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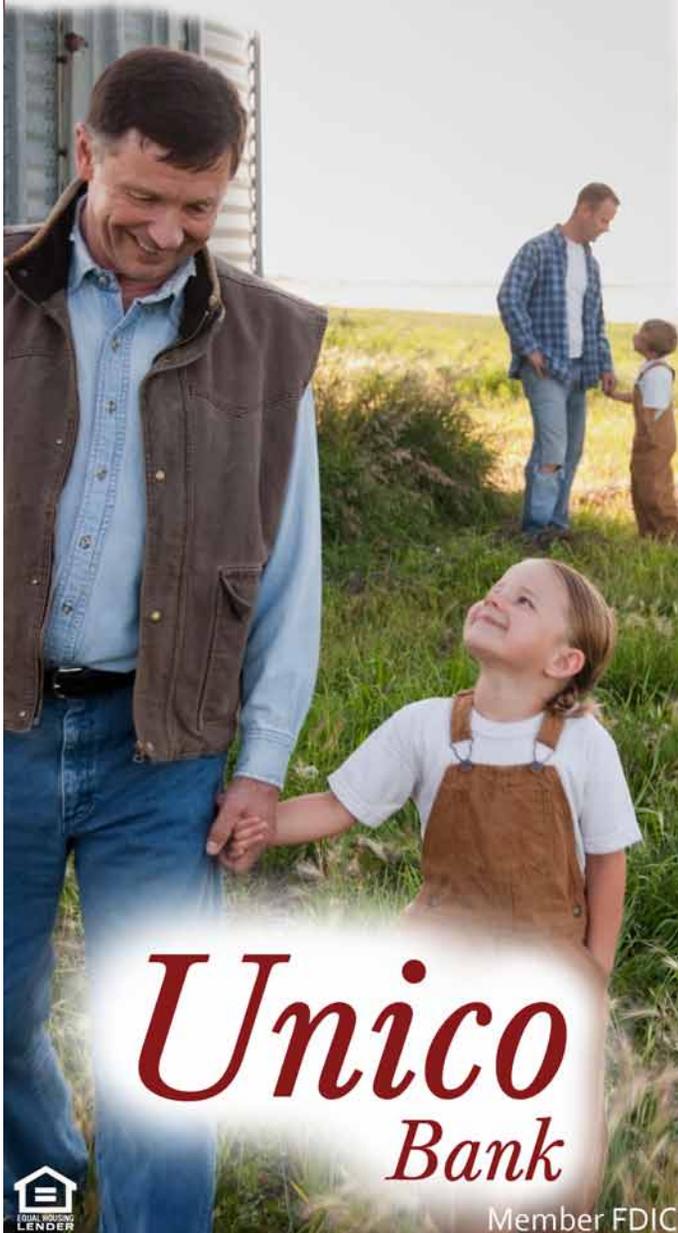
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On the Cover: Kody Riggan
Cover shot by Tim Rand Photography



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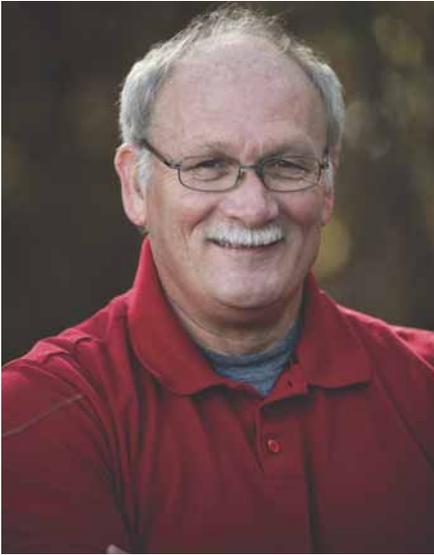
Andrea Jira, MBA '97

Owner, Jira Jewelry Collection and Line-X of Central Missouri



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From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

Our focus this month is on two areas of daily life near and dear to those who reside in Greene County: Agriculture, the longstanding financial backbone of the area; and products manufactured and marketed right here in

Paragould.

What better way to venture into features centered on farming than to have a chat with the Russoms, Greene County's 2012 Farm Family of the Year? Cousins Allen and Randy have been farming most of their lives and they shared their stories with us.

In addition, Kody Riggan and Allen Davis provide an overview of area farming, pointing out the multitude of good things about the industry even during these hard times connected to a record nationwide drought.

Several local factories have a global presence due to the popularity and quality of their products, and we picked out a handful to examine inside our pages. They may do all of their manufacturing here, but their final products can be found just about anywhere you choose to travel.

We also have features on some of the people who help make Greene County life so interesting, from a novice archer like Tech's Alex Robinson, who made his mark in national competition, to an accomplished

athlete like Marmaduke's Anna Best, who participated in an international track meet in Australia.

Our own Leisa Rae was a first-place award winner in the Arkansas Broadcasters Association contest held earlier in the year, taking top honors for her "Jack Around At Work Club" promotion. She gives you all the facts about how that idea came to life.

This edition of Premiere Magazine is filled with information, from news and history about the Greene County Fair -- scheduled to run Sept. 3-8 -- to updates on the Community Fund drive and happenings at the Collins Theatre.

It is also time to start thinking about outstanding teachers, voting for your favorites in hopes of having them reach the status of Outstanding Teacher of the Year, a title won last time around by GCT's Norma Davenport. Norma, who will not be eligible this year, won a nice prize package for being chosen as the readers' favorite.

We hope you find something you like, and are confident you will. ♦

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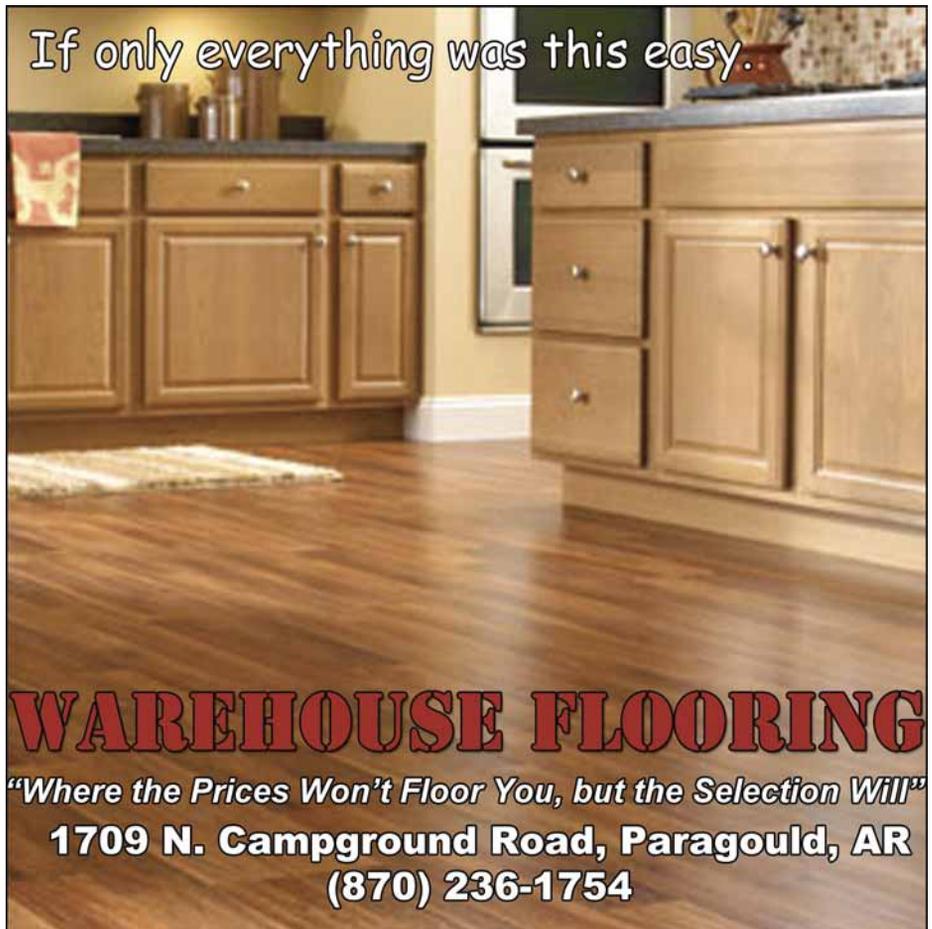
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Greene County Community Fund kicks off with luncheon

Supporters of the Greene County Community Fund helped start the annual fund drive by purchasing meals to a luncheon hosted by the Paragould Community Center.

Community Fund Executive Director Joan Bradley said the luncheon raised \$3,000, with more than 490 plates sold. ♦



Participants in the luncheon enjoyed fellowship while eating, as Kisha Clayton and Director Joan Bradley unloaded additional meals, above. Servers Angie Vandon, Penny French and Carol Fleszar served them to ticket holders, below left.



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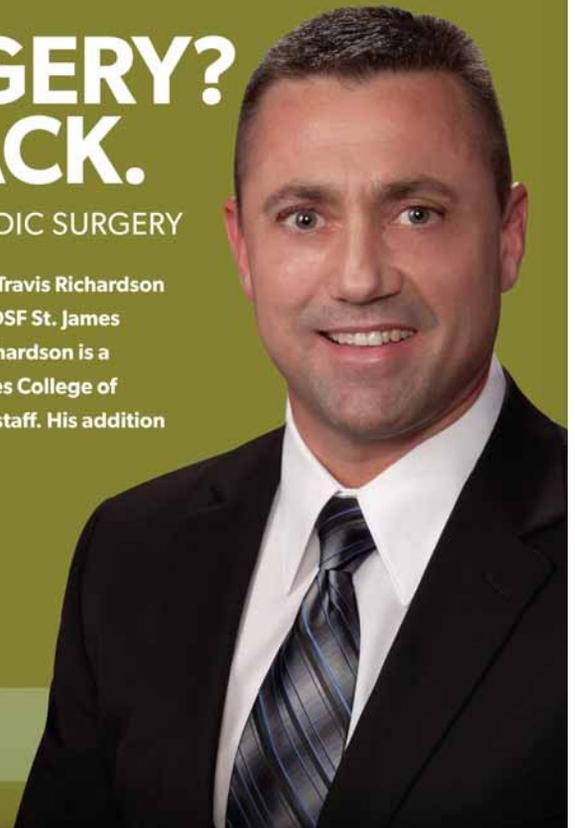
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Community Fund stages ninth annual golf tournament at PCC

Continuing the fundraising efforts, Greene County Community Fund workers held the group's annual golf tournament at the Paragould Country Club. Ten teams took part in the event, with the Greene County Boys and Girls Club team winning first place.

For more information about the Greene County Community Fund, or to get involved in the fund drive, call 870-239-8435 or email gccf@grnco.net.



While golfers were giving the PCC course their best shots, Greene County Community Fund volunteer Diane Culver, above, was busy heading them off at the tee boxes and taking their money. Culver was selling tickets toward a cash giveaway as another method of raising funds for the GCCF.

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Greene County Fair has come a long way

By Richard Brummett

When the Greene County Fair opens its gates on September 3, it will mark the 125th birthday of the event. While visitors today look forward to musical entertainment, an assortment of rides and games, and contests of various sorts, the county fair took on a much different look during its early years.

To give readers an idea of America at the time, Anne Sullivan had just begun working with the blind Helen Keller, Grover Cleveland was President and Congress passed the Dawes Act, which was aimed at “stimulating the assimilation of the Indian into American society.” It divided Indian land into allotments for individual Indians and allowed for the purchase of “excess” lands by non-Indians ... eventually reducing the tribes’ land holdings from 138 million acres to just 90 million in a giant land grab.

Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show opened



One thing that hasn’t changed in the fair’s 125 years is the judging of prepared food items.

in ‘87 and Notre Dame played its first football game ever, losing to Michigan 8-0. Americans didn’t have cameras or motion pictures or gas powered automobiles, all still on the drawing table. Most people in rural areas, like Greene County, didn’t even get electricity until the 1930s and Paragould itself was only four years old, having been incorporated in 1883. The historic Greene County Courthouse wasn’t finished until the following year and just down the road were exciting inventions like paper drinking straws, the matchbook and the zipper.

So arrival at the fairgrounds had a much different look, with no Ferris Wheel (invented for the World’s Fair in Chicago in 1893) on the skyline, no bright lights on the midway and no loud music blaring. County fairs at the time were mainly held for agricultural communities, allowing farmers to show off their goods. There were competitions for entertainment purposes, like horse races, bike races and even foot races, livestock judgings



The Ferris Wheel was still six years away from being invented when Greene County hosted its first county fair in 1887.

were held and pantry items, fruit, farm products, flowers and plants were entered in hopes of winning a blue ribbon. Most families arrived via horse and wagon, and set up a family picnic area upon entering the grounds.

Fireworks displays, hot air balloon rides and hot air from politicians were the order of the day, and local bands played for all to enjoy.

So, while much has changed, much remains the same. Visit this year’s fair from September 3-8. ♦

Kiwanis Club’s K-Day coincides with county fair

By Gabriel A. Cook

Fall brings more than cooler weather, Labor Day, and festivals to Greene County. This time of year also means the return of a long-held tradition: The Paragould Kiwanis Club K-DAY.

“Paragould Kiwanis Day started in 1961,” explained Kiwanian Brian Osborn. “The idea was developed by Ted Rand, the R in KDRS. Mr. Rand was a Rotarian, and, since they already had the Rotary Auction, he came up with K-DAY as an alternative method of fundraising.”

K-DAY is held in conjunction with the Greene County Fair. Kiwanis members sell ads and commercials to area businesses, the theme being the promotion of the fair.

“Originally, the broadcast started very early in the morning and went until KDRS signed off at night,” Osborn said. “At other times, it was done over the period of two afternoons, 1 until 5. Recently, we’ve taken one day, 8 a.m. ‘til 5 p.m.”

In addition to selling ads, Kiwanis Club members break into teams and read commercials on the air throughout the day on 1490 KDRS.

“Over the years, we’ve broadcast from the KDRS studios, and we’ve broadcast from the fairgrounds. One year we did it on site and it was under sixty degrees. We were all freezing. The next year, we decided to broadcast from inside, as the Ridge (now JACK FM) booth was indoors. We just about

died from the heat. Coming out to the station is easier, and we control our comfort level.”

Paragould’s Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at the Grecian Steakhouse. It sponsors a variety of charitable organizations, including baseball teams, Girls and Boys State, and six youth scholarships. Their primary focus is youth, and they raise funds through such activities as their annual Pancake Day and a summer golf tournament. They participate in the community fund, Mission Outreach, and Goodfellows and provide plaques for the Greene County Spelling Bee. This year’s K-DAY will be September 6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on 1490 KDRS. ♦

'JACK Around @ Work Club' is a winner

By Richard Brummett

Leisa Rae likes to jack around at work as much as the next guy, and she parlayed that habit into an award-winning promotion for herself and the MOR Media radio team.

Leisa earned a first place award for Station Promotion at the Arkansas Broadcasters Association ceremonies in Little Rock earlier this summer, submitting her idea for the "JACK Around @ Work Club" to contest judges.

The local radio station KDRS-FM became known as JACK FM at the end of February, and staff members began tossing around ideas to intrigue radio audience members and keep them tuned in.

"When we switched to JACK FM, we started looking for a way to interact with listeners," she explained. "We wanted to perform a weekly giveaway and so I started playing around with the name 'Jack' and the JACK Around at Work Club was born.

"How cool is it to have to say, 'I jack around at work' in order to win something? It's kind of derogatory but we took it, and spun it and made it fun. Everybody seems to really like it and now, if they win, they have to be on the radio saying, 'Hi. I jack around at work,' and their friends can say, 'Yeah, you really do.' It has turned out to be really good. We've gotten a lot of response and people seem to think it's really fun and pretty cool."

Stations are allowed to submit only one entry per category for the ABA contest, and the "JACK Around @ Work Club" was entered by MOR Media in the Station Promotion group.

Judges deemed Lesia's idea the best among all entries and awarded her and MOR Media first place.

When a winner is selected, in order to get his or her free lunch giveaway, they have to be photographed and then recorded saying they "jack around at work," meaning they listen to JACK FM even while on the job.

"Hey, we all do it," Leisa said. "Seems like you ought to at least win something for doing it."



MOR Media's Leisa Rae came up with the best idea for station promotion, according to judges at this year's Arkansas Broadcasters Association awards ceremony.

Judges like looks of JACK Around @ Work Club

The following is MOR Media's submission to the ABA judges for consideration in the 2012 station promotion contest category:

107.1 JACK FM made its leap to Northeast Arkansas on February 29th, 2012. Yes, JACK FM is a leap year baby. And now calls KDRS FM Paragould home.

When a lunch giveaway was suggested, our own Leisa Rae's warped mind formulated a strange new idea.

The JACK Around @ Work Club was born.

The JACK Around @ Work Club quickly caught fire as the entries began pouring in. Listeners submitted their entries via Facebook, website, and fax, all claiming to JACK Around @ Work.

The idea is simple. Listen to JACK at work. Let us know that you do. And JACK FM just might show up with a certificate for FREE

lunch for you and a friend, thanks to our local TaMolly's and Bar-B-Q Shack.

A photo is taken for placement on our web and Facebook pages. Then, we capture an audio recording of the lucky JACK Around @ Work Club Winner, which then is placed into the rotation of our former winners on the JACK Around @ Work Promo.

Essentially, the JACK Around @ Work Club is a spinoff of a phrase that meant you're doing absolutely nothing at work and now means, "I listen to JACK at work!"

It is a way to increase listenership, increase Facebook and website traffic, and to reward our listeners for JACKin' Around @ Work.

It's fun. It's intriguing. And our winners are showcased in our promos saying something they thought they'd never say on the radio: "I JACK Around @ Work!"



Jeremy and I met at the lake on the 4th of July weekend in 2011. It was love at first sight, but I knew he would never want to hang out with me again. Well, little did I know, the night of the 4th he started texting me, I was thrilled. Then we begin to hang out more and more and then quickly begin talking about marriage. On December 16th, he took me to the mall and we ended up at the jewelry store much to my surprise and we looked at several different rings, by the time we left, I had picked out 3 rings that I was in love with but one that that absolutely beautiful and I really hinted around that it was "the one". So, after that we went to visit his family out of town and celebrate Christmas with them. We came home Saturday afternoon and he said he wanted to take me out to a nice dinner. I begin getting ready and that little sneak went to my mom's house to get permission to marry her daughter. We went to Red Goose and had a very nice dinner. As we were waiting on our food, he begin telling me how he really wasn't ready to get married and was afraid we were moving too fast. I was very upset, couldn't figure out how we went from looking at rings one night to breaking up the next night during a nice dinner. Then here comes our food and on my plate was an extra saucer with a gorgeous ring sitting on it and he got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. Of course I said YES!!!!!! Then the planning begin, we got married on June 23, 2012 at New Haven Baptist Church. Our wedding day was absolutely perfect but couldn't have been without the amazing help of my mom, Carol Fleszar, Jeremy's family and my family, and my totally awesome bridesmaids who kept me sane, decorated, and undecorated the church. We honeymooned in Branson, MO and had a fabulous time.

Jeremy

Edgar

Brittany





Perry Jr & Sarah Mason

On April 25, 2008 Sarah Moore was celebrating her 19th birthday with a night out with close friends. One of those friends happened to invite Perry Jr. Mason out with them because he had the biggest truck and could haul the most people. What started out as a normal birthday celebration ended up changing two peoples lives in a way that neither saw coming.

A month later, PJ visited Sarah while she was working at the Paragould Wings to Go. He told her there was going to be a bonfire that night, and asked her if she had any plans. She didn't. After that night, they stayed in constant contact. So much so, that PJ had to change his cell phone plan to unlimited text messaging because they kept going over his limit. From there, they say, the rest is history. PJ proposed on Friday January 13th, 2012 in the company of friends and family. The couple was married May 26th, 2012 at The Riverview Compound in Hardy, Arkansas. Four years almost to the day that they began dating.

Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same. Sometimes, all it takes to find love is having a great group of friends.



Alex Robinson's shooting is right on target

By Richard Brummett

When Alex Robinson picked up a bow and decided to give archery a try, he didn't necessarily see himself as a potential national championship contender.

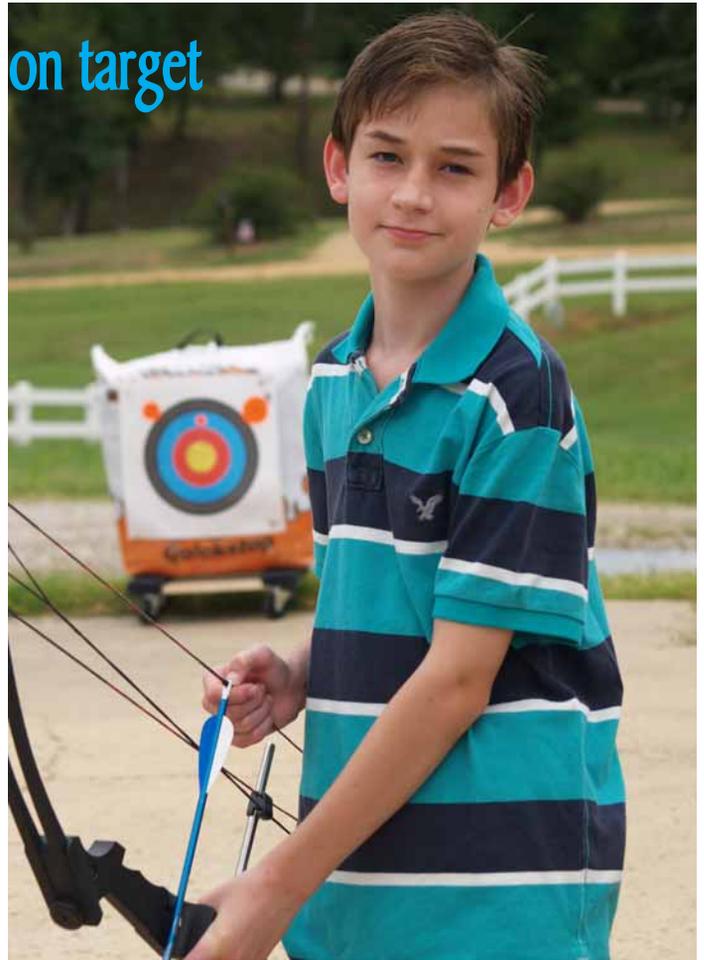
He had competed in soccer and intramural basketball, but archery was not something he had put much thought into. So when Greene County Tech physical education teachers Gia Taylor and Mindy Tritch encouraged students to pick up bows and arrows and give the relatively new school sport their best shots, Alex was not overly optimistic.

"At first, I was sort of scared to shoot," the 12-year-old said. "But after a while it started coming to me and everyone said I seemed to have a knack for it. It seems to me like something anybody else could do. But I guess not."

Competing for the GCT team in the National Archery in the Schools Program, Alex placed third in the state in his age division, advanced to the National tournament in Louisville where he wound up scoring 287 of a possible 300 points for an 11th place finish and now has plans to take part in the World Tournament in Orlando in October. Tourney entrants have two minutes to shoot five arrows, first from 10 meters away, then from 15 meters.

"It's pretty loud," Alex said. "At Nationals 220 targets were set up, and everyone shoots at the same time. It sounds like firecrackers." He said he always tries to calmly complete his round of shooting and then "hold my breath, and hope I did well enough to place."

His father, Rob, said once Alex made the commitment to be the best he could at the sport things just seemed to fall into place. "I never expected him to be so good with a bow," he explained. "We don't hunt. At school was the first time he'd had a bow in his hand. But the school and Brock (Atwell) recognized his natural ability and know how to



Alex Robinson will take his archery skills to Orlando in October for the NASP World Tournament.

bring it out. Brock is very much Alex's mentor. He took him under his wing and has helped him a great deal."

Rob and wife Laura intend to make the trip to Orlando, and as for Alex, he said, "I'm kind of looking forward to it, but the closer it gets, the more nervous I get. But I think I'll do okay."

A group of approximately ten people, including children and adults, are posed on a set of metal stairs. They are dressed in casual attire, and the background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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Instead of being taken home, I was taken for a ride -- literally

Some people go through life without care, full of resolve and vigor. I, on the other hand, have fears enough to fill a phonebook, the three greatest being: Heights, going too fast, and wind blowing in my face. It puzzles me, then, how — at 13 — I found myself on my first rides at the fair.

My best friend convinced me to attend with the assurance that our feet would never leave the ground. Taking him at his word, we walked the midway, took in the assorted animals — cows and goats and chickens with hairstyles like church women shooing visitors out of their pew — and playing games. I tried to win a goldfish in a bowl, but my hand-eye coordination deserted me. Along the way, we gorged on cotton candy, corn dogs, funnel cakes, and soda.

It was not long before my friend, forsaking his promise, broached the subject of rides. At first, I remained resolute; after enduring lengthy discourse and petition, however, I agreed to the carousel. Grumbling at my choice, my friend climbed atop a bobbing plastic horse while I, taking no chances, sat in a carriage. Not long into the proceedings, my head began to swim, and I resolved myself against such foolish endeavors.

We came next to a giant slide, a towering beast that I was tricked into believing did not constitute a ride. After a four-hour climb, I found myself poised over the ledge of this skyscraper with a burlap sack beneath me. My friend dropped through the clouds with

**What's
The
Fuss?**



By Fuss

reckless abandon. Carnival personnel had to push me in order to get the line moving again. Halfway down, the burlap and I parted company, and the slide, made of PVC, generated a static charge against my backside. I eventually fell to Earth, and someone offered a hand to help me to my feet. Upon contact, I released a shock that blew every transformer in sight, crippled the local power grid, and hurled thirteen children (and two bantam roosters) into Craighead County.

Shaken and furious, I demanded to be taken home. Not content with my fall from orbit, my friend suggested the Tilt-A-Whirl. The name struck terror in my heart — I like neither tilting nor whirling — but he would be satisfied with nothing less. The operator braced us, and our compartment spun crazily. About the fifth turn, I realized my mistake as the junk food I'd consumed earlier in the evening began to complain. With each pass of the operator I yelled, "Stop! This! Evil! Machine! Or! You'll! Be! Sorry!" Hours later, the ride came to a halt, and I wobbled out the front gate. Security tried to nab me for drunk and disorderly, but I was able, without words, to apprise them of my true condition.

I'm sorry to say they all had to buy new shoes.

'Just a matter of miniaturizing ...'



Winston Hollis has earned a reputation as an excellent home builder for more than 40 years. Lately, he's added work on a smaller scale.

These houses are definitely for the birds

By Richard Brummett

When a longtime acquaintance asked Winston Hollis if he could build a birdhouse, he responded with, "I don't know, I can give it a shot."

Good shot.

Hollis, who has over 40 years' experience in the construction business, said he has taken a liking to building the smaller scale domiciles and finds the creativity intriguing.

"It's just a matter of miniaturizing, that's all it is," he said. "... taking everything down to smaller sections."

Since he hadn't constructed birdhouses to any degree, Hollis went to the Greene County Library and looked through some magazines to educate himself and to "get an idea of what kind of bird liked what."

From there he took a picture supplied by his friend and decided to make a few alterations before arriving at the finished product.

"When I see a diagram, I get an idea but I can



Hollis said he educates himself a little more with each house he builds, and figures out what works well and what doesn't. His tongue depressor roof, right and above, proved a real challenge.

build it however I want to. The first house was all new territory but it turned out good. There are a few things I would have changed now that I know how to do them better, like my tongue

depressor roof. It looks okay but I had to adapt new ways to make it stick."

Hollis began working with his father, Carlos, right after graduating high school and said he has "the fundamentals of building. I've been doing it, I guess, for 44 years. I started with Dad at 19, soon as I was out of high school, and Dad quit. He started getting the jobs but not working anymore. I actually worked with him through high school, and even went with him some when I was in the seventh or eighth grade, probably 12 or 13 years old. So I know how to build stuff."

His most recent projects include Purple Martin houses with eight compartments and a larger house with 18 compartments and three stories.

He likes to add unique features to some of the houses, such as rear ac-





Cleaning the houses is made much easier through rear access doors, like the ones Hollis added to the house above.

cess doors to allow for easier cleaning, and he says some of the porches on the bottom “make them more individual.

“One I just finished has a functioning chimney for heat and

fumes to escape,” he said. “It’s got holes in the floors so heat and fumes go up into the attic space, then into the chimney.”

“... If they can show me what they want, I have no doubt I can build it.”

He said he can make the homes with a metal roof, a copper looking roof, or “one that looks like shingles. The cost depends on the house. If you want real copper it would cost a lot more.”

Hollis said anyone interested in having him build a house for them should just give him an idea of what they want.

“The best thing to do is look at pictures of some I’ve done or bring me a picture of something you like,” he said. “I can pretty well build anything I can see.”

He said the price is “really negotiable, depending on how detailed they want me to get. But if they can show me what they want, I have no doubt I can build it.”

He can be reached at 870-476-1715 for information or to set up an appointment. ♦

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Leadership Paragould teams
with Abilities Unlimited
on community project



Angela Hale and Shannon Ezell, left, work on the Leadership Paragould team project, while above, Ashley Bolen assists helpers from Abilities Unlimited with the actual planting. Workers and Leadership team members posed together, below right.

The Blue team from Leadership Paragould XV staged its community project along with Abilities Unlimited, raising money through a pancake breakfast at TaMollys and then purchasing a new TV, digital projector and screen to help with training needs.

The group also bought planters, plants and flowers. ♦



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I AM GREENE COUNTY

Bethany Long

Age: 18

What I do: I am a freshman at ASU-Paragould and trying to earn a degree in Occupational Therapy.

Where I'm from: Marmaduke. I bleed Greyhound blood.

What I like most about Greene County: I love the closeness of all of us. If there is a need, we all rally to help meet the need. I experienced that first-hand during the tornado. My house was gone and most of my possessions. The people of Greene County stepped up to help my family and the rest of my town. It was such a blessing. Not many other counties are like that.

My family: My parents are Chuck and Lorie Long. My little sister is Hannah Long. I could not have been blessed with a better family. My parents raised me to be a Godly woman and I am so thankful for that. Hannah is the best sister in the world. We have our fights, but in the end we are still best friends. I love them and wouldn't trade them for anything.

Hobbies: I love hanging out with my family. It is never a dull moment with them. Also, a couple of months ago when I was doing all the lunges and pole-to-poles I wouldn't have said this, but now that it is just for fun, I love to play sports.

What I like most about my job: In the Bible Jesus says that we are all called to be missionaries so that is what I like to say my job is. I recently went to Africa and it was the most exciting thing I have ever done. The thing I like most about it is getting the opportunity to tell about what My Jesus did for me by loving the children who have no one else to love them.

Something most people don't know about me: Well, I talk a ton so there is not much that people don't know about me, but I have recently discovered that I like to bake cupcakes. They don't look anywhere near professional, but it is really fun and I really enjoy doing it.



Running in the land down under

Anna Best brought home more than just souvenirs after representing the USA in the Down Under International Games.

By Richard Brummett

For someone who never liked running all that much, Anna Best's talents certainly have taken her a long way.

The 18-year-old Marmaduke High School graduate followed up a high school state championship performance in track and field with a trip to Australia to represent Arkansas and the United States in the Down Under Sports International Games.

The Down Under event is a three-day international competition featuring more than 500 athletes from host Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Anna was invited after her junior year of high school.

"I was runnerup at state in the 800 as a junior," said Anna, the daughter of Phillip and Bonnie Best of Lafe, "and I got a letter asking if I would be interested. I think everyone that came in first or second in state got invited. At first, Mom thought it was junk mail but Coach (Shane) Robinson said it was

legitimate and we got busy raising the money to go. I knew right away it was something I wanted to do."

Through things like a carwash, t-shirt sales and soliciting donations from individuals and businesses, Anna and her family spent the better part of a year raising the necessary \$5,000. Once it was secured, she and her mom boarded the Memphis-to-Dallas-to Los Angeles plane route that eventually turned into a 15-hour flight to Sydney.

Running track on another continent was not anything the speedster saw in her athletic future while building an excellent career as a point guard on the Lady Greyhounds' basketball team, and flashing her speed in the outfield and on the basepaths in softball.

"When I was a sophomore I did not want to do it at all. I hated running but Coach Robinson said I was fast and he needed me just to run the relays," she recalled. "I did it, but I said 'not next year,' and he said, 'Yeah,

Best family thanks all who donated

Anna and her family want to thank God for giving her the opportunity and ability to do this. Also, we want to thank everyone who helped during her fundraising which made it possible for her to go and compete in Australia. These are names we wanted to thank personally and if we left anyone else out, thank you very much for your support! God Bless! - Bonnie Best

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Lafe Baptist Church; White Printing & Office Supplies; M.F. Block, Jeff and Carolyn Block; KAIT-8; Chili's Restaurant of Paragould; KDRS/107.1/MOR Media; Paragould Daily Press; Marmaduke High School; Legacy Equipment; Ron Bellomy; Scheer Farms; Alice Ann Cleveland/Cleveland Insurance; Tim Howe; Lafe Auto Repair/Matt West and Kevin Dixon; Chesley and Renee Isom; Lynda Dickinson; Lyndell Stallings; Kenny Vangilder; Chuck and Lesia Taylor; Dewey and Teresa White; David and Nancy Poe; David and Tonya Vanhorn; Alex and Alison West; Linda and James Price and Madison Price; Mr. Hoelscher; Elizabeth Mason; Town of Lafe-City Hall; Bill Muse; W & W Quickmart; Randi Foust; Charles Roe; Weldon and Patti Roberts; Lea and Nathan Edgar; John R. and Johnnie C. Taylor; Betty Maier; Dorothy and Warren Wuller; Dewey and Sarah Wallen; Mark and Michelle Toone; Bryan and Rosalyn Fuller; Joann Hester; Debbie Harmon; Shaniece Gipson; Marianna Reeves; Tim Gardner; Kyle Gardner; Track Coach Shane, Nikki, Heidi and Carson Robinson; Mike Vowell; Belinda Dowler; Ronnie Tritch; James Compton; Danny and Laurie Moore; Lafe Mayor Ralph Oglesby, Jr.; Steve and Paula McLeskey; Kim Tritch; Jonesboro Tractor Sales; Mike Ellis; Chuck Davis; Lonnie and Brenda Potter; Frank Clayton; Ruby Robinson; Claudia Boone; McDonald's of Paragould; Becky McDowell; Dawns Shatzley; Linda Hurst; Scott Dowler; Benny Lueker; Martha Rodriguez; Ruth Ann Lawrence; coach Larry Willis; and Fred Gates.

you are' but he didn't know what to put me in. I ran the 800 one time and I did pretty good, so I started training to make state."

She wound up second in the state meet in 2:34 and then as a senior ran multiple events, capping off the climb to the top with a state championship in the two-mile relay along with teammates Sidnee Bopp, Alexis Jones and Alex Richey.

Individually, Best was third in the 800 and 1600 meters, and "fifth or sixth in the 3200. It wasn't that bad for splitting time between softball and track."

Then came the Down Under meet, which Anna calls "the greatest experience ever. It was truly amazing. A lot of the people who were there ... all they've ever done is train. I just was so thankful for the experience. We barely get out of Arkansas. There's no way we would have been able to do this without track."

Anna roomed with two young women from Minnesota, then went through the necessary practice sessions in preparation for the meet. Since her 18-19 age group had few entrants, no qualifying heats were run, just the main event. She finished fifth in 2:35.51, about a second off her best time.

The athletes and their families had time for some sightseeing and, if they desired, could stop off in Hawaii for a retreat on the way home.

Shortly after her return to the states, Anna cut off her long tresses and donated her hair to Locks of Love, a project she had been working on for more than a year. "When I got ready to cut it last year it was only seven inches long, and it has to be ten so I waited," she said. "Mom always said I had pretty hair; I thought I'd donate it to someone who doesn't have any."

She returned home with some souvenirs but the experience itself represents the greatest treasure she will look back on with fondness.

"It was probably a once in a lifetime thing for me," she said. "If you ask 'why me?' I guess all I can say is that God just blessed me with the ability to run."

Anna plans to attend Arkansas State University-Paragould in hopes of someday becoming a nurse. ♦



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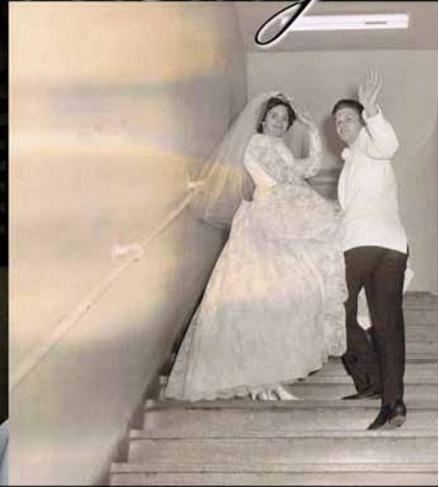
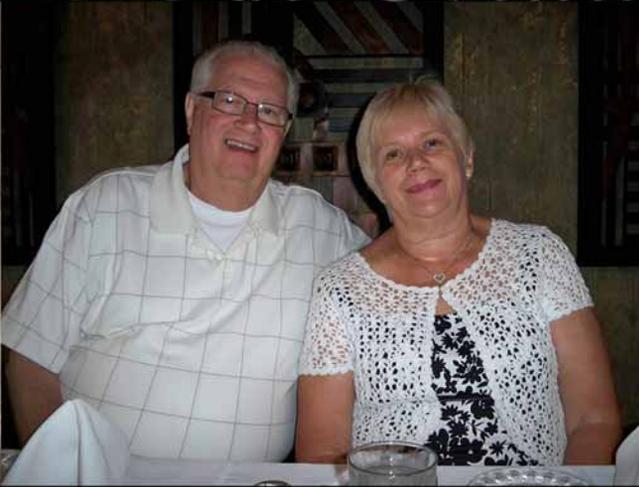
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Mitchell 50th Anniversary



*J*erry and Dee's first date was at the movie theater. Sporting his favorite tweed sport coat, Jerry was excited, unaware that his date would fail to go according to plan. During the movie, Jerry accidentally dozed off and almost tumbled into the aisle. On June 16, 2012, Jerry and Dee Mitchell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and the story of their unforgettable date lives on as a comical tale to tell their children and grandchildren. They were married at Lyndhurst Baptist Church in Lyndhurst, Ohio on June 16, 1962. In celebration, their five children traveled with their families to join them in Paragould, journeying from South Carolina, Ohio, Georgia, and Colorado. The eighteen family members spent more than a week together celebrating the love of Jerry and Dee by making trips to Graceland and Little Rock, cooking together, and dining out at favorite local restaurants. A special anniversary dinner topped off the memorable week, where family members made emotional toasts and gathered around Jerry and Dee in gratitude of all the blessings and love they have bestowed over the years.

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Our Wedding Story:

Angie and Jeff Cupples renew vows in private ceremony

Twenty-five years. It's hard to believe how quickly 25 years can pass. Jeff and I recently celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary and had talked about renewing our wedding vows for quite some time, but we just didn't know exactly how we wanted to do it.

We thought about going away somewhere, but we wanted our kids and family to be there to share in the special occasion. We were originally married at Immanuel Baptist Church, the church we still attend. We considered having the ceremony there, but it almost seemed more like a wedding. In the end, we decided to have a private ceremony at Larry and Dianne Watson's home with just immediate family. To us, it was more about the meaning of the ceremony than the ceremony itself.

My brother, Larry Ring, performed our original wedding ceremony, so it only seemed fitting for him to officiate the vow renewal as well. This was a time for Jeff and me to reflect on the past 25 years. We have shared the joys, blessings and, yes, even the challenges of



The Cupples family, all smiles after the ceremony.

married life together. We have been through so much with each other. We have buried parents, had children, and basically have grown up together. Jeff is my soulmate and best friend.

One of the greatest blessings of marriage is the joy and responsibility of raising a family. God has truly blessed us with two wonderful boys, Jaden and Jake. Jaden is 12 years old, Jake is eight. We waited 13 years to have children because I am a carrier of hemophilia, a bleeding disorder found only in males. Our oldest son, Jaden, is affected by the disorder, but he doesn't let his condition slow him down.

Jake was not really excited about the vow

renewal at first. He thought we had to get divorced before we could get "remarried." Once he understood we weren't getting a divorce, he was fine with it as long as he didn't have to watch us kiss.

Jeff and I are even blessed to work together. We have owned Cupples Sign Company for the past 18 years. That, too, can be a challenge at times, but also very rewarding. His office is right next door to mine, but he usually just emails me throughout the day. Sometimes it is simply an "I love you," which brightens my day. Other times it may be, "Did you remember to order ...?" That's just part of working together.

My mom used to say, "God takes care of kids and idiots." That may sound a little corny, but I'm sure we fell into both categories at times. I know it is God that brought us to the special day of being able to renew our wedding vows, and Jeff says it was his idea. Well ... actually, I suppose it was his idea. Does it really matter? You bet it does. If he is willing to ask me twice, I'd be crazy not to say, "Yes." Here's to the next 25 years. ♦

Day trip:

Norfolk area offers array of late summer activities

By Gabriel A. Cook

Labor Day offers a final opportunity for travel and the enjoyment of outdoor activity before summer's end. Though typically cooler in temperature, September can be conducive to a trip to the lake.

Ten minutes outside of Mountain Home is Lake Norfolk, a 22,000 acre body of water situated in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. With over 500 miles of shoreline, Norfolk offers an array of late summer activity.

Its most noticeable feature is the dam bridging a mammoth gorge four miles upstream. Built in 1944 for the use of flood-prevention and hydro-electricity, the dam separates North Fork from White River. Perhaps some will remember seeing the dam as they crossed the water on a ferry boat, a tradition that ended in 1983.

The lake's clear water offers scuba divers an amazing glimpse 200 feet below the surface. A once-fertile farming community lies beneath the water, giving those with a taste for adventure an opportunity to see manmade structures on the lake bottom. Though it is said that rooftops can be seen on especially clear days, this is considered legend ... though the story continues to draw divers to the area.



Lake Norfolk offers both beautiful scenery and the opportunity for adventure.



Photos by Paul and Michelle Dubar

The water is home to many varieties of fish — bass, trout, bream, and catfish. The water rarely freezes, even in the coldest winters, and the season lasts year round. It is believed that the second-largest brown trout was caught in the waters below the dam, and Norfolk is one of few places where four species of trout can be caught in a day. Fishing guides and tours are available.

The land surrounding the lake is maintained by the Army Corp of Engineers, insuring that the integrity of the surrounding is never compromised; 25,000 acres of Wildlife Preserve is open to the public for hiking, biking, and other activities. It is not uncommon to spot bald eagles and other rare creatures in their native habitat.

As for biking, a "stacked loop" series of trails offer 20 miles of track along the lake, ranging in difficulty from beginner to advanced. Elevations can reach 250 feet, challenging terrain for the experienced biker. The Twin

Lakes Bicycle Club holds its annual tournament here, and the funds raised go toward maintaining the trails. Some of its features include an old homestead reclaimed by nature and a creek bank overrun with pine and dogwood.

In the town of Norfolk itself sits Wolf House, the oldest two-story structure in the state. A short drive leads to the Ozarks Watchtower, which looms above Bull Shoals Lake and offers a breathtaking view of the countryside. Where once an agonizing climb awaited those daring enough to scale its heights, an elevator now ushers visitors to the observation deck. There are also the nearby Bull Shoals Caverns, caves that were used by Civil War soldiers and moonshiners alike.

Thus ends this series of travel pieces and the summer of 2012. Lucky are those who call Arkansas home, as it provides ample wildlife and attractions aimed at all walks of life. ♦

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Humble beginnings, fortunate decisions lead to business success

While I was growing up, my father did his best to humble me by telling of his experiences walking barefoot in the snow or chopping cotton in blistering heat. These stories seemed as exaggerated as he intended, but it actually wasn't difficult to imagine his doing so with his impecunious upbringing.

Stan Foster describes very much the same beginnings.

"I started with nothing and created a business my kids can grow old with ... That's something," Foster says.

A series of fortunate business decisions led to his first company, ArkMo Seed in 1976, which later transitioned into the construction of grain bins and the birth of his current company 4S&J.

Foster describes a cutting edge craftsmanship provided by several manufacturers that allow his team to build top quality grain bins that are essential to farmers.

"They're harvesting around the clock and we're right there with them, working 24/7 to provide what they need. I'll loan them the equipment they need until I get it in, answer my phone in the middle of the night and early morning. That's the way you build a business," he says.



By Tiffany Napier

While several companies offer packages for bin construction, all the parts from one manufacturer, Foster sells what he explains are the best parts to, collectively, provide the most well structured grain bin. He is an exclusive Brock dealer for Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. He sells Brock bins, but allows his clients to purchase industry leading accessories to construct the overall product.

"We see that we stock an abundance of inventory, deliver more service and remain competitive in terms of quality and workmanship," he says. "We've built our business around superior workmanship and quality."

Foster's work ethic was essential as a young business owner; now it is habit. "I can be driving on my day off and head toward the office without thinking. There are times I've had to turn around," he laughs.

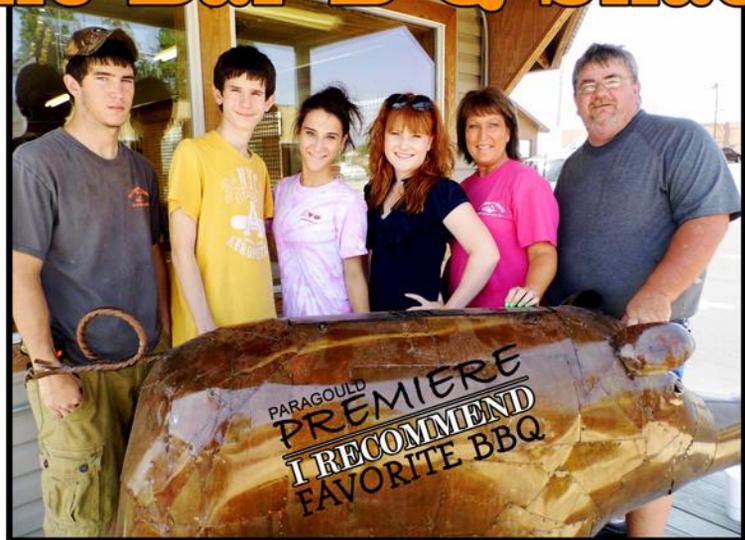
Even as his staff grows, he reciprocates the work of his customer. A former Farm Family of the Year, the Fosters relate to their buyers.

"I'm not just a guy who sells product. I am my customer. We have some row crop and run a cattle operation. It takes a lot of hard work and a lot of long hours," he says. "These farmers trust us to do their work, and they're just like good friends. We try to do our best to take care of them."

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FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR



The families of Allen and Randy Russom have been selected as Greene County's 2012 Farm Family of the Year.

Farming is all Russoms have ever known

By Richard Brummett

For cousins Randy and Allen Russom, becoming farmers was not so much a career choice as it was just following a path already mapped out.

"It's all we've ever done since we were big enough to run a combine," said Randy, commenting after the Russoms were named Greene County's Farm Family of the Year for 2012. "I guess I've been on a tractor since I was about 10 years old."

Brothers M.A. and E.V. Russom -- also honored as the top farm family in the 1980s -- started the family farming enterprise in 1941 and their boys naturally assumed when the time came they would follow suit. They did, and now farm close to 5,000 acres in the Stanford-Evening Star-Beech Grove area. Rice is their top product, with about 3,200 acres, followed by 900 acres of corn, 600 of soybeans and just over 150 of milo.

"I guess we pretty much continued the tradition," said Allen. "It's just what we do ... we don't know anything else. But it's a good life -- for me, it is. I enjoy doing everything I've ever done as a farmer. People



It truly is a family operation for the Russoms. Above, Brandon, Randy, Chris, Allen and Isaac take time out for a photo.

ask me how I keep from getting disgusted and wonder why we keep doing it when you have the bad times, but I figure every occupation gets a little that way every now and then. The bigger you get, the more problems you have. If someone builds it, it's gonna break. Those are just everyday occurrences."

Randy said, to him, the answer is pretty simple. "Somebody's going to have to do it," he said. "If you're going to eat and have clothes, somebody's going to have to grow these crops. That's what we do, and why we do it."

The cousins point to a year marked by incredible drought as one that will cut seriously into the profits of farmers nationwide, and said they will have "a significant pumping bill. There's not been much rain, and without irrigating we just wouldn't have a crop."

Still, they consider the farming life the one for them and their families. Allen and his wife, Diane, have a son, Christopher, and a daughter, Elizabeth. Chris farms while Elizabeth holds a master's degree in occupational therapy. She and her husband, Nick, have a son and daughter, Isaac and Olivia.

Randy and Leslie are the parents of daughters Andrea Bounds and Chelsea Dowler. Andrea is in the medical field and she and husband Brian have a daughter, Harper Grace. Chelsea is a veterinarian in



The Russoms say farming is definitely the life for them.

Mountain Home and is married to Dustin Dowler.

Brandon Russom, a nephew, is also a vital part of the family operation. He and his wife, Jessica have three children: Emma, Ellie and Brady.

Technology has made the job somewhat easier than in their fathers' time but there are still long days and plenty to fret over.

"There's not quite as much manual labor," Allen said. "We used to have to chop cotton

and walk the fields to flag airplanes ... we don't do that anymore. But in the spring when you're setting up planting in the field it's pretty much an all day and night thing."

"Some things are better and some are not," Randy added. "Bottom line is, this stuff is helpful, but if it breaks you better have it repaired ... fast. That's just part of it.

"Basically, you can probably put it like this," he said. "We're probably just like our dads: This is how we came in, it's how we'll go out." ♦

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Kody Riggan has seen farming highs and lows during a lifetime in the business.

Photo by Tim Rand Photography

Even in difficult times there's still plenty to like about farming

By Richard Brummett

When the 2012 farming season is discussed in the future, it will no doubt be remembered for a record drought and a long list of seemingly depressing statistics.

However, there is still plenty to be upbeat about in the farming industry, and Kody Riggan is well aware of it.

Riggan is President and CEO of Legacy Equipment in Paragould and he said it's all a matter of keeping pace.

"The world's population has topped seven billion," he said, "and by 2050 it's expected to be roughly nine billion. The arable farm land in the world needed to grow crops, needed to survive and to feed those people is not going to grow. It's going to stay the same or possibly decrease. As the population grows, so does the income level ... and as the middle class

grows, the desire for better food rises tremendously.

"So, basically, we have to double the agricultural output between now and 2050, on the same amount of acreage. How do we do it?"

Technology holds the answer, and also holds a promising future for the farmer of today. Riggan said "half the growth will come from genetics on the seed side of business; the other half from the growers' relationship with the dealer. We have to get better and smarter at what we do.

"The beautiful part of the area we live in," he said, "is that we have access to water."

He said farmers learned their lessons last year when flooding hampered their early efforts, and they devised recovery systems "to use water that was getting away from us. We had to get smarter about what the Good Lord gave

us ... retain some water. It's a challenge but a huge opportunity for us ... farmer, landowner, all ag-related business."

That's where much of the positive outlook for the future of Greene County farming comes in. "We survive out of necessity," Riggan said. "Smart people and smart businesspeople are the ones who learn to adapt quickly, and are always receptive to new ideas. I'm hearing customers say they'll have good yields and good prices in the grain world."

County Extension Agent Allen Davis holds much the same attitude. He said that while out in the rural areas he is "hearing that the crops that were irrigateable this year are going to have tremendous yields. Corn prices are good and farmers are in the full swing of harvest.

"Same for some of the rice," he added. "So far it looks like there are going to be good yields.

We still haven't gotten any rain, and a bad rain or a storm could damage the rice -- it's maturing. But a slow rain for a day or two would be good."

Davis said area farmers took note of the last bad drought in 1980 and made sure they were prepared for a second coming.

"That was a really bad one," he said. "Back then, probably only 25 to 30 percent of our acreage was irrigateable. It was a tremendous loss for families all over the state. Now we're fortunate to have good water, good quality water and I would say maybe 85 percent of crop acreage is irrigateable. That makes a tremendous difference."

He said area cotton looks good "but we're a long way from harvest. We have a lot more acres in soybeans and rice nowadays due to the price of those crops.

"But another good thing," he said, "is that on the corn and milo, after harvest, farmers are running hay balers to get a forage crop for livestock farmers to make use of. They're taking it up to the hills for farmers that don't have access to it."

Riggan said he doesn't agree with those who look at the farming picture as one of gloom and doom.

"A lot of great things are happening," he said. "We see -- all of us see -- that technology drives our business. It makes us all smarter and better at what we do."

Riggan said that very soon those in his industry will be able to "remotely monitor customers' planters and combines in real time. We'll be able to monitor subterranean moisture on all plants, transmitting through solar powered probes in the field; we will be able to sync machines together, to have them talk to each other. You will have a combine cutting in the field, and a tractor will pull up to it, and both machines will run without operator assistance on a pre-selected path. Technology is changing every day, and we all have to keep up with it, but it will make our lives so much better."

Riggan said his industry's goal is not to be known as the dealer but rather as partners with the farmer. "We have over 130 employees in Arkansas and Missouri," he said, "and I've never met more compassionate people. We're responsible for nine counties, but we service 11 or 12. We're all in this together."



Tom Kirk and Kody Riggan look at a cotton picker on display at the Expo.

Legacy Equipment hosts Customer Expo in Kennett

In an effort to help customers keep up with the rapidly changing technology in their chosen field, Legacy Equipment hosted the 2012 Customer Expo in Kennett.

It was a "mirror image" of the way John Deere trains its employees, said Kody Riggan of Legacy, and was designed to help farmers learn about new features and maximize use of the new machinery. ♦



Guests at the Customer Expo were treated to a free meal, left, while Legacy employees like Kristin Garner, Theresa Kirk and Joan Bazzell above, and David Vanhorn and Ron Bellomy, below, helped accommodate and educate visitors who stopped by the various stations.



Collins Theatre to host benefit concert for IHRF

A benefit concert featuring local musical talent Martha's Sons, Gary Prince and the Sugar Creek Band and Nicole Arnett-West is scheduled for the Collins Theatre in Paragould.

The event will take place Friday, September 14, at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door and may be purchased locally at the Lantern Bookstore or Sun Kissed Tanning, or by calling 870-450-0362.

All donations, including ticket purchases, are

targeted to be used to benefit the Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation. A silent auction will also be held to help raise funds in the battle against intracranial hypertension.

Intracranial hypertension (IH) is the general term for the neurological disorders in which cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) pressure within the skull is too high. Old names for IH include Benign Intracranial Hypertension and Pseudotumor Cerebri.

The Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation is the only non-profit organization in the world devoted to supporting the

medical research of chronic intracranial hypertension.

The foundation also provides assistance, education, and encouragement for individuals with chronic IH, their families and medical professionals.

Their mission is to discover why intracranial hypertension happens, along with new, effective treatments, with an ultimate goal of finding a cure.

For more information on the foundation, go to www.IHRFoundation.org.



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2012 Kitchen & Bath Trends

- People who choose natural wood kitchen cabinetry are leaning toward darker finishes, while white is still popular for painted finishes.
- Glass backsplashes are increasingly popular, while use of ceramic tile has declined.
- LED lighting is used in 70% of home redesigns, illustrating the trend toward energy efficiency.
- Medicine cabinets are making a comeback, homeowners prefer the additional storage medicine cabinets provide.
- Gray and neutral tones are commonly used for decor. Green is popular for bathroom remodels, while bronze and terra-cotta are more common for kitchens.

source: National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)



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Local industries have built a global presence

Just because the label says, "Made in Paragould" that doesn't mean the products will necessarily stay in town.

Several local industries manufacture products right here at home but ship from coast to coast and beyond, constructing an international pipeline that leads back here.

We looked at three such businesses to give Premiere readers an idea of how far-reaching Paragould products actually are.

Allen Engineering

When addressing concrete works and everything involved with it, Allen Engineering is about all one needs to know.

"We design, engineer, manufacture and market concrete equipment," said company President Jay Allen. "All the things that contractors make out there out of concrete -- roads, bridges, parking lots -- we make the equipment in order for them to do their jobs."

Having started in 1964 as Allen-Hardin Redi-Mix in Piggott, the company eventually became the Allen Engineering Corporation and in 1968 bought the Allen-Hickson Ready-Mix Plant in Paragould, situated at the same location as the Allen manufacturing plant today.



In December 2010, Allen Engineering Corporation (AEC) acquired the Miller Power Buggy Line. After the acquisition, AEC began manufacturing the buggies in their factory located in Paragould, where the company could apply its design, engineering, and manufacturing capabilities to an already outstanding line of material handling equipment.

From there, the face of the business began to change rapidly and consistently. During the 1970s they began a concrete pumping operation but by the midway point of the

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decade sold all ready-mix and sand/gravel operations in Northeast Arkansas.

Dewayne Allen, Jay's father, moved the family to Houston, where he was introduced to screeds, and a year later moved back to Paragould and began manufacturing screeds, fine graders and spreaders.

The name was changed to Allen Engineering Corporation in 1977 and the following year it introduced power sprayers and completed its first international transactions.

From there, Allen Engineering began a parade of "firsts," introducing unique items to the market. In 1981 it was the Model 12 oscillating Bridge Deck Finisher; in '82, Walk-Behind Trowels; in '83, having begun an emphasis on bridge contracting work to go along with the commercial contracting division, it introduced the Roller Tube Finisher.

And so it went, with items like the Aluminum Truss "quick screed," the first Riding Trowel, Triple Roller Tube Pavers and "flying frame" Riding Trowels, so that Allen Engineering built a name as the premiere experts in the field of manufacturing equipment for the concrete industry.

"We're definitely known as innovators," Allen said. "It's a testimony to my dad, Dewayne, and mother, Mary Ann. The business has really evolved over the years."

He said Allen made its first piece of equipment in 1977, the Razorback Truss Screed, and settled into the world of manufacturing pretty quickly.

Ideas come from several sources, he said. "We have a trade show, The World of Concrete, every year in Las Vegas and we get a lot of feedback there, and we have salesmen all over the country, plus dealers and distributors. We're always listening."

Also looking. He said Allen Engineering is "seeking niches, segments of manufacturing that aren't as crowded as some others, somewhere that we see opportunities.

"Product life cycles aren't as long as they used to be," he said. "It's a company joke that I tell our people, 'You're only as good as your last new product.' But there's a lot of truth to that."

The company also has a "Concrete College" where it combines a classroom seminar with

hands-on training in placing and finishing techniques.

"Every time we have the college," Allen said, "we'll have 50 to 75 people from around the country and from around the world. We have national and international visitors all the time."

In that vein, in 2011 Allen received the Arkansas Governor's Award for Excellence in Global Trade.

Allen said one reason for the company's success is its belief in providing quality products, and reliability is a major company focus.

Allen Engineering is committed to constantly developing, innovating and improving its full line of equipment but revels in the fact that it concentrates only on the concrete industry.

Being family owned means owners are directly involved in the everyday operation of the business, focusing daily on total customer satisfaction, and everything they produce is American made ... designed, engineered and manufactured in the U.S.A.,

which generates jobs for Americans.

Their top priority for over 45 years has been to service and support the concrete contractor. Their mission statement is:

Our Mission is to provide superior quality products (manufactured in a safe and efficient environment by highly trained and dedicated personnel), on-time deliveries, and reactive & knowledgeable customer service.

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The Allen Engineering Team is fully committed to exceeding customer expectations for the quality of the products and services provided through the continuous improvement process of reducing waste, defects, and variability in everything we do.

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Anchor Packaging

Anchor Packaging began operation in 1963 as a converter of plastic film. In 1978, Anchor expanded its operations to include thermoforming, sheet extrusion, machine tooling and fabrication and blown film.

In 1985 a new manufacturing facility was constructed in Paragould. Due to increased production demands, it has been expanded a number of times. In 2008, the facility expanded again to 310,000 square feet, and a second 160,000 square foot production facility in Marmaduke was completed in 1990.

Over the years, several acquisitions, including Innovative Plastics, the MicroLite division of Amoco, and the BonFaire division of Placon Corporation have allowed Anchor to expand product offerings.

"We make food packaging for the restaurant and food service industry," said Kellie Blake, Human Resources Manager. "If you go to Wal-Mart and buy a roaster, that's our containers. Certain lunch meats ... our containers. If you go to Wendy's or Burger King and get a breakfast bowl or a salad ... our containers."

Blake said Anchor got started in that line by making sandwich containers for Busch Stadium in St. Louis and now "we sometimes expand on our product families, and sometimes create something new. For instance, we came up with a vented container to hold hot items without fogging up, about a year ago."

The acquisition of Borden Chemical's film operation in Argentina has allowed Anchor to broaden its exposure in South America, adding another 50,000 square feet of production.

The 680,000 square foot Distribution Center in Paragould warehouses all of Anchor Packaging products, and provides a single centralized shipping point.

Today, Anchor Packaging facilities exceed 1.3 million square feet of production and warehouse space.

With headquarters in St. Louis, Anchor has become a major integrated producer of plastic packaging for the foodservice retail and food processor industries both nationally and globally.



Anchor Packaging's food containers can be found just about anywhere consumers turn.

Other Anchor products include AnchorFoil: Aluminum foil; all types of takeout containers; Processor Trays; and a full line of foodservice wraps.

Blake said one of the good things about their containers is that they are reusable.

"It's very much a 'green' product," she said. "That's important to a lot of people these days."

American Railcar Industries

The Paragould manufacturing plant is a multi-faceted railcar production facility. ARI builds a comprehensive selection of covered hopper cars, pressure differential covered hopper cars, and freight cars like coal, mill gondolas and center beam cars to the customer's unique specifications.

They are an AAR certified supplier of class F and K wheel, axle and bearing assemblies that are machined and assembled in their state-of-the-art robotic facility.

ARI-Paragould is the home of AXIS axle forging operations.

History

In February of 1864 the Milton Car Works was formed in Milton, Pennsylvania, by Murray, Dougal & Company. A year later, the Milton Car Works began delivering some of the world's first tank cars. Designed by Amos Densmore, the unique conveyance consisted of two wood stave barrels mounted on a flat car. The Densmore tank car ushered in a new era for the railroads and a new industry that 129 years later would become American Railcar Industries, Inc.

In 1899 with a capital of \$60,000,000, the

Milton Car Works and 12 other railcar builders led by William Keeny Bixby of Missouri Car and Foundry formed their predecessor, the American Car and Foundry Company (AC&F, later shortened to ACF). Thus began a history of progress, leadership and innovation in rail car design and manufacturing.

Among many of its proud achievements, ACF lays claim to building the first all-steel passenger car for New York City's pioneer subway, the Interborough Rapid Transit Company followed by the sale of more than 100 motor and trailer subway cars for London's famous Underground.

By 1906, ACF had steel shops at St. Louis, Detroit; Berwick, Pennsylvania; Huntington, West Virginia, and Madison, Illinois. In 1917, Shippers Car Line began operation as a tank car leasing company then acquired by ACF in 1927.

ACF played an active role in both World Wars, producing for the Allies in WWI a diversity of products like artillery gun mounts and ammunition, field kitchens, pack saddles, submarine chasers, cloth shrinking machines and rollers, and even wooden tent pegs.

During World War II, ACF built army tanks, aircraft tail assemblies, artillery shells, armor plate, and hospital cars. Until the end of World War I, ACF's Wilmington plant produced boats for the U.S Navy then switched production to luxury wooden yachts, many of which still exist.

In 1922, ACF expanded into the automotive industry when it acquired Carter Carburetor Corporation of St. Louis. This began a long period of diversification and expansion into bus and street car manufacturing highlighted by acquisitions of Fageol Motors Co, the

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ARI produces a variety of railcars and railcar products.

Hall-Scott Motor Car Company and J. G. Brill Company.

By 1954, the corporation's interests had become so diversified that the name was changed to ACF Industries, Inc. ACF produced its last passenger railcar in 1959.

American Railcar Industries, Inc. has its headquarters in Saint Charles, Missouri, outside of Saint Louis on the grounds of American Car and Foundry's original manufacturing center circa 1899.

The Future

American Railcar Industries, Inc. was formed in 1994 from the acquisition of railcar component manufacturing and railcar maintenance assets from ACF Industries. Today ARI, a publicly held corporation, is a fully integrated supplier to the North American freight car market.

ARI designs and manufactures new railcars, railcar parts, operates a network of railcar repair centers. They supply rail fleet management and engineering services to shippers, equipment leasing companies and railroads. Their industrial products group provides industry with a variety of services including steel and aluminum castings, heavy steel fabrication, roll forming, production machining, specialty welding and forging.

Other Interests

Amtek Railcar Industries Private Limited is an Indian joint venture to manufacture railcar products from a new facility to be located in Sarai Banjara.

Axis, LLC. is a unique state-of-the-art forging operation that produces railcar axles for the global market with capabilities for other industrial applications.

Ohio Castings Company, LLC. produces steel side frames, bolsters, couplers and yokes for the North American market. ♦

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Who is Greene County?

I AM GREENE COUNTY



Tom Underwood Age: 53

What I do: I have worked for Consolidated Youth Services Inc. for 20 years.

Where I'm from: I was born in and have spent the majority of my life here in Greene County.

What I like the most about Greene County: The people of Greene County. They are like the land we live on: Hard, honest and fruitful.

My family: My wife Diane (a nurse); my three sons, T.J., 20, and his wife Trisha; my one-year-old granddaughter Isabella Rose; my 17-year-old Christian; and my four-year-old Sean.

Hobbies: Raising a garden and a four-year-old son.

What I like most about my job: It gives me an opportunity to be a part of our most valuable resource, our youth.

Something most people don't know about me: From 1981 to 1984 I lived in England.

Tom is photographed at the CYS office in Paragould.



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Brothers Jason and Daryl Masingale have soared to the top of the catfish tournament tour.

They're hooked! Masingale brothers among nation's best

By Richard Brummett

Jason Masingale said he and his brother Daryl used to do a lot of fishing on the Mississippi River and a duckhunting buddy suggested they try their hand at entering a catfishing tournament. They checked into it, entered one and came home with a fourth-place finish and, when they were done, it wasn't just the fish that were hooked.

Now the brothers have had so much success on the rod and reel catfishing tour that they have sponsors wanting them to use their equipment, a company has provided them a boat, they've been featured in magazine articles and they've even made a "how-to" video.

"When we showed up for that first tournament," Jason said, "we thought there'd be eight to ten people. We got there and I think there were over 60 boats. A lot of guys come from up the Ohio River, and they show up in these big, nice boats. It's a really big, competitive deal up there, as we soon found out."

Tournament rules call for a five-fish limit, using rods and reels only, but what Jason described as "the saltwater type rods and reels. The fish we're after, they weigh 50, 60, 70 pounds pretty regularly." The competitions are catch and release events and are "set up like the BASS tournaments," Jason said. "Picking up sponsors really helps with things like entry fees; they run usually \$150 to \$250 for Cabela's and Bass Pro tournaments."

Jason said the two have "done really well. Well, we've been fortunate. We've finished in the money most of the time. We've won several tournaments and we won the Cabela's points championship last year.

This year, we're in contention again (currently just out of the top 10). We've been told we're probably one of the winningest teams out there for the last four or five years. But we don't need to quit our day jobs."

They compete on the Cabela's King Kat Tournament Trail and finished 2011 as the National Championship duo. Some of their notable accomplishments include a 127-pound average in King Kat tournaments; 8-time Cabela's Classic Qualifiers; 7-time Big

Cat Quest qualifiers; 2009 Cabela's Championship Runners-up; 2010 Big Cat Quest Champions; 2011 Big Cat Quest Championship Runners-up; and the aforementioned 2011 Cabela's "Anglers of the Year" Points Champions.

Jason said he is proud that both brothers were "born and raised in Paragould, and continue to live here."

Success has not changed either of them, he said, and things like knowing fishing legend

Bill Dance on a first-name basis or having acquaintances mention that they saw them on late-night TV commercials doesn't alter the fact that "we're like almost everybody else out there ... we're just some good old boys fishing."

Jason is the Director of Intensive Care and of the Cath Lab and GI Lab at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

Daryl is head of Quality Control with Delta Asphalt.

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Averi Hayes, 2, found a way to beat the heat with an afternoon romp through Labor Park's water park. Averi is the daughter of Derek and Lexi Hayes of Paragould.

No matter how old your children are, they are always your babies

They are always your babies. That's the bottom line; no matter how old your children become, or how responsible they prove to be, in the minds of parents they are always babies needing help.

I didn't understand that several years ago when I worked at the Northeast Arkansas Tribune and it was Farm Family of the Year time. As editor, I needed a feature and some photographs of a gentleman who farmed in the Delaplaine area and decided an early morning drive through the countryside would be refreshing; so I made the trip, shot the photos, completed the interview and took my time on the way back to the office.

"Life is good," I thought as I drove the back roads and took in the scenery. "This is going to be a great, great day."

When I finally pulled into the Tribune parking lot, I was met by News Editor Sherry Cunningham, who wore on her face a mixture of concern and aggravation. She was standing out on the front porch, coffee cup in hand, steam coming from both her cup and her ears.

"Where have you been?!" Sherry demanded,, and I began the mental checklist every married guy under such scrutiny makes: What did I forget? Birthday? Anniversary? Fancy dinner date?

"Wait," I thought, "I'm not even married to this woman. I can't be in this much trouble."

Come to find out, everyone on the newspaper staff panicked when they arrived at the office and I wasn't there. I was *always* there, and always the first one there. So when I was a few minutes late, staff members were preparing good-natured jabs. When I was an hour late, they decided I was dead.

How bad do you have to look for people you work with to assume, if you are late for work, you must have had a heart attack? Why couldn't I have just run off with a supermodel? Maybe I hit the jackpot and just kissed the job goodbye. No, according to Sherry and the rest of the staff I had to be dead somewhere so they did what any responsible adult would do: They called my mother.

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



Really. I was not on time, so they called my mommy. Sufficiently alarmed, Mother made Dad drive her up to our house in Marmaduke to see whether I needed CPR or a spanking. Obviously, I wasn't there, which just led to more visions of catastrophe. They checked with my neighbors, who had not seen me, they called friends and relatives and added them to the panic list as well, all assuming something bad had happened. So, when I pulled into work safe and sound, people were mad at me. I would have been better off to arrive via ambulance, stitched back together and transported to my desk on a gurney.

That all came back to me recently when our younger daughter wouldn't answer her cell phone. We were trying to reach her for

something as simple as asking if she planned to eat dinner with us, but she didn't respond. She also didn't reply to text messages, and that's when the parent paranoia kicked in. "I don't like this," my wife said after a couple of hours. "She always has her phone with her."

We called her sister, so we could stress her too, and added a good friend to the list to assure multiple worriers. We drove to her house and found it dark, and I said she had to be elsewhere or there would be some lights on. "Unless she's passed out in there somewhere," my wife said, keeping the angst alive.

When we finally made contact and learned she had simply forgotten to take her phone while preparing her room for the start of school, she was shocked at everyone's concern and to learn how many people we called. "My gosh," she said, "you didn't call Mamma, did you?"

Of course not, we told her. You don't call grandmas when grownups are missing; you call their mommies. ♦

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Greene County Boys Club holds annual football signups, cookout

Representatives of the Greene County Boys and Girls Club welcomed youngsters in grades 3-6 who want to play football to the annual signup session and cookout.

Those who showed up at Harmon Field were treated to hot dogs and drinks after filling out the necessary paperwork. League play begins in mid-September. ♦



While parents did the hard part, filling out the paperwork, above, youngsters were busy getting free hot dogs and drinks at Paragould's Harmon Field concession stand from volunteers like Lantha Garmrath, left. Casey Horner, below, was in charge of cooking for the families that attended the registration session.



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Time to begin voting for Outstanding Teacher in Greene County

Premiere Magazine will again seek the opinions of students, parents, educators' co-workers and interested readers when choosing Greene County's Outstanding Teacher for the coming school year.

We asked readers to submit electronically their choices when considering the men and women they deemed the top teachers in their respective districts during the last school year, and then featured two of them each month in Premiere Magazine.

Once the school year wound down, we took

the 16 monthly winners and had you vote again, this time for the Outstanding Teacher among the eligible candidates. Greene County Tech fifth grade instructor Norma Davenport was the overwhelming winner, and received a gift package from MOR Media and Shear Elegance Design Team.

The opportunity to nominate your favorite teacher is back, and all you have to do is send his or her name to:

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Greene County Tech's Norma Davenport was named the Outstanding Teacher by Premiere readers.

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A collage of various clothing and accessories including shoes, dresses, blouses, hats, and jewelry. The central text reads "Brooksie & Bonida's" in a decorative, cursive font. The background is a light blue patterned surface.

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Happenings!



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Happenings!

Birthday Celebration

1. Family and friends gathered at the home of Mary Ann Kingston in July to celebrate the 89th birthday of Naomi (Red) Henkel. Pictured are, front from left, Joy Holcomb, Ollie Winn, Naomi (Red) Henkel, Emma Brasher and Hildred Gilmore; and back, Mary Ann Kingston, Sharron Gray, Ida Lenderman, Betty Breckenridge, Margie Fuller, Billie Rowland and Wanda Roy.

Kids On The Mile

2. The Women's Advisory Council of the St. Bernards Development Foundation sponsored a free Back to School program for youngsters in grades K-4. Formerly known as Kidz Fun Fair, the Kids On The Mile event is an educational and fun program designed for elementary-age youngsters and their parents. This year, as students went through a variety of booths, exhibits and activities, they could "win" back to school supplies.

District IV Queen

3. Ms. Belle Meade 2012, Donive Gatlin, was crowned District IV Queen 2012 on August 2 at the Paragould High School Auditorium.

Ms. Gatlin competed against 24 other ladies from District IV nursing homes. She will be competing in Little Rock in the State Queen pageant in mid-October.

Clothes Donations

4. Through generous donations, First United Methodist Church was able to give away one week's worth of clothing for more than 20 families in August right before school started. The families were clients of the food pantry at the Witt House, a ministry of the church. From there, the remaining clothes were given away to assist even more in need. People in the church and community partnered to provide clothes that were sorted by youth and other volunteers.

B.E.E.S. Singers Entertain

5. Members of the Greene County Senior B.E.E.S. singers belted out a variety of tunes to entertain residents of Greene Acres Nursing Home in Paragould in early August. The B.E.E.S. performers travel around the area presenting their singalongs to cheer up "just about anyone who will listen," according to a group member.

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Business Milestones

Mother, daughter change roles at Shear Elegance Design Team

By Richard Brummett

It doesn't seem all that long ago that Debra Prince Williams welcomed her daughter Lora into the world of hair styling.

Now the two have traded places, with Lora taking over the leadership role at Shear Elegance Design Team, and Mom renting booth space from her.

"After 39 years, I've handed over the keys to my daughter," Debra said. "I've been so fortunate; I'm very happy for my daughter, and my clients really are like family to me."

She was the owner of Deb's Hair, Inc.,

when Lora came aboard in 1999 and they worked together in that capacity until "the end of 2005 or the first of 2006. That's when we moved to the new building and became DeLo's Hair Dimensions and Spa."

While the mother was following through on a desire to return to college and enter the medical field in some manner, the daughter



A 1999 newspaper article recalls the mother-daughter business partnership.

was interested in adding a partner and taking over the business. Debra said she "gave them the shop and they rented the building from me, and I rented a booth from them. In 2010, when I graduated, I decided to step down and just work part time."

As a young owner instead of an employee, Lora said her focus will be changed somewhat but her overall goal remains the same, to keep customers happy.

"I tried some other things, had a gift shop," she said, "but it seems like God keeps leading me back here. I think it was the right thing to do."

Lora said being the one in charge "isn't as easy as it looks, but it depends on you. It's taking care of you, and the ones who rent booths from you, and the clients. But it's re-



Debra Williams, right, has handed over the keys to her daughter, Lora, after 39 years as a business owner.

warding at the end, the same as hairstyling."

Kristen Adams is the new partner, and at 22 said she knows "it's an opportunity, but there's a lot more responsibility. But the more we worked together, the more we realized we wanted to have our own salon." ♦

Enger joins NEA Baptist Clinic at new Paragould site

Chris Enger recently joined NEA Baptist Clinic Physical Therapy at a new satellite location in Paragould. In an effort to meet the need for quality physical therapy care throughout Northeast Arkansas, NEA Baptist Clinic has opened satellite locations in Paragould and Trumann.

Enger has eleven years of experience in health and wellness. He will see patients who are in need of orthopedic outpatient

physical therapy. Enger attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, where he received a bachelor of science in physical education with an emphasis in exercise science. He later went on to complete his doctorate of physical therapy, also at ASU.



Chris Enger

Enger worked for four years as the director of health and wellness promotion at ASU. A native of Jonesboro, he and his wife Amy (Sloas) Enger of Paragould, live in Jonesboro.

The NEA Baptist Clinic Physical Therapy location in Paragould is at 4700 West Kingshighway. The phone number is 870-240-8402. ♦

Business Is Good

Haunted house enthusiasts should check out Night Terrors

By Hannah Gonzalez

Looking for something fun to do this fall? Marcy and Dewayne Lawrence of Paragould are in the process of opening Night Terrors, Paragould's newest and biggest haunted house.

Marcy is currently a secretary at Broadway & Broadway while Dewayne has made Night Terrors his full-time job. Together they have a beautiful two-year-old daughter, Jordan, who loves to help her parents around the haunt as well.

Night Terrors is a large walk-through haunted house with turns, tunnels, optical illusions and terrifying surprises around each corner. The Lawrences have put heart and soul into building the business for their family with the hopes of its being an annual activity for the Paragould area.

The dream of opening a haunted house started with Dewayne and his love for scary movies. Once he met Marcy, he introduced them to her and she fell in love. They have gone to one or two every year since.

It wasn't until 2010 that they put together

a yard haunt with Dewayne's brother for a Halloween party. Marcy said, "Guests had to go through the mini-haunt to get to the party area and it was such a hit that people were asking where to pay when they finished." That lit a spark for the haunt loving couple, and thus the idea for a larger scale event was created.

"We noticed that several haunts were getting worse instead of better, less scary and more expensive on top of there being a major lack of activities during the fall in Paragould," stated Marcy.

Together they have sold their acre of land, their home and both of their vintage cars. Dewayne sold his 1974 Nova and Marcy's 1967 Camaro to earn enough money to purchase the needed land, props, building supplies and everything in between.

Marcy stated, "We have put pretty much everything into this haunt. We work night and day building and preparing the space. My husband has put in hours upon hours of research to get his vision just right."



Dewyne and Marcy Lawrence are opening Night Terrors for haunted house fans.

The Haunt is a combination of a house, large tunnel, and two huge outdoor pavilions. It adds up to more than 3,300 square feet. It will be at least a 13-15 minute walk-through for guests.

Opening dates will be Fridays and Saturdays starting October 4 with tours beginning at 7 p.m. and going until the crowds are finished. For more information on Night Terrors go to www.facebook.com/nightterrors.nea or contact Marcy by email at marcyl@grnco.net or by phone 870-586-8289.

Look for more pictures, location information and tickets prices in Premiere Magazine's October issue. ♦



CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTINGS

Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies were recently held at three locations. Lil Fatties, top left, is located at 1012 North 4th Street in Paragould. Pictured are owners Russ and Shelby Deaver along with other supporters and the Chamber Ambassadors. A second ceremony was held to celebrate the grand opening of A Time to Dance, bottom left, a new dance studio located at 100 North Rockingchair Road, Suite 11. Pictured are owner Elizabeth Miller, family members and supporters and the Chamber Ambassadors; and a third was staged to celebrate the grand opening of the new Merle Norman Cosmetics location in the Grecian Plaza. Pictured are owner Donna Kingston, supporters and the Chamber Ambassadors.



Helen Marie's Perfect Touch

Our Bridal...

Sonni Black & Matt Tripod September 8	Claire DeRoe & Chad Johnson October 20
Hailey Rawls & Josh Hannah September 22	Katie Lyles & Josh Morris November 3
Isha Cummings & Casey Fletcher October 6	Mallory Greene & Josh McNatt November 10
Shelby Boyd & Paul Robinson October 6	Breanne Reddick & Dex Gardner December 15
Kristen Adams & Joel McCracken October 13	Giny Draper & Nick Rice February 9
Ashley Timmons & CJ Smith October 20	

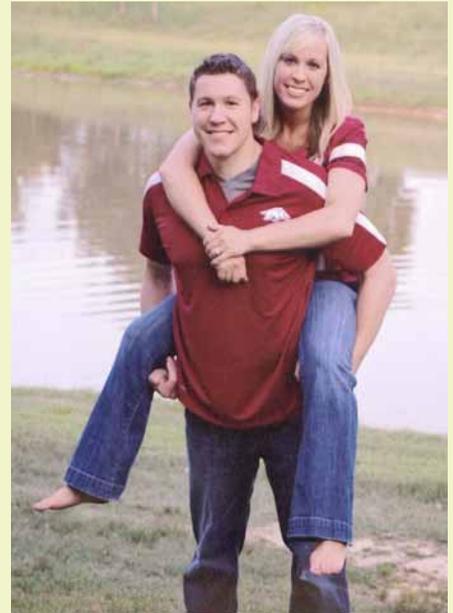
Our Baby...

Kristin & Josh Collins
April & Joey Bowen
Kara & Jason Speer
Teri & Matthew Horne

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M-F 9:30-5, Sat 9:30-3

Engagement Announcements



Isha Cummings and Casey Fletcher

Cummings-Fletcher

Isha Cummings and Casey Fletcher announce their plans for an October wedding.

Isha is the daughter of Tina and Greg Reese, and Derek Cummings and lives in Paragould.

Casey's parents are Lisa and Jack Fletcher, also of Paragould.

The wedding will take place October 6, 2012, at the ASU Cooper Alumni Center in Jonesboro. ♦

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Birth Announcements



Macklyn Avery Hedge

Dustin and Jennifer Hedge of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Macklyn Avery Hedge.

Macklyn was born at 7:46 p.m. on May 15, 2012, at NEA Baptist Medical Center in Jonesboro. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Her grandparents are Scotty and Kathy Hickson, Mike Jadwin, Gail Hedge and the late Terry Hedge, all of Paragould. ♦



Jeremy Christopher Parrish

Chris and Katie Parrish of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Jeremy Christopher Parrish.

Jeremy weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches long.

He was born at St. Bernards.

Grandparents are Keith and Jeanne Clark, and Michael and Sharon Parrish. Great-grandparents are Lowell Ussery, Randal and Jean Clark, LaVerne Parrish and Gloria Willm. ♦



Ava Presley Waldrum

Todd and Candice Waldrum of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Presley Waldrum.

Ava weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She was born at Twin Rivers Regional Medical Center in Kennett, Missouri.

Grandparents are Britt and Teresa Lyles and the late Randall and Joyce Waldrum. ♦

To have your child's birth announcement featured in Premiere Magazine email information to:

editor@paragouldpremiere.com

no later than the 15th of each month.

Congratulations Kristen Adams & Joel McCracken

We wish you the best!



Kelsey Ray Photography

Helen Marie's Perfect Touch

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M-F 9:30-5, Sat 9:30-3

CALENDAR OF EVENT

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

Saturday, Sunday, September 1st-2nd
"A Christmas Carol" auditions, 2-4 p.m.
 Hopefuls for the cast will audition at the Collins Theatre in Paragould.

Thursday, September 6th
AMMC Men's Health Fair 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Call (870) 239-8031 for information.

Saturday, September 8th
Great Arkansas Cleanup, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Help keep The Natural State litter free. Volunteers will assist the Crowley's Ridge State Park staff in cleaning up the park, community, and Crowley's Ridge National Scenic Byway. Lunch will be provided. For further information contact: Crowley's Ridge State Park, (870) 573-6751; E-mail: crowleysridge@arkansas.com

Arkansas Buy, Sell or Trade Swap Meet, 7 a.m.- 11 a.m.
 Held out back by the tracks, off Court Street by the old power plant building.

Childbirth Education Class
AMMC, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Call (870) 239-8031 for information.

Saturday, Sunday, September 8th-9th
"A Christmas Carol" auditions, 2-4 p.m.
 Hopefuls for the cast will audition at the Collins Theatre in Paragould.

Thursday, September 13th
The AMMC Foundation 18th Annual Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Each year, the Foundation hosts the Annual Golf Tournament. This year, the four person scramble is set for the Paragould Country Club beginning with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. A noon lunch will be provided. The afternoon flight will begin at 1 p.m. Registration deadline is September 7. Cost: \$500 for team, \$125 for individual. Contact: Terry Austin, 870-239-7000.

Friday, September 14th
Benefit Concert, Collins Theatre, 7 p.m.

Featuring local musical talent Martha's Sons, Gary Prince and the Sugar Creek Band and Nicole Arnett-West. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door and may be purchased locally at the Lantern Bookstore or Sun Kissed Tanning, or by calling 870-450-0362. All donations, including ticket purchases, are targeted to benefit the Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation. A silent auction will also be held to help raise funds in the battle against intracranial hypertension.

Saturday, September 15th
Cotton Pickin' Festival, 4 p.m.-???
 Arbyrd, Mo., will have its 7th annual Cotton Pickin' celebration at the city park. The annual parade starts at 4 p.m. followed by local entertainment at 5:00. Jaded at 6:00. Ben Brand and the BB Band at 7:00 and Sammy Kershaw at 8:00. Call the City Hall at 573-654-3834 or Lonnie Gibson, Jr. at 870-240-5465 for tickets or information.

Patriotic Constitution Celebration
Collins Theatre, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
 Songs, skits, videos and more by youth from area schools. Founding Father, Ben Franklin special appearance. Local readers from teens to 70's+ will read the Constitution. Constitutional Address by Curtis Coleman, founder of The Curtis Coleman Institute for Constitutional Policy (tentatively scheduled). Hosted locally by: Trumpet of Heritage, Inc. For more info: Anita Wells, 870-335-8855 or Jerry Halsell 870-450-6687.

Monday-Friday, September 17th-21st
Chamber Week 2012
 Monday, September 17: "Shop the Chamber" Monday.
 Tuesday, September 18: Membership Seminar, Randy Frazier "Over the Fence," Paragould Community Center.
 Wednesday, September 19: Chamber Breakfast honoring the Past Presidents.
 Thursday, September 20: Business After Hours.
 Friday, September 21: Membership Luncheon

Monday, September 17th
KASU's Blues Monday, 7 p.m.
 KASU's Blue Monday, with Houston Steele and Bad Habit, at The Red Goose Grand Hall-Pruett Street entrance. Red Goose is located at 101 S. Pruett Street, Paragould. The entertainment is free thanks to KASU, Bibb Chiropractic, and MOR Media.

Recurring Events:

First Monday of every month
Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon

Every Wednesday
Perking on Pruett, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
 At Something Sweet. Find out what's happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

T.O.P.S. (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)
 Wednesday mornings at the Paragould Community Center in Room E. Private Weigh in at 8:00 a.m.; support meeting at 8:30 a.m. May attend one meeting as a guest. Membership fees are \$26 a year and \$1 dues per meeting.

Second Thursday of every month
The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 p.m. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com

Friday, September 28th
St. Mary's Shrimp Shak, 5-9 p.m.
 In the Parish Hall. You may purchase tickets from any St. Mary's student or at the door. Dine-in or Carry-out available. For more info call 236-2568.

Saturday, October 6th,
Racin' For Traeson 5k, Reynolds Park, 11 a.m.
 The 5k walk/run will raise funds for the International Rett Syndrome Foundation in memory of Traeson Daniel Moon. Registration fee is \$20 until September 22, \$22.50 until the day before the race and \$25 on race day. All preregistered participants will get t-shirts. Sign In/Registration starts at 9 a.m., race at 11 a.m. Hosted by Ashley Box. Donation Website - www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/racinfortraeson.



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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Feature



We will look at all sorts of spooky events surrounding Halloween, including haunted houses, Zombie walks and more.

Senior Citizens



B.E.E.S. singers at Greene Acres Nursing Home.

Senior citizens take the spotlight, including the Greene County Sr. B.E.E.S. singers.

Events



A scene from the Greene County Fair.

Attend events with us as Premiere Magazine covers local happenings, including the Greene County Fair.

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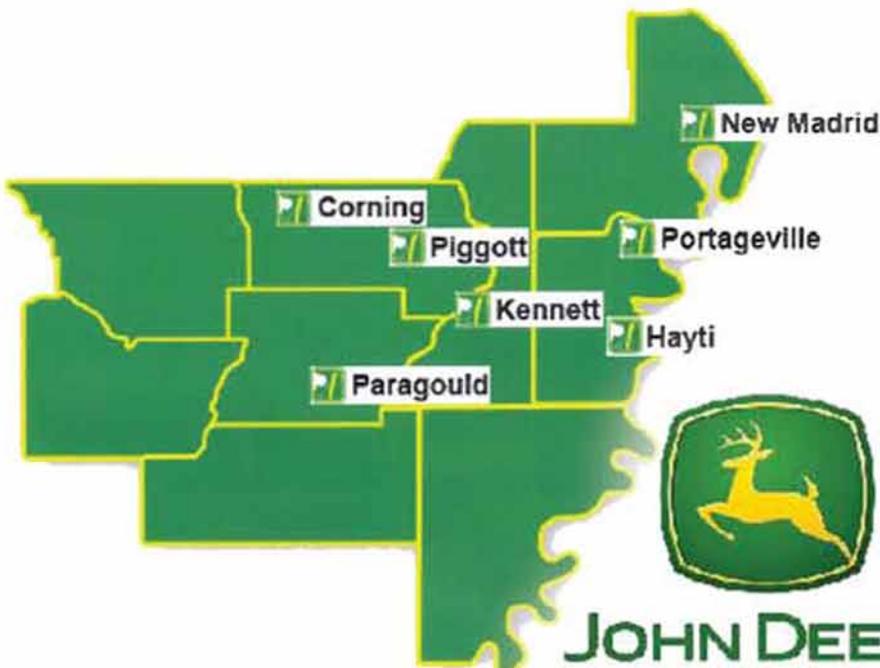
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