A promotional poster for the 2012 Greene County Fair. The text reads "2012 Greene County Fair OLDEST in the STATE 125TH EDITION! Sept 3rd - 9th". On the right side, there are two photo cutouts. The top one shows Jeff and Sheri Easter with the text "Jeff & Sheri Easter SEPT 3RD". The bottom one shows the band The Kentucky Headhunters with the text "THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS SEPT 6TH". The background features a silhouette of a tractor wheel.

An advertisement for Jack FM. At the top, it says "THANKS FOR VOTING JACK FM YOUR FAVORITE RADIO STATION! BUT, WE'RE STILL NOT TAKING YOUR REQUEST." To the right, it says "PARAGOULD PREMIERE I RECOMMEND". The main logo is "107.1 JACK fm" with "playing what we want" below it. At the bottom, there are social media links: "neajackfm.com", "facebook.com/neajackfm", "@NEA_JACKFM_1071", and "tunein.com". In the bottom right corner, it says "1-866-930 JACK".

Simple three-word phrases can carry powerful consequences

Sometimes, simple three-word phrases can carry a mighty wallop; something as simple as “I love you” comes to mind, an utterance that can mean everything to the object of one’s affection.

There are others, like “Let’s play ball” or “It’s my treat” that also have a great deal of importance to me, but it was another three-word combo that impacted me in a horribly negative way for many of the days of my youth: *Back to school*.

The only time I remember a phrase being more devastating for me was the one year it sounded like this: “*Back to school ... on my birthday.*”

School was simply not the place I wanted to be and especially not in late August, when the sun was beaming down and there were plenty of baseball-playing days left on the calendar pages. Had we waited for baseball season to end, maybe I would have been more receptive. Maybe then we wouldn’t have had



to beg teachers to let us listen to the World Series on the radio during early October, nor would we have had to sneak transistor devices and earphones into the classroom to get our baseball fixes.

When I was a kid we had not yet invented today’s popular catchphrases like “he’s got ADHD,” so I was just considered a fidgety child waiting for the recess bell to ring regardless of the time of year.

There just seemed to be something so incredibly wrong with making a boy sit indoors and color and read and use an eraser when the outdoors beckoned. As far as I was concerned, there were ground balls to be caught and home runs to be hit, and we

couldn’t do that while learning to print the individual members of the alphabet in between blue lines on tablet paper.

I might even have gone for the school thing if it had run from November through February, when it was too cold to be outside anyway. For the first few years of my scholastic eligibility, the beginning day of school followed the Labor Day holiday on the initial Monday of September. Year by year, however, the starting date crept slowly backward until we reached August and, eventually, my birthday on the 29th.

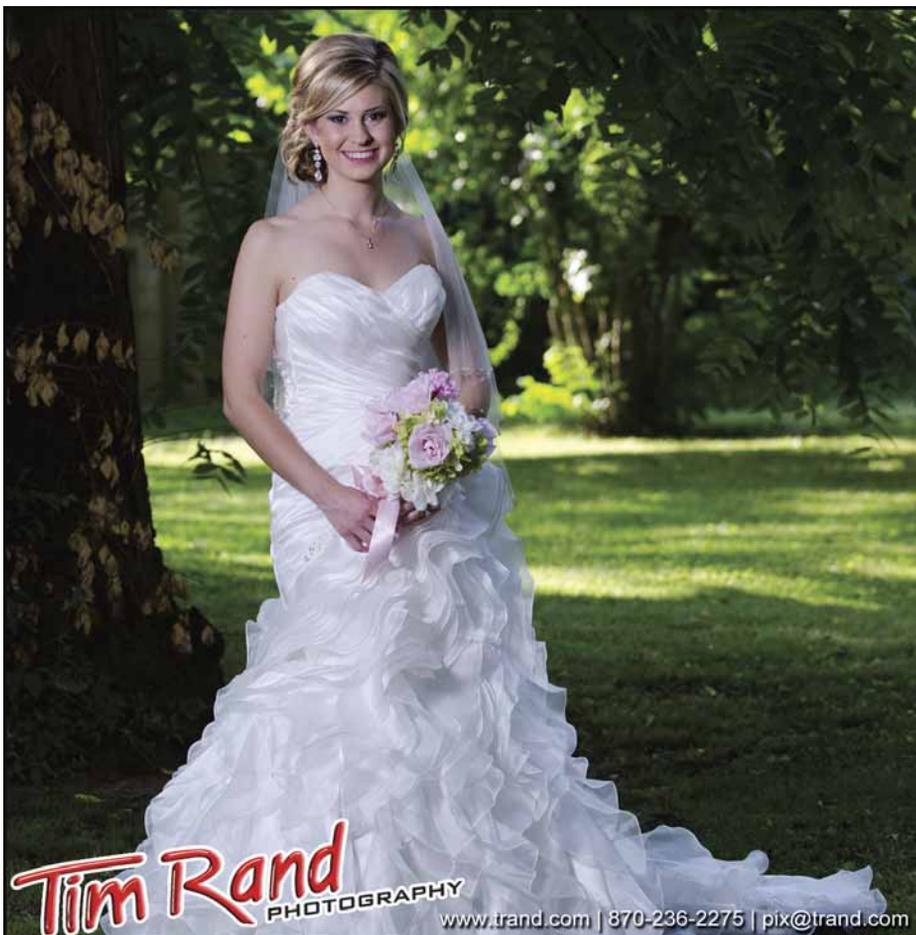
I was stunned. The month of August was always something to look forward to, because it held my birthday; my birthday was something to look forward to because I was the center of attention and was going to get presents; and, it was the last good month of the year before school began.

Now August was ruined, my birthday was ruined -- life as I knew it was ruined.

It’s not that I was totally anti-school, it’s just my love for baseball overcame my ability to sit still and get educated. I was too easily distracted, as witnessed by the fact that when the teacher tried her best to teach us about “Homer and the Iliad,” as soon as she said the word “Homer” my thoughts bounced to the baseball field like a ground rule double. For the rest of the class period I was reliving the home runs I had hit in the just-completed season and have no idea if The Iliad and The Odyssey are sports-related or not.

I was thrilled when one teacher informed us we were going to study “some of the classics,” because I assumed -- since the World Series was known as “The Fall Classic” -- that we were finally going to be assigned something worth reading. I chose “Gone With The Wind” because it sounded like a long home run, possibly in Wrigley Field even, so you can imagine my disappointment when I was introduced instead to a lot of romance and killing, things that rarely happen in the dugout.

As far as I can tell I survived and possibly even learned something, but it not by choice. I was never ready to go, or go back. ♦



Baileys helping promote soccer programs for athletes of all ages

By Hannah Gonzalez

Holly Bailey is the Vice President of the Greene County Soccer Association, the first female to ever hold the position. She has been involved in soccer for four years as a coach's wife and the mother of three daughters who all play. She plays on an adult co-ed team and says, "Even though I look like a girly-girl out there, I'm not afraid to hit the ball with my head."

Her husband, Trey, is the registrar for the GCSA and the District 2 Vice President for the Arkansas State Soccer Association. He has sat on the GCSA Board for several years.

Their two older daughters both play for Paragould High School, while their youngest daughter is on the U10 recreational team with the Greene County Soccer Association.

This soccer loving family really does play together all week, every week, throughout the summer and fall seasons.

In regard to the local soccer programs this year, the Baileys said their objective "is to provide a program with more options for the



Trey and Holly Bailey are helping Paragould's soccer programs reach new heights.

community, such as the adult league for all skill levels. It started out as a few adults who enjoy playing for fun and fitness and it grew from there; we anticipate having 6-8 teams to start with this fall. The best part is the children love watching their parents play and the parents gain a new appreciation for the coaches, as well as their children's role on the

field. Another option we are adding this fall is a competitive Level 2 program for players U10-U18, who want to be more dedicated to the game. The L2 program will provide licensed coaches and the opportunity to play in the NEA League. We are also trying to bring the futsal (indoor) option to NEA, but indoor space to practice and hold games has been scarce, so if any Premiere readers have a very large, empty building, please contact the Association about a possible partnership."

Parents can pre-register their children at www.neasoccer.com or can attend the formal registrations scheduled on August 11 and August 18 from noon until 5 p.m. at the Paragould Community Center. Registration is \$45 for recreational, \$90 for adults, and \$55 for the L2 program, which includes Fall and Spring games, covers insurance for the player and the uniform of a jersey, shorts and socks.

For more information visit their website, "like" them on Facebook (Greene County Soccer Association) or follow them on twitter @GCSA soccer. ♦

Vernon Higgins brings family atmosphere to coaching young soccer players

By Hannah Gonzalez

Vernon Higgins was born and raised in Paragould, is the sales manager at Coca-Cola and is married to Amy Higgins. They have four sons, Devin, Destin, Daniel and Deeken ranging in ages from 4 to 21 years old.

The elder Higgins got involved in soccer as a coach for the Greene County Soccer Association when his oldest son was four and now continues to coach as his youngest son, who is also four, plays.

Higgins coached the Greene County Tech Jr. High Team for some time when his oldest son was on the squad, as well. Always being there for his kids, Higgins' goals are to help the players develop skills and conditioning well enough to play for the senior teams when the time comes. He wants to promote soccer and boost the kids' interest in the game.

Higgins said, "At this time in my life I

co-coach with my wife our two youngest sons and I coach Destin, the second oldest, at the Jr. High level." His eldest son, Devin, received a soccer scholarship to attend Crowley's Ridge College.

Higgins has been coaching for 17 years and sits on the GCSA soccer board. He was the president of the board for seven years.

He volunteers his time for coaching, never receiving any kind of monetary compensation, doing it out of the love for his kids and soccer.



Vernon Higgins, center, and his sons make up a soccer family.

"We all enjoy soccer together," he said. "It is one of the most conditioning sports out there and takes great skills to play. It's fast paced and holds my attention well."

This past season the Jr. High team he coached played in the NEA Scholastic Cup Black Division and took second place behind Valley View.

Higgins made it routine to pray with his team before each game. They all became like family, emphasized when Higgins suffered a heart attack in April, with a triple bypass following a few short days later.

"The thing that really blessed my heart beyond words is that the majority of the team came to pray with me before my surgery. I was so happy and so proud," he said. "On the day that I was released from the hospital I had my wife take me to the soccer field so I could watch the them play." ♦

Happenings!



1



2



3



4



5

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Happenings!

UA Hoop Camp

1. A group of 6th-graders from Greene County Tech attended basketball camp in Fayetteville at Bud Walton Arena. They did many drills, scrimmaged and played one-on-one with the players from the Razorback women's team. The girls stayed in the dorms on campus for the duration of the camp, which was held June 13-15. Pictured from left: Madison Robinson, Jessica Griffin, Baleigh Boling, Alexie Tibbs, Tiffany Gramling, Olivia Bolen and Kenzie Hollis, with University of Arkansas Women's Head Basketball Coach Tom Collen.

Starling Recognized

2. Gina Starling, at left in photo, was recently recognized by the College of Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education on the campus of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Dr. Julie Lamb-Milligan presented her with an award for her outstanding student participation in the Gifted Education Program for the 2011-2012 school year. Gina currently teaches for the Paragould School District in the Advanced Learning Program.

Fred's Remodels

3. A Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting ceremony was recently held to celebrate the remodel of Fred's Super Dollar, located at 1723 W. Kingshighway in the Paragould Plaza. Pictured is General Manager Jim Hare, employees and supporters of Fred's, and the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

Vacation Bible School

4,5. Youngsters at Lafe Baptist Church completed a week of Vacation Bible School by staging a Sunday evening performance for church members. Focusing on the tropical theme, Adventures On Promise Island, children displayed their singing and dancing skills in a choreographed routine with the help of adult volunteers. Sticking with the VBS theme, after the performance all in attendance were treated to homemade ice cream and various desserts in the "Coconut Cafe" which was housed in the church's fellowship hall.



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Business Is Good

Merle Norman Studio moves into new location in Paragould's Grecian Plaza

By Richard Brummett

When Donna Kingston considered moving the Merle Norman Studio from downtown Paragould to its new location at Grecian Plaza #6, it was no easy decision for her to make.

"It was time for a revamping, a modernizing of our studio," Kingston explained, "and an effort to reach younger clientele. After all, we say, 'We're not just your granny's makeup.' But we couldn't incorporate the new design down there. I felt guilty about leaving downtown. I'm a big downtown fan. I own the building down there.

"I made a hard decision," she said. "I did what I really felt I had to do."

In the new location since June 12, Kingston said the store offers "a lot of the same services but we have a lot of new products coming out, and will possibly be adding more services in the future. One thing we do have is the best line of cosmetics at a very competitive price."

"Pretty much something from head to toe," Kingston said of the many services and items Merle Norman has to offer.



Merle Norman's Melinda Dawson assists customer Marsha West in the new location at Grecian Plaza #6.

In addition, Merle Norman offers hydrating facials -- a free service -- along with makeover lessons, weddings and proms, waxing, ear piercing, three types of facial treatments (Kingston is a licensed esthetician), and body detox.

"Pretty much something from head to toe," Kingston said.

She and the Merle Norman staff can be reached by telephone at 870-239-8582. ♦

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AMMC, St. Bernards announce new healthcare development in Greene County

St. Bernards Healthcare and Arkansas Methodist Medical Center have announced plans that will give a new and distinctive healthcare imprint along U.S. 49 in Paragould.

AMMC and St. Bernards will develop Paragould Medical Park on a 48-acre plot located on the west side of U.S. 49 north of the new Greene County Tech High School. The development will be anchored by a primary care facility.

"The new medical park venture represents another collaborative effort involving AMMC and St. Bernards," said Barry Davis, president and chief executive officer of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. "The most recent joint venture was the development of the Paragould Wound Healing Center several months ago."

"We are pleased to collaborate with AMMC to provide convenient access to quality ambulatory healthcare services for residents of Greene County, Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri at this new location," said Chris B. Barber, president and chief executive officer of St. Bernards Healthcare. "The area has nearly 1,000 feet of highway frontage and will be very easy for residents to access regardless of their direction of travel on U.S. 49."

The development will be just south of the



Barry Davis, president and chief executive officer of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center (left), and Chris B. Barber, president and chief executive officer of St. Bernards Healthcare, look at plans for the development of Paragould Medical Park on the west side of U.S. 49 just north of the new Greene County Tech High School.

route of the new U.S. 412 Bypass. Preliminary plans call for construction of a large structure that will accommodate clinical offices of a number of Paragould primary care physicians who will see patients seven days a week, including evening hours on weekdays. Primary care physicians already committed to moving to the U.S. 49 location are Drs. Len Kemp, Lance Monroe, Mack Shotts and Dwight Williams.

The facility also will consolidate the clinical sites for specialists who serve patients in Greene County and the surrounding area on regularly scheduled clinic days. Those specialists include neurosurgeons, plastic

surgeons, general surgeons, behavioral health specialists, nephrologists, oncologists and orthopedic surgeons and sports medicine physicians.

Also available at the new site will be lab services, imaging services, physical therapy and rehabilitative services as well as preadmission testing for patients who will be admitted to AMMC and St. Bernards.

Outparcels will be available for development for businesses such as a pharmacy, a durable medical equipment provider, dentists, branch banks, restaurants or other healthcare providers.

The property is highly visible and easy to get to, and it is in a location that is sure to develop quickly once the new U.S. 412 Bypass is constructed, Davis said. "This development gives Arkansas Methodist and St. Bernards an exceptional opportunity to strengthen our relationship while providing quality primary care and other health services in a convenient and easy-to-reach environment."

Formal groundbreaking ceremonies likely will be held in late summer or early fall, and the facility is expected to be ready for use by the summer of 2013. ♦



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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31			

Lexi and Blake Gipson are all smiles in anticipation of the start of the school year. They are the children of Anthony and Shaniece Gipson of Marmaduke.

Day Trip:

Plenty of things to see within easy driving distance of Paragould

By Gabriel A. Cook

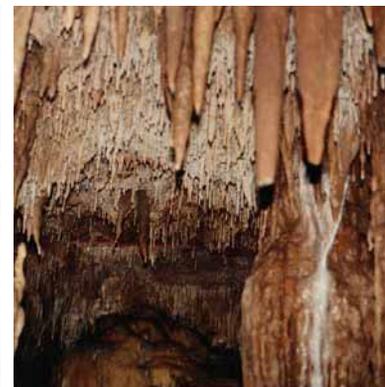
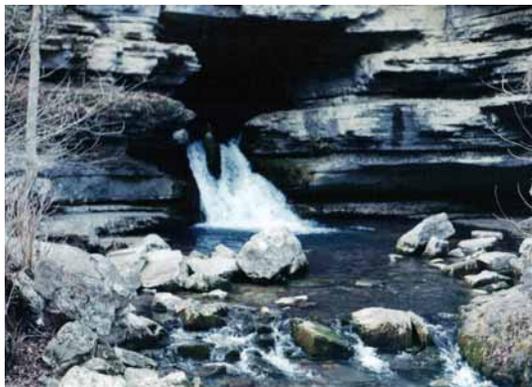
Though thoughts turn to school and the distant approach of fall, there is still time enough to consider an inexpensive day trip before the first day of class. August temperatures can be just as brutal as those in early summer, so some seek the relief of shade trees, natural springs, and caverns.

Forty minutes outside of Batesville, one will find the scenic charm of Mountain View, the capitol of outdoor bluegrass and folk music. Named for the large mountain dominating the skyline, the rustic community features a courthouse square where one can dine, shop for upscale fashion or castaway antiques, and — most famously — listen to several varieties of music. Anyone with an instrument can join the groups that congregate on the grounds come evening.

Further down "Hotel Row," past Melon's Country Store and other interesting locales, visitors turning toward wooded Fifty-six, Arkansas, will delight in the natural beauty of Blanchard Springs and its world-famous caverns. For \$15 per person, guests can take an extended tour of the cave — with the understanding that they must be physically able to traverse a mile-and-a-half of steps. A wild cave tour is also available for those unafraid of dark, enclosed spaces. For those who wish to remain aboveground, the springs themselves offer a calming spot in which to walk, sit, or picnic.

If bluegrass is not the order of the day, vacationers can travel straight through Hardy and happen upon Mammoth Springs, the second-largest spring in the Ozarks. According to the literature, it flows an unbelievable nine million gallons of water per hour, creating a 10-acre lake before it feeds into the Spring River. Visitors to the area may also tour the hydro-power plant. The tour is self-guided and features exhibits which detail the plant's operations.

Guests can tour the restored 1886 Frisco Depot, which features several life-size replicas of station hands, travelers, and crew. Videos give insight into the region's history, and outside the depot is something familiar



Whether taking advantage of the scenery inside or out, Blanchard Springs offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy the area's natural beauty.

to Greene County residents: An original caboose through which one can tour during business hours. Fees are under \$3.00, and group rates, when purchased in advance, are available.

Visitors also have the option of touring the 1927 hydro-power plant, which was added in

1888. The tour is free, self-guided, and features exhibits which detail the plant's operations.

Between these various destinations are smaller gems, roadside attractions, stores and shops that prove our region is rife with fun, cheap, and simple entertainment. ♦



Mammoth Spring is the second-largest spring in the Ozarks, creating a 10-acre lake before feeding into the Spring River. Visitors to the area may also tour the hydro-power plant. The tour is self-guided and features exhibits which detail the plant's operations.



Photos provided by Becky Murphy-Hatosy

Paragould classmates credit Dudley with bringing them together

By Richard Brummett

Chuck Dudley doesn't live here anymore but when it's time to make some old Bulldogs feel right at home, he's the guy.

Members of the Paragould High School class of 1972 sing the praises of Dudley, who has become the driving force in keeping his classmates in touch with each other. Their recently completed 40th class reunion, held in Paragould, was successful in no small part to the efforts of Dudley, who now lives in Hot Springs.

He prefers to direct the credit to the reunion committee, which obviously put in the necessary time and effort, but no one individual does as much as Dudley to keep the PHS graduates in touch, according to those very people.

"He is almost single-handedly responsible for keeping a very large group of people connected and caring about each other for more than 40 years," said Perry Boxx, News Director of WKOW-TV in Madison, Wisconsin. "I can't imagine a life without all the fond memories and meaning that Chuck has created for me and so many classmates."

Dudley, who works for Argent Financial Group, said keeping folks connected isn't all that hard thanks to the age of electronics if one will "embrace the technology; it's like sitting right there with someone."

He started a Facebook page for class members and is constantly sending e-mails "as a way to help support each other. Some of us have issues with parents, I had my brother (his younger brother, Todd, recently lost a long battle with cancer) ... it's a mission for all of us."

Classmate Gail Wulfekuhler Bellingrath is another who credits Dudley's efforts with making those far away seem closer: "You cannot imagine how he has brought our class together over the last 5-10 years. I have never seen anyone who supports Paragould more than he does, although he lives in Hot Springs. Years ago he worked on getting e-mail addresses for as many classmates as possible and then encouraged everyone to get on Facebook so we could share in each other's lives. Through his efforts, we have a support network that is remarkable!

"Anyone in our class who has something to report, contacts Chuck and he gets an e-mail out to everyone requesting prayers, visits, cards, or whatever the circumstance necessitates," she added. "These are just a couple of examples from countless ways Chuck has encouraged our



Chuck Dudley, above, flashing a smile at this year's class reunion and below with good friends Mike Roby and Butch Davidson at the event.



classmates to reconnect and in many instances, to connect for the first time with one another. Although there are many others in Paragould that are also supportive, like Greg Marlar, Jennifer Bouldin, and Keith Wineland ... without Chuck's encouragement we would not have become the cohesive group that he has created."

Dudley said members of the class of '72 just always seemed to like each other, noting that almost 50 of their class of just over 100 showed up this year for the reunion. "We like to have these things in Paragould," he said. "Several years ago four or five of us got all the e-mails we could so we could try to stay in touch. We were all different people back then (in high school). I think we're better people now. Everyone's kind of stupid at 18.

"Someone said to me that we were thrown together by chance back then; we choose to be together now. I liked that. I don't know why we're so close. I think the e-mail list has done a good job of bringing us all back together. For example, Lee Ann's dad, Gen. Myers, recently died and it gave all of us a chance to say to her what we wanted. The little things mean the most to people. We had a good time back in high school; it's all different now. It's a bond we all had, we all recognized when

we had it. We're different people, but we all like each other."

One of the highlights of the most recent gathering was Dudley's rendition of Bob Dylan's "Like A Rolling Stone," a performance meant to provide laughter while at the same time allowing him to mark one more item off of his personal "bucket list."

"It was a little funny, a little serious," he said. "Over the last several years dealing with family and friends I wanted to have no regrets."

When Mark DeWitt put his Bulldog band together and played for classmates in October, Dudley got the idea to see if he could belt out a Dylan tune alongside them.

"I always liked Bob Dylan, and I decided I was going to see if I could pull that off at the reunion," he explained. "I went back and forth to Little Rock to practice three times and decided it was good enough



Dudley credits his fellow members of the reunion committee for making PHS Class of '72 gatherings so successful.

that I would not terribly embarrass myself. I didn't even tell my wife. I'm sure when I got up here she thought, 'What the heck is he doing?' The only ones who knew were me and the band.

"Then, when I got up there in front of everyone my first thought was, 'What have I done? What am I doing?' But I also told myself, 'If I'm ever gonna do it, this is the time' and by golly, it was a hit from all the comments I got. It was all in fun, so I did it."

Former Bulldog Mike Roby, a consultant in sales and marketing strategy in Minnesota, also gives Dudley immense praise for keeping him connected with classmates.

"He talks Paragould non-stop," Roby said. "He has been the driving force behind keeping the class of '72 together as a tight-knit group. Whenever Chuck gets involved in *anything*, he is all in."

Roby admired from afar his friend's efforts regarding the reunion, and said he "drives the bus in getting so many people to work hard on it."

He referred to Dudley as "one of the best relationship people I know."

As for his part, Dudley said it isn't hard to get people who appreciate each other to want to get together.

"Of the 115 we had, seven have passed on and there are obviously some who don't want to be found, but 48 showed up. I think that's a pretty good number. We had a mini-reunion in October and about 35 came to that.

"We were the first class to attend the new high school as freshmen," he added. "Maybe that had something to do with the closeness; really, I just think we liked each other." ♦

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Twelve ways for parents to help children transition to preschool

By Vicki Shelby

Director of Early Childhood, Paragould School District

Our children grow up so fast. It probably seems just like yesterday when your child uttered the first word and began to walk. It's time to move to the next milestone which can cause stress and anxiety for everyone. August 20th will be my 50th first day of school either as a student, teacher, or administrator. I still have butterflies each first day. Hopefully, the following tips can help with the butterflies in everyone's tummy.

Talk It Out. Explain to your child in simple terms what to expect when going to preschool. Talk about being away from each other for a little while, but that you will return to pick him/her up. Build up the excitement about preschool by talking about the new friends to meet, the delicious snacks to make and enjoy, and the fun things to learn.

Social Skills. Although knowing how to share, take turns and cooperate with other children are not requirements for entering preschool, it does make transition easier. If your child hasn't had many opportunities to socialize with peers, you can help learn the value of cooperative play by scheduling play dates with friends. After school begins, new friends will be available to visit with your child as well.

Help Yourself. Begin to encourage your child to clean up, dress and feed themselves – even if the end results are not too pretty. Parents should also work with their child to help learn toilet skills.

Drama Time. Set up a pretend play area with a table, chair, and rug. Use your child's love of dramatic play to act out common preschool experiences such as circle time, story time and snack time. You can be the teacher while your child and favorite teddy bears act as students.

Read, Read, Read! Storybook characters are often relatable to children, so reading books about starting school can help the children get a better sense of what preschool is like. Appropriate books for preschoolers could include: *Time for School, Mouse!* by Laura Numeroff, *Spot Loves School* by Eric Hill, *D.W.'s Guide to Preschool* by Marc Brown, and *Corduroy Goes to School* by Don Freeman. There are many books such as these in the Greene County Library. You can also stop by the lending library at the preschool to check one out.

Getting to Know You. Dropping your young child off and leaving it in a strange place is not the best idea. Visit the preschool with your child a few times before the first day of school, a perfect opportunity to get acquainted with the teachers and the environment. There is always an important open house the week before school

begins. Many times the teachers are at school several weeks before to set up their rooms. Also, drive by the school and talk about the playground.

Goodbye for Now. Saying goodbye is the hardest part of the transitioning experience. To ease your child's separation anxiety, come up with a creative way to say goodbye. You and your child can create a secret handshake or a cool goodbye rhyme. In addition to a special goodbye, send a picture of you with your child to leave in the cubby or a pocket. When comforting is needed, your child can just pull it out.

Don't Sneak Out! On your child's first day of preschool, hang around for a few minutes to help find an activity. Once your child is engaged in the activity, say your special goodbye and head for the door. No matter how tempting, don't sneak out. Once your child realizes you're gone, then he/she could be frantic. This will make your little darling

less trusting and clingier the very next day. You can always call the center to check on your child after you are gone.

No Turning Back. If your child starts to cry when you drop him off at preschool, resist the urge to swoop in and rescue him. This won't help; it will only make separating more difficult. Leaving your child in a classroom while he's kicking and screaming isn't easy. But "going back" will only encourage this behavior to continue to happen each day. Although we know that the first day is just about as

difficult for parents, remain as calm as you can. If the parent is overly upset, it can rub off on the child.

Ease back into scheduled days. When your child is used to staying up late or running outside until dark, began shifting to a more organized schedule a few weeks before school begins. Schedule bath time, story time, and enough sleep to be fresh for school.

Seek out one-on one time with your child every day. Find about 15 minutes per day, per child to enjoy a quiet activity together. This might be after a long day of work or school, but can certainly give the parent time to find out about the school activities.

Be Prepared. Have everything organized for that first day so you do not have to rush in the door at the last minute. Lay out the clothes and any items your child might need to take to school. Usually there are not many preschool items to purchase, but children do like some type of a backpack to carry things home and/or a sleeping toy to make nap-time a good experience. LABEL EVERYTHING!

Hopefully some of these ideas will make for a great 2012-2013 school year. ♦



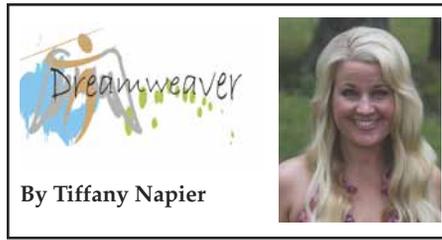
Vicki Shelby shares reading time with students at the School of the 21st Century. She offers tips for parents who are sending children to preschool for the first time.

School teachers' efforts will impact students' lives forever

I remember giving birth to my first child. As responsible as I should've felt, becoming a parent, I reverted to my own childhood. It was bittersweet. I was happy but afraid, suppressing the urge to call for my father. Instead, I looked my husband in the eyes and took a spontaneous leap into parenthood.

Thinking I had motherhood all figured out, a short 22 months later, we had another. What I didn't know was how difficult it would be when they started walking and talking. Seeing a child blossom is so lovely ... the first word, the first steps and the comical way they put a sentence together. To this one person, or two, you are everything. As a parent, you want to make every wrong right, calm every fear and hope that your guidance will be enough to make all their dreams come to fruition.

As my first born turns five, I'm more afraid than I was the first day they placed him in my arms. Instead of holding him in my safety net, I realize I must let him go, at least for the day. He will start preschool in the fall, as his birthday is actually late in the year for general admission to kindergarten. Nonetheless, I



By Tiffany Napier



know that his teachers and peers will do my job. I can only hope they love and encourage him half as much.

My kindergarten teacher, who shall remain nameless, suggested my love for conversation was a distraction and entertained the idea of

In short, teachers are leaders who, inevitably, set examples. They will be responsible for what my child believes in himself.

paddling me before my parents refused. I'm sure I had positive experiences in my first year, but this is the lone

event I recollect.

By high school, I'd channeled my gift of gab into writing. I still remember my advanced English teacher's praise in my college recommendations. She referred to me as a "gifted writer," and assured me I would get into the expensive, private university I selected and be the first to score a job in my field. Her words were what I repeated in my

mind as I convinced a FOX affiliate to give me a real position in my freshman year.

My point is not my achievement, but the powerful influence a teacher has on a child. A singular word can make or break an impressionable mindset. I had a lot of wonderful teachers, but I remember the one who encouraged me as only a mother could. To this day, I wonder what she would think of who I've become.

I take the same approach in business. Ownership is not a dictatorship; it is an opportunity to make a difference for your family and in the lives of others. A leader is only as good as her team. I like to inspire my peers, because I know they will remember, respect and embrace my goals. I want my children, like my staff, to lead by example.

In short, teachers are leaders who, inevitably, set examples. They will be responsible for what my child believes in himself. I can reassure him when things go wrong, but I'm not the only person who will play a role in making it right. My child expects my praises, because I'm his mother. That's what mothers do. He'll find much of what I say endearing and some of it overbearing. He'll forget a lot and learn a little, but I know he will certainly remember a teacher along the way. I hope it's one who leads him down the path I wish for him. ♦

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Readers select Davenport as area's top teacher

By Richard Brummett

When Norma Davenport heard a radio promotion for Premiere Magazine's Outstanding Teacher contest, she didn't give it a second thought.

"Never did I dream that I could be Premiere Magazine's teacher of the year," she said. "Typically, I think of such an honor going to a teacher that accomplishes some great feat or does an extraordinary something in the school or community."

Yet here she is today, an overwhelming choice by Premiere readers as their favorite Greene County school teacher.

"I can only express my gratitude to each and every person for their vote," said Davenport, a fifth-grade math and science teacher at Greene County Tech. "I cannot begin to explain how much this honor means to me. I am very thankful to have been chosen and this will always have a special place in my heart."

Davenport said she wanted to teach as far back as she can remember, recalling that school was her favorite thing to play at home as a child.

"My mother has some funny stories about me imitating my teachers and paddling my students," she said. "I remember in elementary school being dismissed to go to the restroom and as I walked down the hallway pretending that I was the teacher with my students trailing behind me. Thank goodness there were not cameras in the hall back then or my principal would have had a good laugh."

She credits her parents' understanding the value of a college education as something that pointed her in the right direction, but "it was my Aunt Becky (a teacher at GCT West Elementary) that directly gave me my inspiration. I would often go to her classroom after school, watch as she graded papers, hung bulletin boards, and visited with her colleagues. Then while in college I observed her and helped in her room. I knew without a doubt teaching was the life for me."



Photo by Tim Rand

Greene County Tech's Norma Davenport is Premiere readers' choice for Outstanding Teacher.

Outstanding Teacher award includes prize package

There's more to being named Premiere Magazine's Outstanding Teacher than just the title.

For being the readers' favorite teacher, Norma Davenport will receive:

- * another Spa Day from Shear Elegance Salon;
- * a \$100 gift certificate from MOR Media;
- * and free movie passes from the Cinema 8 Theatre in Paragould.

Davenport, a 1986 GCT graduate, is beginning her 23rd year of teaching and is married to husband Dennis, who is a 1983 Tech graduate. They have two daughters: Fallyn, a junior at Arkansas State University, and Jenna, who is in the 11th grade at GCT.

Much of her free time is spent enjoying reading, spending time with her daughters, golfing with her husband, and attending church.

Davenport said she believes good teachers must have high expectations and "a passion for the profession. They create independence in their students, integrate curriculum for more interesting memorable lessons, and

have a love for children. I realize that this honor brings with it a responsibility to live up to the expectations of those who voted for me. It would please me to know that they saw at least one or more of these characteristics in me and I hope to not let them down."

While deeply appreciative of the honor, Davenport said she is just one of many deserving candidates.

"What I do each day in my classroom," she explained, "so do many, many others. I know because I sit in workshops next to them each summer, and teach alongside them every day. Greene County is very blessed to have so many excellent teachers." ♦

First day of school turned out to be only the beginning

I should've known something was afoot when my parents woke me earlier than normal to cram me into new clothes and shoes. A small box filled with pencils, crayons, Kleenex, and scissors with blunt edges awaited me in the car, and I was delivered to an ominous building where other children quivered with fear. "Have a good day," I was told...and then the car, my mother at the wheel, roared away, never (I thought) to be seen again.

Needless to say, a small scene ensued. Two teachers, a janitor, three cafeteria ladies, and a guidance counselor with a sock puppet tried to assure me that I was not about to die, but I would have none of it. I spent the rest of the morning looking over my shoulder, sure the other children meant to do me in for my Crayola twelve-pack (with built-in sharpener).

Gauging my surroundings, I noticed a window to another room filled with more children. Perhaps that could be some means of escape? A bump on the head later proved that it was no window, but a framed mirror, hard and unyielding. I received a Smurfs Band-Aid for my efforts.

As the day wore on, they treated us to apple juice and peanuts (long before peanuts were considered lethal). I tried to explain that I didn't like such fare, but those in charge were unmoved, and I forced the snack down like medicine. Later, when nature took its course, I informed my teacher of that fact, and she

What's The Fuss?

By Fuss



excused me from class. When I made for the door leading outside, she asked what I was doing. I then patiently explained that, as I'd never used a public convenience before and had no intention of starting now, I was clearly on my way home. The teacher led me instead to a facility she thought proper for my condition and gave me two minutes to go about it. Looking at all that tile and porcelain ... and other children doing so openly what, until then, had been the most private of matters ... the urge retreated, and I returned to my seat.

Soon thereafter, a piece of paper covered with numbered dots was placed before me.

Connecting said dots in the correct order apparently produced a startling effect. Math being my weak suit, I worked on it for some time, and — after what seemed like hours of drawing and erasing with my industrial-sized pencil — a jerky form took shape.

"A duck?" I exclaimed, waving the paper about indignantly. "All that work for a stupid duck!"

I next made the principal's acquaintance, a nice enough fellow who explained the finer points of raising one's hand to communicate a reasonable point. Such points, he added, rarely included the phrase "stupid duck." I returned to class a chastened man.

At long last, my mother appeared to return me to the familiar sights of home. Shaken, I spoke little and ate a meager supper before turning in early, glad to see the end of a day that I would never have to endure again.

Boy, was I surprised the next morning. ♦

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Sunglasses and iPhone accessories are easy to find at Brooksie's and Bonida's, above, as are jewelry, purses, handbags and body washes at Helen Marie's Perfect Touch, right.



No need to leave town for back to school shopping

Paragould merchants have plenty to offer

By Anna Caroline Lee

It's that time of year again. School is starting and students are in need of new clothes, accessories and supplies. Many people venture out of town to the malls to buy those items, but wouldn't it be great if we didn't have to drive 20 minutes to an hour to go shopping? Great news: You don't have to, because there are numerous stores right here in Paragould that offer the same products and brand names you would see at the mall.

There are so many stores to choose from, and the quality of both the stores and their products is undeniable. **Ima's Fashions**, located at 309 W. Garland, has plenty of dresses of all styles and colors, intricately decorated and embroidered jeans, embroidered tops and cute jackets. Looking for backpacks and other accessories? Ima's

has a section entirely of Vera Bradley products with bags, wallets and backpacks. The prices are very reasonable as well, with a 60% off rack that features colorful dresses and tops, and a 50% off rack for jeans and purses. Ima's also has a variety of shoe brands including Volatile, Grazie, Rocketdog and Yellow Box.

Downtown Paragould has a number of stores with much to offer. **Room to Grow**, at 113 W. Court, is a great place to shop for clothes and accessories, all at great bargain prices. The clothes are divided into age groups, with sections for toddlers, small children, adolescents and boys with brand names including Aeropostale, Body Central, Justice, Hollister, American Eagle, Maurice's and Charlotte Russe. Room to Grow also has a rack filled with Girlie Girl T-shirts, which are quite popular these days, and has backpacks,

purses, bags, lunchboxes, notebooks and notepads along with various kinds of shoes. Just down the way on Pruett St. are several stores within walking distance of each other. **Lipstix and Lollipops** features a large selection of clothes including embroidered and rhinestone jeans, sequin tops and dresses, fringe tank tops and Los Angeles Active Street Couture tops. Looking for accessories? Lipstix and Lollipops has Fashion Express and Juicy Couture purses, Kathmandu bags and backpacks, patterned scarves, colorful sunglasses, rhinestone leather belts, wallets, clutches and change purses in all sizes, messenger bags, wings/cross wallets and rhinestone rings similar to those found in Rue

21 and Charlotte Russe. Just across the street is **The Hair Loom/Shear Glitz**, which doubles as a hair salon/clothing-and-jewelry store with ornate cross jewelry and tops, designer jewelry, belts, purses, and tote bags, and cowboy leather boots. After getting your hair done, you can choose from several hair care products with brand names like Bed Head, L'Oreal, and Matrix.

Down the block is yet another great store: **Brooksie's and Bonida's** with much to offer, ranging from all kinds of accessories to jewelry and shoes. Leather rhinestone purses, tweed purses, and handbags of all sizes are here as well as fashionable bags and wallets made from seatbelts. Additionally, there are colorful wallets, make-up bags, laptop bags, and sunglasses. Have an iPhone? There is a basket filled with richly decorated rhinestone iPhone cases. As far as jewelry goes there are many styles of necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings and watches. Brooksie's and Bonida's has colorful cami tops and leggings that are perfect to wear under just about any blouse or dress. There are richly decorated sandals and flip-flops, Toms and Bobs style shoes, and stylish high-heels as well as patterned scarves with charms attached, headbands, headwraps and nail kits.

For those who just can't get enough jewelry, **Natalie's Jewelry Box** is the place. The jewelry and purses are sorted by color and price, and the variety of color is amazing, making whatever you are looking for easy and quick to find. The store has a small section with feather jewelry, too, which is very fashionable among young girls and teens. Scarves, hairpieces, hats and headbands are all available at very low prices.

Helen Marie's Perfect Touch is another great place. Located at 314 W. Garland, it has a section filled with accessories and jewelry. Sunglasses and iPhone cases are available, and the jewelry is beautiful and ideal for those interested in elegant necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings. There are also purses and handbags of all styles, tote bags, wallets and clutches, and even hygienic products including body sprays and LaSource body washes and shower gels.

Want a brand new tan? **Glo Salon and Spa** is the place to go. It is located at 1911 Linwood

Dr. and has one section reserved for the salon and spa, and another that is a boutique filled with numerous items. There are moccasin boots that are excellent for the winter months, as well as sandals, purses, tote bags, satchels, scarves, knitted and designed headbands, jewelry and watches. The clothing selection is unbeatable with colored jeggings, frilly strapless dresses, designer shirts and blouses, leopard print and colored denim shorts,



rompers, skinny crop jeans, Bandeaux, camis, and Aztec print shirts. Everyone needs a cute belt to go with their jeans, and Glo has several. There are thin colorful belts and thick leather belts.

Another group of stores is located on West Kingshighway in the Paragould Plaza. **All Star Sporting Goods** is the ideal place for athletes to stock up on equipment and clothes. There are many brand names including Under Armour and Nike and several sports carrying bags, cleats, basketball shorts, game equipment, jerseys and tennis clothes. If you're looking for some cute T-shirts and shorts there are Softe shorts, and shirts featuring Cardinals, Red Wolves, Rams, Eagles and more. You can also get personalized shirts and jackets.

Serendipity Lane is filled with jewelry, handbags and accessories of all kinds. Some are sorted on tables according to color and items they match. There are various styles of earrings, necklaces and bracelets with a lot of colors and artificial gemstones, rocks and beads. They have absolutely beautiful cross

jewelry and bracelets both trendy and elegant. More accessories include rubber and rhinestone Geneva watches, a sunglasses rack with cute shades covered on the edges in rhinestones, and a headband rack. The purses are gorgeous, too. The features on these bags include colored leather, rhinestones and buckles, and the clutches and wallets are similar. One section has colorful rhinestone lanyards for cell phones, keys and ID cards as well as a few key chains. **Factory Connections** has clothes, similar to what you would find at Rue 21 in Jonesboro. Some brand names offered include Silver, Maurice's, American Eagle and Aeropostale. There is a lot of tropical-style clothing with halter tops and dresses, spaghetti strap dresses and graphic tees. But it doesn't stop there. Factory Connections has jewelry both colorful and elegant, sunglasses, neon lip gloss and nail polish, stylish handbags, and shoes such as high heels, sandals, and Converse and Toms style. There is a section specifically for guys. This includes brand names such as Aeropostale, Browning, Fox, American Eagle, Tapout, and Hurley as well as polo shirts, John Deere T-shirts, and jeans.

Next door to Factory Connections is **Shoe Sensation**, with shoes for kids, men, and women, ranging from casual to work and tennis shoes. There are several familiar brand names including Skechers, Asics, Puma, New Balance, Osiris, Converse, Soda, Nike, Adidas, Rocket Dog, DC Shoes, Vans, and Harley Davidson. The styles range from ballet flats, sandals and tennis shoes to suede and leather boots and high heels. There is also a section occupied entirely by accessories including brightly colored and cute patterned ankle socks and knee socks and scarves. The handbags section features animal print, neon colored, and leather change purses/wallets, stitched and leather clutches and handbags, colorful tote bags, Nike and Adidas sports bags/backpacks, and Jansport backpacks. For small children, there are little backpacks with characters such as Thomas the Train, Sponge Bob, Cars, and Disney princesses.

Most people don't realize all that Paragould has to offer. Malls are typically the places to buy back-to-school clothes and accessories, but with the variety of products Paragould has, and all at reasonable prices, hopefully everyone will realize they don't have to go all the way to the mall to get what they need for school. This year, shop in Paragould and make this upcoming school year the most fashionable yet. ♦

Former students have fond memories of GCT band leaders

By Jennifer Thompson

After 36 years in the field of teaching young minds, Danny and Linda Davis decided to retire from the Greene County Tech School District after 25 years. Having spent so much of their careers in the Greene County community, when the Davises made the announcement they would retire alumni came out of the woodwork to make sure the couple knew what sort of impact they had actually had on our small community.

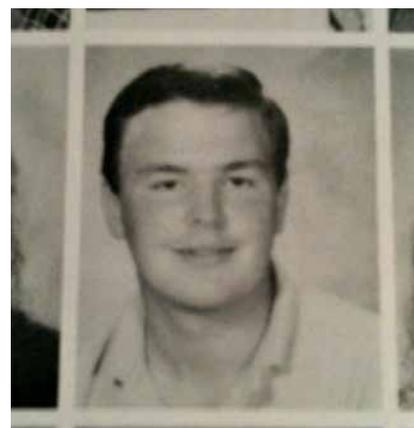
When asked what the response to their retirement announcement was like, both responded virtually in unison with, "Overwhelming!"

"We have gotten phone calls, emails, people coming to events wanting to tell us how much they will miss us from alumni to other band directors. It has been a great pat on the back," Linda said. "It's heartbreaking ... to be honest."

If you talk to any former or current student of the Davises they will tell you the pair is driven and passionate about what they have been doing for the past 36 years. Danny said that drive and passion came from lessons he was taught as a child. "I am a firm believer you can do anything you want, provided you don't want something else more. I am a product of the desire. This was taught to me. If we can motivate them they will do well, if they have that light in their eyes. I had it happen with me. It's contagious and you want to pay-it-forward."

"The more you are with the kids the more you see it's like a fire they have," Linda added. "The passion comes from them. They have kept us going all of these years, them and their desire to make it better whether it be music or plays or whatever, they wanted it to be good. We just let them provide the spark."

The one thing they hope their students remember most is that they truly, genuinely cared about each and every one of them and had a sincere interest in them regardless of the student. "If they just know how much we care about them and what they do with their lives. Their performances have been gifts to us both," Linda stated.



Brad Bobo today, and back in the day when he was a Greene County Tech band student.

"Nothing good is ever done without hard work," Danny added. "It's not always easy for them to get it when they are out practicing and marching in 100-degree temperatures or going through a piece of music for the 100th time, but in the end ... it's the best feeling. That's what you want them to get from all of this. The majority of our kids have gotten it. That's one of the rare things about this community. The kids are willing to do the work for the end product."

"Sometimes when I have been most proud of our kids was when they didn't win ... how they handled themselves and the situation. They walked away from that, came back and worked a lot harder and won the next time. They learned how to be gracious winners and losers," Linda explained.

Any student who had contact with the Davises knew they had many, many, many little sayings, thoughts, poems, and "life rules" that were uttered frequently. Some former students of theirs and classmates of my own indicated the Davises' mantras are stuck in the heads of former band students everywhere. I also wanted to make sure they knew, for sure, the impact they have had on some of the people who came through their program.

Brad Bobo, a 1995 GCT graduate, said, "No group or organization I have ever been a part of has had more impact on me than my time in the GCT Band. And the biggest reasons that statement is true are Danny and Linda Davis. There are so many life lessons we learned through them; so many of the little

catchphrases I find myself using now as an adult and parent. One Danny Davis classic I dust off from time-to-time is 'Accidents are preventable,' and another (which is totally goofy and I have no idea how this even works) is using the threat of corporal punishment as a means of curing the hiccups! I graduated in 1995 with their daughter, Kara, which is probably the reason I feel we were closer to them than most classes that came through the program. But, the ultimate tribute to Danny and Linda Davis is that there are members of 25 graduating classes at Tech who feel the same way as I do. And, in truth, we are probably all right."

Chuck Gatlin, a 1991 graduate, said, "The night of our band banquet, my freshman year, one of our band members and friends, Michael Faulkner, took his own life. Mr. and Mrs. Davis opened their home to us as a place to gather and deal with the loss. There were also plenty of times when Mr. Davis pulled me into his office and had the 'what were you thinking?!?' talks. There's a quote of Mr. Davis' that I have always remembered and repeat from time to time: To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is to be left.

"It got eye rolls from us 25 years ago, but as I've gotten older, I have to say it makes a lot of sense. He always encouraged us to be the best musicians and people we could be."

Another former student wished to remain anonymous, but I still had an important account to share. This student was a 1994 graduate of GCT. "I moved to Paragould my

sophomore year. I had always wanted to be in band, but did not have the opportunity before then. While other students had started band in Junior High, at 16 I was learning from scratch with no instrument. Despite this, Mr. Davis let me join the band. I started carrying the biggest cymbals thinking my arms were going to fall off. By my senior year, I was playing a saxophone that Mr. Davis provided. By graduation I had played a jazz solo and had even enrolled in the ASU marching band. Band was my home, a place I felt I belonged, and a refuge from the emotionally abusive home I found myself in until graduation. Band was a family for me, where I could be accepted unconditionally, yet challenge myself. Every trip or concert, we would recite the poem, "The man who thinks he can", which I still have a copy of and keep on the wall of my home."

The poem referred to here is actually called "The Victor" and anyone who ever had the Davises has heard it, and probably remembers most of it, if not every single word.

If you think you are beaten, you are.

If you think you dare not, you don't.

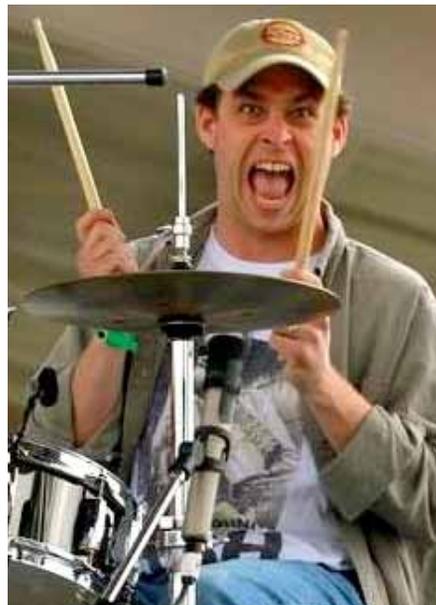
If you like to win but think you can't, it's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost.

For out in the world we find

Success begins with a fellow's will.

It's all in the state of mind.



If you think you are out-classed, you are.

You've got to think high to rise.

You've got to be sure of yourself before you can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man.

But, sooner or later, the one who wins is the one who thinks he can.

Danny said, "It's been a blessing to us as much as it was a blessing to give. They kept us young. As we were leaving to come here when we accepted this job I remember coming down the hill at Hilltop in Jonesboro and thinking we were getting close. We were so excited about coming here, and once we got here all of the band students were already at our house waiting to help us. It's hard to



Chuck Gatlin, left, a 1991 Greene County Tech graduate, said he understands a particular quote from his old band instructor much better today than he did when he was a student, above.

think I won't be driving that road anymore."

The Davises have plans to move to Russellville to be close to Linda's parents once they are finished in Paragould though, Linda said, they do plan on staying connected to their Paragould family and Danny has said he will be doing some judging and working with the band clinics after his retirement.

On a personal note and on behalf of all their band students, I would like to tell Mr. and Mrs. Davis they will be greatly missed in our little part of the world. They have been a big part of so many people's lives in this community and though they may be leaving, their memory will remain in our hearts: Thank you for giving us all some of the best times in our lives and for helping to mold us all into what we are today. We all hope you have a stress-free, relaxing, wonderful retirement. You deserve it. ♦



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Zack McMillon and Meredith Smith

McMillon-Smith

Meredith Smith and Zack McMillon have announced plans for an August wedding. Meredith is the daughter of Keith and Gina Smith of Walcott. Zack's parents are Tony and Patty McMillon of Finch. The wedding will take place Saturday, August 25, 2012 at Swindle's Cabin in Paragould. ♦



Shea Purcell and John Michael Oxford



Sonni Michelle Black and Forrest Matthew Tripod

Black-Tripod

Sonni Michelle Black and Forrest Matthew Tripod announce plans to be married in September. Sonni's parents are Linda and Pete Black of Paragould. The prospective groom is the son of Connie and Jeff Tripod, also of Paragould. The wedding will take place Saturday, September 8, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Paragould. ♦

Purcell-Oxford

Shea Don Purcell and John Michael Oxford have announced plans to be married in September. Shea is the daughter of Don and Sherri Purcell of Paragould. John's parents are Karen Eckhardt and the late William Oxford of Little Rock. The wedding is set for September 16 at Alda's Magnolia Hill in Little Rock. ♦

Tritch-Keeling

Kimberly Keeling and Casey Tritch will be married Saturday, August 18, 2012. The wedding will be held at Greater Vision Ministries in Paragould. ♦



Dustin Dancer and Megan Carlile

Dancer-Carlile

Megan Carlile and Dustin Dancer announce plans for an August wedding.

Megan is the daughter of Brett and Lisa Carlile of Paragould, while Dustin's parents are David and Lisa Dancer of Greenbrier.

Their wedding will take place August 11, 2012, at the 7th and Mueller Church of Christ. ♦

Parsley-Rudi



Dustin Rudi and Hannah Parsley

Hannah Parsley and Dustin Rudi will be married August 25, 2012, in Rector.

Hannah, from Rector, is the daughter of David and Michelle Parsley and Laura Mosley.

Dustin's parents are Mike Rudi and Cyndi Rudi of Paragould.

The wedding will take place at Rector First Baptist Church. ♦

Birth announcements



Jessa Jean Carter

Jeff Carter and Deborah Nunn of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Jessa Jean Carter.

The baby, born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, weighed 6 pounds, 14.4 ounces and was 18 inches long.

Listed as siblings and grandparents are Neil, Blake, Grant, Cannon, John and Holly. ♦



Rylan Jay Thrash

Neal and Whitney Thrash of Marmaduke announce the birth of their son, Rylan Jay Thrash.

The baby, born at St. Bernards Hospital, weighed 5 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Grandparents are Wendell and Cindy Rogers, Bill and Pam Blasko, and Terry and Debbie Huckabay; great-grandparents are Earl and Linda Parrish of Marmaduke. ♦

Helen Marie's Perfect Touch Our Bridal...

Bethany Combs & Dillon Alexander August 4	Kristen Adams & Joel McCracken October 3
Catherine Davis & Lance Bradley August 4	Isha Cummings & Casy Fletcher October 6
Megan Carlile & Dustin Dancer August 11	Ashley Timmons & CJ Smith October 20
Meredith Smith & Zack McMillon August 25	Katie Lyles & Josh Morris November 3
Hannah Parsley & Dustin Rudi August 25	Mallory Greene & Josh McNatt November 10
Sonni Black & Matt Tripod September 8	Breanne Reddick & Dex Gardner December 15

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The Mitchell clan presented an interesting picture, all decked out in matching shirts.

Paragould feels like home to Ohio resident

By Jackie Mitchell

My sophomore year at John Carroll University was winding down, and my friends and I excitedly dreamt of summer plans, so close within our reach. Some were traveling abroad and some had new jobs or internships, but they were surprised when I told them my rather uncommon destination: a thirteen-hour road trip from my hometown of Strongsville, Ohio, all the way to Paragould, Arkansas. However, there was no place in the world that I would rather go, and it was something that I had eagerly looked forward to all year.

My family has been taking these road trips to Paragould since I was young. My grandparents, Jerry and Dee Mitchell, call Paragould home, along with my aunt, uncle and cousin. Whenever possible, my family heads down for a visit, along with all of my aunts, uncles, and cousins. When all eighteen of us are together, we represent five states: Ohio, Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina and Colorado.

This summer's visit was for a particularly momentous occasion: My grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary. To add to the celebration, my cousin Jess graduated from Greene County Tech High School in May, so my visit included a trip to his school and the privilege of proudly watching him receive his diploma during the ceremony at Arkansas State University.

Part of why I enjoy visiting Paragould so much is that I always experience something

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new and different from home. I tried chicken and waffles, which quickly became my new favorite meal, and drank nothing but sweet tea during my entire stay. I explored downtown Paragould and ate fried pickles and funnel cake at the Loose Caboose Festival. One night, our family took up a long table at Larry's Pizza, where we sampled endless types of pizza and danced and sang along to classic Mitchell favorites playing on the jukebox such as "Sweet Caroline" and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy."

I also jumped off the diving board with my cousins at the Paragould Country Club pool, and even took a yoga class during my stay.

While we were all together our family also took day trips to Graceland and Little Rock and attended a Memphis Redbirds game, where we ended up on the big screen. I felt as if we were famous on the day all eighteen of us wore matching green shirts emblazoned with "Mitchell Family 50th," and my grandpa rented two limos to transport us, causing us to receive some stares of curiosity and even a few bystanders to snap our picture.

Memories were made while playing board games with the family, attempting to stay up all night with my cousins, ambushing my grandpa in our annual water gun fight, and blasting music and dancing around my grandparents' house with everyone to the Cha-Cha Slide and YMCA. Any time spent with my family feels like a huge celebration of the love that started with my grandparents fifty years ago. It's impossible to truly describe the sheer joy I feel whenever my family is all together, the pride I feel as we all stand together in church, taking up three whole pews, and the awe with which I view my grandparents and their beautiful example of love.

Now that I'm back in Ohio for the rest of the summer, not a day passes by that I don't recall all the wonderful times I had in Paragould. I find myself laughing at a funny memory or saddened by the distance that separates my family, and it makes me appreciate and treasure the short time we spent in Paragould even more. I may be an Ohioan, but a part of my heart will always be in Paragould. ♦

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NEA Baptist Clinic expands physical therapy services throughout Northeast Arkansas

NEA Baptist Clinic continues to strengthen its commitment to the health care needs in Northeast Arkansas by opening two new satellite locations for Physical Therapy.

In an endeavor led by Jeff Ramsey, Physical Therapist at NEA Baptist Clinic in Jonesboro, new physical therapy locations have opened

in Trumann and Paragould. Chris Enger, physical therapist in Paragould, and Wayne Traylor, physical therapist in Trumann, began seeing patients in July in their respective locations. "We have identified a need in both The Paragould location is located at 4700 West Kingshighway inside the NEA Baptist Clinic building. Appointments can be made by

calling 870-240-8402.

The NEA Baptist Clinic Physical Therapy office in Jonesboro is located at 1007 Windover and can be reached at 870-336-1530. Physical Therapists Jeff Ramsey and Nikki Luster currently practice at that location, along with Physical Therapy Assistants Brian Lewis and Alyssa Stephens. ♦

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Who Needs **Angie**?
Here is your list of Paragould Premiere Reader Recommended Businesses!

Premiere Magazine readers name local favorites with 'I Recommend' poll

We asked, and you answered. Premiere readers responded in force to our "I Recommend" campaign, an effort to learn who you consider the best of the best in the Paragould area.

Following is a list of winners in a variety of categories, as chosen by the readers. Winners who purchased an ad in this special section were also given space for a photo and brief comment.

HEALTH

Chiropractor: Dr. John Bibb, Bibb Chiropractic

Dentist: Dr. Kevin Mann, Paragould Family Dentistry



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Home Health Service: Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

"To everyone who voted for AMMC in this year's I Recommend balloting, we say thank you. We appreciate your loyalty and vote of confidence. Today and tomorrow, we promise to keep making healthcare all about you."

Massage Therapist: Barb Hartness, Shear Glitz

Medical Clinic: Hines Medical Clinic

"Thank you for recommending us! We are proud to serve and appreciate your votes."



Medical Supply Store: Affordable Medical Supply



"We are proud to carry on the family tradition of service. Thank you for recommending us."

Nurse: Petina Cole, RN, NEA Baptist



Optometrist: Dr. Vanessa Wall, Vision Care Clinic

"Vision Care Clinic would like to thank you for voting Dr. Vanessa Wall, formally Johns, as the most recommended optometrist in Greene County."

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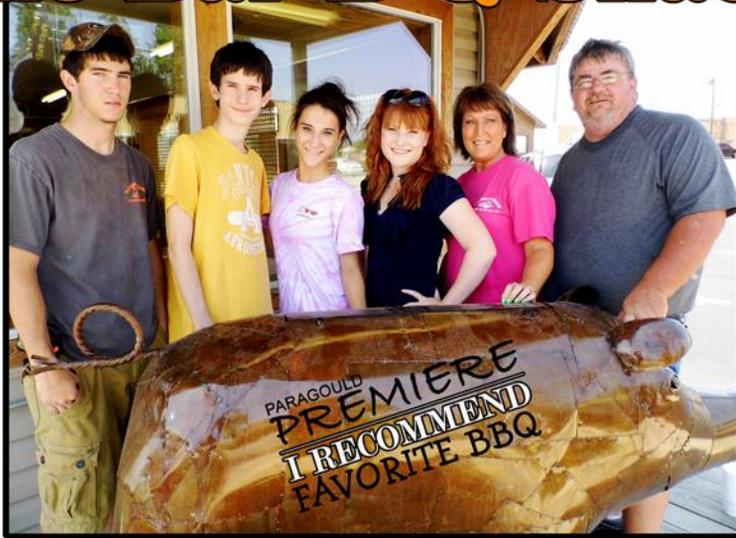
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Orthodontist: Braces by Burris

"Thank you for recommending Braces by Burris. And a special thank you for recognizing Smile 4 Lifetime in the charitable organization category."

Pharmacy: Hyde Pharmacy



"We would like to thank t h e Paragould community for voting us the most

recommended pharmacy."

Physical Therapy: John Tripod, AMMC

Physician/General: Dr. John Hines, Hines Medical Clinic

Physician/Cardiologist: Dr. Ammar A. Hal-lak, Cardiology Associates

Physician/Gynecologist: Dr. Paul Becton, Becton Women's Clinic

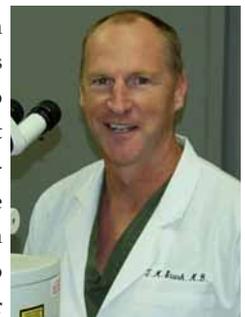


"We at Becton's Women's Clinic appreciate your support of our office and Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in our mission to bring the

best in obstetrical and gynecologic care to Northeast Arkansas."

Physician/Ophthalmologist: Dr. Thomas Stank, Southern Eye Associates

"Myself and my staff at Southern Eye Associates would like to extend our sincerest thanks to those pa-tients who have placed their trust in our abilities to provide for their



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medical and surgical eye care problems. Thank you."

Physician/Orthopedics: Dr. Ron Schechter, Paragould Orthopedics

Physician/Pediatric: Dr. Kristina Wenger, Paragould Pediatrics

CONSTRUCTION/NEW HOME/REPAIR

Heat and Air Contractor: Eaker Heat & Air Inc.



Building Contractor: Keith White, Keith White Custom Homes

"Being voted as Greene County's most recommended building contractor is an honor. Thank you for your votes!"



Concrete Service: RAKKO Ready Mix

"The Oglesby family and our staff truly appreciate your recommendation."

General Contractor: Grayson Simpson, Simpson Construction



Electric Contractor: G&G Electric Company

"Thank you for voting for G&G!"

Locksmith: Marler Lock and Key

Plumber: Jack Hopkins/G&G Electric Company

Roofing Contractor: Chase Robertson Roofing

Siding Contractor: Cross Custom Siding

Excavating Contractor: Michelle's Excavating & Paving

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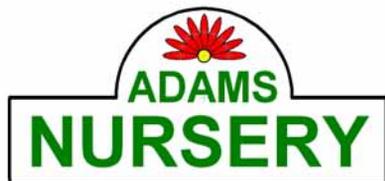
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Landscaping

"We're grateful to be selected favorite landscaping contractor by the readers of Premiere magazine. It's been a delight helping you create residential and business landscaping features for the past 23 years."

Land Surveyor: Eric Coleman, Coleman Land Survey Service

Title Company: Community Title

Tree Service: C&W Lawn Care

BEAUTY AND FITNESS

Beauty Salon: Glo Salon & Spa

Cosmetic Studio: Merle Norman

Fitness Center: Anytime Fitness

Nail Salon: Solar Nails

Tanning Salon: Vegas Tan Company

FOR THE HOME

Appliance Shop: Sears

Janitorial/Cleaning Service: Servicemaster (Spic and Span)

Lawn and Garden Equipment Dealer: Gazaway Ace Home Center

Mattress Store: Sleep Cheap

Carpet and Rug Cleaning Service: Razor-back Carpet Cleaning

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Furniture Dealer: Home Place Furniture

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Pest Control Service: Hyde's Termite and Pest Control



Mini Storage: Laubach Mini Storage

"We would like to thank the readers who Laubach Mini Storage as the winner of the I Recommend award! Thanks to all of our customers and we're ready when you're ready to come store with us."

LIFE EVENTS



Caterer: Kiss the Cook Restaurant and Catering

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Funeral Home/Director: Phillips Funeral Home

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Dress Shop: White Columns Bridal and Formal

Photographer: Holly Michaels, Jonesboro

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AMMC staff who were "I recommend" winners include:

- Home Health - Home Health Agency
- Physical Therapy - Jon Tripod
- Cardiology - Dr. Hallak
- OB/GYN - Dr. Becton
- Orthopaedic Surgery - Dr. Schechter
- Pediatrics - Dr. Wenger
- Family Medicine - Dr. Hines



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School Administrator: Amy Lucius, Greene County Tech

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Teacher: Kelli Harris, Greene County Tech

"GCT is proud of Amy Lucius and Kelli Harris...wonderful employees of our staff! Congratulations and we thank the Premiere readers for voting for GCT members.

FINANCIAL

Accountant: Jimmy Wilson, Wilson CPA



Bank: Liberty Bank

"Liberty Bank appreciates your vote of confidence. Our community banking staff is ready to serve you."

Charitable Organization: Smile 4 Lifetime

Financial Planner: Keith Legrid, Edward Jones

Insurance Agency: State Farm, Virginia Walls

"Thank you for voting for State Farm. My staff and I are happy to service your insurance, banking, financing, and investment needs."



Insurance Agent: Tim Johnson, Farmers Insurance

Tax Service: Liberty Tax Service

ENTERTAINMENT/RELAXATION

Country Club: Paragould Country Club

Live Venue Entertainment: Red Goose Grand Hall

Local Festival: Loose Caboose Music Festival

Movie Theatre: Paragould Cinema 8

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"Thank you so much. You are what makes this worth doing every day."

Television Station: KAIT 8

TV Personality: Ryan Vaughan, KAIT 8



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BUSINESS OF BUSINESS

Attorney: Mary Broadway, Broadway & Broadway

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Employment Agency: Express Personnel



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Screen Printing: Caps Plus Screen Printing, Embroidery, and Promotional Specialties

Sign Company: Cupples Sign Company, Inc

"Thank you to everyone who voted for us.



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RESTAURANTS

Asian/Chinese: Kimono Japanese Steakhouse

Bakery/Sweet Treats: Batten's Donuts and Bakery



BBQ: Bar-B-Q Shack

"It's great to be recommended by the readers of Premiere Magazine. Our family would like to thank everyone who has enjoyed our Bar-B-Q for the past 20 years."

Breakfast: Couch's Bar-B-Q

"On behalf of Couch's Bar-B-Q I want to thank the people of Paragould for

Paragould Premiere's Recommended

Pharmacy

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From management
Steve Smoker
& Kenny Kuenzel
and staff.

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recognizing our restaurant for the breakfast category. We pride ourselves in providing the best of quality and service to our customers. We thank all of Paragould for the many years that we have been able to serve you." The staff says, "Thanks, Gaylon!"

Buffet Style: Simpkins Family Buffet

Burger: Build A Burger

Catfish: Bar-B-Q Barn

Chicken: Zaxby's

Gourmet: Red Goose Deli



"Recommended for gourmet food and live music! What more can we ask for? Thank you for voting for Red Goose!"

Ice Cream/Shakes: Dairy Queen

Local Flavor: Office Bar & Lounge

Mexican Cuisine: Casa Brava

Italian: Veno's Italian Grill

"Veno's would like to thank Paragould Premiere readers for voting us as the most recommended Italian restaurant."

Pizza: Brick Oven Pizza Company

Sandwiches: Lenny's Sub Shop

Steak: Louie 9 Fingers



Other: Lil Fatties



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Voted Favorite Park/Playground



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City of Paragould
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SHOPPING

Children's Clothing: Room to Grow Fun Stuff & Consignment

Consignment Store: Room to Grow Fun Stuff & Consignment

Fashion Accessories/Jewelry Store: Natalie's Jewelry Box

Farm Supply Store: Farm Parts Company

Flea Market: The Big Top Flea Market



Grocery Store: Hays Food

"Thank you for recommending our stores. We are proud of our new facilities and our staff."

Hardware/Tool Store: H & W Hardware

"Thanks to the readers of Premiere magazine



for recommending H & W Hardware. Your business is always appreciated and we look forward to

being your friendly fix-it store and so much more for many years to come."

Holiday LIQUOR STORE



Liquor Store: Holiday Liquor

"Where every day is a holiday! Thank you for voting for us!"

Men's Clothing: Belk

Pawn Shop: SDM Pawn

"A huge thanks to everyone that voted SDM Pawn as an "I Recommend" favorite. Thank you for your business and we look



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Matt Gage,
 Owner/Cook

forward to working with you in coming years."

Shoe Store: Shoe Sensation

Women's Clothing: Ima's Fashions

PETS

Pet Grooming: Cute Critter Clippings

Veterinarian: Dr. Brent Reddick, Linwood Animal Hospital

"We truly appreciate you for choosing us for your pet's healthcare, and recommending us to your family and friends. On behalf of myself and the staff of Linwood Animal Hospital...Thank you!"



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Car Wash: Paragould Splash Carwash

Convenience Store: Dodge's Chicken Store

Glass Service/Auto or Window: Co-Ord Glass and Mini-Blinds

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-Libby Wamock Glasco
Owner

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Auto Repair and Service/Mechanic: Oakes Tire and Auto

"Thanks for voting and we appreciate your recommending Oakes Tire and Auto to your friends."



Auto Body Shop: A&Z Collision

"A&Z Collision Repair is proud to be an 'I Recommend' winner and we are proud to serve you."

Auto Parts Shop: NAPA Auto Parts

Oil Change and Lube: Broken Spoke Tire and Auto Center

Thank You! for voting us

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 "I Recommend" Attorney.

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Glen Sain

Auto Dealer/New: Glen Sain

"The Glen Sain family of dealerships is proud to be the recommended new car dealer by Premiere readers. We say, thank you!"



Auto Dealer/Used: Larry's Auto Sales

"Thank you! Everyone at Larry's Auto Sales is very pleased to be Premiere's I Recommend winner in the Best Used Vehicle category. Larry's has been offering the best deals on wheels since 1976 and we look forward to continuing that promise for years to come."



Tire Service Center: Herren Tire Service

"Herren Tire Service has been supplying customers with tires of all kinds for 44 years. It's been a real pleasure working with all of our customers and we hope to continue those relationships for many more years to come."

**Thank you for your vote in the
 Premiere "I Recommend"
 We are proud to serve the Paragould area.**



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Wrecker Service: Rudi's Towing

"We would like to thank the people of Paragould who voted for Rudi's Towing and recommend us as the best towing service in town. We are truly honored and your loyalty is appreciated."



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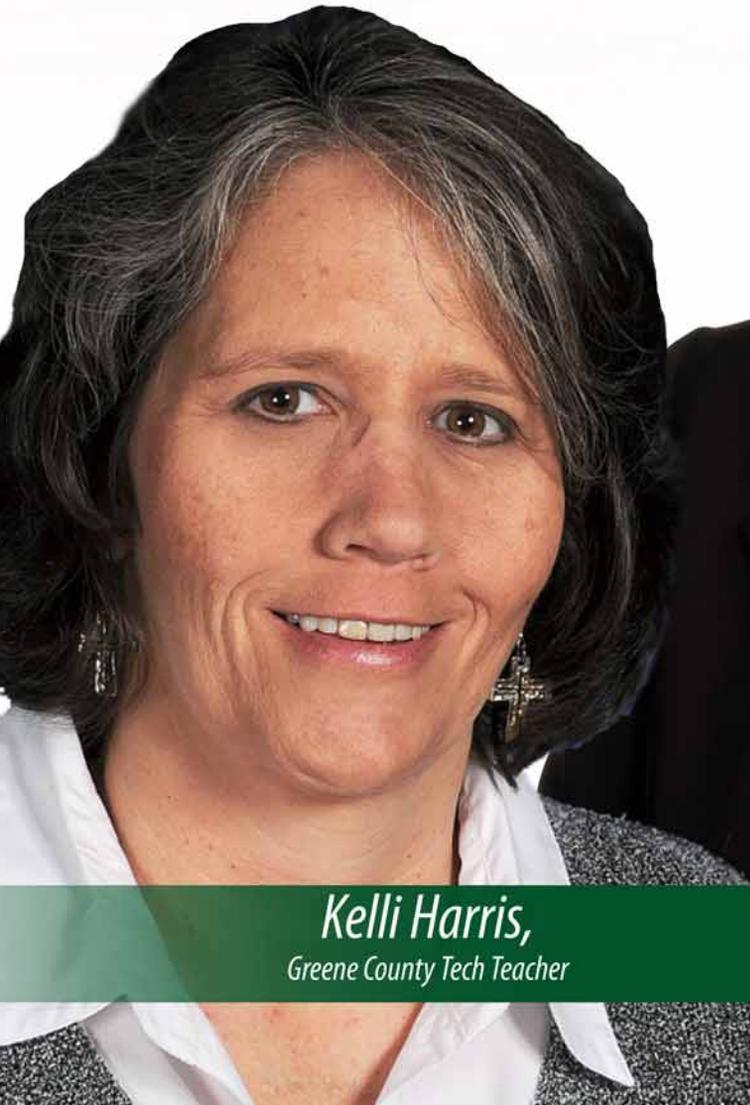
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Congratulations!

**Two Category
Paragould Premiere
"I Recommend" Winner**
*School Administration
Teacher*



Kelli Harris,
Greene County Tech Teacher



Amy Lucius,
Greene County Tech School Administrator

NEA COOKS



Name: Natasha Glenn

Employer: Allen Engineering

Where are you from? I currently live in Brookland but I grew up in O’Kean. I went to school in Delaplaine.

Family: Husband, Darrin and daughter, Carlie

When did you start cooking? I started as a young child.

Who taught you how to cook? My mom and grandma.

What is your favorite dish to make? Any kind of dessert!

Who do you like to cook for? Family, friends, co-workers, pretty much anyone who loves to eat.

What is your family’s favorite dish? My daughter’s favorite is my twice baked potatoes.

What is your fondest cooking memory? I used to love to watch my great-aunt, Glenis Ogden, make gravy for breakfast when I was a child. She made awesome biscuits and gravy.

What was your biggest cooking disaster? I have a tendency to forget about cookies in the oven if I don’t use a timer. There have been a few batches with black bottoms.

What is one ingredient you can’t live without? Butter. It makes everything better!

Do you have any cooking advice? Be creative and don’t be afraid to try something new.

CARLIE'S TWICE BAKED POTATOES

- 5 baked potatoes
- ¾ stick butter
- ¾ tsp salt
- ¾ tsp pepper
- ¼ tsp onion powder
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- ¼ tsp seasoning salt
- ½ cup sour cream



¼ cup real bacon bits

1 ½ cups shredded cheese (half for potato mixture, half for topping)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut potatoes in half lengthwise and scoop insides of potatoes into large bowl. Place potato skins onto cookie sheet. Add softened butter, sour cream, spices, bacon bits and half of shredded cheese to bowl. Mix well and fill potato skins with mixture. Top with remaining shredded cheese. Bake for approximately 20 minutes.



EASY FRUIT SALAD

- 1 5 oz box vanilla pudding
- 1 20 oz can pineapple chunks
- 1 15 oz can peach slices (or fresh peaches)
- 1 11 oz can mandarin oranges
- 2 bananas
- 1 apple
- 1 cup fresh or frozen berries or grapes
- 2 kiwi fruit

Drain juice from pineapple into large bowl. Mix with vanilla pudding to make sauce for salad. Drain juice from peaches and oranges before adding to bowl. Slice remaining fruit into bite-size pieces and add to bowl. Mix well and refrigerate.

Great topped with Cool Whip. Can also be made with sugar free pudding.



POPPY SEED CHICKEN

- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 8 oz container of sour cream
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 pack of Ritz crackers
- ½ stick butter

Boil chicken breasts until done and shred or chop into casserole dish. Mix sour cream and cream of chicken soup together and pour over chicken. Crumble crackers into small pieces over entire dish. Pour melted butter evenly over dish. Sprinkle poppy seeds on top. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes or until crackers are golden brown. ♦

*To be featured in NEA Cooks,
call 236-7627.
All you need is a recipe and a smile!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

Wednesday, Thursday, August 1-2

Operation Overboard!, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Paragould First United Methodist Church invites you to go deep with God at Vacation Bible School, July 30-August 2nd from 5-8 p.m. at the church, located at 404 W. Main Street.

Have fun singing, playing, learning. Everyone is invited and of course, it's free. For more information call 870-239-8541.



Thursday, August 2nd

Blood Drive, noon-5:30 p.m.

Scheduled for Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Saturday, August 4th

Back To School Fashion Show

Scheduled Downtown, in the "One and Only."

Childbirth Education Class, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Scheduled for Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Thursday, August 9th

Greene County Community Fund Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

At the Community Center. Tickets are available from Board Members and at the Greene County Community Fund office (in the Rhine Building). Tickets are \$15 each. Help support sixteen local agencies through the Community Fund.

Saturday, August 11th

Breastfeeding Class, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Scheduled for Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Monday, August 20th

KASU's Blues Monday, 7:00 p.m.

With The Joe Pitts Band, at The Red Goose Grand Hall-Prueett Street entrance. The entertainment is free thanks to KASU, Bibb Chiropractic, and MOR Media.

Mommy and Me Breastfeeding Support Group Meeting

6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Scheduled for Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Tuesday, August 21st

Woman to Woman Cancer Support Group, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Scheduled for Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Thursday, August 23rd

KASU's Bluegrass Monday, 7:00 p.m.

With Eddie and Martha Adcock (Eddie is a member of the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame!), at The Collins Theatre, 120 W. Emerson Street. The entertainment is free thanks to The Posey Peddler, Back Beat Music, the NE AR Bluegrass Association, Hollis Bee Company, and Main Street Paragould.

Friday, August 24th-25th

Ultimate Oldies Show

At The Collins Theatre. This show will feature songs from the "50s and "60s.

Recurring Events:

First Monday of every month

Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon

All PYP members and prospective members invited. 236-7684.

Third Tuesday of every month

Low Vision Support Group, 12:30 p.m. At the Senior Center. 236-8498

Every Wednesday

Perking on Prueett, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Perking On Prueett, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Something Sweet. Find out what's happening in the One and Only Downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

T.O.P.S. (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)

Wednesday mornings at the Paragould Community Center in Room E. Private Weigh in at 8:00 a.m.; support meeting at 8:30 a.m. May attend one meeting as a guest. Membership fees are \$26 a year and \$1 dues per meeting. artops599@yahoo.com

Second Wednesday of every month

Spaghetti Dinner, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and drink! At St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Second Thursday of every month

Compassionate Friends, 7 p.m.

For parents grieving the loss of a child. Meetings are held at Southside Community Church, 2211 Jones Rd.



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What's in Store For Next Month

Harvest Time



The September edition of Premiere Magazine will feature farming and those who make the industry such a valuable part of Greene County's daily life.

Farm Family



We'll introduce you to Greene County's Farm Family of the Year for 2012.

Events



Premiere staffers will be out with cameras in hand to cover a variety of events around Greene County.

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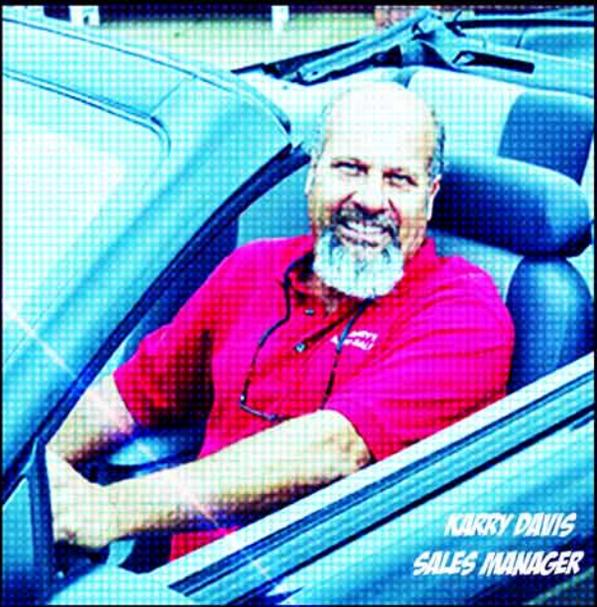
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