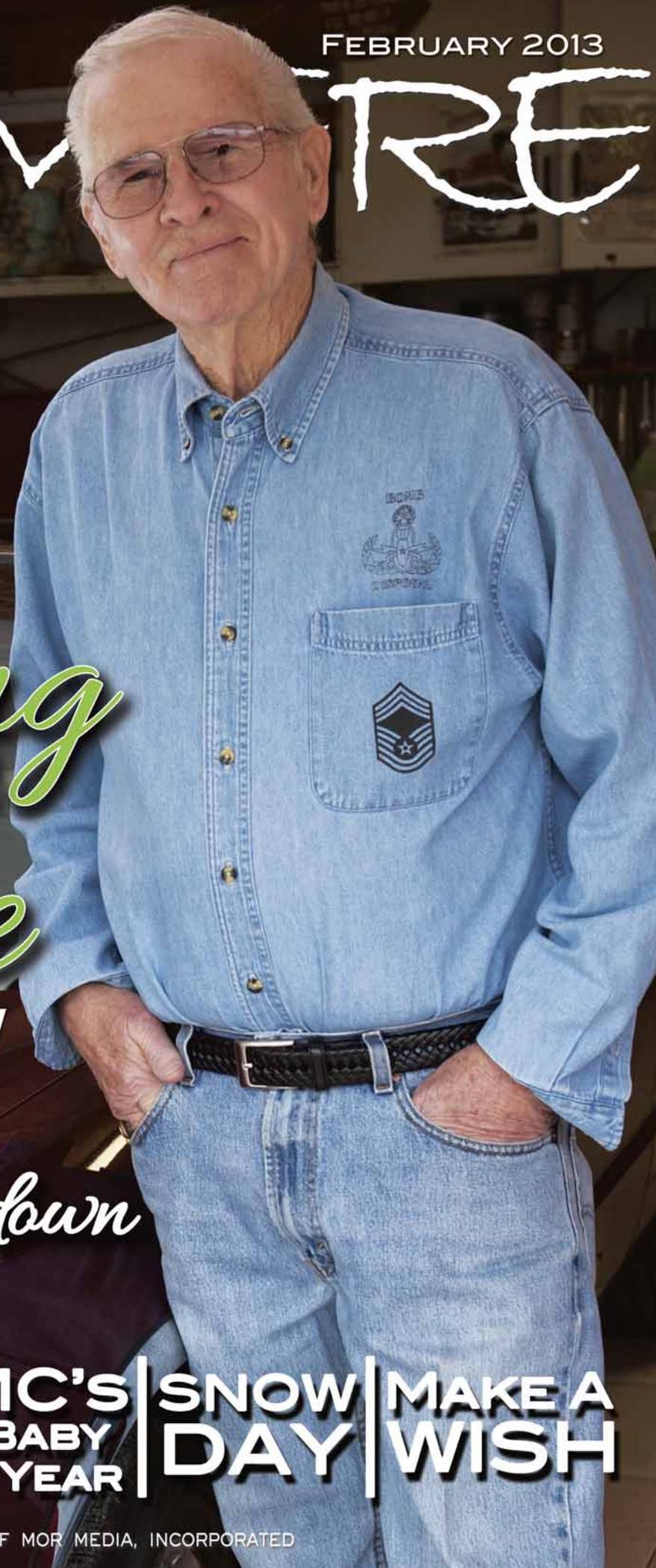


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PREN TRE



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the point
Home*

TED MABRY

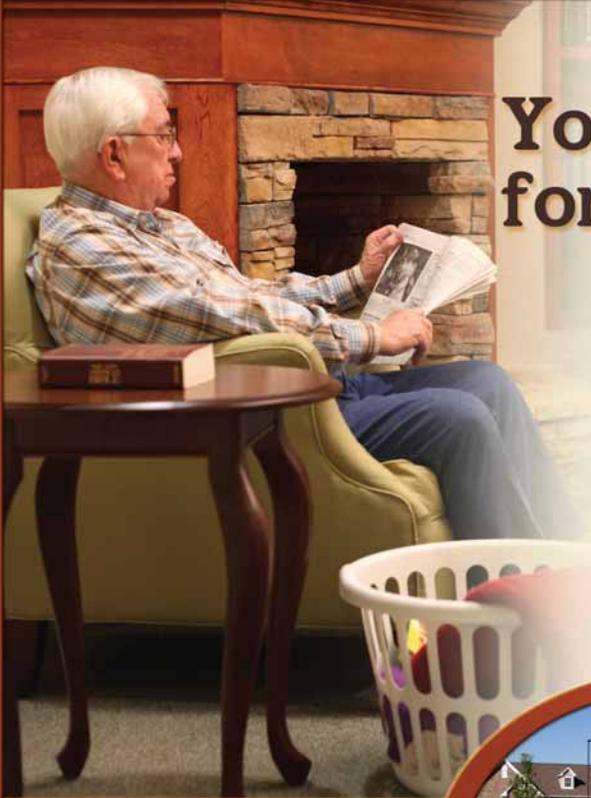
*sees no need
to slow down*

VALENTINE'S
DAY

AMMC'S
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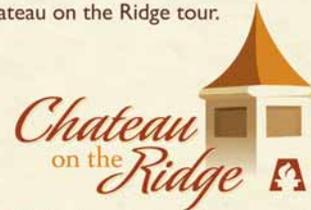
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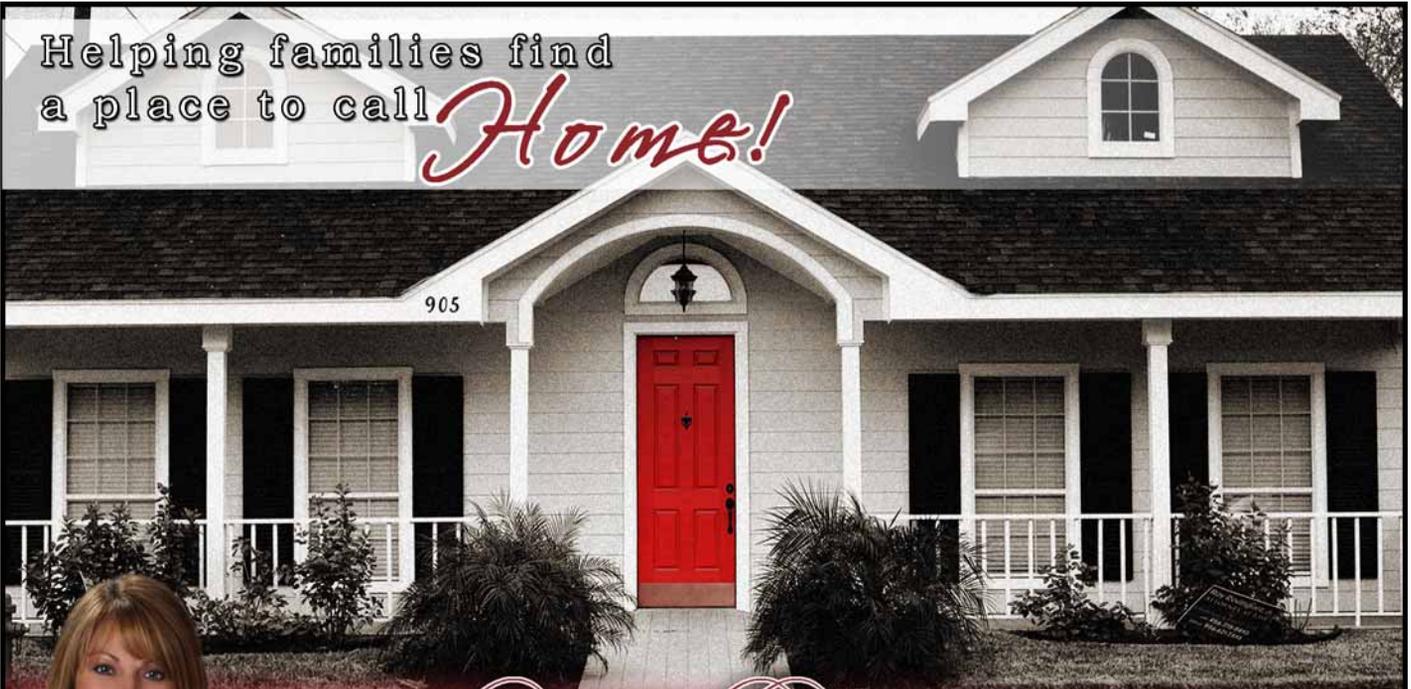
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Is chocolate really toxic for my dog?



With Valentine's Day just around the corner, this is a topic that is sure to come up more than once in the next few weeks. People aren't the only ones with a sweet tooth and your four legged family members too often find those chocolate hearts and kisses just within reach. If your pet finds himself in a "sticky" situation, there are a few key factors to keep in mind.

Is chocolate really toxic for your pet? Well, yes... and no... Like most things that are ingestible the type and quantity consumed plays a big role in the ultimate answer to that question. The primary toxic substance found in chocolate is theobromide, which has caffeine like effects. However, not all chocolate is created equal. Milk chocolate has fairly low levels of theobromide, while dark and baking chocolates typically have more than ten times the concentration! So, the first thing to consider is the type of chocolate your pet ate. Once you have determined what type of chocolate was eaten, the next thing to consider is the size of the dog? A 5lb Chihuahua isn't going to need nearly as much chocolate as an 80lb Labrador to create some pretty serious issues.

If you think your pet has helped himself to your chocolatey treats, the main thing to do is watch him for signs of toxicity. The most common signs to look for include vomiting, diarrhea and hyperactivity. In acute cases, symptoms may include tremors, seizures, and racing heart. If severe and left untreated, these symptoms may occasionally lead to death.

It is important to keep in mind that aside from the primary toxicity, chocolate also contains high levels of fat and therefore can cause some sicknesses without technically being considered "toxic".

So what's the take home message? All chocolates can cause harm; however, the size of the dog, the type of chocolate, and the amount ingested are the 3 factors that primarily determine the degree of harm. If you're concerned that your pet may have ingested a harmful amount of chocolate your best plan is to call your veterinarian with the details surrounding those 3 factors.

This Valentine's Day it would be a good idea to make sure the kisses your pet gets are of the non-chocolate variety!

God Bless!

Brent Reddick, DVM



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On the cover: Ted Mabry
Cover photo by Tim Rand Photography

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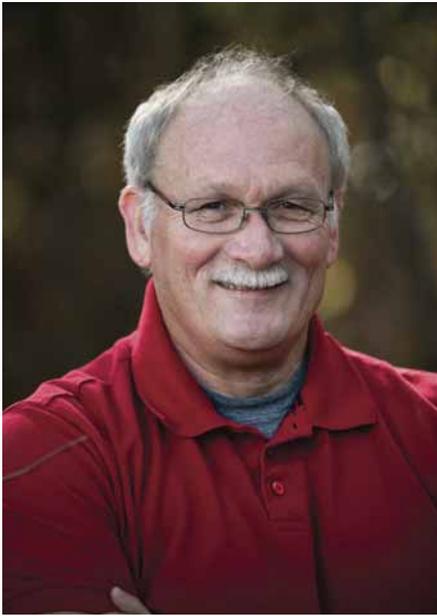
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From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

This month we take a look at some people who have found that getting up and getting around helps keep them young ... or at least in a younger frame of mind.

Ted Mabry is our cover subject and he not only leads an interesting life in the present, he led one in the past. He's a retired Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force, was a personnel director for a local factory and still volunteers for various committees and services throughout the community ... all while making time for hobbies and interests of his own.

There are also some other senior citizens who stay active by choice, and we visited with some of them as well.

With the economy remaining at the forefront nationally, we wondered what couples do in this day and age when they decide to get married but don't have limitless funds. In that vein, we talked with business people around the area and had them give us their best advice for marrying on a budget; we also looked at the flip side, where money is no object.

In addition to the wedding tips, one local couple -- Abby Jetton and Hunter Finley -- shared photographs and more from their wedding day in *Our Wedding Story*.

February hosts Valentine's Day, and we have examined that event from both the serious and comedic angles. Gabriel Cook revisits the days of handing out Valentines at elementary school in his column *What's The Fuss?* while Tiffany's Napier's *Dreamweaver* feature offers good gift-giving advice.

There is plenty of school news, including a couple of Premiere's Outstanding Teachers, in this month's issue and Arkansas Methodist Medical Center provided information regarding the first baby born at the hospital in 2013. There are several other kid-related stories this time, as well as photos of several taking advantage of a snow day frolic outside instead of sitting in a classroom.

All the regular monthly features are here, like *NEA Cooks*, *Business Is Good*, *Lifestyles* and *Happenings*, just to name a few, and as always we have feature stories on Paragould area people that you won't find anywhere else.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Premiere Magazine and pass that word along to our valued advertisers. ♦

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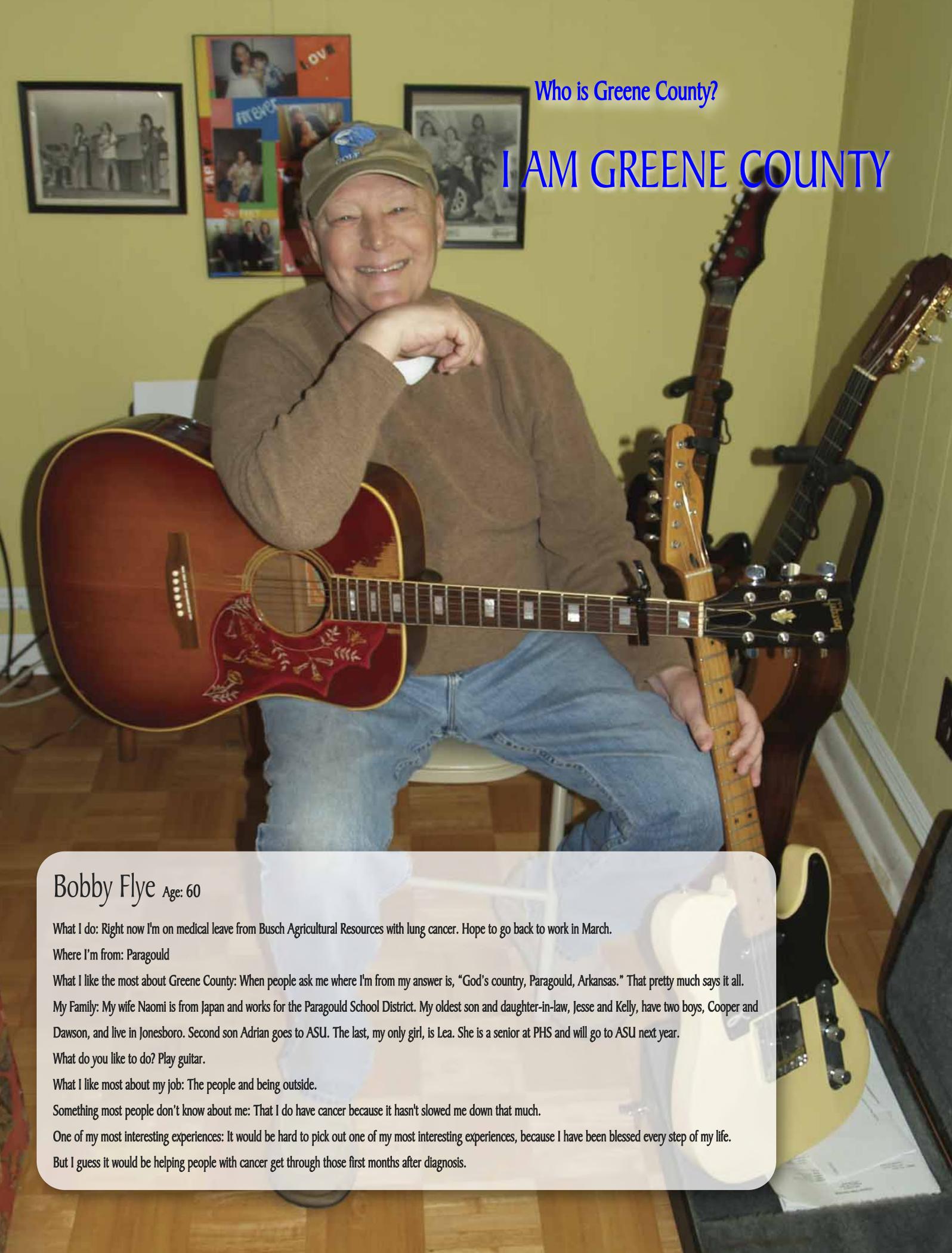


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Who is Greene County?

I AM GREENE COUNTY

Bobby Flye Age: 60

What I do: Right now I'm on medical leave from Busch Agricultural Resources with lung cancer. Hope to go back to work in March.

Where I'm from: Paragould

What I like the most about Greene County: When people ask me where I'm from my answer is, "God's country, Paragould, Arkansas." That pretty much says it all.

My Family: My wife Naomi is from Japan and works for the Paragould School District. My oldest son and daughter-in-law, Jesse and Kelly, have two boys, Cooper and Dawson, and live in Jonesboro. Second son Adrian goes to ASU. The last, my only girl, is Lea. She is a senior at PHS and will go to ASU next year.

What do you like to do? Play guitar.

What I like most about my job: The people and being outside.

Something most people don't know about me: That I do have cancer because it hasn't slowed me down that much.

One of my most interesting experiences: It would be hard to pick out one of my most interesting experiences, because I have been blessed every step of my life.

But I guess it would be helping people with cancer get through those first months after diagnosis.



Members of the Marmaduke High School homecoming court were introduced to onlookers before the boys' basketball game vs. Cross County in January.

Savannah Huckabay reigns as queen at Marmaduke homecoming festivities

Marmaduke High School held its annual homecoming ceremonies in January.

Senior Savannah Huckabay was chosen as Homecoming Queen for the 2012-13 school year.

Huckabay poses in the photo at right alongside Falisha Jackson, and is escorted in the photo below by Spencer Holifield. ♦



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Bailey Jade Hawkins

SNOW DAY!

Greene County residents made the most of a winter snowstorm to enjoy some family fun



Bailey and Braydon Greer



Clockwise from above, Kersten Ellington with son Barrett and his first snowman; Zakkary and Logan Lambert; 9-month-old Ryker Getson and her first snowman; and at left, according to Tyleene Roe, it's not just kids who get a kick out of the snowy adventures, but adults as well.



At left, Kennedy Carpenter, Jeff Burnett, Presley Carpenter and Kate Young on a car hood sled; center, Hailey, Carter and Molly Believ with the family pet; at right, Christian, Autumn and Eli Dover with Ozzy and Jackson.



Preston and Paige Glenn battled it out with a snowball fight.



Baylee Wicker



Carter and Ella Starling in their snow fort.



Snow man by Chrissy and Rebecca Moore.



Mandy Maxwell's snow man



Kendall Young and Halle Roleson



Zoe, a Lhasa Apso, enjoys a run through the snow.



Brynlee Wells

Business Is Good

St. Bernards, HealthSouth entering into joint venture

St. Bernards Healthcare and HealthSouth Corporation (NYSE:HLS) have entered into a definitive agreement to form a joint venture to provide inpatient rehabilitation services at the current location of HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Jonesboro.

"We are pleased to be able to partner with the leader in rehabilitative services, HealthSouth, in this joint venture," said Chris B. Barber, president and chief executive officer of St. Bernards Healthcare. "We believe that by combining the resources and efforts of both organizations, we will be able to offer exceptional rehabilitative services to patients within this region.

"We understand the importance of strong community partners working toward a common goal of enhancing quality of care for patients versus simply duplicating services. Through this partnership we will offer a high quality program for patients requiring rehabilitative services.

"As patients move from the acute care hospital setting, we expect a coordinated and seamless transition into the care of rehabilitative specialists so that patients receive the



Pictured are (from left) Kevin Hodges, vice president for senior services at St. Bernards; Frank Brown, president of HealthSouth's southwest region; Donna Harris, administrator at HealthSouth Hospital of Jonesboro; and Chris Barber, vice president and CEO of St. Bernards Healthcare.

right care at the right time in the right place," Barber continues.

Serving patients in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri for more than 15 years, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Jonesboro is a 67-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital that offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services designed to return patients to leading independent lives.

St. Bernards Medical Center is a 438-bed acute care medical center which offers comprehensive healthcare services and serves as a regional referral center for a 23-county area in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri.

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Contest winner will have artwork featured on mural

Paragould's City Beautification Commission is sponsoring the *myTOWN ART Mural Contest*, seeking to enhance the cultural experience of the downtown area while paying tribute to our history.

The pallet for the mural will be the south side of 225 South Pruet Street, on the Iron Mountain Lofts building owned by JuDin's LLC. The contest is intended to get ideas with the understanding that the final mural may be a combination of the submitted art of several individuals and will be painted by an artist with mural painting experience.

Designs will be accepted until March 1, 2013, with a winning artist announced March 29. The Commission will interview artists to paint the mural in April, with the final artwork approved in May.

Artists must submit a mural design depicting the history, love and pride of the Paragould community. Mural design must incorporate the Iron Mountain Railroad in honor of the building where it will be featured. Artists may submit no more than three designs.

The winning artist will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the public art piece that will be visible from the 412 overpass, which makes it welcoming to visitors and residents of the One and Only Downtown Paragould.

Submit applications and mural designs of an original painting on a canvas no less than 16X20 to the Paragould City Beautification Commission by 5 p.m. March 1, 2013. (Even if the design is computer generated original graphics you must print it to a 16X20 canvas.)

Download the my tOWN ART Mural Contest application online. Mail or walk applications and designs to the Greene County Tax Collector's office at the Greene County Courthouse at 320 West Court Street in Paragould, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or take it to 225 South Pruet Street on March 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ♦



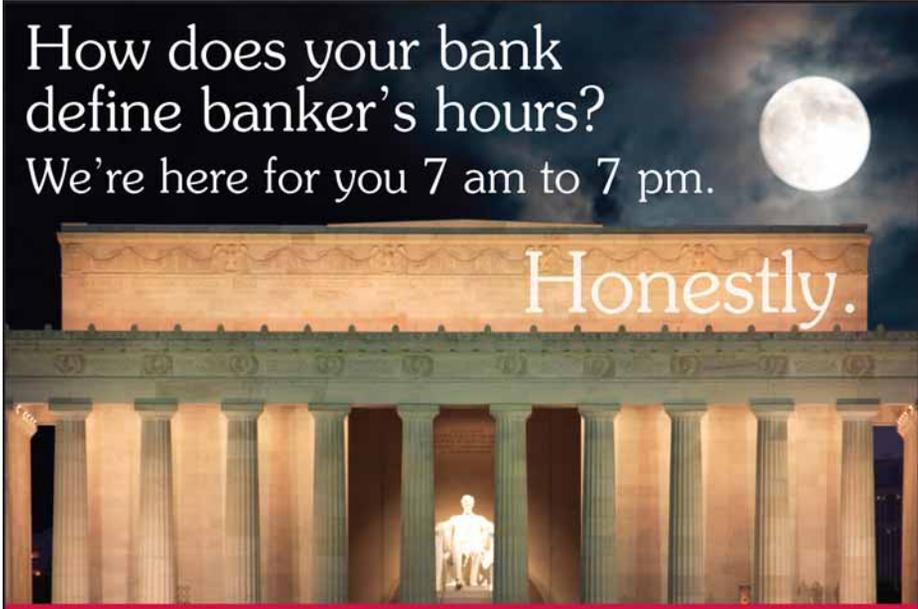
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Outstanding Teachers



Teri Stewart, CRA, PALS

Teri said her very first teacher “applied such a loving manner while transitioning my world from home to school” that she, too, wanted to follow that path.

“She listened when I spoke,” Teri said of that first teacher, “genuinely encouraged my participation and instilled the belief that I had great potential within. I really believed she loved me most of all and as I suspect each classmate felt the same connection for themselves. I wanted to be that shining light and tender spot in the hearts of children. It is my prayer these children will remember me with

affection and the belief I loved each one of them, best of all.”

Now in her 12th year as a pre-kindergarten teacher, she said she enjoys most “the dynamics with each new group of students. I look forward to hearing their voices and learning of their personal experiences in a way that modifies our academic journey together. I feel so blessed to see a child grow in self-confidence, but even more so when they grow in compassion for those around them. So many of the greatest lessons in our classroom have been brought by what the children are able to teach me. I am forever

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Teri and her husband Chris have a son, Zane, 16, and a daughter, Shan, 13. The kids, students at Crowley’s Ridge Academy, are members of Hillcrest Church of Christ along with their parents. ♦



Ashley Vallance, Marmaduke, 3rd grade

Ashley, in her seventh year of teaching, chose the profession because, “I love little kids and couldn’t really picture myself doing anything else.”

Her first six years were spent as a second grade teacher.

She said she enjoys getting to know her students on a more personal level, and likes “giving them high fives when they do something

well, and just having fun with them. Teaching is a serious job, but I believe learning can and should be made fun!”

Ashley’s parents are Jimmy and Michele Hardin and she has one sister, Sharece Whitaker. Along with niece and nephew Baylee and Brody, all are from Marmaduke.

She is married to Marty Vallance and they have a son, Cannon Reece, who was born in

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“ H e
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Ashley said of her son, “and I am so thankful for him and for all God’s many blessings!” ♦



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To fourth-graders, magic of Valentine's Day was in the cards

My generation held Valentine's Day in great esteem. We selected cards with discretion — in the days before Transformers and Masters of the Universe commanded affection, we preferred Garfield or Snoopy — and we made several revisions to the list of those worthy of notice.

It's true that this list was all-inclusive during kindergarten through third grade, but, upon reaching the supreme maturity of fourth graders, the tastes of my peers became more selective, and our lists shortened accordingly.

Some blame points to the Valentine's card industry. As we ascended in grade, our homeroom population increased to fifteen children or more. The average box of Valentine's, however, held only 10 cards. Most parents refused to spring for two packages, so we had to make those 10 count.

Weeks in advance, I'd sit on my bed — deep in thought — adding and erasing names to my list. Past kindnesses played a large part in my decision-making, as did indiscretions. A shared Twinkie at lunchtime practically ensured placement in my Smurfs notebook; throwing my comic book in a soggy ditch was grounds for reconsideration. Gender played no role in those pre-middle school days, as romance was a disease of foreign extraction.

At some point, our teacher gave everyone a large rectangle of paper. When properly folded and stick-glued, it produced a pouch then festively decorated and hung on the wall. Into these went the sacred cards the morning before our party. A whole day to ponder your worth to your fellow classmates! Only the torture of the night before Christmas can compare.

The last two classes of the day were devoted to the obligatory Valentine's celebration, with pink cupcakes and fruit punch donated by prominent members of the PTA (an acronym some of us were sure stood for Pretty Terrible Aardvarks). We invariably cut up numerous sheets of folded construction paper to make heart chains, and, one year, our teacher — in a fit of unbridled amour — read Shakespeare sonnets, none of which we understood. In an



unseemly display favoring the smart kids, extra points were awarded to those who spelled the word "Valentine's" correctly.

At last, the moment arrived! The pouches were taken down and placed on our desks, and we dove

Weeks in advance, I'd sit on my bed — deep in thought — adding and erasing names to my list. Past kindnesses played a large part in my decision-making, as did indiscretions.

into them with the frenzy of sharks. We kept a careful tally, and the rest of the afternoon

was spent eyeing those you'd included but who had seen fit to disregard you. They would be remembered next year!

This practice ultimately devolved until flowers and jewelry became the favored medium of participants, something single folk found sickening. Adulthood further diminished the holiday to a box of dollar chocolates. Its relevancy all but vanished until

my son was born two Novembers ago and I did nine months of backwards math in my head.

It would seem Valentine's Day has much to answer for by way of sleepless nights, dirty diapers, and pediatrician bills. ♦

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Students in Lindsay Rippey's classroom at Marmaduke Elementary have done away with desks and chairs.

Marmaduke students practice learning in a relaxed atmosphere

By Richard Brummett

Almost everyone would like to curl up and take a nap in the middle of the work day, but students in Lindsay Rippey's fourth grade classroom at Marmaduke Elementary School are curling up and getting educated.

It doesn't take long to notice that the old standard school desks and chairs have been replaced by bean bags, a move Rippey said became necessary when her room was nearing overcrowded status.



With almost 30 students packed into the learning area, Rippey said she was searching for a way to create adequate space, when it suddenly came to her.



"I don't know why, and I don't know where the idea came from," she said, "but I thought, 'Bean bags!' So I asked if we could try it and with the help of grant money that our



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principal had, and grant money the counselor had and a donation from the Jr. Auxiliary -- and some room money that I had -- we were able to buy 30 bean bags.

"It has been a great idea. I mean, think about it: When kids are doing homework or studying at home, how many of them sit in a straight-back chair or at a desk unless their parents make them? They lie across the bed, or in the floor, or curl up in a comfortable chair. That's the same thing we're doing here. The kids say, 'This is the best classroom!' It's been a really good idea."

Five desks were kept, just in case a student preferred working at one, or they can be used when presenting science projects or other special activities.

"Classroom attention is better, discipline is better," the teacher said. "In the future, they say we're going to do away with books and paper and all students will be using laptops or iPads. Why not get rid of desks, too? The kids are just doing their work in here in the same way they do it at home."

The seats have a raised back so students are able to sit up straight when necessary, and the rules dictate that napping is not an option.

Rippy, who teaches Reading, Science, English and Spelling, said parents who have visited the room have been "totally positive. They think it's awesome. They say they wish they could have had something like this when they were in school."

Student Autumn Dover said, "I think it's neat. I got to pick my own color and the middle is squishy. A desk is not comfortable; I think I study better this way."

Classmate Garrett Hensley agreed: "The first time I saw them I thought, 'What happened?' But I thought I would like it, and I was right. It helps me concentrate better and slow down, kind of like at home."

Rippy, now in her eighth year of teaching, said the idea has proven popular "even though I sometimes have a grumbler. I tell them they have an option, that there are desks right over there, but I haven't had any takers yet." ♦

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By Tiffany Napier



For the best Valentine's gift, remember love is real

Love is often portrayed in fairy tales, but in reality, a glass slipper just isn't appropriate for every season. Love is complicated and beautiful, and Prince Charming doesn't just appreciate a ball gown and four-inch heels. He is a lover of a woman comfortable in her own shoes.

Some of my qualities my husband embraces and others, he tolerates. Compromise is necessary in love, and only those who love you are willing to make the sacrifice.

I recall a gift from my husband that was among my favorites. It was completely unexpected and for no particular occasion. He shipped chocolates from our favorite sweet shop... one we visited on our honeymoon. This gift automatically brought back vivid memories of our wedding day.

A personal expression like the purchase of my favorite book or something I mentioned in conversation, although small, is honestly better than a routine gift. These small sentiments assure me he is engaged in my interests and nonsensical chatter. Try a card with pieces of your partner's favorite board game. Take those scrabble letters and spell something meaningful.

Buy something significant to your relationship... symbolic to a specific moment you spent together. Instead of wilting arrangements, send trendy succulent plants that can be planted and grown throughout the year.

If you do choose typical roses, send them in a decorative vase that can be used at home. These small things will remind your partner of your relationship beyond the holiday.

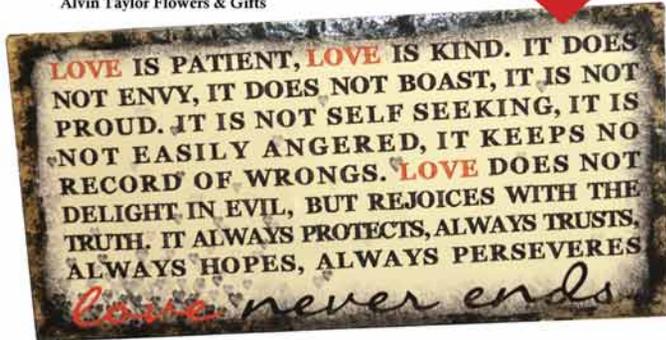
Purchase tickets to a sporting event or destination significant to you and gift them. Write an old fashion love note, take pictures in a photo booth with your kids or fill a glass bottle with reasons for your admiration.

Avoiding a cliché gift and choosing something reminiscent or personal speaks volumes to the one you love. Fairy tales are fiction and glass slippers are tiring. Love ... it's very real. ♦

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Christopher Bateman captures 1st place in county spelling bee

Christopher Bateman, an eighth grade student at Greene County Tech Junior High, captured first place in the 63rd annual Greene County Spelling Bee held at the Collins Theatre in Paragould.

Christopher's winning word was "mahi-mahi."

First runner-up was Ryan Baldwin, another eighth grader at GCT, while second runner-up was Oak Grove Middle School's Jackson Parker. The top three spellers won plaques from the Paragould Kiwanis Club; all competitors received a medal from First National Bank.

The event was broadcast on 1490 KDRS and was sponsored by First National Bank, Herren Tire Service and the Greene County Tech School District. Alice Miles served as the official pronouncer.

The three finalists earned savings accounts from FNB while Christopher also received \$100 in expense money to attend the State Spelling Bee Competition at Reynolds Performance Hall March 2nd at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. ♦



Christopher Bateman, center, was the winner of the Greene County Spelling Bee. He is flanked by runners-up Ryan Baldwin and Jackson Parker.

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Paragould School District sets registration dates for Pre-K, Kindergarten students



Vicki Shelby, Director of Early Childhood for the Paragould School District, has a simple message for parents of would-be students: Don't wait.

Shelby said the new Primary School building is right on schedule and when the district begins Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration soon, classes will fill up fast.

"It's very important that parents pre-register

their children on March 5th," Shelby said. "We will have packets the last week of February here (at the School of the 21st Century), and we will go around and hand some out, or parents are welcome to pick them up. But it's important to get it done. Don't wait around."

Shelby said the new facility, which will be ready in August of this year, will have 10 or 11 Kindergarten and First Grade rooms, and

seven Pre-K classrooms, "... which means there will be 140 spaces. When the completed applications are received, we will go in that order on accepting children. This is going to be an amazing building and a great place for children to learn and to have fun," she said. "But it is very, very, very important for parents to understand not to wait. They need to be ready to pre-register on March 5th." ♦

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Happenings!



1



2



3



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Happenings!

1. Winter Ball

Fourth graders at Oak Grove Elementary School recently attended a Winter Ball. Students dressed up in their Sunday attire as they enjoyed music, food, and fun. The Winter Ball is an annual event.

2 All-Region Jazz Band

Eighteen Paragould PRIDE 9th-12th grade band students were named to one of the All-Region Jazz Bands. Students with an (*) will audition for All-State Jazz in Russellville. Qualifiers include: Front: Eli Irvin, Samantha Cook, Hannah Smithee, Heather Warren; Second Row: Jon Vickers, Zach Brown, *Grant Ragsdell, Cody Grooms, *Alex Poschman; Third Row: *Caleb Hollis, Brandan Bakkala, CJ Slatton, *Seth Smithee, *Alex Dwyer, Daniel Plyley; Not Pictured: *Kyler Gurien, *Ashley McIninch, Drew Edrington, and Colton Carner.

3. Sr. High All-Region Concert Band

Thirty-five Paragould PRIDE 10th-12th grade band students qualified for Sr. High All-Region. A (*) means that student will audition for All-State Concert Band in February. First Row: Lauren Owen - percussion (2nd band, 6th chair), *Sarah Cavaliere - flute (1st band, 2nd chair); Second Row: Emily Hamilton - clarinet (2nd band, 6th

chair), MK Brengard - french horn (2nd band, 6th chair), *Crystal Kachevas - percussion (1st band, 10th chair), Rebecca Barham - flute (2nd band, 12th chair), *Erica Bearden - flute (1st band, 7th chair), Lexi Wilson - clarinet (2nd band, 22nd chair); Third Row: Lauren Tompkins - clarinet (2nd chair, 26th chair), Amanda Robbins - clarinet (2nd band, 18th chair), Brittney Kahl - clarinet (2nd band, 17th chair), Angel Bailey - french horn (2nd band, 2nd chair), *Connor Roe - trumpet (1st band, 9th chair), *Eli Irvin - trumpet (1st band, 10th chair), Tiffany Green - clarinet (2nd chair, 10th chair); Fourth Row: *Hannah Smithee - trombone (1st band, 4th chair), *Jon Vickers - alto saxophone (1st band, 5th chair), *Zach Brown - trombone (1st band, 6th chair), *Caleb Hollis - trombone (1st band, 5th chair), *Daniel Plyley - tenor saxophone (1st band, 2nd chair), *Grant Ragsdell - clarinet (1st band, 1st chair), *Zach Mitchell - euphonium (1st band, 5th chair), Tori Henry - flute (2nd band, 7th chair); Fifth Row: *Tylor Wright - euphonium (1st band, 3rd chair), *Rona Smith - french horn (1st band, 7th chair), Garrett Graham - percussion (2nd band, 3rd chair), Colton Carner - trumpet (2nd band, 13th chair), CJ Slatton - baritone saxophone (2nd band, 2nd chair), Seth Smithee - tuba (2nd band, 3rd chair), *Alex Dwyer - baritone saxophone (2nd band, 1st chair), Brandon Adams - tuba (2nd band, 2nd chair), Alex Poschman - tuba (2nd band, 6th chair). Not pictured: *Kyler Gurien - alto saxophone (1st band, 2nd chair), Ashley McIninch - trombone (1st band, 2nd chair), Aaron Champion - trumpet (2nd band, 10th chair).

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Ted Mabry finds plenty to occupy his time ... by choice.

Photo by Tim Rand

Ted Mabry: 'It seems like I just have to be doing something all the time'

By Richard Brummett

If you plan on visiting with Ted Mabry, you'd better make it a quick trip. At 76, he stays on the go as much as he ever did and has no plans to slow down anytime soon.

"The military taught me to get up at 4 a.m. and I still do it," Mabry said. "It's kind of stupid, really, because the coffee shop's not even open at 4 ... but it's just my habit to get up and start doing something. I have to wait for the coffee shop to open so I can get the news and hear the latest lies."

Owner of a wonderful sense of humor, Mabry went from military service to a job in the manufacturing world, found himself serving in numerous volunteer roles, and now enjoys

hitting the road to "... somewhere. Seems like we're always going somewhere," he said.

"In fact, after I had a heart attack in October they offered me a bypass after about seven or eight days, then I went home and about a

week after that went to Branson. I don't sit still for very long."

Mabry spent 21 years in the military, most of them as a Bomb Disposal Technician. The job didn't make him nervous, he said.

"No, it makes you NOT nervous," he laughed. "You better not be nervous or you won't be here."

He held every position there was on the Bomb Squad and retired at the top of the rung as

commander. His military assignments took him to Italy, Bermuda, "and places like Omaha, Abilene, Little Rock. I was overseas as a Special Missions Team Chief in Southeast Asia. I was in Laos on a clandestine

mission, in Viet Nam, Thailand, the Philippines.

"I joined the Air Force to see the world, and, boy, did I ever."

After retiring as an E-9 Chief Master Sergeant,

"Lots of times I don't feel like getting up and going, but I still do," he said. "I'm always either going somewhere or doing something. That's just the way I am, and just the way I like it."

Mabry found himself serving as the Safety Director at Paragould's Darling Store Fixtures. "I'd never been in a plant in my life," he said, "but I had gotten a degree in business administration and that's where I found myself. Then, in 1988, I took over as Personnel Director. I retired in '94."

Retirement, however, did not translate into slowing down, not even after a couple of heart attacks.

"I started restoring old cars," he said. "Everyone I knew who had an empty space in their garage had one of my cars in it. Here recently I decided to quit and I sold all my antiques. I got one old car now but I bought my wife an '05 Thunderbird and bought me an '04.

"We were coming back from a car show and I saw an old El Camino on the side of the road and I stopped, and darned if I didn't buy it. Couldn't resist."

Mabry has been married to his wife, Ann, for "maybe two or three years. I guess it's going on three. I married her on April 15th, which is tax day, so I could remember our anniversary. She's a former cop from Craighead County. I tell people she held a gun on me. I had sworn off marriage but I guess I needed someone to tell me what to do."

Both Ted and Ann were married for many years before their spouses passed away. Once they found each other, they also found they love to travel and do things together.

"We're going on three years," Ted said, "and so far we've hit 21 states. We go to Michigan once a year to see her mother, and we probably average a trip to Branson about every six weeks. We aren't very good at sitting still."

Mabry also volunteers for several committees and was appointed as a housing director for HUD in Paragould and Greene County. He serves as the Vice President of the Pine Log Cemetery Committee, and still finds time to make annual trips to military reunions from coast to coast.

"Lots of times I don't feel like getting up and going, but I still do," he said. "I'm always either going somewhere or doing something. That's just the way I am, and just the way I like it."



Alma Mohr and Reba Whiteside enjoy quilting at the Sr. B.E.E.S. center.

Quilting gives senior citizens chance to socialize, contribute

By Richard Brummett

It is a proven fact that staying active and socializing is a boon to the physical and mental health of senior citizens, and a group of women at the Senior Citizens Center in Paragould seems to be living proof.

Several gather every Thursday to take part in a quilting group, serving a twofold purpose: They enjoy the interaction with others while completing projects that go to worthy causes.

"The women from the B.E.E.S. work on quilts to be sold," said Carol Fleszar, Executive Director of the Greene County Sr. B.E.E.S., "with whatever money they make going to the operation of the Sr. B.E.E.S. Either people will bring them quilt top pieces or maybe they bring quilt pieces themselves, then they put them together and sell them for \$90 to \$150, depending on the size.

"They feel like they are doing something with a purpose," Fleszar said. "They love knowing they are helping other people."

Another group, affiliated with the Crowley's Ridge Development Council, also makes use of the Sr. Center to piece quilts together. Theirs are used to be given away to victims of



CRDC quilters Ernestine Fitzgerald, Loreta Allison and Louis Richardson work on a project to be donated to charity.

burnouts or for other causes.

"We give them to churches, to families, to the hospital," said Loreta Allison. "Anyone who is in need, we try to help out."

Fleszar said for all the women involved, the entire experience is rewarding and beneficial.

"When they stay active, they have something to look forward to," she said. "They love their quilting and they love helping the community.

"That's what we're all about here," she said. "Reducing isolation, reducing depression ... keeping them independent longer. The quilting is a way for them to socialize and do something very worthwhile at the same time." ♦

Birdfeeding can be a relaxing way for many to pass the time

Bird feeding is a hobby enjoyed by over 48 million Americans, a relaxing and exciting pastime. Birds can be watched from inside or out, and you can have only one bird feeder, or several. How you enjoy your hobby is totally up to you, but once you start feeding and attracting birds into your yard, every day brings exciting activity.

To start, you'll need a birdfeeder. A simple tube feeder is recommended for beginners. These feeders are uncomplicated, well-liked by birds, and are lightweight so they can be hung almost anywhere.

Next, you'll need birdseed. Again, there are countless foods you can offer the birds. There are many inexpensive and extremely nourishing seeds on the market at your favorite store.

There are a few more basics you might like to offer. While not immediately necessary, another food that birds love is suet — especially in winter. There are a number of ways to feed suet, but the easiest is to purchase suet cakes that fit in an inexpensive suet basket and hang that near your seed feeder. Some birds, like woodpeckers, simply crave suet.

Once you've completed your basic feeding area, and have started watching the birds, these tips will help enhance your experience:

* Keep your birdfeeder clean at all times. Check frequently to make sure there aren't any moldy seeds in there and that it's free of bird droppings. Clean birdfeeders mean healthy birds.

* Keep the water in your birdbath fresh and free of debris also. Birds need clean water to drink and bathe in.

* Lastly check your suet to make sure it's not dripping in the heat or has gotten moldy for some reason and replace it if it's not still fresh.

Bird Feeding Myths

Bird feeding is a wonderful hobby that can bring a diverse flock right to your backyard, but there are many bird feeding myths that can



While hummingbirds are attracted to the color red, there is plenty of red on most hummingbird feeders to attract the birds without needing extra dye in the nectar

discourage novice birders from putting out their own feeders. By understanding the facts, About.com Guide says you can learn to disregard these bird feeding myths:

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1. Feeding Birds Makes Them Dependent on Handouts

While the same birds may regularly visit feeders as part of their daily foraging, studies have shown that wild birds only get an average of 25 percent of their food from feeders. There are many wild food sources that birds prefer and while they will visit feeders out of convenience, they are well able to find other sources of food if feeders are unavailable. Feeders may become more critical during harsh winters, but birds will not starve if the feeders aren't filled.

2. Feeding Birds in the Fall Keeps Them from Migrating

Many inexperienced birders assume that as long as there is food available, the birds will be there, and that feeding them will interfere with the birds' migration. While some bird species, such as American robins and bohemian waxwings, are nomadic with relation to their food sources, birds that migrate depend on the weather, daylight and their own genetic instincts to begin migration. Instead of keeping birds from migrating, available feeders actually give them a much needed energy boost to help them survive their long journeys.

3. Rice Can Kill Birds

The myth that uncooked rice will swell and kill birds – or in more colorful versions, cause the birds to explode – is one of the most persistent and most false. Many types of birds eat different grains regularly, including rice, with no ill effects, and rice can be a nutritious addition to many birds' diets. Leftover rice is one type of kitchen scrap that can be safely added to feeders in moderation, and the birds will eat it happily.

4. Birds Will Choke on Peanut Butter

Some people refuse to offer peanut butter to birds with the misconception that the sticky treat will become stuck in their bills and throats, killing the birds. This is another complete falsehood, and there is no recorded evidence of peanut butter ever being a problem for birds. Peanut butter is actually a very nutritious treat, high in calories and fat content, that many bird species prefer, including nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers and jays. If you are still concerned with how sticky the peanut butter is, blend it with

cornmeal or flour to make it more crumbly.

5. Bread is Perfect to Feed Ducks

While bread, crackers and similar products can be fed in moderation to all birds as a treat, feeding ducks bread exclusively can lead to unhealthy birds and polluted waterways. Bread has very little nutritional value, and too much bread in small ponds and other areas can attract predators, rodents and other pests. Decayed bread can also lead to diseases that can infect both birds and humans, and ducklings do not get the proper nutrition for healthy growth from a diet of mostly bread. Instead of feeding ducks bread, take cracked corn, fresh peas or grape halves.

6. Red Dye Is Necessary in Hummingbird Nectar

While hummingbirds are attracted to the color red, there is plenty of red on most hummingbird feeders to attract the birds without needing extra dye in the nectar. While decades ago red dye was found to be toxic to humans and assumed toxic to birds as well, today's dyes are safe for consumption. Whether your hummingbird nectar has red dye or not is largely irrelevant; they don't

need it to find the feeders, but it won't hurt them if it is there.

7. Birds' Feet Will Freeze to Metal Feeder Perches

Birds' feet are actually well protected against cold weather, even if they perch on a metal birdfeeder. Birds do not have sweat glands in their feet to provide moisture that would freeze to metal, and their feet and legs are made up of scaly tissue with a low blood flow to minimize cold damage. If you are concerned about frozen bird feet, keep your winter feeders in dry, sheltered areas where they will not get iced over during storms.

8. This Feeder is Squirrel-Proof

While it is true that some birdfeeder designs are more squirrel resistant than others, no feeder is 100 percent squirrel-proof. Squirrels are cunning and resourceful, and if the feeder has a seed or food they like, they will spend hours discovering a way to get it, causing significant damage. There are ways to make your feeders more squirrel resistant, however, and over time the squirrels can learn that certain feeders aren't worth the effort if other food sources are more easily available. ♦

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Amazing Ways to Plan a Budget Wedding

By The Premiere Staff

Getting married can be a costly affair and few people want to break the bank on one day's events.

Wedding experts can take the ceremony and everything surrounding it from start to finish for anywhere from \$500 to "the sky's the limit." Obviously, the \$500 wedding is pretty much a "do-it-yourself" affair, with friends and family performing many of the necessary tasks for free or at minimal costs. For those on an extremely tight budget, all the free services they can find will help trim the overall cost and leave a little money in the bank as they begin their new life together.

However, the old saying, "You get what you pay for" will almost certainly come into play. Just owning an auto-focus camera does not make one an accomplished wedding photographer, nor does it mean someone can adequately decorate a reception hall or sanctuary just because they have nice flower arrangements at their home.

Couples should prioritize and decide which parts of the wedding day mean the most, then spend accordingly.

Taking into consideration some of the major categories addressed by couples when planning their weddings, we gathered information from wedding experts and then asked additional area businesses to offer

Cost of average wedding in the U.S.? \$27,000

Brides may wear white but costly weddings may put them in the red.

The average price for a U.S. wedding has hit \$27,000, including the cost of the honeymoon, according to surveys conducted by TheKnot.com and WeddingChannel.com, reports ABCNews.com.

And no one spends more than New York brides. The average Manhattan wedding cost \$65,824 in 2011, according to the survey.

They also spent the most on their dresses, on average \$2,403.

Not all Americans drop the equivalent of a down payment on a home for their special day and trip to the tropics.

Brides in North and South Dakota spent a far more sensible \$745 on their wedding dresses.

Virginia brides have the lowest wedding budget at \$14,203.

Couples that want to ditch the formalwear and head straight to the honeymoon should consider a Hawaii wedding. Forty-eight percent of the weddings in the sun-drenched state are "casual." ♦

suggestions for people preparing to "tie the knot on a shoestring" budget; conversely, we also asked for pointers directed at those who consider money no object.

1. The gown

Bottom dollar: If possible, get a pre-owned dress or use a dress rental service to save substantially on this onetime cost. Use your yellow pages to find those shops.

Low budget: Wedding dresses at White Columns in Paragould start at about \$200 and sometimes a white prom dress would suit your taste and budget.

No budget: Ruth Jenkins, the new owner of White Columns, said she will work with any bride's budget. "Come in early so we can let you know when we will have sales and you can use lay-a-way to help with the budget."

If the sky is the limit and you are looking for a huge WOW factor designer gowns are available as well.

2. Invitations

Bottom dollar: Self print your invitations.

Low budget: Post Net can design and print invitations from 45 cents to \$3 or more, depending on your budget. Becky Hatosy



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says they can print on site one-sided postcard invitations that are cost effective for both printing and postage or they can design, assemble address and mail from your list so you can mark that off as done.

No budget: Any number of print supply firms offer top dollar services.

3. Catering

Bottom dollar: Limit catering and bar bills. It is perfectly okay to skip out on the appetizers hour before a reception and to limit the number of drinks served at your reception.

Low budget/No budget: Red Goose Celebration Hall can cover your venue for the reception for \$550 and that includes your tables, chairs and white tablecloths. Matt Gage can cater from your budget as well. "You just tell us a budget and we can come up with a menu from finger foods to filet mignon," said Kathy Gage.

4. Decorations

Bottom dollar: If you have talent do your own flowers or table centerpieces using materials (e.g., silk flowers, glass beads) to make personalized centerpieces at a reduced cost.

Low budget: Angelia Herren at Elegant Party Rentals said their business can offer a full range of services and items for couples on a budget, from table cloths and centerpiece items starting at \$5, and a fully decorated archway for \$40. All items can be picked up to save the delivery fee. They also have many showroom items that can be rented for moderate prices.

Richard Mobley of The Treasure House in Paragould said his store "has a wide offering of things for a wedding. The great thing about The Treasure House is experience. We can do things to help you make your wedding look like you spent a lot of money when you really didn't, and you don't have to wait forever to get it. We have toasting glasses that we can put your names on while you wait. This will only cost \$19.98 for a pair. We have a selection of guest books that start at about \$15. This section of the store also offers a guest book pen, photo frames, garter belts and other things to make your wedding special."

No budget: Herren said Elegant Party Rentals can fit any budget. "We can plan, set up decorate and break everything down," she

said. "We offer a delivery service and have delivered as far as Southeast Missouri and Little Rock. We can help make the event as intimate or as large as the bride wishes."

The Treasure House has gifts that start with any price you want to hit.

5. Venues

Bottom dollar: Find a free place to get married. There may be a local park that will let you use the property for free. Call around to see what you can find. Memorial parks are especially nice because they are often well-cared for and very clean.

Low budget/No budget: Crowley's Ridge State Park rents the amphitheater and pavilions. Swindle Farms has a beautiful outdoor venue and an indoor area as well. Red Goose Celebration Hall can be the venue for the ceremony and reception and provide your catering as well.

6. The cake

Bottom dollar: Have a small, elegant cake for the cake cutting ceremony and a larger sheet cake for serving and sharing.

Low budget: Tracy Mothershed of Something Sweet in Paragould said they have "several options for weddings on a budget. The first option would be our layaway plan. Cakes start at \$2.75 per serving, so an average cake serving 100 would be \$275. You would pay a \$100 deposit to book the date, and then pay the balance in weekly or monthly payments until the big day. If you need to pay \$10 per week, that's OK with us; we understand weddings can be expensive."

Another option, she said, is getting a smaller wedding cake and supplementing with a sheet cake: "Our sheet cakes start at \$1.50 per serving, still taste great and the guests will never know the difference."

No budget: Mothershed said wedding cakes can be "very simple or over the top. Simple wedding cakes with no fondant work start at \$2.75 per serving. With fondant work, they start at \$3.25 but could go up to \$5 or \$6 per serving depending on the details of the design. Whether on a budget or money as no object, we can create the perfect wedding cake of your dreams."

The advertisement for Elegant Party Rentals features a central image of a round table set for a wedding reception. The table is covered with a vibrant orange-red cloth and is elegantly set with white plates, silverware, and glassware. A large, colorful floral centerpiece in a glass vase is the focal point of the table. The setting is outdoors, with a body of water and a stone wall visible in the background. The text "Elegant PARTY RENTALS" is prominently displayed in a red, cursive font at the top of the image. Below the image, the contact information is provided: "6127 Highway 49 North | Brookland, AR | 935-2418" and "www.ElegantPartyRentals.net". A Facebook logo is on the left, and a QR code is on the right.

7. Alcohol

Bottom dollar: Offer a signature drink/favorite cocktail at your reception, instead of providing a full bar. Limit alcohol to beer and wine.

Low budget: Hilltop Spirits in Paragould has J Roget, Andre and Ballatore champagne ranging from \$4.89 to \$9.19, and a variety of box wines -- Franzia, Bota Box, Fish Eye and Peter Vella -- in the \$13.29-\$20.19 range.

Those who prefer a bottle of wine can choose from Woodbridge, Crane Lake and Sutter Home, all in the \$5-\$7 area. Hilltop's beer prices are competitive on 30-packs, with specials on Corona 18-packs, mixed drinks and a 10 percent discount when purchasing a case of 750ML.

No budget: Hilltop Spirits has very good champagnes -- Dom Perignon, Veuve Clicquot and Moet Imperial -- ranging from \$57.29 to \$169.09. Wines like Catena Zapata, Malbec, Antigal One, MLBC and Stags Leap are also available.

They have a great selection of craft and imported beers and a wide variety of mixed drinks in various price ranges.

8. Photos

Bottom dollar: Have a friend take pictures for you. The cost for a professional photographer can run hundreds of dollars. With a decent digital or film camera, a friend with a steady hand can take wonderful pictures. You can also have a friend video tape the service for lasting memories as well.

Hire a photographer that will provide you with your digital high-resolution files so you can make your own copies of your wedding day photos.

Low budget/No budget: Most all professional photographers offer a variety of packages to fit almost any budget. Some will shoot the ceremony and surrounding events and provide you with a CD, allowing you to make whatever prints you desire. All have packages that also include complete -- and therefore, more expensive -- coverage.

9. Music

Bottom dollar: Hire a band or a DJ who can play at both the ceremony and the reception. Choose a small, simple band.

Low budget/No budget: Musicians will charge for their time and the minimum amount of equipment needed. If you have a large reception space, it may require the use of extra speakers and microphones to produce good sound quality. This could cost significantly more than you expected, so be sure to talk with your band about the layout of your venue. Have the band provide a written list of expenses before signing a contract.

10. Flowers

Bottom dollar: Decorate with greenery and save the flowers for your bouquet. Check with florists or garden centers to see if you can rent plants. Choose less expensive flowers (you can get dozens of carnations or daisies for the price of a handful of peonies).

Low budget: Greg Marlar at Ballard's

Flowers in Paragould said, "OK, you have a budget in the wedding flowers; that is just great. We can help you get the most for what you want to spend.

"First, the bride's bouquet. This all about the bride and the groom. Let's make a choice for the flowers in the bouquet and the boutonniere. Now that we have made their selections, let's subtract that from your budget. Let's make selections for the wedding party and family members, from simple to elegant ... for the bride to get the most for the money being spent."

No budget: Judith Taylor-Wheelis of Alvin Taylor Flowers says she likes the bride to tell her the wedding colors so she can make suggestions as to the flower that would be in season at the wedding date, and that usually helps with the cost. Seeing the style of the dress also helps determine how elaborate the design needs to be for the flowers. "We can get most anything they want but the price may be different at different times of the year. If they bring in pictures of what they like we will try to get it for them at the best possible price."

Marlar said even if money is no object "we search for the best flower at the best price. After the initial presentation with the bride (and usually the mother of the bride) we will visit the reception location and make suggestions of what could be done to make the reception a festive event."

He said they then "go the church and make suggestions as to what could be done to make



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the wedding decorations compliment the bride. Again, the wedding is about the bride, and everything is decorated to make sure the bride and the groom are the main focal points."

11. Rings

Bottom dollar: Rings passed down from a family member can be very special and budget friendly. Or consider taking jewels and gold that is not being worn to a craftsman like Nelson Gotay in Jonesboro and have a very special wedding set made to your personal taste and budget. Also, area pawn shops have a wide selection of low-budget rings.

Low budget/No budget: Area jewelers have a wide selection of rings and various payment plans, giving you the option of going with a basic look or something more elegant.

12. Hair

Bottom dollar: Have friends or family members style your hair for little or no cost.

Low budget: Lora McCarty-Crossno of Shear Elegance said, "We would recommend an updo ... \$25-\$35, make-up \$20, manicure \$15, partial spray tan \$15, eyebrow wax \$7, pedicure \$25."

No budget: Again McCarty-Crossno offered these prices: Updo \$25-\$35, make-up \$20; full body spray tan \$25; Brazilian wax \$65; eye brow wax \$7; Gelish manicure \$30, Gelish pedicure \$40.

13. Registry

Register as early as possible for a wide range

of items in all price ranges. Tammy Taylor of Helen Marie's Perfect Touch said, "This is your one time to think about china, silver and crystal. You may not get all you need but they will buy pieces based on their budget then you can get other pieces later."

So, from bride and the groom in the back yard with flowers picked from a field, to sitting down with Ruth Jenkins at White Columns and telling her your every wedding dream for her and her staff to make come true, a wedding on a budget is what you make of it. ♦

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Our Wedding Story: A small world after all

It is indeed a small world after all. Although Abby Jetton and Hunter Finley only lived a mere twenty minutes apart, had several friends in common, and attended the same church-related youth events, they never really knew each other in high school.

After graduating, Abby from Crowley's Ridge Academy and Hunter from Jonesboro High School, each left their familiar territories and began the college life at Harding University in Searcy.

It was there, along with the old friends and a host of new ones, that they eventually got together and became acquainted. A year went by, then another, and the rest ... you might say ... is history. Throw in a ring and an "it was meant to be," and wedding plans began to take place.

Abby and Hunter were married on July 21, 2012, at Southwest Church of Christ in Jonesboro. After a week in Playa del Carmen, they made Paragould their home. ♦



Hunter and Abby Finley





Power of the press does exist, but I'm not sitting at the controls

An old adage advises people to “never argue with someone who buys ink by the barrel,” indicating one should not battle the press, which possesses great power and can publicize an opinion like no one else can.

Since I've spent the better part of my adult life in the field of journalism, acquaintances sometimes assume I wield such authority and seek my help in getting them into a sporting event or a concert. When I say I'm unable to help them the response is almost always, “Can't you get a press pass?”

True, I can probably walk right through the gate at a local high school ballgame but I don't have the power to pick up the phone and get you into the World Series or the Super Bowl, or backstage at some musical act's concert. There is such a thing as the power of the press; I just don't possess it.

My mother and I were recently discussing the local newspaper's decision to stop running a daily television guide, which makes her viewing habits more difficult. It brought to mind an episode when I was the editor of the newspaper and ownership decided to redo the way we published the TV listings.

Instead of putting out a weekend magazine as we had been doing for many years, upper level management chose to string the listings up and down the pages of a free Wednesday

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



publication, a decision that proved so unpopular with readers that they resorted to writing nasty responses on the pages and piling them up on our newspaper doorstep.

We fielded hundreds and hundreds of phone calls from angry and/or confused readers until, thankfully, ownership admitted its error and reinstated the preferred television guide format.

During that time of daily readership harangues, one of the women at the front desk buzzed my office and said there was a subscriber who wanted to talk to me about the unpopular change. Having been yelled at, cursed at and falsely accused by scores of other subscribers, I braced for the worst as I approached the lobby.

To my surprise, there stood a tiny grandmotherly sort. She was polite and timid and respectful, but asked if I could please change the TV guide to its original format. I told her that was out of my control.

“Well, I really need you to change it back,” she said. “When you changed it, you moved my favorite show from Monday to Wednesday,

and I can't watch it on Wednesday because I go to church.”

I had her repeat the request and again heard what I thought I must have misunderstood the first time around: When we changed the format of our newspaper guide, we moved her favorite show to another night.

I looked around for the hidden Candid Camera crew or possibly for a friend who was “punking” me, but found none. I then attempted to explain that our poorly thought out change had nothing to do with network TV decisions ... but she was adamant.

“Oh, yes,” she said, “everything was fine until you changed your TV guide. So I really need you to put it back like it was, because I just can't miss church.”

She was well-prepared. She showed me the old guide with her show listed on CBS on Monday; then she pointed to the new schedule, with the show on Wednesday. This was before the days of VCRs and DVRs, so she had to choose between being entertained or saving her soul.

I tried again to explain that changing some words on paper in Paragould, Arkansas, would not alter the way things appeared on her TV screen, but she just didn't get it.

I told her I would do my best. I didn't tell her I had a better chance of getting her into the ballgame for free than I did of fixing things. ♦

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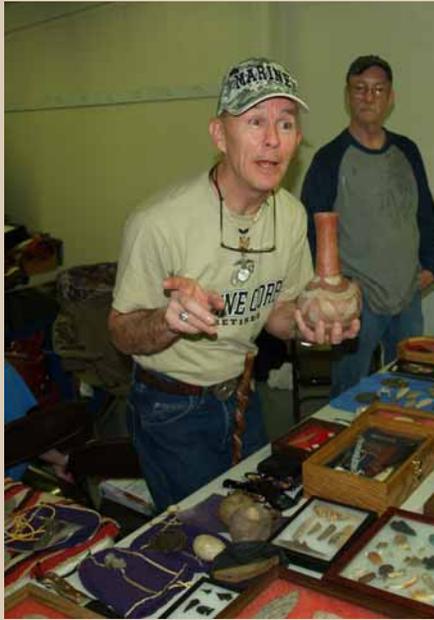
Collectors, shoppers gather at artifacts show

The Northeast Arkansas Artifacts Show attracted hundreds of visitors to Paragould's Reynolds Park building in January.

Collectors displayed a variety of Indian

artifacts as well as other items for viewers to enjoy.

Samples of arrowheads, pottery and fossils were in abundance, some available for purchase. ♦



Event organizer Dan Martin, left, discusses some of the many items he had on display. Examples of other collections are pictured as well.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Love
makes all things
E A S Y



Love is the theme for the month of February.

Fine Arts Council plans March production at Collins Theatre

The Greene County Fine Arts Council is bringing one of C.S. Lewis' classic tales to the stage, according to Jeremiah Allen, director of the production.

"We are proud to present *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* March 1st through March 3rd at The Collins Theatre in Paragould, Arkansas," he said.

Making his directorial debut, Allen is guiding an extremely talented cast as they make their journey in this adaptation by Joseph Robinette.

While visiting a professor in the country, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy stumble upon a wardrobe that is a passageway to a magical land called Narnia. Coming face to face with talking beavers, fawns and many other woodland creatures, they ultimately become part of a larger battle between good and evil.

If they are able to help in this struggle, they will join Aslan the great lion as peaceful rulers of Narnia, but if they fail the evil Ice Queen will continue her dark rule over all of the

land. In order to succeed, though, they must battle their own internal and personal demons to be able to work together.

Performances are Friday, March 1st, and Saturday, March 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. and again on March 3rd at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$7 for children 12 and under and can be purchased at Kiss The Cook or The Treasure House in Paragould or online at www.gcfac.org.

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Arkansas USLMRA Awards Banquet

The Arkansas chapter of the United States Lawn Mower Racing Association held its annual banquet at Lake Frierson State Park. Division trophies were awarded for first, second and third place and a few fun categories, too. ♦



2012 Arkansas Lawn Mower Racing Association members at their annual banquet.



SS Class: Tommy Hancock (1st place).



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FX Class: Kenny Holder "Doc" (1st place).



Special Awards: Perry Mason Sr. (Crash Test Dummy), Kenny Holder "Doc" (Hay Bale Breeder), Marty Callentine (Hay Bale Assassin).



BP Class: Westley Milburn (3rd place), Marty Callentine (2nd place), Tony Loveless (1st place).



CP Class: Allen Milburn (3rd place), Perry Mason Sr. (2nd place), Garrett Winchester (1st place).



AP Class: Carl Kiekendoll (3rd place), Jason Murray (2nd place), Garrett Winchester (1st place).



SP Class: Westley Milburn (2nd place), Chandler Ellington (1st place). Not Pictured: Adam Dinkins (3rd place).



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Walt Reynolds

Local student has plans for 'really amazing trip'

By Gabriel A. Cook

Most children dream of going to Disneyland or the beach over summer break. For Walt Reynolds, 12-year-old son of Sharon and Robert Reynolds, his vacation will take him to some of the wonders of Europe.

"I'm going on a really amazing trip," Walt says, his voice calm for a young man about to visit legendary places. "It's called European Odyssey. I'll going to Venice, Paris, Greece, and Rome."

Reynolds, recommended for the student ambassador program by his fourth grade teacher, Mr. Chris White, had to pass an online test, acquire recommendations of other teachers, and endure an interview with program administrators.

"We also attend monthly orientation in Memphis," Sharon adds, "to meet other candidates with whom he'll be traveling. His

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Local Civitan Club staging fundraiser to help build handicap accessible park

Members of the Paragould Civitan Club have begun efforts to raise money for the construction of the community's first handicapped accessible public playground.

The Civitan Club refers to itself as "a group of volunteers dedicated to meeting the needs of Greene County with an emphasis on those with physical and mental disabilities."

Paragould's Civitan Club has been in existence since 1963.

One of the club's fundraising efforts will take place Saturday, February 23, at Paragould High School in the form of the second annual Roll to the Goal Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

Action will start at 9 a.m. at the PHS

gymnasium, with all players in the tournament facing the challenge of playing each game while seated in wheelchairs.

All money raised at the event will be used to purchase handicap accessible playground equipment for the city of Paragould.

The park project is estimated to cost approximately \$56,000. (Artwork at the far left of this page shows what the park will look like upon completion.)

With the help of a matching grant, the Civitan Club accepted the challenge of raising half of the proposed amount. Currently, the club has \$14,000 dedicated to the park project.

Sponsorships for the Roll to the Goal Wheelchair tournament are available. For a \$100 fee, official event sponsors will receive:

- * recognition in all promotional materials;
- * a 1.5 x 2 ft. color sign with their logo on display in the gymnasium during the tournament;
- * and their logo printed on the official tournament t-shirt.

The Paragould Civitan Club is a 501(c)4 organization, so event sponsorship is tax deductible.

Deadline to be included as a tournament sponsor is Saturday, February 9.

For information regarding sponsorship contact event coordinators Josh McFall at 870-476-2099 or Jilayna Hammon at 870-476-8603. ♦

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Twenty-five Paragould PRIDE 8th-9th grade band students were named to one of the Jr. High all-region concert bands. They participated in a clinic January 18th-19th at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro. Qualifiers include: Front Row (L-R): Victoria Estrada - percussion (1st band, 8th chair), Mallory Straub - clarinet (2nd band, 13th chair), Rhealeigh Jacques - clarinet (alternate), Alyssa Litwiller - flute (2nd band, 11th chair), Brittany Adams - clarinet (1st band, 12th chair), Jordanne Roberts - french horn (1st band, 4th chair), Sara Hickson - flute (2nd band, 1st chair); second row (L-R): Kason Irvin - euphonium (1st band, 4th chair), Monica Tobar - percussion (1st band, 3rd chair), Jada White - euphonium (alternate), Gabby Guedea - clarinet (2nd band, 19th chair), Morgan Cathey - alto saxophone (2nd band, 3rd chair), Samantha Cook - trombone (1st band, 4th chair), Heather Warren - trumpet (2nd band, 2nd chair); third row (L-R): Drew Gazaway - clarinet (1st band, 5th chair), Nathan Barker - percussion (2nd chair, 2nd chair), Bren Garred - percussion (alternate), Brandon Bakkala - trumpet (1st band, 1st chair), Clayton Barrett - tuba (1st band, 1st chair), Caleb Hammon - trumpet (2nd band, 1st chair), Jared Barham - tuba (2nd band, 5th chair), Dominique Carter - euphonium (1st band, 3rd chair). Not pictured: Elec Johnson - tenor saxophone (2nd band, 1st chair), Katelyn Hampton - french horn (2nd band, 4th chair), Ryan Landreth - euphonium (2nd band, 6th chair)

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Students from Greene County schools stage 'Make-A-Wish' rave

Several students from the Greene County Tech School District, the Paragould School District and from Crowley's Ridge Academy threw a charity "Make-A-Wish" Rave in December.

The black-light dance, which was held at El-Acapulco Convention Center in Paragould, was a huge success with almost 200 kids from area schools attending.

The proceeds from the dance went to a local Greene County recipient of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The students raised an undisclosed amount for the recipient's trip to Walt Disney World in early January. ♦



Dance hosts were, front from left, Logan Cato, Tyson Bayird, Conner Gahr, Cole Sheffer, Tyler Calver, Tanner Friar, Grant Malone, and Jake Biggers; and back, Allyson Baugh, Hannah Johnston, Emma Highfill, Trevor Calver, Allison Vaughn, Riley Millay and Allison Moss. Not pictured are Olivia Kidd, Chase Nelson, Tristen Wright, Josie Fletcher, Alex Perkins, and Claire Rowland. Below are students dancing, including Allison Vaughn and Chelsea Batten.



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Name: Kristin Addison-Brown

Where are you from? I was born and raised in Paragould.

Family: My husband Brandon and I have been married for seven years and we have a son, Isaac, 2. My parents are John and Norma (Mann) Addison, also of Paragould.

What is your occupation? I am a neuropsychologist with NEA Baptist Clinic. I have been there since September 2011.

Who taught you how to cook? I was really never much of a cook before we had to start cooking for Isaac's food allergies. I always had to follow a recipe to a "T" - I could barely boil water without a recipe. In the last two years, I have really learned a lot. Also, avoiding three very common cooking ingredients is very tricky and has required me to experiment with different ingredients and methods. It's surprising what you can do when you have to do it!

Do you have a favorite cooking memory? Decorating cookies every year at Christmas with my nieces and nephews when they were little. I am working on finding a good gluten-, dairy-, and soy-free recipe so I can start this tradition with Isaac.

What is your absolute favorite thing to cook? Anything in the crockpot because it takes so little effort and is nearly impossible

Chicken-fried chicken with gravy

Ingredients (chicken):

1 cup	Cornstarch
2 tsp	Gluten-free seasoned salt
1/4 tsp	Freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup	Unsweetened almond milk
2	Large eggs
4 breast	Boneless, skinless chicken halves
1/4 cup	Canola oil for frying
Pastry shell/crust	

Gravy Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups	Unsweetened almond milk
4 tsp.	Rice flour
1/4 tsp	Salt
1/2 tsp	Onion powder
1/2 tsp	Freshly ground black pepper

Directions for Chicken:

In a shallow bowl, combine cornstarch, seasoned salt, and pepper. In another shallow bowl, whisk milk and eggs together until mixture is smooth.

With a meat mallet, pound chicken between two sheets of plastic wrap until it is 1/4 to 1/2-inch thick. Dip chicken first in cornstarch

to ruin entirely. Also, because your house smells so good while it's cooking.

What is the one ingredient you can't live without? Coconut oil is getting there ...

Do you have any general cooking advice to share? When we tell people that Isaac can't eat dairy, gluten, or soy, the response is often a shocked, "What CAN he eat??" First, please trust me when I say we don't starve! There are plenty of things out there without those ingredients, mostly the stuff we should be eating anyway - fresh whole foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, unprocessed meats, nuts, and whole grains. In my experimentations with fresh ingredients, I have discovered that one of the best ways to cook nearly any vegetable is to roast (or sauté) it with olive oil, sea salt, and freshly ground black pepper. I have yet to find a vegetable that doesn't taste good with this method (though one may exist). More broadly, I guess: Simpler is better.

What is your family's favorite dish that you make? Peanut butter Rice Krispie treats are by far my husband's favorite. Right now, Isaac is obsessed with soup [of all kinds], for some reason.

What would you consider your worst kitchen disaster? Ha! Well, I am known for my cooking disasters, so picking a worst ONE is difficult! A recent one would be making gluten-free apple cookies off a recipe from the Web. The recipe didn't call for xanthan gum (which acts a binding ingredient for gluten-free flours), so I went ahead and made it as directed. Without the xanthan gum, the cookies were little more than hot dough, and they essentially leaked off the sheet onto my oven. The house smelled like burned cinnamon for a week or so. Typical disasters include various physical injuries, using baking soda instead of powder (and vice versa), and confusing a tablespoon for a teaspoon. ♦



mixture, then in egg mixture, then in cornstarch mixture again (tip: designate an "egg hand" and a "cornstarch hand" to minimize mess). Repeat with each chicken breast.

In a large, heavy nonstick skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Fry chicken until golden brown, about 4-5 minutes per side, turning only once (otherwise, coating will fall off). Remove chicken to platter.

Directions for Gravy

To prepare the gravy, pour off all but 1 tablespoon of the oil, leaving browned bits in the skillet. Add 2 cups of the milk to the skillet and cook over medium-high heat. Stir flour, salt, onion powder, and pepper into remaining 1/2 cup of milk until very smooth. Stir mixture in skillet, whisking constantly until mixture thickens, about 7 to 10 minutes. Pour over chicken.

Serve immediately. ♦

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Engagement Announcements



James Hatley and Micka Hampton

Hatley-Hampton

Micka Hampton and James Hatley announce their plans to be married in March.

The bride-to-be's parents are Mickey and Belinda Hampton of Marmaduke. The prospective groom's parents are Jimmy and late Patricia Hatley of Kennett, Mo.

The wedding is planned for March 23 at Marmaduke First Baptist Church, at 5 p.m.

Micka works at Lowe's of Paragould while James is employed by Glen Sain of Paragould.



Rob Schorer and Susan Spence

Spence-Schorer

Susan Spence and Rob Schorer have announced their plans to be married in March.

The prospective bride's parents are Kevin and Sandra Spence of Paragould.

The groom-to-be is the son of Linda Cline, also of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place March 30, 2013, at the 7th & Mueller Church of Christ.

To have your engagement, wedding and birth announcements included in Premiere Magazine, email photos and information to editor@paragouldpremiere.com no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Birth Announcements



Ezra Elliott Shotts

Drs. Zeke and Laura Shotts announce the birth of their son, Ezra Elliott Shotts.

Ezra was born January 1, 2013, at Rochester Methodist Hospital, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He was born at 1:29 a.m., making him the first baby born in Rochester in 2013.

Ezra weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Parents are Drs. Zeke and Laura Shotts; big sister Evie Lynn Shotts is 3 years old. Grandparents are Cecil and Lynn Treece of Paragould and Drs. Mack and Vern Ann Shotts of Paragould. Great-grandparents are John and Pat Coleman of Paragould.

Ezra shared his birthday with his great-grandfather John, who turned 82 on January 1st.

AMMC's first baby of the year arrives on New Year's Day

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's first baby of the new year arrived on Tuesday, January 1, 2013, at 12:18 p.m.

Caroline Lee Ann Dixon weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 18 inches long. Her parents are Michael and Lindsey Dixon. She has an older sister, Presley Kate Fife, and an older brother, Roman Blake Dixon.

Caroline and her parents received several gifts from hospital departments, individuals and local businesses. Those include a case of diapers from the Materials Management Department at AMMC; an AMMC baby spoon and bassinet from AMMC OB Unit Coordinator Lori Walker, RN; a hand-knit blanket by Mary Esther Herget; a gift certificate from Kiss the Cook; a gift certificate from Details - A Hair and Nail Studio; a gift certificate from Pitter Patter Photography; a \$50 savings account at First National Bank; a plant and other baby goodies from Ballard's Flowers and a breastfeeding pillow from AMMC Lactation Consultant Tritia McGrew, RN.

There were 521 babies born at AMMC in 2012. ♦



Pictured with Michael, Lindsey, Roman, Presley and Caroline is Dr. Paul Becton, OB/GYN.



Jason Barrett Wenger

Tony and Dr. Kristi Wenger announce the birth of their son, Jason Barrett Wenger.

Jason was born October 24, 2012, at St. Bernards Hospital in Jonesboro.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Jason joins three sisters: Abby, Katie and Molly.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 2nd**Childbirth Education Class, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

The first class in each session will last all day. Participants will have a break for lunch. The second class in each session is a feeding class and only in the morning. Classes meet in the auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. This class is offered to anyone who is expecting. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, it is \$50. For more information or to register for classes, please call AMMC Lactation Services at 239-7467.

Chad Garret and Friends, Collins Theatre, 7 p.m.

Chad Garret and Friends return to the Collins Theatre for their first show of 2013. Chad and friends, who include Ken Wadley, Randy Aden, Kevin King, Brad Owen, and special guest Niki Martin, have often sold out the Collins, so make plans to get your tickets early. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids 10 and under. Advance tickets will be available at The Treasure House, 1711 Paragould Plaza.

Friday, February 8th**The Redeemed Tour, B.C. Loyd Building, 7 p.m.**

The Redeemed Tour, with Big Daddy Weave, Chris August, and Citizen Way benefitting Shepherds' Fold Ministry. The concert will be at the BC Loyd Building at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at PostNet, 2503 W. Kingshighway, #2. For more information call 573-654-2280 or go to www.shepherdsfoldministry.org.

The 3rd Annual "Rockin' the Night Away for the Paragould Band," 7 p.m. in the Historic Collins Theatre

This variety show will showcase local talent and the award-winning PSD Band program; 100% of the proceeds go back to support the band's 300+ members. Guaranteed fast-paced fun for the entire family. For more info or to purchase tickets, contact Richie Williams (870)236-7744 ext. 141.

Saturday, February 9th**Childbirth Education Class, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

The first class in each session will last all day. Participants will have a break for lunch. The second class in each session is a feeding class and only in the morning. Classes meet in the auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. This class is offered to anyone who is expecting. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, it is \$50. For more information or to register for classes, please call AMMC Lactation Services at 239-7467.

Thursday, February 14th**Red Cross Blood Drive, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

Held in the AMMC auditorium. Call 870-239-7000 for information.

Monday, February 18th**Mommy and Me Breastfeeding Support Group, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, 6-7:30 p.m.**

AMMC sponsors a monthly breastfeeding class for new and expectant mothers. Meetings are on the second floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. This class is an opportunity for new and expectant mothers to meet other moms and share experiences. Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's Tritia McGrew, RN, International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and Greene County Health Unit's Leisa Kennedy, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, are available to teach and assist participants. For more information, call AMMC Lactation Services at 239-7467 or the Greene County Health Unit at 236-7782.

Thursday, February 21st**The Chamber Showcase, Paragould Community Center**

Theme: Stay on Top of your Game with the Chamber! Contact the Chamber at 870-236-7684 or www.paragould.org for information.

Thursday, February 23rd**National Wild Turkey Federation Hunting Heritage Banquet, Paragould Community Center, 6 p.m.**

Silent auction, games, raffles, music, great food, great fellowship for a great cause. Early bird ticket purchasers receive free chances on the YETI cooler raffle. Contact Kyle at 870-530-2320. If you would like to join the Paragould NWF family, also contact Kyle at

870-530-2320 or email wadesguns@hotmail.com. Tickets include NWF tax deductible membership and meal.

Monday, February 25th**KASU Bluegrass Monday, 7 p.m., Collins Theatre**

Public radio station KASU brings bluegrass to Downtown Paragould the 4th Monday of the month. February's guest is Jimmy Bowen and Santa Fe. The music starts at 7 p.m., at The Collins Theatre, 120 W. Emerson Street.

Friday-Sunday, March 1st-3rd**"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", Friday and Saturday, March 1-2 at 7:30; Sunday, March 3 at 2:00, Collins Theatre.**

Tickets are \$9 general admission and \$7 for seniors and children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased online at www.gcfac.org and at the door.

Saturday, March 2nd**Childbirth Education Class, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Classes take place in the AMMC auditorium. Call 870-239-7000 for more information.

Meet The Artist Reception, 1:30 p.m., Greene County Museum

The Greene County Museum will display work by local artist Joshua Hudson throughout the month of March. Admission is always free, but donations are appreciated.

Tuesday, March 5th**Paragould School District, Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration, East Side Baptist Church Gym, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**

For Pre-K, children must be 4 years old by August 1, 2013; for Kindergarten registration children must be 5 years old by August 1, 2013. Registration packets will be available at S21C by February 26, 2013. If there are any questions, please call 870-236-8064.

Saturday, March 9th**Childbirth Education Class, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Classes take place in the AMMC auditorium. Call 870-239-7000 for more information.

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.
tcfnorthwestarkansas@yahoo.com.

Second Wednesday of every month**St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

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

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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Cover



March is *Music In Our Schools Month* and *Premiere Magazine* will look at some of the people involved in area school programs.

Events



**American
Red Cross**

March is American Red Cross Month. We'll let you know what's going on locally with that important organization.

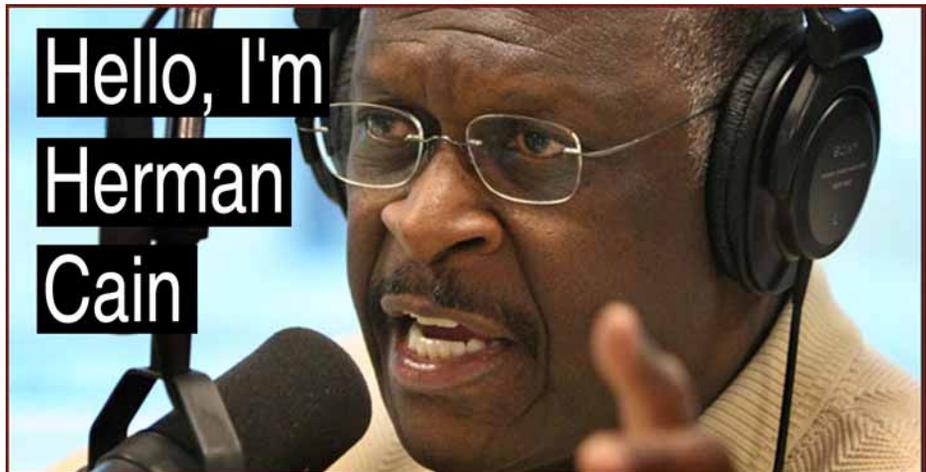


Premiere writers and photographers will be out and about covering community events. Be sure to check us out in the March issue.



Tim Rand
PHOTOGRAPHY

www.trand.com | 870-236-2275 | pix@trand.com



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-Tammy Taylor

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