

JUNE 2012

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- Jimmy Jetton's shop holds memories

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Entertainment/Relaxation

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Night Club:

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Radio Personality:

Television Station:

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Children's Clothing:

Consignment Store:

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Hardware/Tool Store:

Liquor Store:

Men's Clothing:

Pawn Shop:

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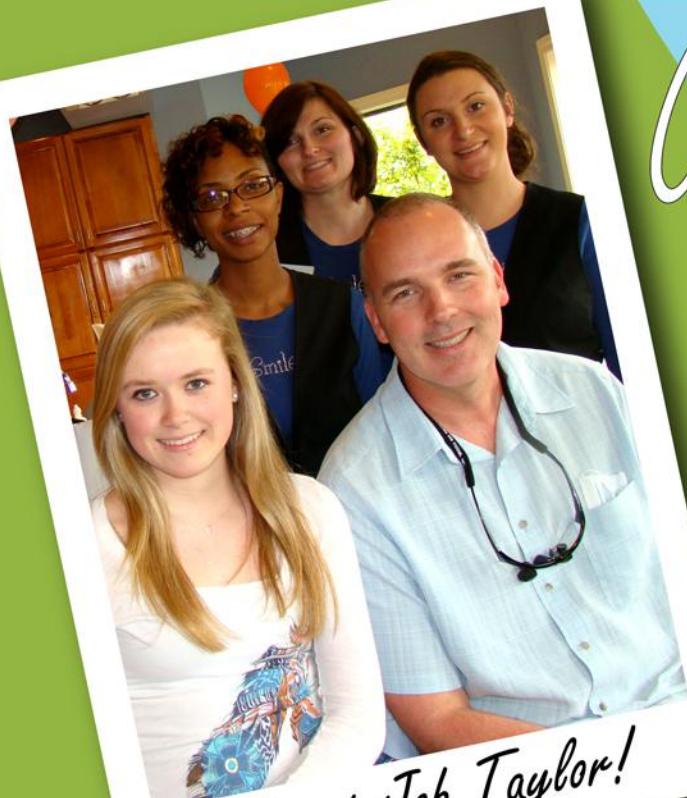
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With summer approaching here are some tips to help keep your pet healthy during the hot weather:

Never leave your pet in your car during the summer. Even days with only moderately warm temperatures can produce extreme heat on the inside of vehicle. Just a few minutes can be too many especially if the pet were to become anxious or panicked.

Offer plenty of water. Keep that bowl full! Consuming larger amounts of water is one of the ways that dogs and cats cool themselves. Ice cubes are also a nice "treat" for the water bowl.

If your dog is outside be sure they have a shady place to get out of the sun. A fan is also nice on those extremely hot days, but be sure no electric cords are within reach for those that chew!



If you're traveling with your pet be sure to map out your trip and take note of pet friendly rest stops along the way. Take along bowl(s) for food and water. Don't forget the leash either!

Make sure your pet has identification! It's the best chance they'll have at being re-united with their family in the event they are separated.

Don't over exercise your pet during the hot temperatures. Keep play times abbreviated and try to do them early or late in the day when temperatures are typically cooler.

Be sure that your pet has had a recent wellness exam and is healthy enough to withstand the stresses of the summer heat. Several problems such as heartworm disease or obesity, can quickly become life threatening issues with just a little extra heat and activity.

Heat strokes are something that I see and treat every year. They are a sure way to turn an otherwise nice summer day into a horrible tragedy. By following these few tips you'll hopefully ensure a safe fun filled summer for your 4 legged family members!



God Bless!
Brent Reddick,
DVM



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On the cover: Jimmy Jetton
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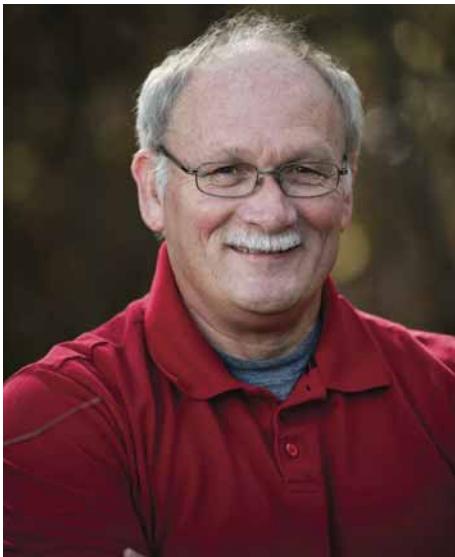
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From The Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

If you've ever had a favorite pastime and wondered if it could eventually turn into a money-making venture, pay attention to the feature stories in this month's Premiere. Several local residents started out just looking for something to do, settled on a hobby and

learned they had a real knack for it ... and also found out they could make money if they so desired. Others would tell you "it's just a hobby" and participate for the sheer joy of it.

As we do each month, Premiere writers bring you a variety of stories. This time around, Jennifer Thompson takes a look back at the careers of Danny and Linda Davis, long-time instructors at Greene County Tech. Their decisions to retire will leave a big void in the GCT band and drama programs, as Jennifer explains.

Hannah Gonzalez contributes two touching stories, one a tribute to the recently departed Rex Bouldin in *Between The Dashes*, and the other a story of a teenage girl dealing with the loss of her best friend.

Gabriel Cook also tells a teen's story, this one full of good news, as he details Payton Finch's selection as the Exchange Club Youth of the Year.

Tiffany Napier again pens her *Dreamweaver* column, this time focusing on another hobby that turned into a nice business enterprise at Something Sweet.

Since that foursome has become regular

contributors to the Premiere pages, we had each give a brief sketch of how they decided to enter the field of journalism and we included a photo so you will be able to put a face with the name from this point forward. I even decided to let you in on how and when the writing bug bit me.

When a friend wants your opinion on who they should hire to repair their roof, or who they should have work on their car, or even where to get their nails done ... what do you say?

We've all answered those questions, numerous times. Now here's your chance to tell Premiere readers who you recommend.

On page 2 of this issue we list a number of categories for you to think about. We made it easy for you; just list your favorites in each category on the "I Recommend" ballot and turn them in to us. Ballots must be turned in by 5 p.m. Friday, June 22nd.

Submit ballots via mail or online, then look for the August issue of Paragould Premiere Magazine to reveal our readers' top choices for "I Recommend." ♦

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Payton Finch is named Exchange Club Youth of the Year

By Gabriel A. Cook

Samantha is first at the door. She paws my leg and is soon in my lap. Chastened by a mild scolding, she sits at my feet as I talk to Payton Finch, Greene County Tech's Valedictorian and Exchange Club's Student of the Year.

"Exchange Club is about building a better community," he explains, rubbing the dog's ears. "I'm grateful I was chosen for their award. It's exciting to be recognized for something you like to do anyway."

Little wonder Finch was honored. His involvement with Junior Civitan and Rotary Interact, both school institutions, is extensive, though he downplays his role. "It gears up during the Rotary Auction. We move stuff around, man the phones. We also help with Special Olympics and drunk driving awareness. Then there's roadside pickup, but that's only a few hours after school. It's easy."

Payton, the son of Tracy and Michael Finch, and brother of Travis, has big plans — but has yet to settle on them. "I'm thinking Pre-Med, Pre-Law. I don't know. It's still summer."

Alongside civic club activities, Finch was also Drum Major for GCT's band, a member of their Thespian club, participated in several Greene County Fine Arts Council productions, and was chosen — "Through a somewhat ominous email" — to take part in the NASA Inspire Program. "It was in Puerto Rico, through their university. We worked with bio-fuels."

Of all his achievements, however, Finch considers his involvement with the United States Senate Youth Program to be his favorite. Nominated by his school, Payton secured placement by way of an essay concerning foreign policy between Pakistan and the United States after the killing of Osama Bin Laden. His effort won him an interview with the Board of Education in Little Rock, at which point he joined 103 other students in Washington.



Payton Finch

"It was a week-long study," Finch says, "and I was surrounded by kids from around the country. Among others, the President spoke to us."

An unusual connection was made when Brian

Lamb, founder of C-SPAN, arrived with camera crew in tow. Not only did Finch discover that Lamb's mother hails from this area, he appeared on television, as well. "We were eating at a pizza place," Tracy says. "Payton waited till the last minute to tell us he was going to be on television. We asked the restaurant to change the channel. Can you imagine a pizza place watching the news? But when Payton appeared on screen, everyone applauded."

When asked what young people can do in the area of achievement, Payton becomes emphatic. "Break out. Use the Internet. Get educated. With the education I received from Greene County Tech, I was offered a scholarship to Johns Hopkins University. (He chose Hendrix.) There are opportunities everywhere.

"Take the Greene County Scholarship Fund," he continues. "None of my friends from other states have access to something like that. I'm grateful to our community and its commitment to students."

Such students become adults who make a difference in the world. No doubt Payton Finch is well on his way. ▶

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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

A Loose Caboose carnival ride took kids for a real spin during Paragould's annual festival in May.

The PR Page

How the Premiere Reader (PR)
gets down, Downtown.

Home Sweet Home - Downtown living arrangement the
PR finds most intriguing: A renovated storefront

Number One item
on the PR's Down-
town Wish List:
A New/Used
Bookstore
with a sit & read vibe

The PR goes downtown:
Once a week: 55%
Several times a week: 18%
Every day: 18%
A few times / month: 10%



Other great wish list items:
Restaurants w/ live music &
outdoor dining, Craft Store,
Pet Boutique, Arcade,
Dog Park, Record/Music Shop

Number one reason the PR goes Downtown: To Eat!

Other reasons to get Downtown: Shopping, Entertainment, Civic Meetings

The PR's favorite DT spot for lunch:



"All of them are great and there's such a variety! If you want pizza go to Larry's Pizza, if you are hungry for a great salad and sandwich or wrap go to Kiss the Cook, if you want hot wings or a burger the new Hot Spot is great, if you want a wonderful fried shrimp or Grilled Chicken then Red Goose is wonderful and for dessert stop in Something Sweet, all days of the week are covered!! So go to downtown for lunch every day!!"
~Brooksie Hartness 100% agree

Favorite Downtown event: Loose Caboose 50% - Art & Stroll 28%



Other Favs: OktoberFest, Twilight Jazz, Holiday Traditions, Christmas Parade

Downtown Event the PR
would love to see: Music Fest

Top Two Types: Blues & Jazz

Other kick-up-your-heels mentions:
Street Dance, Blues & BBQ Fest,
Hot Dog Eating Contest,
Pet Events & Pet Adoption Events



Sound off! Participate in our polls on

Business Is Good

Area couple invents Smartphone app with education in mind

By Jennifer Thompson

A new Smartphone application is the first of its kind and growing in popularity, and it was invented by a local Northeast Arkansas couple who hopes the app will eventually have long-standing effects on the educational system throughout the country.

Paula S. and Ralph Ruby, Jr. have invented what they call the "Texting Champ" app. The program is a free game format application, known as txtr, that helps to teach its users skills that are necessary to be faster and more accurate when dealing with social media (i.e., Facebook, text message, Google, LinkedIn, MySpace, Bebo, Twitter, Orkut, Friendster, Meetup and Plaxo).

The Rubys say the app is a "challenging, surprising, entertaining, exciting, engaging and rewarding" social media communications skill-builder app that cultivates international-mindedness. What, exactly, is international-mindedness? How does txtr accomplish such lofty goals?

The app provides all of its options in twelve different languages, along with the corresponding name of the country and the country's flag. The actual texting game format is designed to allow the user to individualize and personalize their learning environment so that they may learn in an environment that they have designed to meet their individual needs. The Rubys' app features seven different game modes the user can choose from: Alphabetic; Numbers - 1,2,3 Pad; Numbers - Number Pad; Emoticons (Kaomaji); Words; Texting Abbreviations; and Translations. Ralph said the user can receive test results for duration, errors, speed, and time frame. Words can be two-characters, three-characters, or variable characters, depending on what the user is wanting to do and according to their learning level.

"The first thing you are going to learn is to reduce wasted motion by connecting letters," Ralph said. "You get faster until you type it all as



one. You also have the ability to slow down and work slower to get your accuracy correct. Then, when you have the accuracy down, you can set your speed up to 300-characters-per-second. There have been years of research that have been done and that information has been incorporated into this app. In education, there are certain tools that are critical to learning. Number one is the ability to text. Number two is the ability to take notes. All of the research that has been done on note taking concludes that those that take notes increase retention."

He went on to discuss the correlation between note taking and retention. Having an alphabetic shorthand to use when note taking improves note taking skills, and improved note taking skills equals increased retention, which, in the end, produces higher grades. This is why the Texting Abbreviations portion of this particular app is so important. "I am saying that within about three years our schools will have gone to tablets (in place of text books and notepads). Computers are a thing of the past now. It is all about the tablets and the Smartphones now. There are a lot of schools giving students tablets to keep throughout their school years, or they are telling students things like BYOT (Bring Your Own Tablet). It is very futuristic."

The Rubys believe that when teaching students to increase their speed and accuracy for social media and technology, it is important

to begin as early as the third grade, which is why Texting Champ is for students of all ages. Texting Champ is available for free download from the iTunes store and for Android phones.

As if that aspect of the app weren't interesting enough, the Rubys added

another feature which produced its first positive results in April of this year. Texting Champ is the first free app where the user has the ability to win actual cash that is deposited into a PayPal account upon winning. There are tournaments for each game mode and a prize awarded for the top placement in each category. The prize money is \$25 per category. The first student to win was Colton Turner, a Trumann resident, who won all seven categories and had \$175 deposited into his PayPal account for winning all of the contests.

The Rubys have been working on this app for the last three to five years and are working on two other apps, "Keyboard Champ," which they hope to release soon, and the Ruby Translator, which is already in the iTunes store for purchase.

Dr. Paula D. Ruby is a tenured associate professor in the Computer and Information Technology Department of the College of Business at ASU. Dr. Ralph Ruby, Jr. is a tenured full professor and director of business technology programs in the Computer and Information Technology Department of the College of Business at ASU. More information about Texting Champ can be found in the iTunes store or online at www.textingchamp.com.

More information on the Ruby Translator can be found by visiting www.rubytranslator.com or also in the iTunes store. ♦

Dreamin' Up Something Sweet

I could never boast a stellar brain for academics. When I was in the television business, I often spent morning meetings taking mental note of facts in contention with my peers. It was never my ideal to pitch stories from the morning newspaper; it was my intention to do as my mentor recommended, "Make things move." My concern was not with upstaging the girl next to me but moving the audience from the couch to the story on screen. If that ability was broadcast, the girl next to me never had a chance. Right brain in nature, mathematics and reasoning isn't always in the forefront of my logic. It's intuition and creativity that drive my thinking. Facts are a necessity in any story, but the reasoning behind them is far more interesting contradictory to black and white, detail is most colorful.

In the demise of my television career, that color was diluted by my youth. However, growth and divine intervention are the most amusing things. Destiny has a funny way of exposing itself, resuscitating my dreams. I consider myself lucky. I realize not everyone has the luxury of doing what they love and loving what they do. This is a rarity that is mutually exclusive to a couple of housewives turned cake designers with a dream of a different form. Baking is beyond my expertise, but color, whether on screen or in frosting, is all the same. Those with the ability to see it have a unique gift that cannot be hidden behind a desk.

"I feel like anybody can make a cake, but can they make it pretty? There are also people who can make it pretty but not tasty. I want to do both," says Tracy Mothershed. She is the owner of Something Sweet, a bakery inspired by both her love for cake decorating and a childhood friend. "My husband was in the military. I left town for 22 years. We traveled the world and came back again. Kim and I had been friends forever. She always said, 'If you move back home, we're going to start our own shop,' and we did," Tracy says. "She had more hands-on with cakes because she had more experience with it. I had always done art. Before I did this, I would travel and do face and body art, so I bring a different creative side to it. She sees things one way and I see it the other way," says her partner and friend Kim Workman. Color is just a tool of creativity, an adjective for seeing things outside the box. Placing a pastel with its complementary hue is a no-brainer for Kim, but taste, literally, interrupts her sleep. Some may call it mindless, but I call it local genius. As my taste buds delight in a chocolate cupcake with decadent peanut butter frosting, I discover the depth of culinary illusion.

"I had a dream about the Flaming Ninja! It went over great in the dream. I knew exactly what it was going to look like, the flavors and all, so we came in and we made it," Kim says. The Flaming Ninja, a dark chocolate cupcake with Cheyenne pepper, is just one of the many, innovative flavors at Something Sweet. For these women, though, workmanship goes beyond ingredients. It's a fine balance between creativity and quality that dreams are made of. This connection to detail confirms my theory that the best designers are born gifted. "I don't have any formal training. My skill is self taught. The artistic side wants to take over and just do something, but then you have to consider the mechanics. How am I going to make that stack up, how am I going to make it lean and not fall?" Tracy laughs. It takes mathematics to run a bakery, a cup of this and a tablespoon of that, but vision is what makes even a common baker interesting. This cake is not something I could whip up in my kitchen with olive oil and a box; it is art. Even vanilla takes shape in zebra stripes, piping or bright color. Every picture and print provokes a sentiment from a buyer. This feeling, a gift bestowed from unordinary talent, is something one could never achieve in a board room.

"The kids' faces when in here and we have it open the box and the perfect," Tracy says. "I Buddy, The Cake Boss. fun."

the parents bring them all in a box, and we kids see it. It's just don't want to be I just want to have



Something Sweet

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By Tiffany Napier

Business Milestones

Bar-B-Q Shack marks 20th year in business

By Richard Brummett

Terry James says there's one way to make certain customers keep coming back. "You just have to have good food ... and we do," said the owner of Paragould's Bar-B-Q Shack, which is celebrating its 20th year in business.



James started off slowly, serving food out of a trailer while also holding down a job hauling mail from Memphis

to New Orleans. His wife, Angela, ran the food business in his absence but after about three months he "built up enough to almost pay the bills and I had to make a decision. I quit my job

from Memphis. His wife, Angela, ran the food business in his absence but after about three months he "built up enough to almost pay the bills and I had to make a decision. I quit my job



Terry and Angela James, center, pose with daughters Brittany Murray and Shawnda James, and Luke Carter.

and went from being open three days a week to five days. I've been doing it ever since."

The restaurant changed locations a few times before settling at 228 E. Kingshighway about eight years ago, featuring excellent BBQ meals -- especially pork steaks -- and catfish plates.

James said it also takes dedication to make it this

long, and thanked his immediate family for their willingness to work in the restaurant, as well as recognizing the influence of in-laws James and Bernice Adams. "James went out and beat on doors to tell people about us," he said. "He helped us a lot."

James is running specials monthly to celebrate the anniversary. Call 870-236-1221 for details. ▶

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Tenneco, Abilities Unlimited partner up

Tenneco's Rancho® brand, a leading brand in the off-road performance suspension market, and the Tenneco plant in Paragould have teamed up to recognize a special group of individuals.

For nearly two years, approximately 12 workers from Abilities Unlimited – a group whose mission is to improve the living and working conditions of people with disabilities – have been part of the workforce that helps with the assembly of the Rancho RS9000XL shock absorber.



Jordan Sisk assembles a part.

As a way of celebrating the successful partnership, representatives from Rancho presented the workers with a banner recognizing their contribution to the success of Rancho shocks. The banner reads: "Thank you for helping make the best off-road shock in America."

"We truly appreciate the efforts of all the members of Abilities Unlimited," said Chris Gauss, national sales manager, Rancho North America. "The task they perform is crucial to our RS9000XL shock absorber. We couldn't make America's best off-road shock without them and we look forward to their valuable contribution for many years to come."

The partnership began in July 2010 when some of the production was moved from Tenneco's plant in Cozad, Neb., to Paragould. The Paragould plant chose to outsource the assembly of one of the components of the Rancho RS9000XL shock absorber, and ultimately found the perfect partner in Abilities Unlimited. The group is now responsible for assembling 4,000 units a week for the plant.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our clientele to experience a real job as others in the community do," said Stephen Posey, consumer service manager for Abilities Unlimited. "We appreciate the opportunity



Tenneco representatives presented a banner to Abilities Unlimited workers in appreciation of their efforts.

that Tenneco has given us and look forward to a long-enduring relationship."

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Business Milestones



The local Southern Bank staff.

Southern Bank marks 125 years in business

Southern Bank marked the 125th anniversary of its founding as a building and loan association earlier this year.

The bank operates 18 branches in Missouri and Arkansas.

Southern Bank employees in Paragould joined customers and Jack FM in fun activities during a remote broadcast from the local site, offering up food and drink as well to celebrate their longevity in the business community. ▶



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GCT music, drama programs losing Danny, Linda Davis to retirement

By Jennifer Thompson

After 36 years in the field, and 25 years of service to the patrons and students of Greene County Tech's music and drama programs, Danny and Linda Davis prepare to leave behind a legacy.

The two have retired and have plans to move to Russellville to be close to Linda's parents. Linda said, they do plan to stay connected to their Paragould family and Danny has said he will be doing some judging and working with the band clinics after his retirement.

At GCT, it all began In 1987, where Eric Williams and Staci Thomas were junior high school students when their band director (Mr. Page) left and the students were devastated at the thought of someone new coming in, but it was inevitable. The music and arts departments haven't been the same since. Mr. Page's replacement came in the form of Danny and Linda Davis, he as the band / music director, and she as director of the theater department, auxiliaries and English teacher. The students didn't know what to expect ... but they found out, and learned quickly precisely what was expected of them.

Staci said with a laugh, "With the Davises we were always fearful of what they would want us to do next. But it was always so much fun! We were a bigger band back then, but still did it all. They did all of the plays, all of the shows, all of the contests ... we did the biggest and the best we could do. He made sure that we were challenged for years. Mr. Davis said that we were 'The Pride of Greene County' when he came here, and I think that, because of the work the Davises did, and because of their high expectations, that band will always be the 'Pride of Greene County.'"

Staci remembered in 1989 the band took its very first "real" trip to Orlando, Fla., to perform at Disney World. She still has the group photo from the trip with the Davises' two small children front and center, as they always were. Danny remembered, saying his son Daniel would have been about six at the time. He is now a medic in the U.S. Army and will soon be moving back to the United States. He is married, and he and his wife have one daughter, Kara Reynolds, the Davises' eldest



Linda and Danny Davis said goodbye to Greene County Tech recently.

child, was also just a youngster when the photo was taken. She currently resides in Cabot, where she is a band director and has three children.

The Florida trip is a tradition the Davises and the GCT band program have kept going, making the trek every four years. When asked what prompted him to continue to take more than 100 teenagers nearly a 1,000 miles from home, Danny said, "The school where I taught in Alabama made that trip every two years. We saw that this turned out to be a good thing and it was something we wanted to do. Education does not just take place in the classroom. We wanted to provide these students with as many opportunities as we could possibly provide. It's amazing what can happen when you do that. A large number of these students would have never gotten an opportunity to do anything like that if they hadn't gotten to do it with the band program. Plus, it's a really good bonding experience."

Now, 25 years later, Staci and Eric have been married for almost 20 years and their daughter Tiffany, also a GCT band member, graduated on May 18th. When Tiffany performed for the last time with her high school band at graduation, she also participated in the Davises' very final performance. With their letters of resignation already turned in, the

process had begun for their retirement from the school district.

Staci recalled that during the first year they were at the school, Danny requested the attention of all band members after a performance to inform them that one of their fellow classmates had passed away. She said the couple invited all of their students back to their house to talk about what had happened and to help students deal with the situation.

In an unfortunate turn of events, Tiffany saw the Davises doing the same thing during her senior year when the news of Tommy Christmas' death came to light. The mother-daughter team recalled together how the Davises have been there for their students no matter the situation. "They have always been there like that for the kids no matter what," Staci said. "They have always pushed for excellence. To be the best you can be, and not just at band, but at school and your education and as a person. Everything isn't always all about band with them ... education and being a good person is just as important."

Staci found it difficult to grasp the reality of the Davises' departure, "It's hard to put into words what they really mean to people in this community. All I can say is, they will be greatly missed in this area."

Tiffany added, "They are at that school 24/7. They are there by 7:15 every morning and five or six at night is about the earliest they ever leave. They are like parents to all of us."

Eric, Staci and Tiffany aren't the only family group whose lives have been impacted by them. The two have had many of their students graduate from the program to go on to marry and create new band members, an interesting and humbling experience. "It's really neat (having two band students' daughter in band). It's awesome, really. Tiffany is so much like her father, but still so different. They have done an excellent job raising her. I would notice her stand a certain way that would remind me of one of her parents. Eric was such a determined, intellectual individual. Not loud ... Tiffany is just like him," Danny said.

When asked what the response to their retirement announcement has been they 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 heart-breaking ... to be honest."

Danny said during the final band banquet he thought was doing a pretty decent job keeping things together ... until it came time to dismiss his band for the last time. "I had to stay focused," he said. "I had to keep thinking about other things. And then I called them to attention to dismiss them and began going through our routine and I realized ... I choked just at the thought.

"The potential of those who are going to be left to carry on this band is tremendous, but they need new blood. I've been fighting the necessary fights for the last 25 years and I can't fight those same fights any more," Danny said. "They need someone in here who is excited about fighting these fights for them."

Former and current students say the pair is driven and passionate about what they have been doing for the past 36 years. Danny said that comes 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 Davises said the one and only thing they hope their students remember most about them is they truly, genuinely cared about each 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.

"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!" ▶

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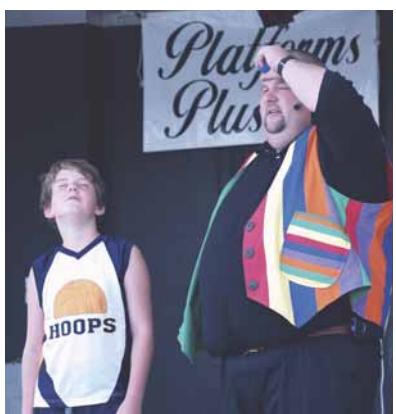
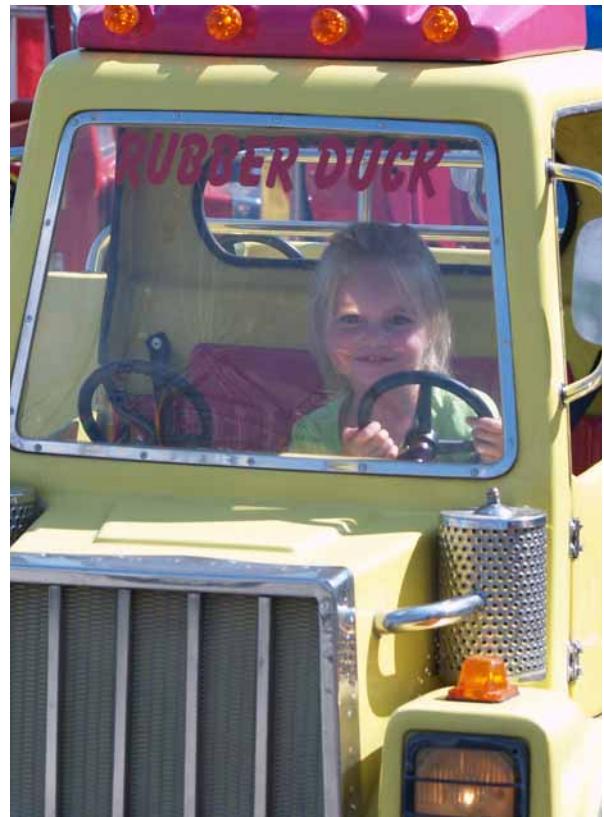
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LOOSE CABOOSE: Fun for kids



Whether riding rides, going to the petting zoo or interacting with grownups like Trick-E the Magician or the Kinders and their Kindersongs routine (opposite page), the Loose Caboose provided plenty to entertain young and old alike.

While the young ones played, adults could let out a good laugh thanks to comedian Paul Harris and the Cleverlys (below right), enjoy arts, crafts and food, or sit back and listen to the music of featured act James Wesley, right.

LOOSE CABOOSE: Fun for adults





Audra King encourages one of the athletes to finish his race on the track at PHS.

Lots of us could take lessons from Special Olympians

Sometimes it's difficult for us to admit when we're wrong. We often think we know more than we do, or think *our* way has to be the right way.

Those of us who have spent lifetimes in pursuit of some sort of victory via our athletic endeavors many times become overly competitive and consider victory the only suitable reward for our efforts. Anything less, something like second place, or, even worse, not placing at all, constitutes failure.

It wouldn't hurt us to step back and observe the athletes competing in the Special

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



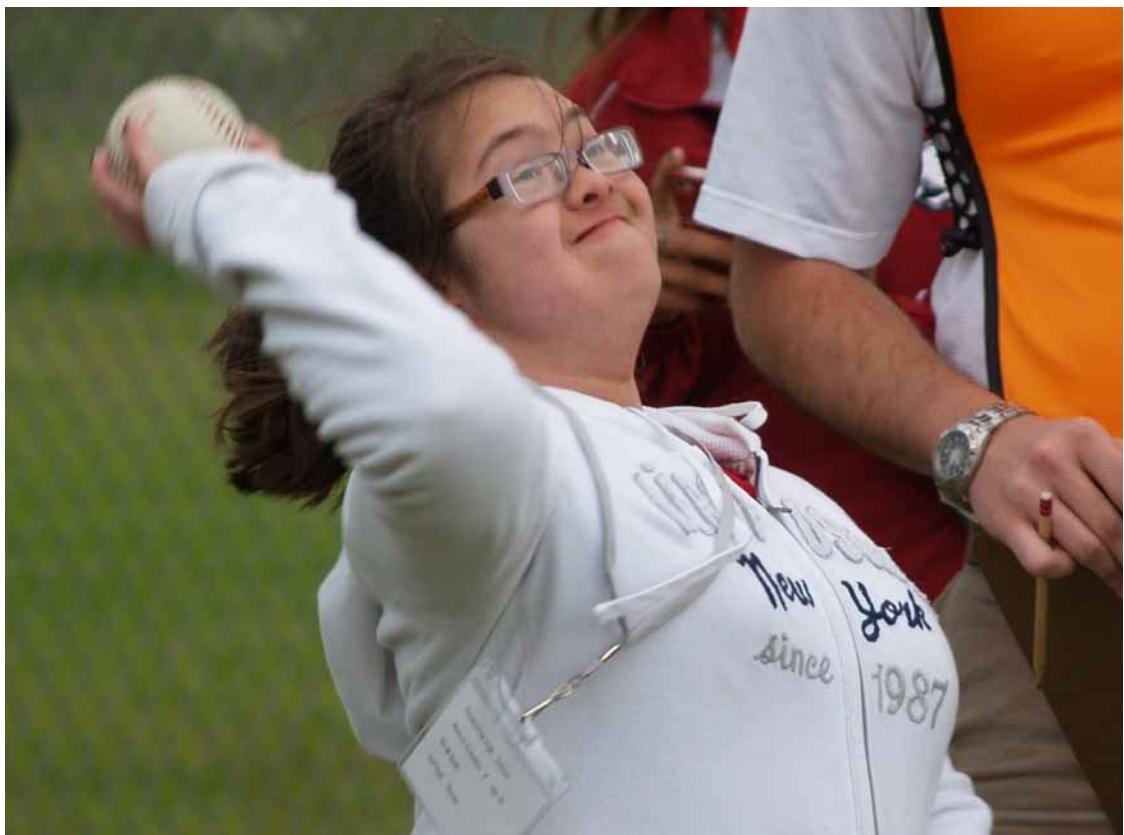
Olympics, and maybe then we could put all these games we play into proper perspective.

The Special Olympians of Area 1 showed up at Paragould High School in May to display their track and field abilities. Mostly, however, they showed up because they were excited just to get to perform, simply to be participants

and to revel in the act of doing something they enjoy.

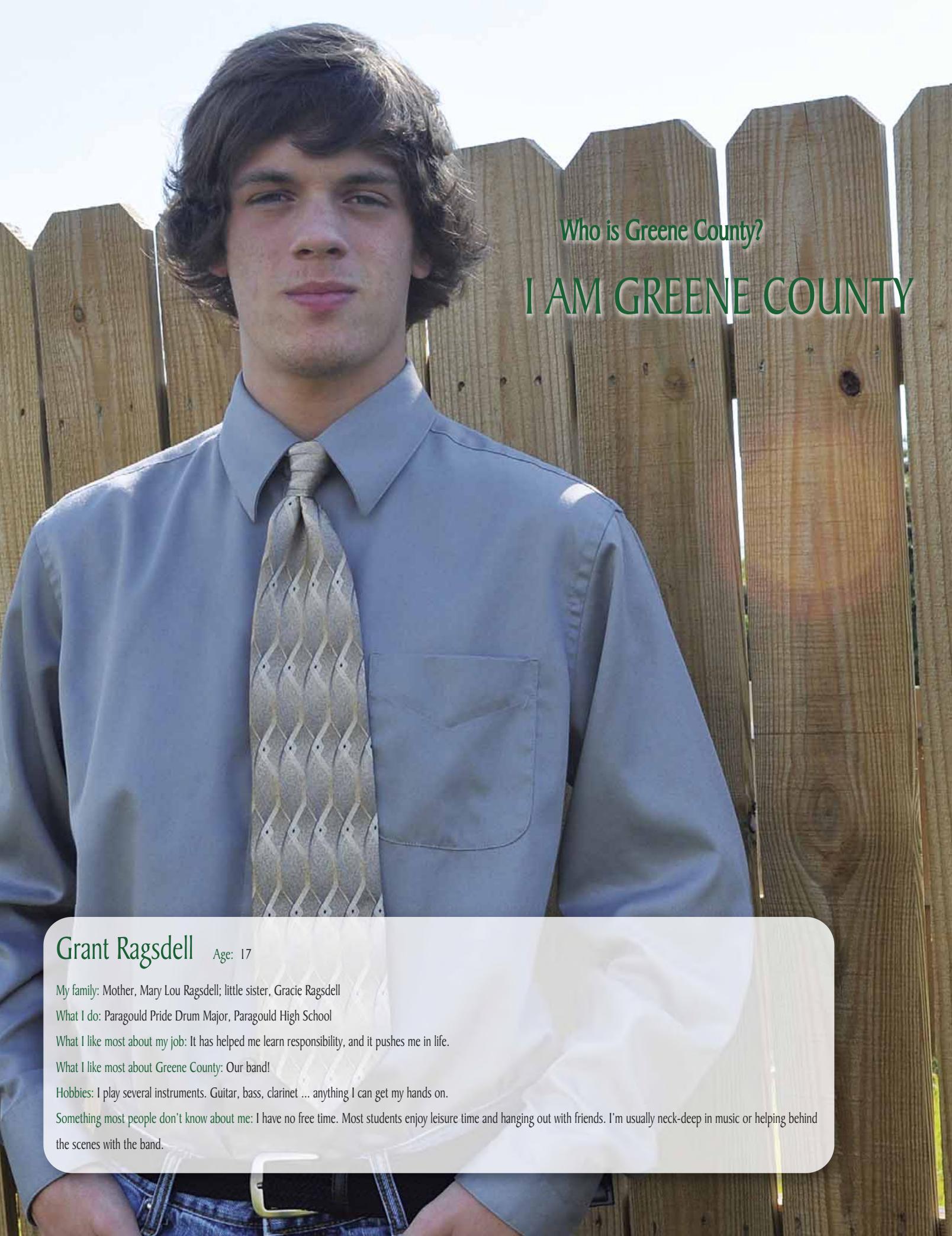
They didn't have to cross the finish line first or throw a ball the longest distance to feel they had accomplished something; they were thrilled to be in the arena for those few moments of running and jumping and getting high fives simply for the effort.

They're satisfied just to play, which is an approach we all need to consider. They are considered "special" because of their special needs. Maybe they're special because they are the ones who get this competition thing right.



Athletes entered in the Special Olympics events gave it their all, from the softball throw, at left, to running events, below. Volunteer workers not only cheered the participants on as they neared the finish line, they often accompanied runners down the track. This was the first year for Paragould High School to host the event at its state of the art facility. The Special Olympics competition is divided into 17 areas in the state of Arkansas. Area I includes Greene, Clay, Fulton, Lawrence, Randolph and Sharp counties.





Who is Greene County?

I AM GREENE COUNTY

Grant Ragsdell Age: 17

My family: Mother, Mary Lou Ragsdell; little sister, Gracie Ragsdell

What I do: Paragould Pride Drum Major, Paragould High School

What I like most about my job: It has helped me learn responsibility, and it pushes me in life.

What I like most about Greene County: Our band!

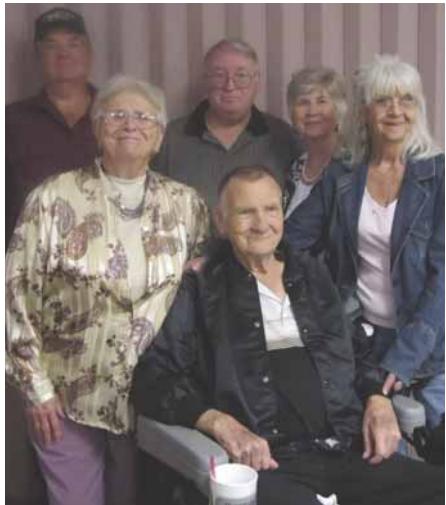
Hobbies: I play several instruments. Guitar, bass, clarinet ... anything I can get my hands on.

Something most people don't know about me: I have no free time. Most students enjoy leisure time and hanging out with friends. I'm usually neck-deep in music or helping behind the scenes with the band.

50th Anniversary

Karry and Flossie Breckenridge celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April, sharing the day with family and friends.

The activities took place at the Paragould Community Center. ♦



Front: Bonnie Gatlin, Loran Breckenridge and Rosemary Hankins; back, Larry Breckenridge, Reda East and Excell Breckenridge



Above, Samantha, Matt and Jaxson Drew; Flossie Breckenridge; Reda East; Larry Breckenridge; Breanne, Annette and Mica Drew. Below left, Freida Kelly, Villie Rogers and Janice Starling pose with the honored couple; below right, Leah, Spencer and Corey Breckenridge with the honorees.



Karry Davis and Matt Drew



Diann Walker with the Breckenridges.

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Main Street's Art and Stroll considered a huge success

Buyers, sellers and shoppers crowded the streets in May when Main Street Paragould staged its annual Art and Stroll event.

Art and Stroll gives area artists an opportunity to display their works while visitors can purchase art or browse in local shops. There is also lots of food, along with arts and crafts and musical acts to entertain participants. ♦



Plenty of people strolled, above, during Main Street Paragould's Art and Stroll project. Shoppers walked the sidewalks of Downtown Paragould in search of bargains, left, while artists like Anna Glueck, below left, displayed and sold their work. The Henry Wrinkles Foundation provided a horse for equine art therapy and there were a number of hand-crafted items available as well.



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Photos by Tim Rand Photography

Jimmy Jetton's shop is a tribute to his handiwork.

'It gets your mind off of the world'

By Richard Brummett

Jimmy Jetton's shop is more than a workplace. The 73-year-old Paragould resident said up until recently it was a safe haven of sorts.

"It gets your mind off of the world," he said, recalling that his hobby of hand crafting cherry wood spoons used to allow him to forget about time and place, concentrating for the moment only on producing a perfectly finished product. These days "the old arthritis took over" and hampers his deft touch.

"There's nothing like working with a good piece of cherry wood," he said, "with good smooth grain ... and then it turns out to be something that looks like you hoped for it to look."

The shop itself is full of things that look like they are supposed to. Hundreds of spoons and other utensils hang from the rafters and



Grits are used to work out the smoothness of the wood on the bowls.

pay tribute to the artist. Serving spoons, stirring spoons, straining spoons, combination spoons, pie servers, spatulas ... they all leap into view and vie for visitors' attention. "Oh, it would just be a guess," Jetton said while looking toward the ceiling, "but I'd say I have maybe 400 or so in here. But that's just a guess; I really don't know."

Jetton said he became interested in the craft in 1997 after reading a story about a man who had "started out somewhere and didn't have anything to eat his dinner with. So he got a piece of wood and carved him out a spoon.

"That story intrigued me," he said. "Dad always did a lot of wood working but this is strictly all I ever did. I just went out and bought some wood and started trying."

Jetton takes wood ("Let's say, a 2x6 board," he offered), cuts it down to a usable width and length and then gouges it out.

"You gouge out the bowl, then there's a lot of sanding and polishing," he explained. "It seems like it used to take me about 45 minutes to finish one, depending on how much smoothing out and finishing there was to do. Ash has a real course grain while cherry is real smooth. My first one I made was ash and it's a lot harder to work with. When I was done, I said, 'Boy, I hope I get better than this.' I



Jetton's spoons come in all shapes and sizes.

found out when I went to smoother grained wood it made a difference."

He said he used to work in the shop nightly after his factory job ended for the day and on weekends but rarely makes it to the work bench these days due to the arthritis. In addition, good cherry wood has become harder to find and he was forced to drive to Ash Flat the last time he worked on a project.

"By the time you get out of the shop and pay for gas, you end up spending more than you can expect to get out of it," he said.

Now he just promotes the inventory he has and sells a few here and there.

"I sell a lot just by having people stop by and see what I have," he said. "The majority of the people are more interested around holidays or on special events. A lot of people who buy on the holidays say, 'Aunt so-and-so or Mom sure did like those.' Some in here were made strictly for display; they were never intended for use."

Jetton said anyone interested in purchasing some of his goods "probably ought to call first. We don't get out much, but every now and then we slip off."

The merchandise ranges in price, but most items sell for \$5-10. Jetton can be reached at 870-239-5569.

"It's nice when people say I have a talent," he said. "I just like to work with wood." ♦

Making soap, candles is 'relaxing' to Parker

By Gabriel A. Cook

The plastic box is opened and various aromas fill the room, the most potent smelling of Christmas spice. Jennifer Parker, soapsmith and candlemaker, displays her work in a variety of containers — cans, jars, even flower pots.

"I started with baby food jars," she says. "Jelly jars are good, too. I've never been much of a creative person, but I've found something that is my outlet."

Parker began making soaps and candles two years ago when a cousin from Switzerland sent her some wicks and wax. Dissatisfied with store-bought candles, she tried making them herself, and the hobby grew beyond expectations.

"People who work with my mom buy my soaps," Parker says, "and they have their favorites. I make sure to have the ones they like. As for candles, I actually have so many right now that I sell them in shops around town."

Jennifer, who is married to Doug Parker, has a large family to juggle her creativity around. Her children are Justan, Chloe, Kyle, and Kolton. She also has two step-sons, Deven and Hunter.

"I'd love to sit down with a good book," she says, "but that's not going to happen with a two-year-old running around your feet. But this is something I can do and leave to attend to my family. I have a shed that Doug converted into a fully-functional candle-making shop. I used to work in the house, but it started looking like a craft store. So, I run out there, start a project, and run back and forth between it and my kids."

Parker improved her craft through the Internet, books, and trial and error. "There are all kinds of recipes," she says. "And I'm always looking for containers. I'll find something and think a candle would improve it."

"If there's someone out there who has a special fragrance they can't find," she adds, "chances are — thanks to the Internet — I'll find it. My kids get into poison ivy, so I make



Jennifer Parker, above, has turned a hobby into a creative enterprise. Below are some of the candles and soap products she makes.



soaps with calamine lotion inside. One of my crowd favorites is made with oatmeal. I put Dead Sea mud in some. They say it's very exfoliating."

When asked if she's commissioned for specific perfumes or textures, she replies in the affirmative. "I've had some strange requests, but I've found what I need and taken care of my customers. My main objective is that it smells good and is functional. Me personally, I don't have lots of decorative candles — I make them to burn."

If you are interested in finding out more about Parker's work, you can find her by going to the pages tab on Facebook and typing in Wicks, Wax, and Suds.

"It may sound silly," Jennifer says, "but this is my thing. It's relaxing, it's creative, and each candle or soap is poured with my own hands. I personally believe they're better than store-bought. I hope others think so, too." ♦

Davis refers to boatmaking projects as “strictly hobby”

By Richard Brummett

Larry Davis wanted a canoe and decided he would just build his own. When he learned the glue for project alone would run about \$300, he backed off. However, his family later surprised him when they purchased a canoe for him and his dream had come true.

He thought.

“I have seven kids,” Davis said. “A canoe was not so practical.”

That’s when the Paragould landscaper decided to build a boat. “I got a book and read up,” he said, and now he has finished seven boats of varying shapes and sizes: Fishing boats, sail boats, row boats.

“I guess you would call the first one a dory,” he said, “and after that I just got the bug. So I built another one, then built one for my oldest son, then for another son, then another son. They get boats ... but you’ve gotta move out first. Move out, I’ll give you a boat.”

Davis said he learned a lot through experimentation, including how to take care of the boats once they are done. Having been uneducated as to the finer points of caring for them, he left one of his initial projects out in the weather and the next time he took it out on the water, he got a surprise.

“Well, it got rained in and we had to dry it out,” he recalled, “and when we got on the water, the seams split. One of us was paddling,



Larry Davis made his own sailboat, just one of several projects he has completed. and one was balling.”

He said his work is “strictly hobby. Number seven was much better than number one. I learned from some mistakes. But the sailing offers two things: It’s quiet, and it’s propulsion for free. I kind of like the peace and quiet.” ♦

Local knife maker: Mason is a stickler for perfection

By Richard Brummett

Brandon Mason couldn’t find a hunting knife to suit him, so he just set up shop and made his own.

“That’s just how I’ve always been,” he said. “If it’s not available to me through someone else’s means, I’ll just make it myself.”

Researching knife making on the Internet, Mason quickly picked up on the art and just took it from there. He said he has always been able to picture something in his mind and then see the project through.

“People ask me about limitations,” he said. “I don’t know. You draw me a picture of it on paper and I can make it. It’s all do-able; it’s just finding a way.”

He said for his first knife he ordered the blade from a knife maker’s website, but it was “plain, with no gut hook. I changed the angle of the sweep, added a gut hook, added the handle. It was trial and error. The first one was complicated, but I knew what I wanted.”

Now he says he can turn out a “100 percent custom knife in, oh, about 100 hours. A semi-custom knife, probably 30 hours, my time. Some sheaths might take 15 hours to make, another might take one hour. It all depends on the size and style and components to be used.”

Mason said he takes a blank piece of steel and shapes it to specifications,



Brandon Mason has set up shop at home, where he manufactures hunting knives, left, then begins a process that includes hand sanding, drilling holes for the handle and fitting and refitting until he reaches perfection.

He has given knives to family members and friends but also markets them through his sideline business, Patriot Custom Knife Company. He can be reached at 870-239-1922 for custom builds, restorations and more. ♦

Kingston enjoys bringing landscapes to life on canvas

By Richard Brummett

When Randal Kingston retired from the Department of Workforce Services in March of 2010, he said he went through a "period of adjustment" and was looking for something to occupy his time.

Having been a self-confessed "doodler" all his life -- he had made a habit of sketching out such things as his living quarters while in the military and including them on the back of letters home -- Kingston decided to expand his artistic talents and give painting a try.

"I had seen Bob Ross on TV all through the years and I thought, 'This can't be rocket science,' so I went to Hobby Lobby and they have a whole section of Bob Ross materials," he said, referring to the bushy-haired host of "Joy of Painting" on public television who parlayed the success of his program into an industry of art books and supplies. "I bought the beginner's kit and just went from there."

Working on landscapes found in the guidebook, Kingston said he "started to gradually get better. I got a feel for the technique and was able to mimic some areas of the book better."

He said family members encouraged him by complimenting his work, even though he now doubts their sincerity. "Family would say, 'That's so good' or 'That's so pretty' and that helped me to try harder. I look back at some of the stuff they bragged on today and go, 'What were you looking at?' But it helped."

Once he produced a piece of art he was happy with, he took it to the nursing home where his mother resided "just to kind of decorate her wall. Of course, she liked it; she was proud of her son. But after a short period of time one of the nurses asked me about selling some of my paintings, and I did wind up selling one to an aide there. The first one I sold, I got maybe \$10. I didn't know what to ask ... I didn't know what I was worth. I still don't."

That initial sale led to more purchases by nursing home employees which helped boost Kingston's confidence. Before long, he was giving paintings to former co-workers when they retired ("I don't know if that's what they



Randal Kingston has turned an upstairs room of his home into his painting studio. Below, he points to one of his pieces of art that is a favorite of his wife's.



wanted, but that's what they got"), his wife Donna was displaying his work in her Merle Norman studio in the downtown area, and he was selling some work at the annual Art and Stroll event.

"I'm not in it to make a bunch of money," Kingston said, "and, in fact, what I sell them for just helps me buy some canvas to do some more. There are so many I don't sell that it will

never balance out. A lot of them upstairs will never see the light of day. But the ones I'm proud of, they'll be at Art and Stroll or in Donna's store or on my phone so I can show them off."

Still, he says he is not in it for the money.

"It's just a hobby," he said, "just something to do. If I sell some it helps keep my budget from getting out of whack and if someone says I have something here that they like, that thrills me. I'm no expert. I just paint landscapes that I find pretty."

Kingston said he is willing to try and accommodate customers if they have something they'd like him to duplicate on canvas. He can be reached by emailing randal.kingston62@gmail.com. ♦

Teacher turns hobby into educational experience for younger racers

By Richard Brummett

Jason Murray was looking for a way to make his classes in the Vocational/Ag fields at Greene County Tech more interesting for his students.

"I got into lawn mower racing because I had a small gas engine class," he said, "and I was looking for something for them to do besides just redoing motors. I saw an Arkansas Lawn Mower Racing Association race at the county fair and it sparked my interest. I looked at the mowers and said, 'We can do this in class.' It just grew from there. Lots of the kids are racers now."

He is now president of the Arkansas association, and a competitor as well. He said the races promote a family atmosphere and with Fathers Day approaching provide great interaction for fathers and sons. Racers compete not for money but for points in the Arkansas point series "a lot like NASCAR" in hopes of finishing as the leaders in their respective divisions. He said the Greene and Clay County areas have "probably five-six racers each, and Craighead four or five. We're the biggest Arkansas bunch."

"We do a lot of different county fairs and district fairs," he said, "and some pay us to come in and put on a show. But mostly, it's to have fun. Especially with me in education, I'm a firm believer that it keeps kids busy and keeps them out of trouble."



Several area racers, above, attended an event in Oil City, La., late in May. At left, are Cody Loveless and Cody Callantine pictured competing in an earlier race.

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ASSISTED LIVING

Greene County Museum stages Law Day program

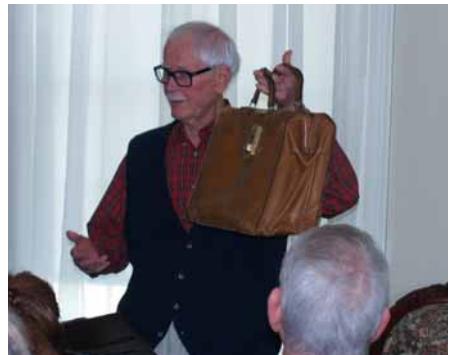
The Greene County Museum hosted a program to celebrate Law Day in May.

Presentations focused on the history of the legal profession locally, with members of the Greene County Bar Association doing the honors.

The museum staff also set up a special display of related items for visitors to enjoy. ♦



State Sen. Robert Thompson, left, and attorney H.T. Moore display a photo composite of the 1925 state senate members, which Thompson donated to the museum. Below left, attorney Robert Branch shared stories from his long career in the legal profession; at right, retired Judge Gerald Brown shows his leather briefcase, which he also donated.



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Happenings!



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

Happenings!

Meet The Coach

1. The Paragould Booster Club hosted a Meet and Greet for Ben Lindsey, right, the new PHS boys basketball coach. Refreshments were served for the community members who dropped by to wish the new coach well. Lindsey is coming to PHS from Clinton High School and has also been employed at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and the University of Missouri.

Preston Recognized

2. Paragould High School sophomore Tate Preston received an honorable mention award in the 2012 Arkansas Game and Fish Duck Stamp Competition. Twelve PHS Art I students had artwork selected to be in the contest, and over 1,500 students from across the state participated. Every student will receive a certificate, and Tate's artwork, along with other winners, will be displayed in the Arkansas Game and Fish office in Little Rock.

Battle of the Books

3, 4. Greene County Tech 4th and 5th grades recently held their last "Battle of the Books" for the year before going to Walnut Ridge Co-op to compete with other schools for additional titles. Fifth graders, from left, are Emma Howell, Gracie Williams, Mackenzie Thomason and Madison Robinson, along with teacher Debi Clark. They won all three nine weeks' competitions. Fourth graders, from left, are Garrett Detlefsen, Brianna Cupp, Claire Busby, Lauren Martin and Jackson Carr, with teacher April Bowen. They also won all three nine weeks. Librarian Lennie Hurst and Gayla Roe accompanied the teachers and students to the Co-op.

FUMC Kids

5. The children's choirs at First United Methodist Church presented a children's play, "Underdogs of the Bible," downtown in Centennial Park in April. The show incorporated songs, a live band, and multi-media presentations. The play featured the preschool and children's choirs, which meet at the church every Wednesday night at 6:00.

Leadership In Action

6. Members of Leadership Paragould Alumni (LPA) cleaned the sidewalk areas near Linwood Cemetery at the intersection of U.S. Highway 49 and 412 during their first-ever "workday" event. Volunteers spent the morning edging sidewalks, sweeping debris, and removing sand in an effort to improve the appearance of Paragould for visitors and residents alike. Sue McGowan, director of economic development and CEO of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, said she appreciates LPA making a commitment to the community. "Projects such as these enhance the appearance of our high traffic areas," McGowan said. "Clean cities attract new businesses and shoppers, thus increasing economic vitality."

UnNamed Servant Performs

7. UnNamed Servant kicked off Serve.Local.Weekend at First United Methodist Church in May. The concert started the weekend, which was focused on serving the local community. The youth had several sessions with the band, who also served as Bible facilitators for the weekend and finished by leading the contemporary worship service at the church. The youth spent Saturday working at Mission Outreach and in private homes doing repair jobs, yard work, painting and other chores.

The advertisement features three Ford vehicles driving on a road through a scenic landscape. The vehicles are a red Focus SE, a silver Fusion Hybrid, and a blue Fiesta SE. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky. The text "40 MPG x 3" is prominently displayed at the top. Below the vehicles, the slogan "GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS" is written in red. The Ford logo is at the bottom center, and contact information for Glen Sain Ford is provided: "1301 Hwy 49 North www.glensain.com Paragould 870-236-8546".

Family's favorite pastime seems to be dealing with sickness, injuries

Some people collect stamps. Others, rare coins. Reading, baking, taking long drives in the country — when it comes to hobbies, the sky's the limit.

As for my family's hobby, we get sick.

As a child, I suffered typical maladies: Chicken pox, measles, croup, double pneumonia, and a variety of lesser afflictions. The minute my parents planned a trip or vacation, I'd contract anything from stomach flu to plague. If, by luck, we made it to our destination without gastrointestinal incident, I would eat something that violently disagreed with me, get stung by a bee, or — at the very least — sunburn to a crisp.

My mother's preferred illness: Respiratory distress. My dad, on the other hand, has produced enough stones to construct either a wall around the home place or a memorial to fallen war heroes.

For allergies, runny noses, sore throats and

What's The Fuss?

By Fuss



general stuffiness, few could match my wife's skill. We've a veritable pharmacy in our bathroom, with enough pills, solutions, salves, unguents, ointments, antibiotics, and tinctures to dose an entire hospital ward.

Even our six-month-old son gets in on the act. The doctor sees him so often I worry he'll someday present us with custody papers.

This hobby also includes the physical. I have gout, weak knees, wonky eyesight and bad nerves. My wife claims scar tissue on her retina, misaligned vertebra, and a twitchy leg. My son hits himself in the head with any object at hand, but I'm told this should eventually stop.

Conversations pertaining to the familial hobby can last hours. The mere mention of a stitch in the side causes an aunt or uncle to retaliate with stories of sciatica or phlebitis. Upon hearing this, a cousin will undoubtedly detail a bout with prostate ulcers, while others in the immediate vicinity tell horror stories about shingles, osteoporosis, and heat stroke. Christmas is a jolly affair with my bunch.

I'm convinced that trophies are awarded to those with numerous afflictions, with the grand prize going to the victim with symptoms of highest rank. I once had a great-uncle claim to have had his head sewn back on after a freak combine accident — I ask you, how can one top that?

There are those who might question such things, but my family is what it is. Now, if you'll excuse me — my throat itches and I feel a headache coming on, so I think I'll lie down.

After all, a fellow should never neglect his hobby. ♦

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Teen still learning to deal with unexpected loss of closest friend

By Hannah Gonzalez

Haley Alyse Darr is 17 years old and a senior at Greene County Tech High School. For a typical teenager, senior year is full of excitement and bliss as graduation approaches.

However, for Haley, things have been different. This past December, the sudden death of Tommy Christmas, a senior at GCT, shocked the community as well as Haley. Tommy was her best friend.

"We were joined at the hip," she said. "Where one was, the other wasn't far away." They grew up together, family at heart, with eight years of dependency on each other.

Haley reminisces about watching their favorite movies and TV shows, shopping, singing, and performing together as just part of who they were. Not only did he make her laugh on a daily basis, but his charismatic personality made her scream, shout, and love life. One of their favorite activities was "driving our parents insane" noted Haley, who said they would laugh, fight and then laugh again, just like any brother and sister would do.

Her favorite memory of Tommy was spending Thanksgivings together: "The night before, he would spend the night to help me and my mom cook. On Thanksgiving morning, Mom would make cinnamon rolls and we would watch the Macy's Day parade curled up on the couch. We would usually go visit my Grandma Carson and then come back for more food. He'd normally stay the night again so we could go shopping on Black Friday." The good memories are endless. Haley said it would take a novel "the size of Gone With The Wind" to sum up the grand memories they made together.

Dealing with his sudden death took a toll on her. Haley has good and bad days, but he is never far from her thoughts. She said, "Sometimes I still pick up the phone to call him and will dial four digits before I realize what I am doing, and put the phone down." She has done a lot to memorialize him, including a tattoo of his name on her foot. Helping Tommy's mother, Stacy, put together a lantern ceremony and performing in the Make A Wish Benefit at the Collins Theatre in his name was a privilege. She said she was



Haley Darr and Tommy Christmas

"lucky" to have been able to perform with Tommy's little brother, Trey, in one of the songs. She is still extremely close to Tommy's

family. "I love them dearly and always will. I feel so lucky to have them," she said.

When asked how she has dealt with losing her best friend she simply says, "I take it day by day." She offers advice to anyone else who is grieving to have bad days, but not to let them take over your life and to live the life your loved one isn't able to. Tommy's step-mother, Mary Ann, told Haley, "You can go through tough times one of two ways: By yourself, or with God, and going through it with God is a lot easier."

"I live by that quote," Haley stated.

Dealing with her grief makes her a stronger person, but it also gives her an opportunity to keep her friend's memory alive. Through her experiences she reaches out to others who are going through the same thing. She plans on attending The University of Alabama this fall to obtain her BSN, specializing in oncology. "After college, I'm hoping to have the opportunity to work at Saint Jude's Children's Hospital," she said. ♦

Work up a sweat.

B.E.E.S. make trip to Savannah

The B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens recently traveled to Savannah, Ga., Jekyll Island and Beaufort, South Carolina in April. Forty-eight group members also enjoyed touring St. Simons Island and the Parris Island Marine Base. They had a wonderful trip and hope readers enjoy some of their pictures.

Anyone interested in learning about their future trips may call 870-239-4093. The B.E.E.S. are currently planning a fall trip to Mackinac Island in September. ♦



Louise Moore, Sammie Burton and Lynda Dickinson



Several B.E.E.S. members pose for the camera.



The group prepares to depart for one of the tours, above, while below from left, Carol and Joe Fleszar, Tommy and Martha Jumper and Betty Presson and Cathryn Yates take in some of the sights.



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Rex Bouldin: His love and spirit will live on

Rex Alan Bouldin: father, husband, brother, and friend. The list goes on with the titles he carried. On September 12, 1951, Rex was born and began a life that 60 years later, people would call inspirational. His sudden passing on April 17th, 2012, sank the hearts of many in his community as well as his beloved family.

There wasn't much he didn't do, spending many years in the Rotary Club of Paragould, National Association of Homebuilders, and Knights of Columbus. He sat on the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Foundation Board and the Collins Theatre Foundation board. He was a proud member of the Arkansas State University Alumni Association.

Rex loved to hunt and sail. His boat was his baby; he named it Jenny after his adoring wife of 40 years, Jennifer. He was never ashamed to say that Jennifer was his rock, his inspiration, and his best friend. Together they had three beautiful children who are now following in their father's footsteps.

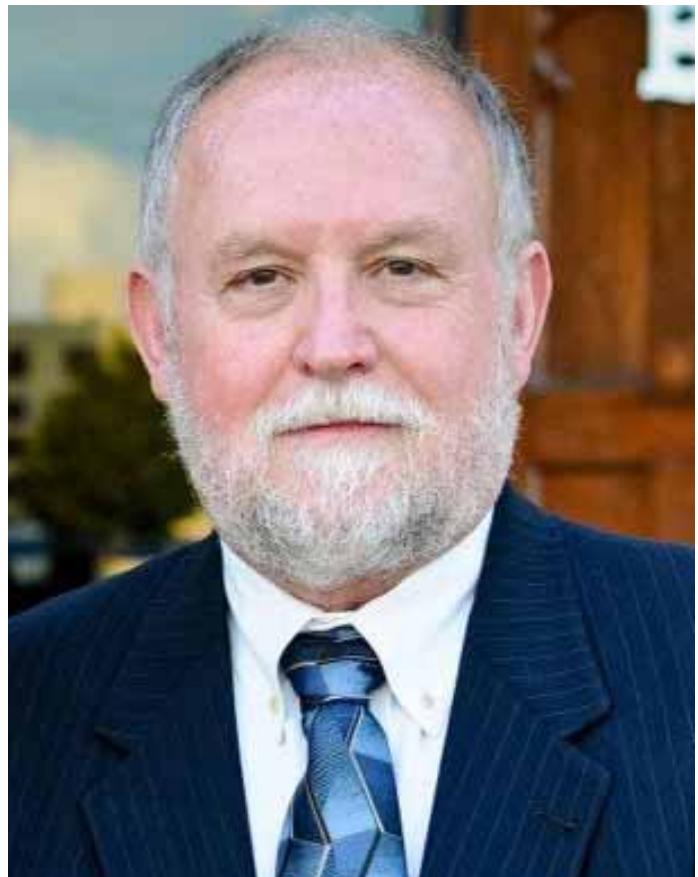
He was a proud father who became involved in all aspects of their lives. When his boys were young, they needed a coach for their football team, so Rex stepped in. He soon was involved in Paragould Youth Baseball and became the announcer for Greene County Tech High School football games. He was there every step of the way for their journey into adulthood. Joy overcame Rex when he became a grandpa. Friends of his note that his grandson, Seth, was the apple of his eye. Sadly, Rex will not get the chance to meet his second grandchild, who is expected later this year, but we all know that he will be there in spirit to welcome the new baby Bouldin into this world.

He was the deacon at Saint Mary's Church in Paragould as well as at Saint Joseph the Worker in Corning, Saint John the Baptist in Engelberg, and Saint Paul in Pocahontas. His devotion to God prevailed as he volunteered his time to these church families. To say the least, Rex was well-known, well-loved, and now immensely missed.

If you ask someone who knew Rex what he was like, the answer

Through the ups and downs, Rex walked people through the good and the bad, always with a smile on his face. He meant what he said, and he said it often: that he was appreciative of every day he was blessed with.

would be "joyful". He had the drive and passion for life that others so desperately strive for. He loved his family, his church, and he loved his friends. Rex devoted his life to becoming the person he preached about. He stood at the pulpit in front of his parish families for years, expressing his love for God, teaching through his own life experiences. Through the ups and downs, Rex walked people through the good and the bad, always with a smile on his face. He meant what he said, and he said it often: that he was appreciative of every day he was blessed with. I remember hearing him say, "Thank you God. With all my heart, I thank you." You could tell by the look in his eyes and the devotion



Rex Bouldin

and humility in his voice that he did mean it, with all his heart.

Rex also had a wonderful connection with children. He made an extra effort to welcome each child he knew with open arms. Giving knuckles and playing peek-a-boo with him are memories that so many kids will always have.

At his passing, his family made sure that his legacy would live on. Rex was an organ and tissue donor. His generous contributions will be able to help up to 50 recipients. It's

just another testimony to his faithful and giving character. His family now wears green bracelets and pins that read "Donate Life" in his honor."

His joyful smile and contagious laugh are things that will never fade from our memories. His enduring love and adventurous spirit will live on in all aspects of our lives. His friends, family and co-workers will carry on and hopefully pay forward the inspiration he left behind.'

"A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands laid to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best." ♦

Chamber of Commerce stages Job Fair in Paragould

The Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Workforce Services held a Job Fair to match qualified job seekers with prospective employers in May.

Summer, part-time and full-time jobs were available for those willing to make the trip to the Community Center and check into positions needing to be filled. ♦



Prospective workers invaded the Community Center in hopes of finding jobs.



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Fireworks in Paragould still a possibility for holiday

We hope.

The Paragould Jaycees are hoping to pull together a firework show and celebrate this Independence Day at home. Bryan Privett, Paragould Jaycees President, started gathering sponsorships recently and hopes to raise enough funds by June 8th to make the show happen this year.

"First National Bank has pledged to be our Diamond sponsor, which really boosted our efforts" said Bryan. "The local McDonald's Corporation pledged at the Platinum level, but we need to hit a certain mark to make the show so Eve Higdon, April Oakes and Kylie Allen have really stepped up to help me get this going."

The Jaycees contacted MOR MEDIA, Inc. about getting a show started again in Paragould and found out they are willing to do all the publicity and guide the club through the process of setting up a show. The local radio station has organized the fireworks shows in the past but had to stop due to staff and sponsorship declines.

"We looked for volunteer organizations to help us out so we would not have to stop having a local show but it did not work out," said Brian Osborn. "We love to do it but we just did not have enough staff, plus soliciting our advertisers for fireworks money started affecting their advertising budget in this economy and we just could not continue."

The late start in planning did not allow the show to get scheduled on the 4th so it will be held on July 3rd. "I think it will work out great since the holiday falls on a Wednesday. You get off work on Tuesday and go to the show at dark, you're off Wednesday and don't have to stay up late to go to the show that night and get up and back to work on Thursday," said Privett.

If you or your business or organization would like to sponsor the show, call Bryan Privett at 870-761-7748 or talk to any Paragould Jaycees member.

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\$50,000 Energy Efficient Makeover contest begins

Little Rock — The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas will sponsor the fifth \$50,000 Energy Efficiency Home Makeover Contest for electric cooperative members. The program began in 2007.

"The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas are committed to helping our members manage energy consumption," said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. "Our goal is to educate members about energy efficiency components and measures that can help them save energy, live comfortably and reduce their electricity bills."

To enter, contestants must complete an entry form, answer questions about their residence, submit a photograph of their home and be a cooperative member in good standing. In addition to the grand prizewinner, 16 runners-up receive the only Energy Star approved electric water heater, the GE GeoSpring Hybrid Electric Water Heater.

The deadline for entries is July 15. Entrants must reside in Arkansas, be a member of a participating Arkansas electric cooperative and own and occupy an all-electric home.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas sponsor the \$50,000 Energy Efficiency Home Makeover Contest to educate electric cooperative members and the general public about how investing in proven energy efficiency building science will reap long-term dividends like lower utility bills, improved home comfort and conservation without sacrificing modern conveniences.

Over the next few weeks Makeover 2012, will be promoted via television, radio, newspapers, social media and Arkansas Living in an effort to reach the cooperatives' nearly 500,000 members. Applications can be obtained at <http://www.smartenergytips.org> or by visiting a local electric cooperative office.

For additional information, contact:

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The 107.1 Jack FM crew was very visible at this year's Loose Caboose Festival in Downtown Paragould. The Jackwagon was parked at the radio station booth adjacent to the Main Street Paragould caboose, where staffers like Megan Koller and Dina Mason, Gabe Cook and Leisa Rae, all below, greeted visitors and helped them sign up for giveaways. Brian Osborn, right, introduced musical acts like the Cleverlys on opening night and featured entertainer James Wesley Saturday evening.



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Premiere Magazine writers: Journalists with varying interests

Hannah Gonzalez is more than just 'The Yankee'

I am originally from Holland, Mich. Most people down here just call me The Yankee, and even though I'm proud to be one, I have really grown to love Paragould. It has been my home for a little over six years now. I couldn't ask for a better place to raise my three young children, Alex, Sophia, and Ava.

I started writing when I was very young. Being the second oldest of five children, I had a lot of responsibilities and writing was my outlet. I can't remember a time when I wasn't writing in journals or working on poems and short stories. I used to write plays for my family and force my younger siblings to perform them for me. I'm sure my recollection of those days is much fonder than theirs. Either way, writing has always been something I love. It was just a hobby until I started working at Flower Shop Network, where I wrote content for a few of their websites. It introduced me to a whole new way of writing and since then it's become not only a passion, but a career.

Writing for Premiere has been a wonderful experience; meeting so many new people and learning about Paragould's heritage is very



Hannah Gonzalez and her children

exciting for me. I also write for a weekly newspaper out of Little Rock which gives me even more opportunities to venture out and discover the beauty of Arkansas.

My family is my life. Everything I do and everything I am revolves around my children and my incredibly loving husband, Jose. I home school all three of my kids and teach

preschool PRE at St. Mary's Catholic Church. I love being involved in my kids' lives, making sure that no matter what they are going through or where they are, I am right next to them cheering them on.

There is an adventurous side of me that doesn't come out too often but every now and then it makes its appearance. I used to have dreams of becoming a police officer. I went through the police academy and realized it wasn't for me when I discovered I was terrified to hold a gun. Go figure. Bungee jumping, sky diving and entertaining were all parts of my past. My father was and still is an amazing singer and dancer. My siblings and I all loved to sing and dance alongside him and he made a good living doing it. My mother worked backstage as a very involved stage mom. She would kill me if I called her that, but that's what she was; an amazingly cool stage mom on top of everything else she juggled with her career as a grant writer and event planner.

So the next time you see me, don't be surprised if I have three little monsters pulling on my shirt, dumping out my bags or singing and dancing in an odd manner as we walk down the sidewalk because my life is crazy hectic ... but that is just the way I like it. ♦

Jennifer Thompson traces writing roots to newspaper field



Jennifer Thompson

I am a lifelong resident of Paragould, daughter of Curtis and Karen Berry, and a graduate of Greene County Tech High School.

I am currently in the process of returning to Arkansas State University where I had previously studied photojournalism. I am happily married to my husband, Rodney, who is a graphic designer.

I am also a very proud mother of two wonderful children: daughter, Kayli, and son, Ashton.

I began my career in journalism at the *Paragould Daily Press*. I had never written for a publication before, but had taken photography classes at ASU and knew I was interested in journalism. Richard

Brummett gave me my first real job, and my first real journalism job all in one fell swoop.

I was hooked. I was at the *Daily Press* for a number of years, where I covered education and business before moving on to the assistant editor position and eventually interim editor, all the while continuing to cover education in Greene County.

Following my position at the paper, I began as editor for a business-themed publication in Jonesboro which ceased publication.

I am currently doing freelance writing and photography, and working to further my education in the journalism field, though with a slightly different major this time. ♦



Tiffany Napier

Tiffany Napier: Journalism is in my blood

Journalism is in my blood. My grandfather, although I was too young to know him before his death, was a radio host. I took this information and ran with it.

I can't remember a time from my childhood that I didn't want to be a news anchor. From an early age, I repeated Paula Zahn's every word, replicating her news voice. Like Zahn, I was a small town pageant enthusiast who used my winnings to attend a private university. I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., where I interned for Channel 4 and Fox-17 News.

I interviewed a string of country stars

including Keith Urban and Kenny Chesney, along with Poet Maya Angelou and Actress Minnie Driver.

After returning home, I worked as a reporter for KAIT-8 in Jonesboro and was quickly promoted to anchor for KAIT-8 Nightbeat. I proudly anchored our local news for three years alongside Craig Rickert. After leaving KAIT, I met my husband, Tim, and gave birth to two wonderful boys, Reece and Canon. I parlayed my hobby and love for a design into a career. My husband and I are small business owners. We are currently building our first year round store, LIV Home & Holiday in Paragould. ♦

Gabe Cook embraces creative writing

Creativity guides my life. In kindergarten, I folded sheets of paper, inserted them within each other, and wrote/drew "picture books." While my math capabilities lagged, my love of English class intensified. I became obsessed with words. Instead of comic books, I read dictionaries. When others in class groaned at creative writing assignments, I secretly jumped for joy.

I wrote my first full-length book in seventh grade, and my first play my junior year. By graduation, I had co-authored/composed an original musical. That show, "AFC," debuted in 1996 — the first of my dozen theatrical pieces to see production.

I am happiest when in my home office, beetling away at the current project. My wife has to coax me out for fresh air and family time. I write six hours a day, every day — Sunday, Christmas, and even when ill. Indeed, I've found no medicine as healing as the written word.

If you see me during a rare trip out, and I have a far-off expression on my face, it's not sleep deprivation ... I'm writing (or composing music). My jumbled brain records it all, whether I'm at my desk or not.

There is no finer (or harder) pursuit than writing. And when payment is rendered for your efforts — well, that's fine, too. ♦



Gabriel Cook

Writing was Plan B for Premiere editor

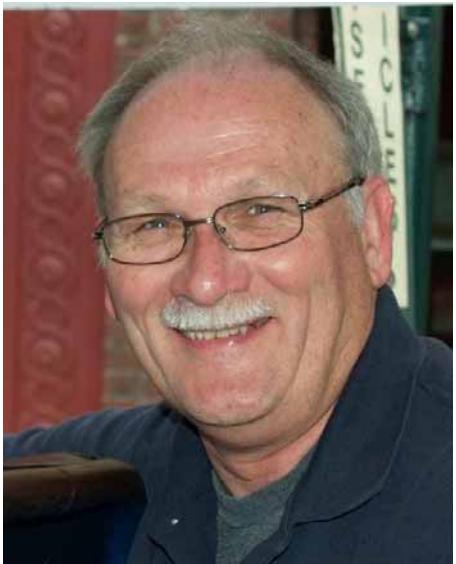
My mother always said to have a backup plan, so while I gave becoming a professional baseball player my best shot, I also kept the possibility that it might not happen in mind.

I decided early on that if I couldn't play the game for a living I wanted to write about it. Mom had gotten me a subscription to *Sport Magazine* when I was 10 and I read every baseball and basketball story word for word. In doing so, I felt confident I knew what a good sports story sounded like and when the editor of the *Paragould Daily Press* asked me if

I knew of someone who could write sports, I answered in the affirmative. George Smith gave me my first shot by sending me out to cover a basketball game on a trial basis, read my work and hired me on the spot. That was in November of 1974 and I spent the next 27 years in the newspaper business, working my way from sports writer, to sports editor, to editor.

I've tried more than once to get out of the business but I love writing, photography and design. I keep coming back to the field I feel I was cut out for, since the baseball field didn't pan out.

I have been married to my wife Cindy for 39 years and we have two married daughters, Kelly Clayton and Lindsay Rippy. ♦



Richard Brummett

Realtor Awards



Three area real estate salespeople were recognized recently for outstanding accomplishments. At left, Brooksie Harness principal broker for Image Realty, and Jeff Carter, principal broker at Jeff Carter Real Estate Services, both received Diamond Awards for topping \$7 million in volume sales. At right, Jasa Hollis, principal broker for United Country Rector Real Estate, took home a Silver Award for more than \$2 million volume sales.



Correction

In the May issue of Premiere Magazine, the phone number for Life Strategies Counseling, Inc. was confused with that of another mental health provider.

The information regarding LSCI in the story about Mental Health Month was correct, but the telephone number was incorrectly presented.

The Paragould Life Strategies Counseling, Inc. office can be reached by phone at (870)236-5880.

We regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience. ♦

An advertisement for IMAGE Realty. The top half has a blue background with the company name "IMAGE Realty" in large white letters. Below the name are smaller text elements: "1715 LINWOOD DR.", a small house icon, and the "REALTOR" logo. The bottom half has a grey background with the phone number "870-236-2121", the address "1715 Linwood Drive", and the website "www.myimagerealty.com". To the right of the advertisement is a photograph of a golf course with trees and a lake in the background.





A green banner with white text and graphics. The top half features the text "NEA SOLID WASTE" in large bold letters, followed by "Recycle Electronics For Free!" in a smaller font. The bottom left contains the words "REUSE", "REDUCE", and "RECYCLE" vertically next to a recycling symbol. To the right are images of a computer monitor, a printer, and a mobile phone.



Birth annoucement



Carli Michelle Stonecipher

Missy White and Timmy Stonecipher announce the birth of their daughter, Carli Michelle Stonecipher.

Carli weighed 7 pounds and 8 ounces and was 18 1/4 inches long. She was born April 22, 2012 at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Grandparents are Jim and Vickie White, Penny French, Floyd and Laura Stonecipher and Betty Lou Pittman.

Great-grandparents are Ann and Sterling White and James White. Great-great-grandmother is Lena Thompson. ♦



Daniel Vaughn and Jill Dunnam

Jill Dunnam and Daniel Vaughn will be married on July 7, 2012.

Jill, of Paragould, is the granddaughter of Jimmy and Kay Cofflet.

Daniel is the son of James and Renee Vaughn, also of Paragould.

The ceremony will take place at the Stanford Baptist Church. ♦



Brittany Presson and Jeremy Edgar

Brittany Presson and Jeremy Edgar will exchange wedding vows June 23, 2012.

Brittany is the daughter of Joe and Carol Fleszar and Ashley and Teresa Presson, all of Paragould.

Jeremy is the son of Nathan and Lea Edgar of Lafe.

The ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. at New Haven Baptist Church in Paragould. ♦

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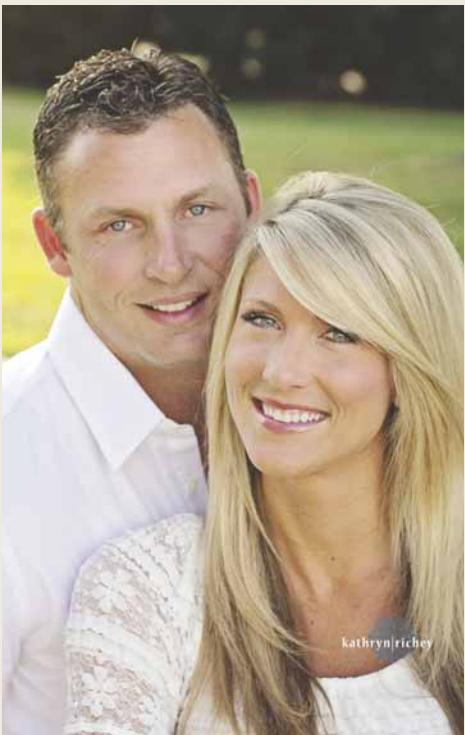
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219 West Main Street

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OPTOMETRIST



Engagement Announcements



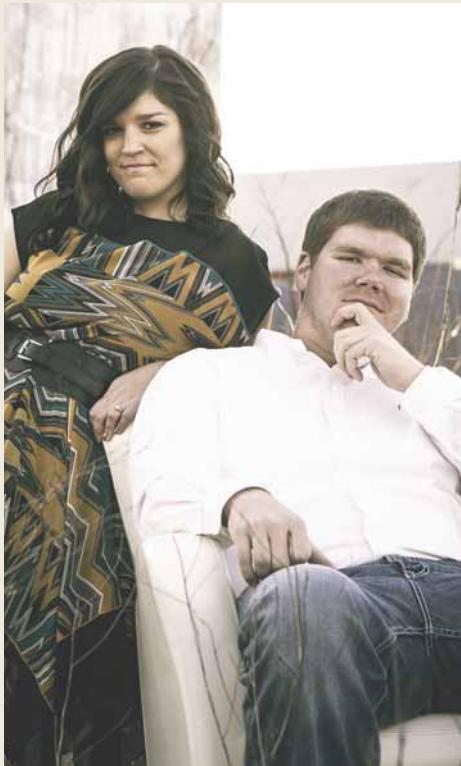
Brian Joe Haynes and Jana Dawn Kersey

Jana Dawn Kersey and Brian Joe Haynes announced their plans to be married in June.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Janet and Elvis Poe and the late Gary Kersey, all of Paragould.

The prospective groom is the son of Debbie and Jimmy Brewer and Bill and Reba Haynes of Trumann.

The wedding will take place June 30, at Browns Chapel Baptist Church. ♦



Abby Ann Jetton and Hunter Ross Finley

Abby Ann Jetton and Hunter Ross Finley announce their plans to be married on Saturday, July 21.

Abby is the daughter of Kendall and Sandy Jetton of Paragould.

Hunter's parents are Jerry and Debbie Finley of Jonesboro.

The wedding will take place at 6 p.m. at the Southwest Church of Christ in Jonesboro. ♦



Emily Lauren Edwards and Jonathan Caleb McCaslin

Emily Lauren Edwards and Jonathan Caleb McCaslin have announced plans to be married in July.

Emily is the daughter of Jerry and Anne Edwards of Paragould.

The groom's parents are Randy and Sherry McCaslin of Clinton.

The wedding will take place Saturday, July 28, at 6 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock.

A reception will follow at the Peabody Hotel Grand Ballroom. ♦

Helen Marie's Perfect Touch

314 West Garland in Paragould
M-F 9:30-5, Sat 9:30-3

Our Bridal...

Sarah Moore & Perry Mason	May 26
Sydney Foreman & Michael Miller	June 2
Georgeanne Carpenter & Carter Ford	June 9
Hanna Turner & Lucas Hickman	June 9
Brittany Presson & Jeremy Edgar	June 23
Hannah Dixon & Josh Watson	June 30
Crystal Richards & Jeremy Sullivan	June 30
Abby Jetton & Hunter Finley	July 21
Lauren Wiseman & Blake Schrepter	July 21
Mackenzie Thompson & Luke Foster	July 28
Lauren Edwards & Caleb McCaslin	July 28
Catherine Davis & Lance Bradley	August 4
Megan Carlile & Dustin Dancer	August 11
Meredith Smith & Zack McMillon	August 25
Hannah Parsley & Dustin Rudi	August 25
Sonni Black & Matt Tripod	September 18
Ashley Timmons & CJ Smith	October 20
Breanne Reddick & Dex Gardner	December 15

Free Gift Wrapping Available

To have your engagement announcement included in Paragould Premiere Magazine, email information and photo to:
editor@paragouldpremiere.com

Outstanding Teachers



Jerry Dickson
Oak Grove Middle School

formerly Dr. Pepper/7Up Bottling Company, I felt led to teach. I really wanted to share my excitement and enthusiasm for math and science with others. Soon after I became determined to teach, I started taking night classes, while working at Dr. Pepper/7Up Bottling Company, to obtain some of the basic college credits I needed. When I ran out of classes that were offered at night, I quit my job and took courses during the day. The rest is history.

What do you enjoy most about it?

Teaching is not an easy occupation. There are times when I feel pulled in too many directions. What makes it all worth it is when I see students that are struggling suddenly "get it". Helping students really understand concepts is the most rewarding part of teaching for me. I also like it when a parent or student shows appreciation by simply telling me that I did a good job or that my class was enjoyable. Furthermore, I enjoy being able to share my knowledge and love for math and science. I try very hard to make my classes as enjoyable as possible for the students. I am well aware

that many students do not enjoy math, so I try to incorporate humor, fun activities and projects to get students interested and excited to learn. I feel great inside when students are learning and having fun at the same time.

How long have you been teaching?

This is my sixth year to teach. I taught 6th grade math, science, and reading at Greene County Tech Intermediate for two years. I have taught 6th grade math for four years at Oak Grove Middle School.

Tell us about your family.

I am married to Lee Ann Dickson, who is also a teacher at Oak Grove Middle School. She teaches 5th grade and enjoys incorporating humor into her class as well. This is her eighth year to teach. We have two children. Blake is the oldest and will be a 4th grader at Oak Grove Elementary next year. He has taken piano for two years and started taking karate this year. He is a very smart and spirited boy. Emily is our youngest and will be attending kindergarten at Oak Grove Elementary next year. She is certainly full of life and is quite a character. She will take gymnastics or dance starting next year. There is never a dull moment at our house! ♦

Kelli Harris
Greene County Tech

Why did you choose teaching?

I was born into a family of educators. My parents raised me to believe that education was the key to the future. I began working at The Learning Center in Jonesboro in the '90s, with children and adults with disabilities and fell in love with teaching. I returned to college and received my Bachelor's degree and I've been a Special Education Resource Teacher since. I taught at a couple of schools in central Arkansas before returning to Northeast Arkansas. I taught at Paragould High School for five years and I've been teaching at Greene County Tech High School for the past two years. My long-term goal is to teach at GCT until I retire.

What do you enjoy most about it?

I love working with young people and knowing that I am a part of their lives and I am helping them learn, grow and develop into productive young adults. I love being a teacher. If I can help just one student achieve, then I feel that I am doing my part to improve our future.



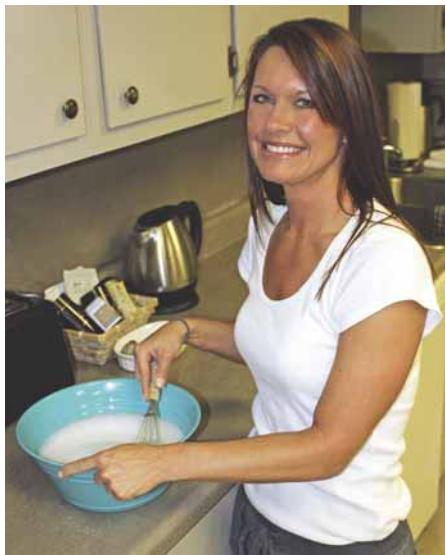
How long have you been teaching?

Twelve years in the public school system with a degree and five years in a private school.

Tell us about your family

I have a daughter and son-in-law, Kendra and Tyler Yeager. I have three precious grandchildren, Graycen 5, Karley 3 1/2 and Karter 5 months. I love spending time with my grandchildren, watching them grow, learn and change every day. ♦

NEA COOKS



Tracy Lynn Bellis

Family: Husband, Scott Bellis and sons, Zakk Frahler, Alec Jackson, and Austin Bellis

From: Paragould

Employer: Flower Shop Network

When did you start cooking? I've been cooking as long as I can remember. I have always enjoyed creating new dishes and unique combinations with food.

Who taught you how to cook? Myself. I just started dabbling and fell in love!

What is your favorite dish to make? Anything with pasta

Who do you like to cook for? My kids. They really love Mom's cooking.

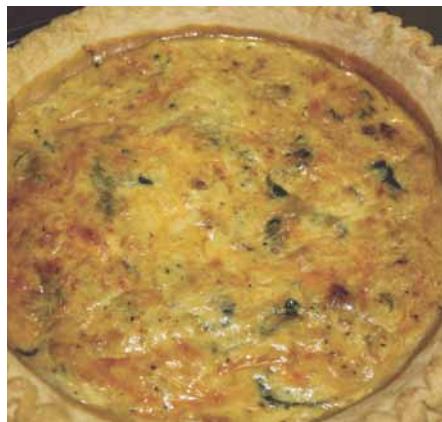
What is one ingredient you can't live without? Garlic.

What was your biggest food disaster? Baking a Thanksgiving Ham. I went to take it out of the oven only to drop it on the floor. At the time, it wasn't very funny, but now I can look back and laugh. What a day!

What is your family's favorite dish? My home made spinach quiche.

What is your favorite cooking memory? Making Christmas bon bons with my boys when they were little. We would talk and talk and talk. I loved to listen to their stories while we were cooking.

What is your cooking philosophy? Don't over salt, you can always add more at the end. ♦



SPINACH QUICHE

2 Deep dish pie shells
7 eggs
1 cup sour cream
1 cup shredded cheese
1 big handful of spinach
Salt and pepper, garlic powder and a dash of red pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped or thinly sliced ham

Mix all ingredients together and pour in pie shells.

Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes.

Top with a little more cheese and a dash of red pepper.

(Makes two quiches)



WHOLE GRAIN SHRIMP PASTA

1 lb. whole grain pasta
1 lb. uncooked shrimp
Marinara or alfredo sauce
3 big handfuls of spinach
1 tsp olive oil
Sea salt and red pepper

Boil 1 pound of whole grain pasta (drain once fully cooked). Cook shrimp in skillet until pink with salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Sauté three big handfuls of spinach and fresh garlic with olive oil. Season with sea salt and red pepper.

Heat and add marinara or alfredo sauce. Layer the pasta with shrimp and spinach and garnish with fresh Parmesan cheese.



GRILLED CHICKEN AND CHERRY TOMATO BOWTIE PASTA

1lb bowtie pasta
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb cherry tomatoes cut in quarters
1lb chicken breast
3 big handfuls of spinach
Alfredo sauce
Olive oil, sea salt, and garlic powder

Boil pasta (drain once fully cooked).

Slice and sauté chicken breast in olive oil,

season with salt and garlic powder.

Heat alfredo sauce.

Once everything is cooked and warm, mix together in large bowl with spinach tomatoes.

Top with Parmesan or feta cheese.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 1

Antique Toy Exhibit, Greene County Museum

First day of the antique toy exhibit by Lisa Wooldridge and others. Museum staff invites anyone to bring antique toys to display. The exhibit will run throughout the month of June. The Greene County Museum is located at 130 South 14th Street, Paragould. Admission is free.

Saturday, June 9th

Garden Tour and Boutique, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Greene County Master Gardeners will host a Garden Tour and Boutique. The Boutique will be located in Centennial Park, on the corner of Prueett and Emerson streets in historic Downtown Paragould, The One and Only. Decorative yard art and garden decor will be available to purchase, as well as a variety of garden plants. Just look for the green canopy. Cost: \$8.00 per person with a special discounted price of \$5.00 for Master Gardeners wearing name tags.

Arkansas Antique Car Club Show, Greene County Museum, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Greene County Museum is located at 130 South 14th Street, Paragould. Admission is free.

Thursday, June 14th

Compassionate Friends Meeting, 7 p.m.

The Compassionate Friends will meet at Southside Community Church Conference Room -- up the hill from the church -- 2211 Jones Road, Paragould. The Compassionate Friends is an international organization for families that have experienced the death of a child. The mission of TCF is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child(ren) of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive. For more info email: tcofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com or 870-476-6025.

Tuesday-Thursday, June 19th-21st

Discovery Day Camp at Crowley's Ridge State Park,

9 a.m. – 4 p.m., \$50

This fun-filled educational day camp for kids ages 7-9 includes programs, games, nature hikes, swimming, and crafts. Lunches, snacks, and craft supplies are provided. Registration is required and must be made by June 13.

Saturday, June 30th

Fun for the Fourth at Crowley's Ridge State Park, 1-5 p.m.

Celebrate the Fourth of July with interpretive programs, swimming, pedal boats, and games while listening to music provided by a D.J. on the beach.

Tuesday, July 3rd

Jaycees Fireworks Display, Rotary Softball Park, 9:30 p.m.

Celebrate the Fourth of July with a free fireworks display, sponsored by the Paragould Jaycees. Show up early at the ballparks, located on Carroll Road in Paragould.

Tuesday-Thursday, July 17th-19th

Discovery Day Camp at Crowley's Ridge State Park,

9 a.m. – 4 p.m., \$50

This fun-filled educational day camp for kids ages 10-12 includes programs, games, nature hikes, swimming, and crafts. Lunches, snacks, and craft supplies are provided. Registration is required and must be made by July 11.

Saturday, August 4th

Bat House Workshop at Crowley's Ridge State Park,

10-11 a.m., \$15

Bats are a natural form of pest control. Learn about the bats of Arkansas and make a bat house to attract these helpful animals to your yard. Reservations are required and must be made July 27.

Saturday, September 8th

Great Arkansas Cleanup, Crowley's Ridge State Park,

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Help keep The Natural State litter free. Volunteers will assist the park staff in cleaning up the park, community, and Crowley's Ridge National Scenic Byway. Lunch will be provided.

Saturday, September 22

Soap Making Workshop, Crowley's Ridge State Park,

9 a.m.-1 p.m., \$20

Soap making is no more challenging than following a recipe. Join us in learning the art of making soap with the cold-process method. Participants will receive soap recipes and several bars of homemade soap. Reservations are required and must be made by September 10.

Saturday, September 29th

Wall Basket Weaving Workshop at Crowley's Ridge State Park, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Take some time to learn a new hobby. Basket weaving is a great way to relax and to make beautiful gifts and decorations for your home. Join us to learn more about this rewarding hobby and weave a wall basket for your house. Reservations are required and must be made by September 14.

Recurring Events:

Several nights a week

Music at LA's downtown at 318 S. 2nd St., \$5 cover charge, 9:00 p.m.

Every Monday

Prayer for Israel at noon at First United Methodist Church

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.

Find out what's happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome. Perking on Prueett Wednesday morning anytime between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. at Something Sweet.

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, 11:00am - 1:30pm

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



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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Cover



As always, we will honor our servicemen and our country with a patriotic-themed edition.

NEA Cooks



We will once more feature an area resident who has a special talent in the kitchen or a favorite recipe they want to share. There will be plenty more of local events and happenings covered in Paragould Premiere!

Advertise!

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