

PARAGOULD

MAY 2013

PR IERE

*Fighting
the
Battle Daily*

KELLY STEWART

ACH
RADIOTHON

CHAMBER
AWARDS

CITYWIDE
CLEANUP

MOTORCYCLE
SAFETY

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THE NEW 1490 PROGRAM GUIDE

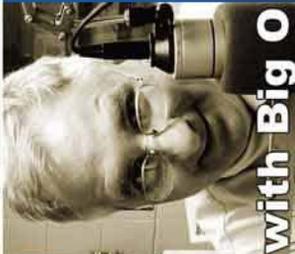
Talk
Music
MOR

KDRS

Weekdays
7:00am-9:00am

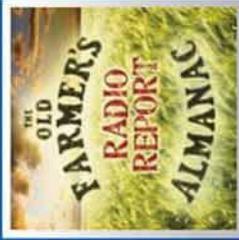
*Back
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Talking Paragould
Weekday Mornings 7AM-9AM



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Weekdays
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Weekdays
8:20am



Weekdays
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Weekdays
10:20am



Weekdays
10:50am

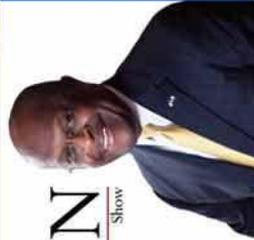
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One of the more common questions that I am asked is how to prepare pets for the introduction of a new baby with expecting parents. It's a great question and something that is all too often overlooked. We have months to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the baby and when we bring home that newborn it's often the pets that are the most surprised! Here are a few tips that may help you get them ready for this important time of adjustment.

- First off, be sure your pet has had a recent wellness exam and is up to date on vaccines and testing. Several diseases and problems that our pets may have are transmissible to people.
- Spiffy up that hygiene! Bathes, nail trims, teeth brushing, etc...
- Obedience classes / training. Not every pet needs it but many do!
- Does your pet know what a baby is? If not have a friend or family member with an infant come by to see how your pet reacts. This can give you an idea of what areas need more work.
- Smells are very important! Go ahead and get the house smelling like the baby weeks in advance. Baby powder, lotions, and oils can be used on our hands to get them familiar with them. Also, if possible have someone bring one of the blankets (from the hospital) to your home the day before coming home from the hospital. Nothing like the real smell!
- Allow your pet to be a part of this new family. Jealousy is a common issue with new babies. Allow them supervised access to the baby to sniff them from head to toe. Talk in a calm voice and move slowly. Most pets get the hint very quickly.
- Think about the impact the new baby will have on your "face time" with the pets. If the new baby is going to eliminate 90% of the "couch time" or walks, then go ahead and start reducing this before the due date. I know it may sound cruel but it will lessen the noticeable impact the baby has on the pet's new place in the family. If you're still able to keep up with the "face time" once the baby arrives then everyone's happy!
- Be sure to set aside some quality time for your pets. Even if it's 5 to 10 minutes your pet will appreciate it!

The most likely outcome of a good plan is that your new baby and pet will soon be inseparable best friends. It's an amazing journey watching your pet's love and affection grow for the new baby.

God Bless!
Brent Reddick, DVM



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On the Cover: Kelly Stewart
Photo by Tim Rand Photography

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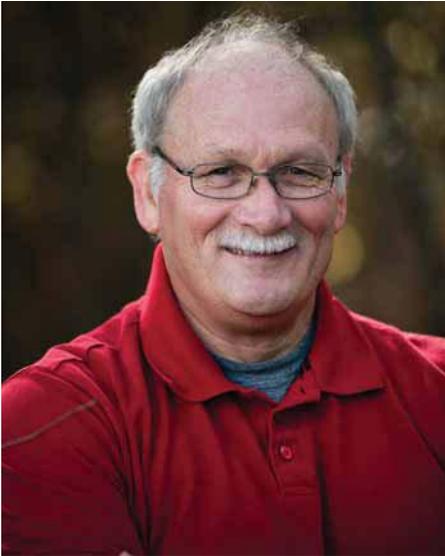


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From the Managing Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

May is a month dedicated to so many topics it was difficult to decide on one for our main theme.

So, we didn't.

This month we bring Premiere readers

features on several areas of interest, starting with an emphasis on National Lupus Awareness Month.

Two local residents -- Kelly Stewart and Rosetta Hambrick -- share their stories of the difficulty in battling the disabling, yet most often misunderstood, disease.

Those features begin on page 26, with Kelly's sister, Amber Ellis, detailing her issues with lupus while Jennifer Thompson delivers Rosetta's story.

May is also a month set aside to raise awareness of motorcycle safety, since more and more riders take to the roads when the weather gets better.

Staff writer Gabriel Cook brings you information about bike safety and maintenance, then turns his attention to Mother's Day, another May attraction, with his column *What's The Fuss?* and with a humorous look at "momisms," those things almost everyone's mother has uttered at one time or another.

For those who like outdoor entertainment of all sorts, May is the time for Greene County

area residents to get ready for the annual Loose Caboose Festival in Paragould, and this year things will look a bit different for all involved.

The festival has moved from downtown to the Greene County Fairgrounds, and we have all the hows and whys of that decision. We will also be out in full force at the three-day event, scheduled for May 16-18, and will present a photographic recap in the June issue.

Photographs even have their place on the May menu, thanks to National Photography Month, an event officially recognized by Congress in 1987.

Downtown Paragould continues to host lots of positive changes and we examine some of them for you while presenting our regular monthly features like Dreamweaver, Happenings, Outstanding Teachers and NEA Cooks.

As busy as that slate looks, it is just the beginning. We have business features, engagements, birth announcements ... and still more. Read, enjoy, and then let us know what you think. ♦

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**KIDS WILL BE
 KIDS**

The Caboose is on the loose for 24th festival; now at the fairgrounds

By Richard Brummett

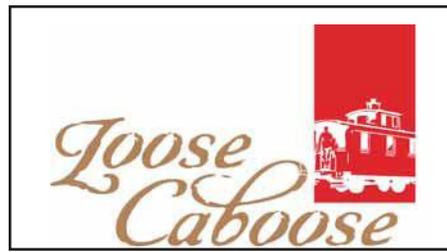
For the first 23 years of Paragould's Loose Caboose Festival, activities took place "out back by the tracks" in recognition of the city's railroad heritage.

This year, according to Main Street Paragould Executive Director Gina Jarrett, "The Caboose is on the loose and we've landed at the Greene County Fairgrounds" for the May 16-18 event.

A registered letter delivered to Jarrett in January informed her that Union Pacific Railroad, owner of the property that hosted the festival behind the buildings along Pruett Street all the way back to the tracks, was denying further use citing "measures essential for safety."

"They said we cannot use their grounds," Jarrett explained, meaning the festival committee had to scramble to find another suitable site. "The fairgrounds are the only option at this point. The fair board generously allowed us to use the fairgrounds" and then the job of plotting out appropriate areas for the many vendors, participants and carnival attractions began.

"I don't think people are aware how many utilities are necessary," Jarrett said. "Moving is one thing; providing electricity for lights, rides, vendors, music is another. In the past, if they requested it, we provided the electricity."



While the new surroundings may not have the homey atmosphere of Downtown Paragould, there are plenty of positives about the move. "We have a place and now it will be pretty much as usual," Jarrett said. "We have the same great carnival and they actually like the configuration better. There's lots of room for crafters, there is some shade. And, in case of bad weather, we have the B.C. Lloyd Building and that was never an option before. That's huge."

Because of that option, Jarrett said the first 1,000 tickets purchased for Friday's featured musical act, Restless Heart, will be guaranteed seats.

"For just \$5 for Restless Heart, if we get rain, the first 1,000 will be allowed inside first; if we keep it outside, they will have a chair," Jarrett said. "This is our first time charging admission, but it's also the most expensive band we've ever contracted at Loose Caboose .. our cost. Five dollars is pretty good for a band that has 28 singles on five different charts over 30 years."

As for Union Pacific's stance on the matter, Raquel Espinoza, Corporate Relations and Media Director, offered an explanation of the railroad's decision to force Loose Caboose off the track.

"We realize Paragould is a city with deep railroad roots and we wanted to see the Loose Caboose Festival to do well, however, there are some serious safety concerns with hosting an event like this so close to the tracks. One of the options that was explored was the installation of a fence, however, that is not an option for the group because of funding. We hope they can move it to a different, safer location."

That accomplished, it's now the search for a permanent home that remains on the minds of Loose Caboose Committee members.

"The fairgrounds make a very nice venue," Jarrett said. "Will it remain permanent? Probably not. We will start June 1st looking at options in the downtown area, just not on the parking lot. We can use it for parking, just not for our festival, and there are a number of spots available if things worked out just right."

"I think it will work this year. Comments from festival goers might make a difference but I really think staying there might hurt the identity of the Loose Caboose and the Greene County Fair. We need to stand alone. There are options." ♦

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KDRS-AM reviving Back Fence, other favorites on new broadcast schedule

There's something new coming to Paragould's first radio station -- and something old being revisited, all designed to add enjoyment to your daily listening habits.

Beginning May 1, 1490 KDRS-AM will be adding several new features as well as updating a few of the all-time favorite classics.

One of the classics is Paragould Back Fence, hosted by Brian Osborn. Every weekday morning from 7 until 9, Brian will begin the day with a variety of news items and information focused primarily on Paragould. The 8:30 Interview will feature conversations with all kinds of people, ranging from those in local government, industry and education ... to folks just like you!

Another classic being re-imagined is The Radio Flea Market, hosted by Leisa Ray weekday mornings at 10. Leisa will give listeners the opportunity to buy, sell, or swap both on-air and online, much like the "Swap Shop" segment of years past.

For many years, Back Fence was a favorite of KDRS listeners, featuring local people discussing local events in an informal format.

"MOR Media has had a lot of success with Premiere Magazine and 107.1 Jack FM," Osborn, Operations/Programming Director, said. "We want to continue that with 1490 KDRS."

Another classic being re-imagined is The Radio Flea Market, hosted by Leisa Ray weekday mornings at 10.

Leisa will give listeners the opportunity to buy, sell, or swap both on-air and online, much like the "Swap Shop" segment of years past.

In addition, The Old Farmer's Almanac Radio Report will air weekday mornings around 7:20 along with Inside Edition at 8:20, Rach On the Radio featuring Rachel Ray weekdays at 9:20, the Daily Dose with Dr. Oz weekdays at 9:50, The ET Radio Minute at 10:20 and Ask Dr. Phil at 10:50.

These new programming additions join talk from Herman Cain, which airs weekdays from 11 until 2, and Clark Howard, scheduled for weekday afternoons from 2 until 5.

1490 KDRS continues to be Paragould's and Greene County's radio home for St. Louis Cardinals major league baseball, as it has been since 1947.

Surrounding all of these features is a clever blend of light musical hits rooted mostly in the '70s and '80s but also drifting back as far as the '50s and right up to today.

1490 KDRS debuted on January 1st, 1947. The station is owned by MOR Media, which also owns 107.1 JACK FM and Paragould Premiere magazine. For advertising information call 870-236-7627 or online at kdrs.com.

A list of the new programming to be offered is presented on the inside front cover of this month's Premiere Magazine. ♦



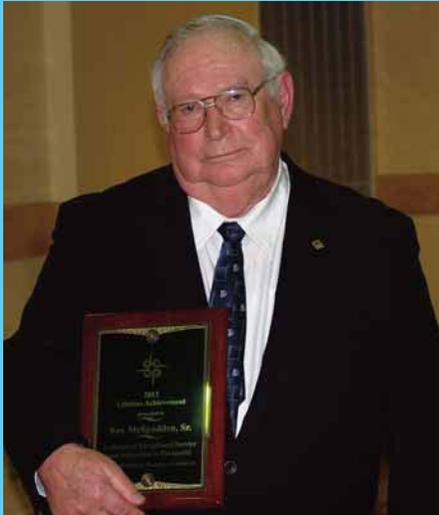
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Award Winners



Roy McSpadden was the winner of the Chamber's Lifetime Achievement Award.



Becky Edwards presented the Ambassador of the Year Award to Charles Brazil.



Rusty McMillon was given the Member of the Year Award by Valerie Markum.



Jeff Hankins emphasized the importance of Paragould and Greene County to Arkansas State University.

Hankins addresses large crowd at annual Chamber awards banquet

The night was set aside to recognize outstanding achievements over the past year by Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce members, but those in attendance at the Paragould Community Center also heard some outstanding facts about the city's importance to Arkansas State University.

Featured speaker Jeff Hankins, Vice President of Strategic Communications and Economic Development at ASU, said Paragould and Greene County provide much more than merely members of the student body to the university system.

He said more than 120 employees of ASU are Greene County residents "and they represent a \$3.8 million annual payroll."

Hankins also noted that the school's expansion efforts in all areas are brought to fruition by contributors "like all of you in this room. Without your help, this would not be possible." ♦



Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, above, and incoming Chamber President Barry Davis kept the audience smiling with their presentations.



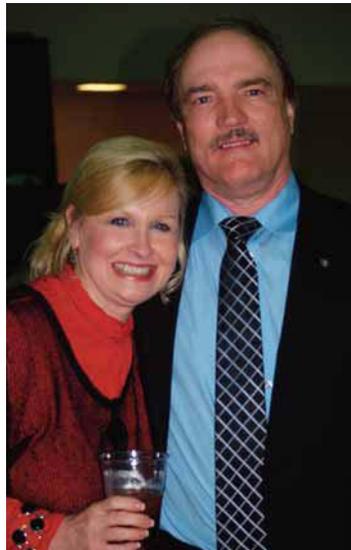
Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet



Outgoing Chamber President Darrell Phillips and his wife, Tonya.



From left above, Dina Mason, David Neighbors and Diann Walker were presented service plaques from the Board of Directors by Phillips.



Sally LeBlanc, Tiffany Felty and Elizabeth Forehand of Families, Inc., posed together before the meal, as did Julie and Keith Milligan, and Terry and Torre Austin.

Good discoveries are out there during National Flea Market Month in May

By Gabriel A. Cook

Flea markets offer an alternative for buyers of both the mundane and unusual. They can be dark, dusty shops full of seemingly unrelated bric-a-brac, or bright, open spaces lined with DVDs and brand-new furniture. The origins of the term "flea market" are disputed; some believe it comes from the 18th Century New York Fly Market; others consider it a mistranslation of the French *marché aux puces*, a "market where one finds fleas." Regardless of its true etymology, a flea market can, on occasion, yield strange finds.

NPR offers several tips for flea marketing, including the proper gear: a magnet, flashlight, note pad, and cell phone. It suggests shopping early in the morning and talking to dealers at length about their wares. While buyers are advised to pay attention and look for clues pertaining to the authenticity of any find, they also should "take the occasional chance." Utilizing these tips will strengthen the chance of coming across rare and unusual finds.

Speaking of rare and unusual, a macabre discovery once found in many flea markets was supposed shrunken human heads in bottles. These were common in earlier decades, most being monkey skulls with a combination of goat skin and horse hair applied. In similar fashion, the well-preserved mermaid was a staple in some regional markets. The small, shriveled forms purported to be the remnants of a being that was part fish, part human.

One gentleman in Utah bought a box of sports cards for \$10; all but one sold for a total of \$150. The one special card? An autographed rookie card of Albert Pujols, of which there are only 50 in existence. That card alone netted \$565, for a total of \$715 on a \$10 investment.

A woman in California bought a box of aged but otherwise normal-looking shoes. A friend, suspecting something out of the ordinary about them, suggested she have them appraised. The woman discovered she'd paid \$30 for shoes used in the original "Wizard of Oz." True, none were the famed Ruby Slippers, but she resold them for over \$1,000.

Some folks shared their finds on our Premiere Facebook page. Perhaps the most surprising came from Crystal Stayton, who paid \$4 for an "ugly candle set" dated 1911. She researched and discovered it was an ink well set, and sold it for \$2,000. How many of us have bought something considered "ugly" and unwittingly sold it before checking its actual worth?

My most cherished possessions came from innumerable flea markets in Mt. View, Arkansas: First-edition "Peanuts" collections by Charles Schultz. I've found most of the '50s and '60s strip collections, all in fair to good condition, just by wandering through various stalls and aisles. While not unusual, they represent an amazing investment, as I've paid \$20 for a collection that is worth over \$5,000. Though I'm thankful I stumbled across these little pocket books in out-of-the-way flea markets, I guarantee they'll never wind up in another one.

Then again, how many of us have bought something from someone who said the same thing? Good hunting! ♦



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Paragould Rotary Club to host 'Paws for a Cause' dog show

Paragould's Rotary Club will present the first ever "Paws for a Cause" Dog Show on Saturday, May 4, 2013, as a club fund raising event.

The show will be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds, located at 1108 Highway 49B in Paragould, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Individuals may enter their dogs in any or all of nine categories including: Best Tail Wagger, Cutest Puppy, Looks Most Like Owner, Most Macho, Most Beautiful, Most Talented, Best Kisser, Most Handsome and Best Costume.

Pre-registration is only \$10 per category or \$12 per category on the day of the event. Registration includes admission to the show for two dog handlers. Checks should be made payable to Paragould Rotary Club and note "dog show" in the memo portion of the check.

The event will feature a variety of entertainers, door prizes and a fully stocked concession stand. Local animal-friendly businesses will also have booths on display.

Admission to the dog show is only \$5 per person, \$2 for children under 12. Come out and enjoy a great day of fun with your four-legged friends and support this great cause. All proceeds from the event will go toward funding local Rotary projects conducted throughout the year in Greene County.

Rotarians have distributed a new dictionary to every third grade student in Greene County during the fall of the year for the past several years.

The club also hands out a thesaurus to each fifth grade student in Greene County.

To learn more about the Paws for a Cause Dog Show, contact Malissa Lewis by telephone at (870) 476-0727 or at MLewis2@americanrailcar.com. ♦

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ACH Radiothon 2013 ... a huge success



Denise Middleton, representing The Circle of Friends, accepts a check from members of the Saints & Sinners.

ACH Radiothon tops \$31,000 in donations

Sponsored by the Greene County Chapter of The Circle of Friends and MOR Media, the 2013 version of the Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon had raised \$31,203.71 at quitting time of the 12-hour fundraiser.

Southern Bank in Paragould played host to the event, which combined efforts of the Paragould Fire Department, Turner Dairy, The Circle of Friends, MOR Media and countless volunteers.

As usual, members of the Saints & Sinners riding club raised the most money, presenting a check for more than \$6,000. ♦



If your mother said it, it's probably pretty good advice ... maybe

By Gabriel A. Cook

Mothers. Most of us had one, and the majority of us had to suffer a litany of "momisms" — those little sayings Mom used (typically during moments of irritation) to set us straight on a given issue.

All mothers come complete with a personalized set that serve throughout the 18 years of their offspring's childhood. Some retain their ability to spout a momism well past the child's maturity.

The first variety of momism is the statement to which there is no inherent reply. *"Be careful what you wish for, you might just get it"* rests comfortably in that category. It's a simple premise, one undeserving of an answer. Yes, Mom: Sometimes our granted wish did not improve life.

"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye."

The loss of an eye would probably ruin any fun activity, especially if the lost ocular organ was your own.

Perhaps the worst of the lot is, *"Wait until your father gets home."* No phrase in the English language can induce hysterics like that one, nor does it require an answer. The offending child would simply sulk to his room,

anticipating Dad's return home with dread.

The second class of momism is the statement that begs an answer ... even though it would go easier on any child to exercise their right to remain silent. *"Money does not grow on trees"* could easily be swatted back with: "Money's made out of paper. Paper's made out of trees. So, money grows on trees." No mom worth her salt would allow such insolence to go unchallenged, and the smart-mouthed child found said mouth smarting even worse after it was popped.

"If all of your friends jumped off a cliff, would you?"

To this day, I have fun reminding my mom that, according to the syntax of the sentence, if all of my friends jumped, I'd be included, so ... the answer is "yes." And the ultimate comeback: *"Close the door! Were you born in a barn?"* To which we replied, "No, but Jesus was." After which we'd wake up two hours later, crumpled in a corner with an indentation of our mom's wedding ring in our heads.

The third category is the humorous statement at which we dare not laugh. Oh, the tears I produced holding in laughter when mom said something severe but nonsensical, like, *"If you fall and break your leg, don't come running to me!"* Or, even better: *"If you fall out of that tree*

and die, I don't want to hear about it," as if she wouldn't find out sooner or later, especially the first time I didn't appear for supper.

The fourth type is the "mystery" phrase, a saying so odd that it's both intriguing and enigmatic.

"I was never bored at your age" contains a story begging to be told, but, as no parent ever tells a happy story, it is usually dropped. A friend's mother used to ask his companions, "How old are you?" If the answer was, "Thirteen," she'd reply, *"When I was your age, I was twenty."* Perhaps the oddest thing my mom ever said: *"Don't look at me with that tone!"*

Momisms are universal, and if there's life on Mars, you can bet it has a mother reminding it of the nine months she carried it and this is the thanks she gets. Here at home, it's a guarantee.

As Paragould resident Sherry Cunningham's mother would say: *"Do you want to see my mean eyes?"* I'm sure no child took her up on the offer.

Friend and acting partner Kevin Moslander's mother was fond of: *"You can learn from your mistake, just don't get a degree in the subject."*

Of all the momisms, that's probably the best advice. ♦

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Main Street Paragould is vital to success of downtown area

Reading Main Street Paragould's Mission Statement is really all one needs to know in regard to its focus and purpose:

"Main Street Paragould's mission is to revitalize and promote the historic, cultural, social, visual, and economic significance of Downtown Paragould; to educate our community about the benefits of a revitalized Downtown; and to involve our community in the revitalization process."

According to Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of the organization, "Main Street Paragould, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas; therefore your investment is tax deductible. So, your contribution is good for Downtown and good for you at tax time."

Main Street Paragould was established in 1999 when a movement to recruit new retail and service businesses -- as well as support



Gina Jarrett, right, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, meets weekly with interested parties for Perkin' On Pruet, an exchange of useful ideas for the downtown scene.

the current small businesses -- started with a retail survey. The organization was established separately from the Chamber of Commerce and operates out of the Red Caboose on East Emerson Street. Jarrett has been the director since 2006.

Because of Paragould's affiliation with Main Street Arkansas, Downtown business/property owners have available to them services that can be invaluable to the growth of their businesses. Main Street Arkansas has a small business consultant, an exterior design and an

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interior designer consultant on staff. From business plans, retail space layout, questions about the appropriate awnings to window display, cash flow, or marketing, Main Street Arkansas can help.

Main Street Arkansas offers education and training opportunities throughout the year. Grant monies, whether mini-grants, Downtown Redevelopment, or Slipcover Removal, are all made available by Main Street Arkansas.

Many of the popular attractions enjoyed by Greene County area residents are the results of the hard work and planning enacted by Main Street Paragould.

Activities and duties planned and organized by Main Street Paragould include:

- Oktoberfest Event
- Decorating and organizing the upkeep of Centennial Park
- Helping with business plans for Downtown businesses
- Helping with Downtown businesses Facebook pages
- Designing and procuring street signs and banners Downtown
- Art and Stroll
- Bringing Bluegrass to Downtown
- Loose Caboose
- Organization of a "Visioning" group working on empty lot improvements
- Information on federal and state tax incentives for refurbishing

- Christmas Parade
- Visiting Santa in a storefront and riding horse drawn carriages on Downtown streets
- Advising on appropriate paint and awnings
- Decorative Christmas pole wraps and banners
- Helping with application for a Downtown Revitalization Grant or Mini-Maxi Grant
- Helping with National Register properties
- Providing information from Main Street Arkansas for interior or exterior improvements
- Perkin' on Pruet, weekly meeting at Something Sweet

"If Main Street didn't exist, all those services would end," Jarrett said. "No more grant opportunities, no more promotions or publicity, no more improvements Downtown. These are just a few reasons why you should invest in Main Street Paragould. Even if you are not a Downtown business, Main Street Paragould is good for our whole city and whether you invest money or your time or, at the least, participate in the activities that support the organization you can contribute."

Main Street Paragould has new plans for 2013 including two opportunities for MSP Investors -- Morning Muffins and Cash Mobs. Morning Muffins will introduce new businesses to the community and the other will be fun and an opportunity to make the cash registers ring. ♦

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Grant recipients revealed by Endowment Foundation

Fourteen area groups were recognized as grant recipients in April by the Endowment Foundation of Greene County.

After opening remarks by Marci Lincoln and State Board Member and Board Chair Robert Thompson, the following were awarded grants:

American Red Cross, NEA Chapter; Arkansas Baptist Paragould Emergency Receiving Home; Arkansas Methodist Medical Center; Arkansas Rice Depot; B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens, Inc.; Chateau On The Ridge; Collins Theatre Foundation; Future & Hope Christian Women's Job Corps; Greene County Tech Parent Center; International Oral Health Coalition; Main Street Paragould, Inc.; Marmaduke School District; Paragould School District; and The Brandon Burlsworth Foundation.



Representatives of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center were all smiles after receiving a grant from the Endowment Foundation.

The Endowment Foundation of Greene County was founded in 1999 to make Paragould and Greene County a better place to live. It operates as a local affiliate of the Arkansas Community Foundation. Donations to the foundation make a lasting impression upon generations of local residents.

Current board members are Thompson, Mary Ann Allen, Terry Austin, Kimberly Dale, Jannie Distretti, Chip Dortch, Ann Marie Guinn, Pam Jumper, Keith Legrid, Debbie Quinn, Carolyn Samuel, and Advisory Members Bill Fisher, Rhonda Davis and Joe Wessell.

For more information, call the foundation office at 870-236-7718. ♦

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Members of the Master Gardeners spruced up the entrance to Harmon Field.

Volunteers take part in citywide cleanup

With Mother Nature cooperating by providing a beautiful Saturday, over 100 volunteers joined forces to give much of Paragould a facelift in April.

The cleanup, fix-up day included everything from picking up trash to painting fences and fixing flower beds, and ended with a free meal for all who gave their time and efforts. ♦



While some volunteers painted the fence at the courthouse, others helped at out the Main Street Paragould office, below.



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Shoe shopping with Mom provides memorable experience

"Mom wants to go to Jonesboro tomorrow. I thought I'd tag along."

"She'll take you shoe shopping," my wife warned. "You hate shoe shopping."

"So I won't let her buy me any. But I haven't been out of the house since Christmas, and I do require fresh air, now and then."

That was that, I thought. The next day, mother and I visited a few shops before the subject of shoes was broached. I made it known in no uncertain terms that if a shoe store was our destination, I would wait in the car. The day being cold, my mother guilted me into going in with her to avoid catching my death.

I waited as she examined all the footwear in the place. Shoes were placed side by side and studied carefully. She slipped into one and traipsed up and down the aisle. "I like it," she announced. I sighed in relief, believing the ordeal over. To my disbelief, she undid that shoe, took its twin, and began to wiggle into it.

"That's the exact same shoe!" I cried. "Just for the other foot. You're not going to try it on too?"

She lectured me on the foolhardiness of trying on one of two shoes, that feet — like many things in life — came in varying sizes, and she would make sure both sides fit. On it slid, and up the aisle she walked. She seemed less sure about this one, but some light



persuasion on my part convinced her.

As we walked to the front, she mentioned the sorry state of my own shoes. I refused to discuss the matter. She pointed out various styles she thought I'd like; I snubbed my nose at each. Before we reached the counter, she picked up an enormous pair of bright green loafers. "These look like you." Before I could protest, I had them on and was walking up and down the aisle. Satisfied, she put the box under her arm and made for the register.

The attendant greeted us with a special offer. If we answered a simple trivia question, we would receive five dollars off our purchase. Not wishing to potentially embarrass myself, I declined, but mother — a fierce bargain-hunter — accepted the challenge. From an index card, the attendant read: "Name the planets of our solar system in their proper order."

In abject horror, I heard myself blurt out, "Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto." Though it had been demoted, I fought for Pluto's inclusion,

and also reminded all in the store that Uranus' and Neptune's orbits occasionally swapped, making either order correct. The attendant, face blank, handed us a coupon and said, "They didn't include the answer on the card. You could've said Vulcan and I wouldn't have known the difference."

We returned to the car, found a restaurant in which to have a leisurely lunch, and returned home. I now have a pair of green shoes in the closet, and another memory of the world's craziest mother.

Happy Mother's Day to moms everywhere. May the adventures you have with your children be equally memorable. ♦

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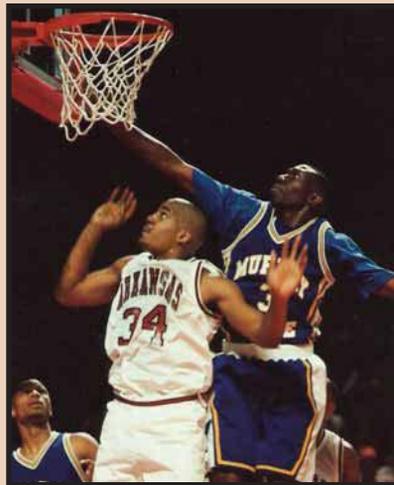
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May is National Photography Month

At the heart of National Photography Month is the importance that photography plays in our personal histories. National Photography Month aims to encourage the nation both to get more involved in photography, and to explore new ways to capture and keep life's most important or interesting moments. ♦



Photos by Richard Brummett



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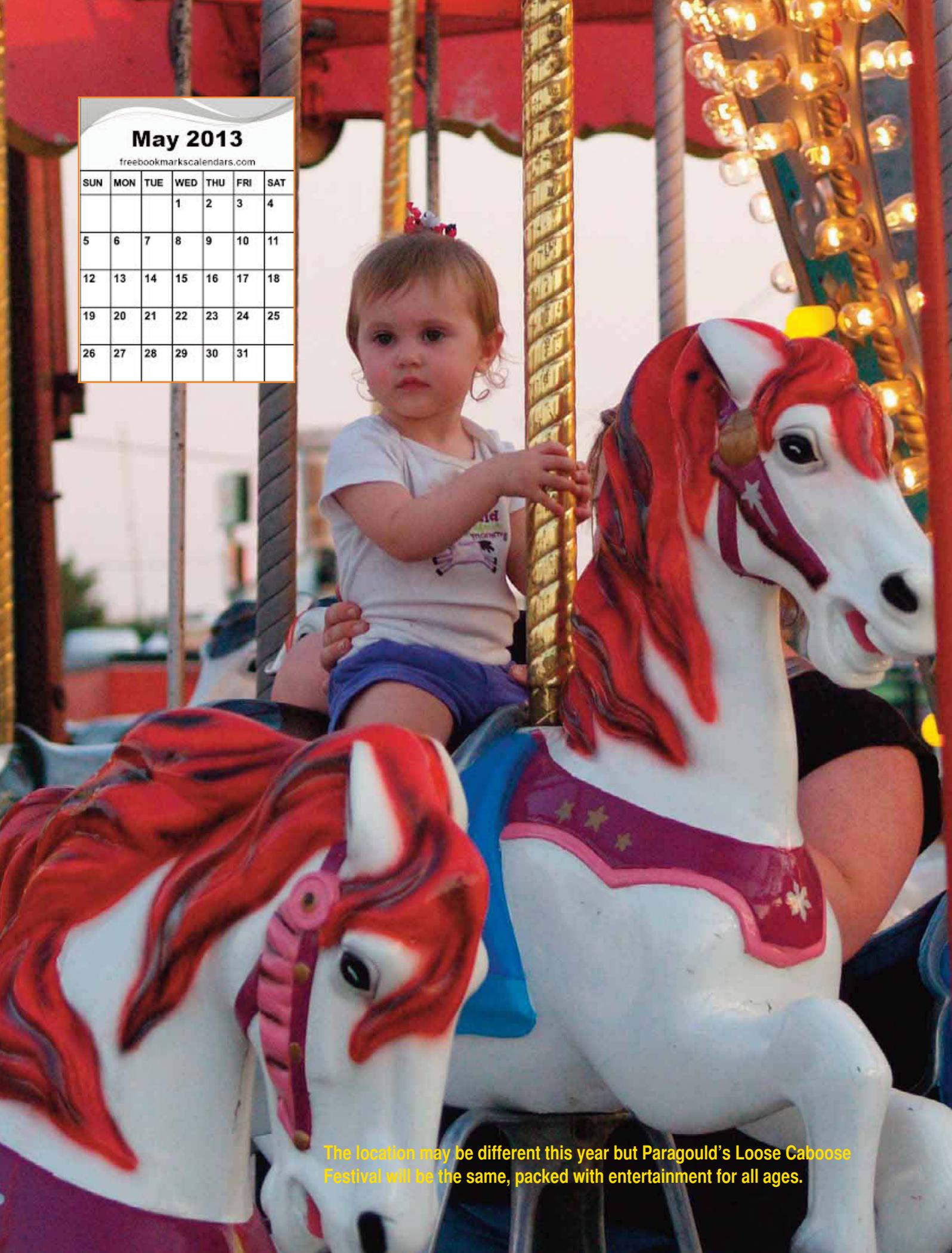
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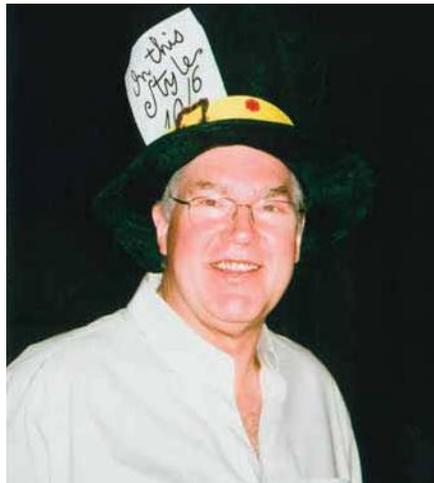
The location may be different this year but Paragould's Loose Caboose Festival will be the same, packed with entertainment for all ages.



Guest of honor Lee Carole Jackson Poe



Theresa Jackson, above left, planned the surprise party and was joined by other of Lee Carole's family members, including granddaughter Renee, above, and brother Lonnie and mother Lucille Jackson, below.



Sister-in-law Theresa Jackson, who has a gift for creative celebrations, came up with the Alice In Wonderland idea.



Everyone agreed and got busy.

Mad Hatter Tea Party provides belated 50th birthday surprise

“We’re late, we’re late, for a very important date!” That was the idea behind a surprise celebration -- or, Mad Hatter Tea Party -- honoring Lee Carole (Jackson) Poe on her 50th birthday; a much-belated birthday, that is.

The actual date was December 20, 2012, but, as usual, the proximity to Christmas Day was a big problem. Added to that, Lee Carole was bringing her husband John home from a Memphis hospital after surgery on her birthday.

She said, ‘We’re late for her birthday, and she’s always late to everything! It’s perfect.’”

Invitations encouraged guests to wear a “crazy hat,” which added to the fun. Lee Carole was happily surprised and the Tea Party was a great success. ♦

-- Submitted by Lillian White



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"I use found objects and do my best to add some human quality." -- Teddy Wigginton



Wigginton, at left above, says his work is "usually about me and my personal experiences ... sometimes it's aggressive or the images are strong." He likes both his jack in the box at far left, and his two-way sign, right. He is pictured with artist Dusty Mitchell.



Art teacher Teddy Wigginton inspires young people through his own creations

I like to look at the world through "rose colored glasses" so to speak, but even the most vivid visions get dark from time to time. Reality sends this undeniable fog over the most common optimistic expressions. Throughout life there is more than just happiness. There is pain. Even the strongest euphoria cannot shield life's misfortune.

"I went from being a healthy 32-year-old to literally being told I was dying from a very aggressive cancer of the blood. Our faith instantly kicked in. You don't know how it will feel until you're told something like that."

As Teddy Joe Wigginton explains his disposition, I'm awestruck. We are close in age, each with a spouse and two children. On this day, he was casually on his way to a soccer game with his family in tow. He describes his experience with cancer and remission so selflessly.

"Through my experience, I'm assured everything happens for a reason. It's not by chance. There's something good that will come out of this. I know, because I'm a believer," he says.

Wigginton, now 34, is not taking his time post cancer for granted. "I've got a second chance at life. I'm thankful to be alive," he says.

A lover of art, he is using his position as teacher to inspire young people through his



own creations.

"I use found objects and do my best to add some human quality. It's sort of symbolic. My work is usually about me and my personal experiences... sometimes it's aggressive or the images are strong. When you're taking something out of the world that's already been made, people recognize and relate to that. I'll never run out of work... all I have to do is wake up and walk outside. There's always some type of inspiration," he explains.

I, too, am inspired by the manipulation of everyday objects at the hands of an artist who must feel so conflicted, yet fortuitous. The illumination of a two-way sign or the humanity in a simple jack in the box carry such connotation.

"The two-way sign, I just had a vision of it being backlit and glowing. It was spiritual for me. It's just about being optimistic... going or thinking one way or another. Then, there's this typical jack in the box piece, except it has

my head poking out of it, lifesize. It's this innocent little toy, then it gets serious. It translates or asks, 'What are we, once we're outside that box? We can never go back in the same way. We're forever changed,' " he said.

In an instant, Teddy is more than a cancer survivor. He's a teacher and I am his pupil. I watch as the art before me takes on that human quality he promised. These images, his story, provide such a powerful lesson that he chooses to share through "rose colored glasses."

"Sometimes we sit in class and don't draw a thing. It's not always about drawing. It's about young people learning who they are. Being a freshman, my students don't always know what their potential is. I like bringing that out in them. Not that I can mold their minds, but I like pushing them along the way. I like showing them anything is possible," he says.

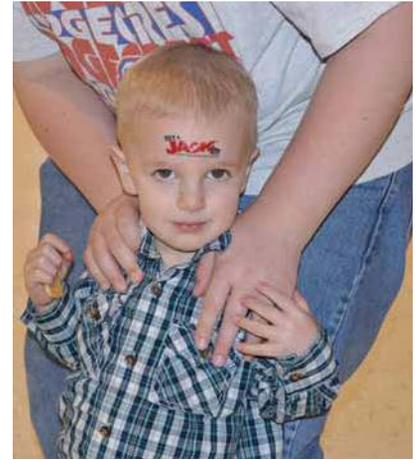
Teddy Wigginton is a teacher of art at Williams Baptist College. He is in clinical remission after chemotherapy. He just celebrated his first art show, post cancer, with artist Dusty Mitchell, who was featured on season II of Bravo Network's reality series "Work of Art." ♦



Junior Auxiliary stages Kids Kraze

Paragould's Junior Auxiliary played host to a number of area children when it staged Kids Kraze at East Side Baptist Church.

Sporting a musical theme, the event centered on informing the youngsters about healthy living, fun and fitness. Musical artist Brian Kinder and Ronald McDonald were special guest stars. ♦



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For Kelly Stewart,
“Every day is
a survival test.”

By Amber Ellis

It's funny how you can think of a million things to say about your sister, various stories and anecdotes that paint your childhood and have helped shape your very existence.

I could tell you about the dozens of times she sought refuge in my bedroom after playing yet another prank on our older sister. I could also tell you how she taught me how to apply my makeup so that I wouldn't have an unsightly orange-tinted line across my neck. I suppose I could throw in that she always seemed to be a "bystander" when a fight broke out between two (or more) of her sisters. It's funny, of course, until you come to the part when her life becomes overshadowed by a debilitating disease.

Kelly was 20 years old when we were first introduced to the disease that would go undiagnosed for 17 years. I remember coming home and seeing her lying on the couch. Her hands were the size of soft balls and she couldn't move. I was used to seeing her laid up with athletic injuries, but this was different. I remember thinking, "She looks sick." While that incident is a little hazy in my mind, I remember the next one vividly.

At 28, Kelly had the worst case of strep throat her doctor had ever seen. She and I were living in Tyler, Texas, at the time and surgery was inevitable. I say "we" because the Cooper girls don't go into surgery without Grady and Kaye close by. We brought her home from her outpatient tonsillectomy and put her to bed, certain that she would finally begin to feel some relief.

Within just a couple of hours we noticed Kelly, once again, couldn't move. One trip to the E.R. later and we were confounded when doctors told us Kelly wasn't experiencing the pain in her throat like so many others do after a tonsillectomy. She was experiencing the pain in her joints, causing them to lock and render her immobile. This would be meeting Number Two.

Kelly recovered, but things were different. If most people experienced the 24-hour stomach bug, she would be sick with it for weeks. Phantom kidney stones became part of her daily life. It became clear these annoying little bouts of pain were just something she would

Lupus has many symptoms, affects everyone differently

By Richard Brummett

Kelly Stewart says if the daily struggle with lupus has taught her anything at all, it has made her understand that nothing should be taken for granted.

"Even getting out of bed," she said. "If I can wake up and get out of bed, some days I feel like I've really done something."

Some days her hands are swollen and knotted, and they "hurt all the way up to my elbows. Every day is a survival test."

Stewart said lupus is a disease that affects each patient differently, and each in a variety of ways. "Doctors will tell you," she said, "that they don't know what causes it, and don't know how to treat it. It can lay dormant for years and then come back. It's like you never know from one day to the next what the challenge is."

A list of common Lupus symptoms includes:

- * Achy joints (arthralgia)
- * Fever over 100 degrees F
- * Swollen and painful joints (arthritis)
- * Prolonged fatigue
- * Skin rashes

have to deal with.

Meeting Number Three took place in the winter of 2010. That was the winter that changed all of our lives. It began with a sinus infection and a headache. Rounds of antibiotics and countless visits to the doctor proved fruitless. Next came the excruciating eye pain. After multiple sclerosis was ruled out, Kelly was treated for optic neuritis.

The treatment? An astronomical amount of steroids. The steroid-induced seizures, or episodes as the doctors called them, were horrendous. During the next several months, doctors went back and forth with the diagnosis of Lupus. The butterfly rash across her face confirmed it, but the knots on her spine and her blue fingers and toes suggested there was more to come.

We were devastated after Kelly spent weeks at the Mayo Clinic, two separate visits, and we still had no answers. We prayed. We cried

- * Anemia
- * Swollen ankles (kidney involvement)
- * Chest pain upon deep breathing (pleurisy)
- * Butterfly-shaped rash across cheeks and nose
- * Sensitivity to sun (photosensitivity)
- * Unusual hair loss
- * Abnormal blood clotting problems
- * Pale or purple fingers from cold or stress (Raynaud's Phenomenon)
- * Seizures
- * Mouth ulcers (often painless, at roof of mouth)

During last year's school session Stewart, who is a teacher and coach in the Paragould School District, missed six months of work. "It's real hard to put into words," Stewart said. "Some days are great days and you get some hope, then the next day can be a really bad day and you don't know what you're supposed to do. It's frustrating; when I was 20, I woke up paralyzed. Today, all I know is, I won't ever take anything -- no matter how simple it is -- for granted again." ♦

behind closed doors, because for some reason Kelly was still smiling. Through all of this, two years of misery and the unknown, Kelly continued to work, coach, and spend time with her family.

Recently diagnosed with mixed connective tissue disease, an overlap of Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Reynaud's Phenomenon, and Scleroderma, Kelly is on the path to a life-long recovery process. I take joy in writing her story, however condensed it may be, because she made it. She is one of the blessed few who came out on the other side with answers, with treatments, and with the love and continued support of her family and friends.

She is not broken, nor is she damaged. She is a wife, daughter, sister, and coach ... and she's got this.

(Editor's note: Amber Ellis is Kelly Stewart's younger sister and volunteered to write her story.) ♦

Hambrick wants to raise awareness of lupus after long battle

By Jennifer Thompson

For the past 32 years Rosetta Hambrick has been forced into a combative struggle with something she inherited: lupus.

Hambrick's particular type of lupus, SLE (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus), comes with an extensive list of symptoms and possibilities of what can happen. Today, Hambrick has almost every symptom on the list and lives in a fair amount of constant pain. Even still, one would never know it by simply looking at her, or by talking to her ... unless she told you. And now, she has.

Hambrick said, "I wasn't diagnosed until, while I was working at the Sunlite factory here in Paragould, I got hurt. I was going to a local orthopedist for my injury."

She said the orthopedist noticed that her injury, which was located near her elbow, wasn't healing properly, so the doctor sent her for a second opinion. The orthopedist told her she was, "Having symptoms I shouldn't have had with the injury I had," she said.

Hambrick set off in search of her second opinion with a rheumatologist. Once she finally received the second opinion, it was devastating; but the diagnosis also made sense at the same time.

At the time of her diagnosis, in March of 1981, Hambrick was told by her doctors that she more than likely wouldn't make it more than 10 years with her condition. Her son, Chris Jones, was only 6 at the time. She said she had a miscarriage prior to having her son, and after her diagnosis was revealed she realized what a miracle it was that she had ever had him at all.

"When I got the second diagnosis, I wasn't prepared for it," she recalled. "I was in the doctor's office when he told me. I was so rude to that second doctor. I jumped up, grabbed my purse and got in my car. By the time I got back to my orthopedist I was hysterical. I didn't want to have to leave my son and his father."

Eventually, she said, her elbow injury began to heal, but as her wound healed the rest of her body felt like it was deteriorating.



Rosetta Hambrick has battled lupus for more than 30 years. The disease has led her to have to deal with many other issues, as well.

"See, with lupus," she stated, "it attacks your autoimmune system. So, a simple cold that takes you days to get over ... it could take me months to recover.

"It takes five different blood tests to diagnose lupus," she continued. "In the beginning I took some 'trial' drugs because there weren't a lot of things out at the time to treat lupus. Because of that I had to have additional, regular blood work done to monitor what effect the drugs were having. I had blood work done every 10 days while I was on the 'trial' drugs."

SLE typically affects most, if not all, of the major organs in the body. Another form of lupus is discoid, which affects mostly the skin and avoids the internal major organs.

At the age of 24 Hambrick began the process of menopause. "And," she said, "that process only took me 10 years to complete!"

When she was only 26, Hambrick had her first heart attack. At 41 she had a second. This one, though, was different because it put her in a coma for nine days.

"Then, when I was 51, in 2006, I died," she stated very matter-of-factly. "I was kept on a ventilator, a pacemaker ... the whole nine yards. I was in Oregon at the time because Chris had moved there and I was going to visit. I saw the light that time.

"They sent Chris in to see me; it was really to see me for the last time and to say his good-byes," she said. "Chris came in and reached out and touched me and said, 'Mom, it's time to wake up!' And I did.

"While Chris was growing up, it was like he would know before I did when I was going to flare. He even had to learn how to cook by the time he was 10 years old," she recalled.

Jones said, "As I got older I started to notice mom was sick a lot. It was a different kind of sick than I got. She mostly would sleep a lot. As time went on I could pick up on it and would let her sleep. I would take care of the house while she was sick because my dad was either working or off hunting or fishing."

When asked if it seemed scary to him at the time to have to take care of his mother in this

way, Jones said, "Honestly, it wasn't so scary. I think that was because it was a different kind of sickness. There were no sores or anything outwardly to show she was sick."

Along with all of the internal issues associated with the lupus, Hambrick also has to deal with numerous others including: Fibromyalgia, Sjögren's Syndrome (a form of chronic bronchitis), fatigue, joint and muscle pain, skin problems, sensitivity to light, nervous system issues, mental health issues, constant fever, changes in weight, hair loss, swollen glands, Rynaud's phenomenon (affects blood vessels), swelling of hands and feet, and anemia.

Even though she has lived with the disease since 1981, new problems can still occur at any time.

More than anything, Hambrick wants to spread the word about lupus. She would like to raise awareness surrounding the disease so that, hopefully, someday enough medical research and documentation can/will be done to better understand and treat the disease and all of the issues associated with it.

"Lupus passes through the generations," Hambrick said. "It may not affect every generation, but you can usually trace it within your family heritage somewhere. Especially if you're of certain ethnicities. Lupus tends to be prevalent in those with Indian heritage. I am 13/16 Cherokee Indian ... And my cousin and I both have lupus," she said.

"When you go back through the genealogy, though, lupus is never listed as the cause of death, or a contributing factor. The list always includes problems with major organs, though. Like, heart attacks, for example and I think that is just because they weren't paying that much attention to it, but it is just as important. When you research the records you find everything relating to lupus being the cause of death, but never lupus itself. I think that is because no two cases of lupus are the same. It is so hard to diagnose and treat ... Though, they are finally making advances."

Also, it is important to note that the Lupus Foundation of America, says, "Gender, ethnicity, age, and family medical history may all contribute to your risk of lupus. Nine out of 10 people who develop lupus are women,

and most women develop lupus between the ages of 15 and 44. Hispanic, Asian, Native American and

African American women are also two-to-three times more likely to develop lupus than Caucasian women."

"I have given in to it (at this point in my life)," Hambrick said. "The more you fight it, the more it takes out of you. I worked for 31 years with it. I just left my job at Hays (East) in March. I never gave up, though. I always

worked. Pills can't do it all for you. You have to do some things for yourself, and I am so proud that I have done that. I should've probably gone a long time ago, but my son wouldn't let me. You have to keep a positive attitude and take one day at time, and that is exactly what I do."

"My mom is a fighter," Jones said. "I have seen her at her worst and she keeps coming back for more. She may have no idea, but she gives me strength every day no matter how far apart we are."

Hambrick has a trip planned to go back to Oregon next month to visit her son and his family. ♦

"My mom is a fighter," Jones said. "I have seen her at her worst and she keeps coming back for more. She may have no idea, but she gives me strength every day no matter how far apart we are."

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Motorcycle Safety Foundation provides useful tips for riders of all types

By Gabriel A. Cook

The operating of any machine demands care, especially motor vehicles. Motorcycles, in particular, require specific safeguards for both rider and fellow motorists. Riding a bike is not for everyone; neophyte and experienced riders should handle their machines responsibly and with respect.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation offers a tip sheet for those considering a bike. Some of the questions it asks include: Are you a higher risk-taker than your friends? Can you drive a stick-shift car? Do you see well? Are you mechanically inclined? Are you safety-minded? Do you respect machinery carries with it an element of risk? Do you have acute focus abilities? Can you handle a car in an emergency? Are you willing to invest some time in learning to ride the right way before hopping on a bike? Before shopping around, the potential rider should mull these questions at great length.

If one is still determined to ride, the MSF suggests several tips for safety, the most prominent being: Stay visible. Bikes possess a low profile, and other motorists have trouble spotting them, especially in heavy traffic. Visibility can be increased by using reflective decals on clothing (or the machine itself), flashing brake lights before stopping, and — if encountering a motorist who can't see you — conservative use of the horn.

Remembering that the only thing between rider and road is the gear he wears, dress becomes an important factor. Be sure to wear a quality helmet with adequate eye protection. (A brighter helmet — along with light-colored clothing — is suggested.) Leather, or other thick clothing, can offer some protection in an emergency, as do long sleeves, pants, and gloves.

Noting any change in road conditions is stressed by the MSF. Maintaining space that allows response time for both biker and motorists is essential. Always signal turns well in advance, and never weave between lanes. Drive the speed limit, and — as all motorists should know — never ride when fatigued or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Make sure your bike is ready to travel before takeoff

Any vehicle with moving parts requires lubrication. The basic construct of a bike is also its major departure from vehicles — it is open to the elements, its motor, cables, and other parts (nestled under a hood of a car or truck) are exposed to the environment. Keeping everything greased is essential, but there are parts indicative to a motorcycle easily overlooked. The kickstand, for instance, quickly accumulates dirt, as does the brake pedal. It is suggested that a bike be inspected and greased often, more so than other machines.

Motorcycle tires are not as rigorous as those of a car, so they, too, should be eyed carefully and frequently to ensure driving safety and gas mileage. An underinflated tire can adversely affect braking, as well. The average life of a bike tire enduring extensive use can vary, but research posits 5,000 to 10,000 miles.

The vibrations caused by riding can loosen anything attached to the bike. Bike enthusiasts suggest carrying a torque wrench at all times. Everything from mirrors to the motor can move or shake loose while on the road, and keeping parts tightened guarantees a safer riding experience.

Knowing your bike's capabilities and limitations is also important. Pursue formal training, and take occasional refresher courses. Find an off-road spot and practice (with permission) driving your machine in rain and wind, on sand, through hills, and other conditions. Uneven surfaces pose numerous hazards to riders and should be avoided.

Maintaining space in which to maneuver is the foremost safety advice given by bike enthusiasts. Something else to consider: Other motorists may see you, but they've probably never been on a bike and are therefore unable to judge your distance, speed, and other variables. It's not enough to assume that you can be seen.

Safety does not end with the rider. Other motorists should adapt their driving knowledge to include bikes and other low profile machines. It is easy for motorists to overlook bikes — expect to encounter at least one per

If the brakes of any vehicle feel unresponsive or sluggish, an excess of air in the line might be at fault, which requires bleeding it from the brakes. Home kits are available for this process, but care should be taken if doing it yourself, as most vehicle fluids are harmful to skin and eyes.

A vehicle's battery is its lifeline, but how often do most folks concern themselves with this hidden component? An oft-ridden bike with a new battery is apt to have few problems in that regard, but what if the motorcycle is parked for a few weeks due to one's sickness or an increased work schedule? Bikes that are not used as a primary mode of transportation should be hooked to a charger before taking an extended trip. Is the battery itself clean? Would one know what to do if it wasn't?

Easily forgotten are the bike's chains, which transfer the motor's power to the tires. If the battery is the heart, the chain serves as nervous system. A faulty chain — brittle, void of grease, unadjusted — can impair performance or stop it altogether. Instances of a chain flying loose in whip-like fashion are not uncommon, creating a harmful situation not only for rider but bystanders, as well. ♦

trip. Intersections pose dangers of their own, and motorists should watch for bikes that may be out of their sightline.

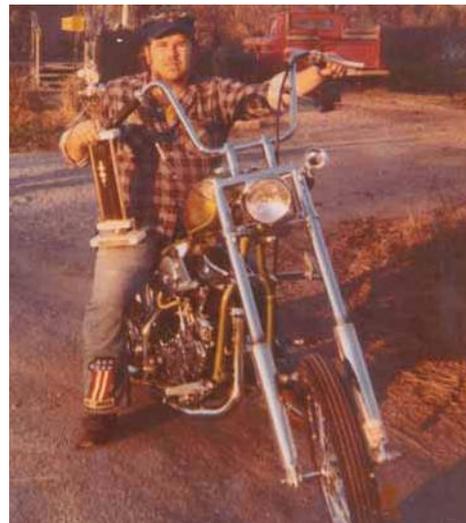
A bike, being smaller than other vehicles, gives the illusion of being farther away than it is. When merging into traffic, assume the bike is closer than it seems. (Also remember that, due to its size, a bike may appear to be going faster than its actual speed.) Riders will often slow their machine by rolling off the throttle, which does not activate a brake light. Do not "tail" a motorcycle; assume it could stop without signal. This is not optimal, but it is a possibility.

Paramount above all else, advises the MSF, is that motorists, upon seeing a bike on the road, not think of it as a motorcycle — think of it as a person. Adjust your driving as if dealing with a pedestrian, and remain observant.

For more tips, visit the MSF at their website, msf-usa.org. ♦



Larry Young today, and back in the day, with a couple of his favorite motorcycles. A longtime rider, Young says the perception of the biking culture has changed over the years.



Larry Young: Local motorcycle enthusiast says bike safety is responsibility of all riders

By Gabriel A. Cook

I'm running late and find my subject, Larry Young, sitting outside enjoying the first nice day of spring. I'm in shirt sleeves; he's wearing a leather jacket. Our contrasting apparel has more to do with differing modes of transportation than weather. I've come to the interview in a Chevy Sport pickup. A large Harley Davidson leans on its kickstand beside Larry. Knowing nothing of bikes, I compliment his "machine." Larry notes my correct terminology, though it is a bit dated.

Retired from 40 years at L.A. Darling, Larry, husband to Beth, has owned motorcycles since 1958. "My first was basically a scooter," he explains. "There weren't many cycles available then, especially for kids, so we took what we could get. I've had 12 bikes. Some of my friends change them like a shirt. I'll stick with a motorcycle until I'm tired of it.

"I like custom bikes. My first Harley was a 49 panhead I chopped myself. All my bikes are custom, lots of chrome, custom paint. But some folks like big dressers, sports bikes, whatever. I don't think they're comfortable. You don't see too many guys on Ninjas taking off for South Dakota." Larry has been all across the country on his bikes, from Louisiana to Las Vegas, Arizona to Illinois. These days, most of his riding is within 100 miles of home, his current bike suited for such trips.

When asked what first interested him in motorcycles, Larry said, "I had an uncle who

rode, a real character. I'd see him Sunday mornings at my grandma's. He looked like something out of "The Wild Ones," with his aviator hat, black leather jacket, engineer boots, and cigar. After staying out all night, he'd come to Grandma's for breakfast. I'd go out and sneak a look at his bike.

"There was another guy, a real outlaw, with a green and white Harley panhead. He had a little black hat with a white bill like Marlon Brando, leather jacket, Levi's with a cuff on them, couple of jailhouse tattoos, gold teeth. As kids, we'd go out and look his motorcycle over. It was all dressed up. One day, my friend and I drove a bike to Jonesboro ... at about 30 mph ... and heard a racket behind us. Here comes this outlaw with two women on the bike, one steering, the other behind him, wearing poodle skirts. He passed us with a wave, and my friend and I said, "That's the life for us!"

Bike culture was heavily influenced by the so-called bike movie, like 1969's *Easy Rider*. "Everyone wanted a chopper like Peter Fonda rode, including me. Honda changed the scene by making motorcycles affordable. I bought a brand-new Honda for \$700, financed. I took my paycheck and signed it over to the dealer, then had to borrow money for the rest of the week."

The perception of the culture changed again when the bike movie "went the way of the beach blanket movie." Larry recalls seeing two elderly ladies, each wearing "flowerdy tops like your grandma would wear" while stopped at a gas station in Idaho in the early

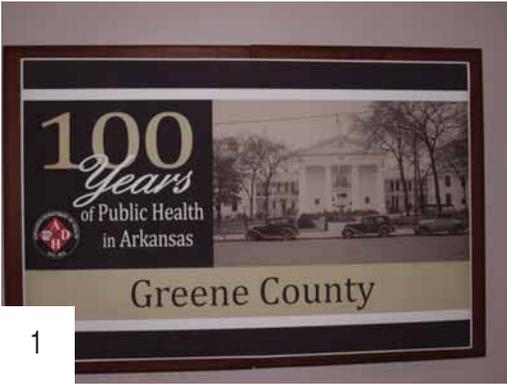
90's. When they donned helmets and roared away on a bike, Larry was taken aback. "I suppose people once got the wrong idea from the movies. The media, on occasion, would also portray us as bad guys, even though there were a few gangs who endorsed that image. But times change."

As in all walks of life, there is an element of risk in riding a motorcycle, but safety, Larry explains, is the responsibility of everyone on the road. "I've seen folks on bikes doing crazy things, no different than someone talking on a phone while driving a car. I maintain my speed and watch what I'm doing. On the open highway, I might go a little faster, but if I come into a town, I'll slow down. My friends kid me because I don't go fast, but I don't plan on dying on a motorcycle. The best thing people can do," he continues, "is look out for each other."

When asked what advice he'd give to someone wanting to ride, Larry says, "That's a toughy. I wouldn't want my kids riding. I don't want that phone call, you know? Most folks don't just up and decide to ride a motorcycle, though; they grow up in the culture. There's nothing to say except do it if you want, but remember: There's people out there trying to run you down."

As we're wrapping up, having discussed far more than can be put in a single article, I ask Larry if there's a sense of power when riding a Harley. He smiles. "I don't know if this applies to other bikes, but a Harley — man, you get a feeling of freedom on one. It's something else." ♦

Happenings!



1



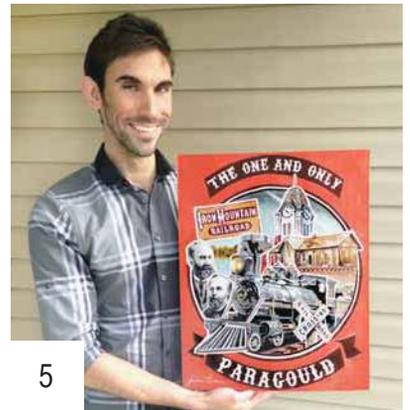
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5

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Happenings!

1-2. 100 Years of Service

The Paragould Community Center hosted the Greene County Health Unit's recognition of 100 years of service by the Arkansas Department of Health with a celebration in April. Advancements in public health have added 25 years to the life expectancy of U.S. citizens, according to information provided at the event. Linda Hutchison, administrator of the Greene County Health Unit, said the local facility opened its doors in 1923 and has been serving area citizens ever since. The Arkansas Department of Health was formed on February 25, 1913, when the first permanent state Board of Health was established. Several local residents and well-wishers, along with local dignitaries, attended the drop-in ceremony at the Community Center to extend happy birthday wishes.

3. Sharp Students

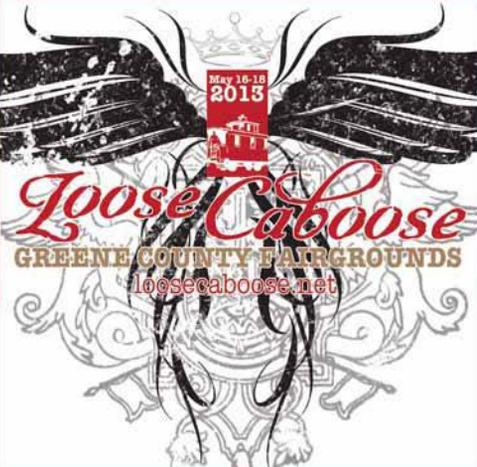
The Glen Sain family of automobile dealerships donated 1,000 pencils to students at Oak Grove Middle School. The pencils were to be used for benchmark testing. Glen Sain and Oak Grove Middle School are Partners in Education, a program sponsored by the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce.

4. Math Winners

Fourteen Paragould High School students placed in the Regional Math Contest at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. In Algebra I: Jada White - 2nd Place, Trevor Bateman - 3rd Place; in Algebra II: Ashley McIninch - 3rd place, Claire Rowland, Hannah Smithee, Madison Beasley, Kali Boggs, Amanda Robbins, and Nate Tiner - Honorable Mention; Geometry: John Wolz, Clayton Barrett, and Josh Martin - Honorable Mention; Calculus: Chantilly Steyer - 3rd Place, and Grant Ragsdell - Honorable Mention. Students who placed first, second or third could participate in the state contest on April 21 at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. PHS Math teachers who sponsored the event are Melissa McPherson, Nichole Winberry, and Angela Duncan.

5. Winning Entry

Josh Hudson was named the winner of the Paragould City Beautiful Commission's "my tOWN" art contest for his mural design. Hudson's work will be used for a planned mural in the Downtown Paragould area on the side of the Iron Mountain Lofts building at 225 South Pruett Street. Hudson also was awarded \$500 for winning the contest.

<p>Miller Spectacular Carnival Open: Thursday, May 16th Friday, May 17th Saturday, May 18th</p> <p>Armband Night Thursday, May 16th 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm</p> <p>Buy your Armband at the Caboose on Emerson from 3:00pm to 5:00pm for \$13. or at the gate after 5:00pm for \$15.</p> 		<p>5K Walk/Run Saturday, May 18th</p>  <p>6:30 am Registration at Pruett & Court Streets</p> <p>8:00 am 5K Run/Walk begins in the One and Only Downtown Paragould</p>
<p>Spike it Rich</p> <p>Log on to loosecaboose.net, 'like' Loose Caboose on Facebook, listen to 107.1 JACK FM OR read the Paragould Daily Press to follow the clues to find Spike and you could WIN \$500!!!</p>		<p>T-Shirt Sales</p> <p>Buy your collectible Loose Caboose T-Shirt before the Festival at: Natalies's Jewelry Box; Room to Grow and Something Sweet. Or at the Information Booth during the Festival</p>
 <p>Entertainment <i>Restless Heart</i> Friday, May 17th 8:00 pm on the Main Stage *\$5 gate fee</p>	 <p>Iron Caboose Bike Ride Saturday, May 18th</p> <p>9:30 am Iron Caboose begins at Court and Pruett Streets in the One and Only Downtown Paragould.</p>	<p>Blues & Bar-B-Q</p> <p>The kickoff event for the 2013 Loose Caboose is Blues and Bar-B-Q. Held at the Red Goose Grand Hall, the West Finch Blues Band is our entertainment. Tickets for Blues and Bar-B-Q are \$10.00 a person and include the meal which is being prepared by Red Goose. Tickets will be available April 15th.</p>
<p>Other Main Stage Entertainment Saturday, May 18th</p> <p>10:00 am --- Youth Talent Show Noon --- Northeast Arkansas Caledonian Pipes & Drums Compassionate Friends of NEAR Balloon Release</p> <p>12:30 pm --- Simple Roots 1:00 pm --- Brad Messer & The Refuge 2:30 pm --- Fulton's Point 5:00 pm --- Fault Line 6:00 pm --- Inside Marcellus Wallace 8:00 pm --- Burning Waco</p>	<p>*Registration through May 8th is \$25 and includes a t-shirt. Registration May 9-18 is \$25 with NO shirt guarantee.</p> <p>Proceeds Benefit:  main street Paragould</p> <p>for more info: 870-240-0544</p>	<p>Hardee's Bingo Saturday, May 18th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm</p> 



Outstanding Teachers



DONNA COBB, GREENE COUNTY TECH

Donna Cobb is finishing up her 20th year of teaching, 18 in the Greene County Tech School District. She teaches pre-AP biology and AP Biology.

“My parents played an unknowing role in my decision to become a teacher,” she says. “The way they guided my brothers and me every day was an excellent model of teaching. Mom and Dad made everyday events into teachable moments and I didn’t realize it until I was grown.

“I had great teachers growing up in my school (at Bay) who were excellent role models and worked hard to teach every day. In college I came to a crossroad of declaring a major. Based on my family and school experiences, as well as where I felt the Lord was leading me, I felt teaching was going to be the path for me.”

Cobb said she loves “being around teenagers. The students I have the privilege of teaching possess so much potential and I feel honored to be a part of their journeys to become whomever they choose to be. I want to challenge them in a way now that prepares them so they have the best possible chance of making their dreams into reality. I love it!”

She counts among her favorite teaching memories the same thing many teachers profess.

“It may sound cliché but it is the ‘light bulb’ moments that students have,” she said. “When students make connections from their real lives to the biology topics I teach, or when they feel empowered by all the information they have learned and conquered, those are the best days as a teacher.

“I had a student who became so excited after learning the nitty-gritty details of what plants actually do with water we give them, he squealed, jumped out of his seat, and was so ‘pumped’ for the rest of that chapter. I smile every time I think of that day.

“Also, I write songs. They are not good songs, but they are weird enough to help students remember some important concepts. I have had several students tell me they use these songs for the End of Course biology test or even the AP exam years after they first learned them from me. It is fun to hear them sing the songs in the hallways.”

Cobb said she cherishes the relationships with her students and said, “I love to hear from them as they tackle college, get married, and start their families and careers. It is indeed a privilege for me to teach these kids.”



She has been married for 16 years to Mark Cobb. They have a daughter, Camdon Makenley, who is a 7-year-old second grader at GCT Elementary.

“We love to travel to the beach, and go to St. Louis for the Cardinals’ games and all the family activities there is to do up there,” she said. “I am a member of Finch Baptist Church.” ♦

KARLA BRASHER, SCHOOL OF THE 21ST CENTURY



Karla Brasher has been teaching preschool for seven years in the Paragould School District at The School of the 21st Century.

She decided to become a teacher because she “wanted to make a difference in children’s lives. I have always felt that teachers make a large impact on their students’ lives and I wanted to make a positive impact on children. I knew that I wanted to teach young children so I became certified in Preschool-4th grade.”

One of her favorite teaching memories

happened several years ago. “I had a little boy who did not speak English. He cried every day and he and I both struggled to communicate with each other. I kept that student for two years in a row and he learned a lot of English in that two years and I learned a lot of Spanish. His family would make tamales for me and my family and we became very close. He still comes to see me a couple of times every school year and I am always amazed to see how much he has learned.

She has been married to Craig Brasher for nine years and they have a four-year-old daughter, Kate. ♦

Who is Greene County?

I AM GREENE COUNTY

Rheanna Siebert Age: 15

What I do: I am a student at Marmaduke High School. I play softball and I like to hunt and fish.

What I like the most about Greene County: Everyone is so nice and is willing to help; a bunch of generous people.

My family: I live with my dad, Randall Siebert, and 2 dogs, Coco and Shelly.

Hobbies: Playing softball and being outside

My future plans: Go to college and get the degree that I am going for and have a successful life.

Something most people don't know about me: That I have been to Hawaii

One of my most interesting experiences: Going on a family trip to Florida

Rheanna was photographed at Pocahontas High School.



Image thanks to: www.CRRaceway.com

(This feature is reprinted with permission of Power & Performance News and has been edited.)

By Ben Shelton

I know over the past two years I've settled into a world of political correctness, standards and overall legitimacy when it comes to my business dealings in the racing world. While I enjoy an occasional good controversy as much as the next guy, I try to stick to the straight and narrow in an effort to not jeopardize any of the connections or relationships that I've built. I was reminded of just how cool our sport truly is on a random trip to a random track in early July.

You know those race tracks you've heard stories about your whole life, and you really contemplate if it's a place that you ever want to go. Some of these tales of debauchery, outlandishness and backwards doings at times seem to be unrealistically far-fetched, but by the same token it seems that if they are even almost half-accurate a reasonably-minded person wouldn't be able to enjoy a racing program there.

For me it has always been Crowley's Ridge Raceway, located in Paragould, Arkansas. Only about 100 miles from my front door, I've somehow managed to stay away from there for the first 32 years of my existence. Countless stories of fights, lack of rules enforcements and overall insanity had long ago resulted in my committing a cardinal sin and developing an opinion of the place without ever having actually seen it. However, that all changed when race schedules began to come out early in the 2012 season, and I quickly took note that the United Sprint Car Series (USCS) had booked an event at the facility.

Not only would the show be headlined by Sprint Cars and Modifieds, it also fell on a night when I was free of other commitments. A few weeks before the race I posted on my Facebook page that I was looking forward to making my first-ever trip to Crowley's Ridge Raceway. The post caught the eye of the track promoter, Trent Francis, who contacted me to see if I would be interested in announcing that night. At that point there was no turning back.

Crowley's Ridge Raceway makes good impression on writer

As the event drew closer many of my friends from the racing community began to heighten my concerns. Comments like, "Just wait until you see this place" and "You have no idea what you've gotten yourself into" were plentiful.

Even though I hit over fifty tracks a year across this country, I always get excited about going to a new race track. It's just the race fan in me that loves the experience of seeing a new place. As I turned into the parking lot the first thing that caught my eye was a well-groomed facility with mowed grass, no trash in sight and a bigger than normal scoring/announcing tower. Smiling faces greeted me at the pit gate, and pretty quickly I began to change my perception of the place.

As I walked up to the track I immediately fell in love. While I spend most weekends at cookie-cutter tracks that are usually 3/8 mile or bigger in size, I just love a 1/4 mile! This place probably doesn't even qualify as a 1/4 mile on its best day though. It was a high-banked, tight clay oval. The grandstands consisted of tiered concrete for lawn chair seating, and there was well manicured grass on either end for blankets. Francis told me earlier in the week the place would be busting at the seams with an overflow crowd, but I really didn't believe him as I surveyed just how massive the grandstand area was.

As I traversed the very tight pit area, which would soon see over 80 cars in four divisions covering every square inch, I began to feel a vibe. You could tell this place had character. It felt like true grassroots racing. As I watched massive Sprint Car haulers painfully trying to negotiate the pit area, I was taken by surprise as a brown helicopter appeared. At first I thought the A-Team had just arrived, but I was soon fascinated to see it spend the next hour or so hovering over the infield to dry the technical inspection area from the three inches of rain that had unexpectedly fallen that morning.

As I made my way back into the grandstand area to head to the announcer's tower, I was shocked at the total grid-lock created by a massive crowd. It was only 6:30 yet the stands were almost full and the highway in front of the speedway was at an absolute standstill as eager spectators tried to enter the facility. Mr. Francis had been right. This was just an incredible crowd.

Once in the announcer's tower I was impressed

to find an above-average public address system, and spacious tower. I've already experienced more than enough announcer's towers in my career that were designed for four people, but had to hold 10. This was not one of those situations.

The very dimly lit track surface was hammer-down early in the program, which one would expect after three inches of rain earlier in the day. But as the evening progressed it became extremely slick with about a two-foot deep cushion. I watched as the tricky conditions threw curve balls at even the most seasoned veterans like Tim Crowley and Jeff Swindell. Despite one of the slickest surfaces I've ever seen at any track, it's worth noting that 25 Open Wheel Modifieds started the feature on the tiny bullring, yet only three cautions slowed the 30-lap feature, and all of which were for minor incidents. It really impressed me how much respect the local and out-of-town drivers showed for one another in maneuvering the tight oval. The racing action was nothing like the horror stories I had heard.

One of my favorite experiences of the night involved the Cruiser division. The division was slated to run a single race during the course of the program, but as the Sprint Car feature – slated to be the last race of the night – circled the track, many of the patrons in the Cruiser division took it upon themselves to line up in staging again. Francis looked at me and said, "Hell, if they want to race again, let them."

Before I knew it the night was over. As I packed my notes in the tower Francis thanked me for coming and told me he hoped I had enjoyed myself. I quickly let him know that I had just had a night to remember, and it was truly a blast. I'll never forget what he said next. "Son, I know we do a lot of things backwards here, and there's a lot that needs fixing, but part of it is by design. We just do things different up here, and it works for us. It might not work in other places, but it works right here. At the end of the day we are in the entertainment business, and that's just what we aim to give everyone here is a good night of entertainment for their dollar."

Not only did I have one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life at Crowley's Ridge Raceway that night, but I also learned that when it comes to the love of our sport, it's truly all about the racing. ♦

Brandon Burlsworth Foundation provides help for needy children

By Jennifer Thompson

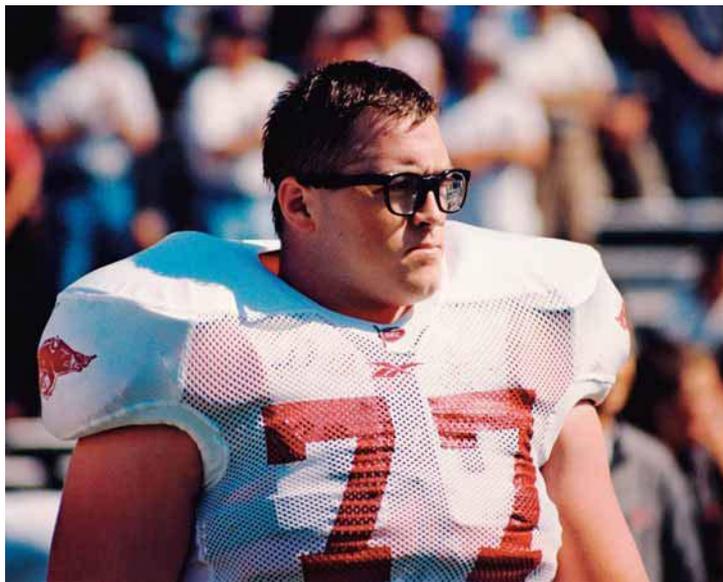
The Brandon Burlsworth Foundation (BBF), located in Harrison, is a statewide program whose mission is, "To support the physical and spiritual needs of children, in particular those children who have limited opportunities. The foundation encourages developing positive values, strong faith lives and a life pattern that would exemplify 'Doing It The Burls Way.'"

The Burlsworth Foundation began 14 years ago after Marty and Vickie Burlsworth received the worst news any parent could possibly receive. Their son, Brandon, had been in a tragic car accident that took his life. Brandon was a football player for the Arkansas Razorbacks at the time of the accident, but had just (11 days earlier) been drafted to play professionally for the Indianapolis Colts. The foundation is the realization of a dream of Brandon Burlsworth himself, and his belief that every child is a gift.

All of the BBF's programs are tailored toward improving and enriching the lives of indigent students and children. The "Burls Kids" program provides disadvantaged children with the opportunity to attend games they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to attend. The BBF buys 30 tickets to each Arkansas Razorback home football game, and gives them to children from around the state to attend the games. The BBF partners with the Indianapolis Colts (where Brandon was drafted) for the project.

The foundation's football camps, held annually in Little Rock and Harrison, are yet another service the foundation provides. The camps offer children the opportunity to learn from former Razorback stars. The camp gives scholarships to some camp attendees who would not otherwise have the chance to attend.

The "Eyes of a Champion" program, which was created in 2007, is an undertaking unlike any other associated with the BBF. The program provides free vision exams and glasses to lower-to-middle income, uninsured children in Arkansas. The Web-based program is available to every school nurse and counselor within the state. This program is made possible through a partnership with Wal-Mart Vision Centers and helps around 1,000 Arkansas children with their vision concerns each year. Any school nurse or counselor can register for the program online at www.brandonburlsworth.org/eyeschampion.html.



Former Razorback Brandon Burlsworth

Other programs offered through the foundation include: Burlsworth Scholars, which awards \$100,000 in scholarships to the University of Arkansas annually, and the High School Football Awards, which are also associated with The Burlsworth Trophy, a national award given to the most outstanding "walk-on" football player.

For additional information about the BBF or any of its programs call 870-741-1443, or go to the foundation's website <http://www.brandonburlsworth.org/index.html>. ♦

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Business Is Good

Career Expo job fair draws plenty of interest

Arkansas Workforce Services and the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce teamed up to present the Career Expo job fair at the Community Center in April.

The event drew representatives from 25 area businesses, and even from the military.

Prospective employees visited displays set up by the various firms involved to gain more information about job availability and requirements.

Several of the job seekers filled out applications at the Community Center after discussions with the representatives of the businesses taking part in the Expo. ♦



Booths set up by local industries, like ARI above, attracted prospective employees. Below are representatives of Dollar General and St. Bernards sharing information with visitors.



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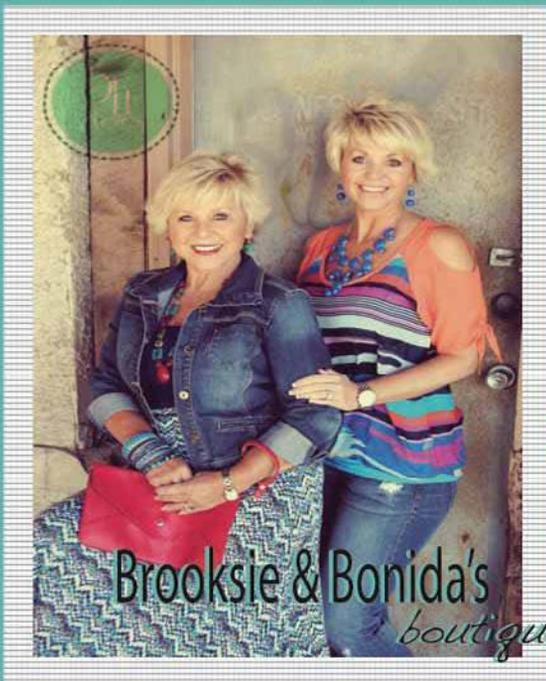
Business Is Good



Medical Park's first phase is done

Nabholz Construction Services hosted a topping out ceremony to celebrate the completion of the first phase of construction of the new Paragould Medical Park at 4000 Linwood (U.S. 49 South) in Paragould. It will be anchored by an ambulatory care facility.

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and St. Bernards have joined together to develop Paragould Medical Park on a 48-acre plot located on the west side of U.S. 49 north of the new Greene County Tech High School. Ground was broken for Paragould Medical Park in December. ♦



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Don't forget about Art & Stroll May 2



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Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



National Photo Month has meaning to camera lovers

When I was sent out on my first photo assignment as a newspaper sports reporter, my editor, George Smith, gave me the *Reader's Digest* tutorial first.

He went to the cabinet where the photo supplies were stored, popped open the back of a Pentax 35 millimeter camera, loaded it with film, attached a flash unit to the top and handed it to me.

"This is where you turn the flash on," he said, pointing to a red button, "this is where you focus and this is where you take the picture. Touch this, and this, and don't touch this; now, come back with a picture."

That was it. That was the initial learning process and I felt a great deal of pressure to come back with something usable for the sports page, because I didn't want to fail at anything and also because George's patience quotient was not the highest.

Fortunately, I was going to a high school basketball game and I knew the sport well, so I had an idea of where the photo opportunities would lie. The baskets don't move, so I felt pretty safe in knowing players would be coming to them often and centered my focus on that area.

Having anticipated some of the action I pressed the shutter release often, cranking the film forward to be ready to try it again. George didn't even tell me how to remove the film from the camera, so I waited until the next morning to turn the entire heap over to him, then waited anxiously -- and fearfully -- for the darkroom technician to reveal my success or failure.

As George took the strip of negatives to the light table and looked them over with the aid of a loupe, I sweated it out until he said, "Brummett, these are the best sports photos

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we've had since I've been here."

Then he stole my best one to use on the front page, and I was forever hooked on sports photography. When Spring rolled around and I was introduced to telephoto lenses and faster shutter speeds, I was in photo Heaven.

I recall with fondness the act of hitting the shutter as the action unfolded, thinking a great photo was there, then waiting for the film to emerge from the darkroom the next day to see if I had, indeed, captured the moment.

Sometimes I was right, and sometimes I looked at the negatives to find I was slightly off-focus or that a game official or cheerleader had managed to stick a hand or a finger into the frame at just the wrong moment. Regardless, freezing the action and presenting it to the reading public was a real thrill.

May is designated as National Photography Month, making it one dear to my heart. I love looking at photographs of all sorts, because you often get an idea of what is important to someone by seeing what they keep around on their shelves or in their wallets.

Family photos, landscapes, vacation pictures ... each has some definite meaning to the people who own them and many times over the years I have heard someone say the thing they would regret losing the most in a fire or natural disaster is their photos.

The digital era has eliminated the need to play the waiting game, revealing immediately if you do or don't have the photo you hoped for without the need for a darkroom. It has made the entire photographic process much easier but I recall the old newspaper days with fondness.

Once, during a state tournament basketball game, I was amazed that one great photo opportunity after another happened right in front of me. I snapped away and when the film counter reached 24 but kept going, I thought, "I guess I put in a roll of 36."

When it passed 36, I thought, "Wait ... when did I load the camera?" and realized I hadn't. I had just "shot" the entire first half with no film in my camera, scrambling from there to get a usable photo. Even the digital age couldn't fix that. ♦

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NEWS

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The hallways were full of visitors, vendors and residents at April's Chateau Arts and Crafts Show.

Chateau On The Ridge hosts first-ever Arts and Crafts show

Chateau On The Ridge in Paragould hosted its first Arts and Crafts show in April, featuring work done by some of the residents as well as hosting nearly 50 vendor booths.

Featured items included jewelry, baby dolls, quilts, hand-made furniture and artwork among others. The show was designed to help keep Chateau residents active and to allow them to share their talents with others in the community. ♦



HCSI to host its 11th annual Hispanic Celebration in May

The Hispanic Community Services, Inc. (HCSI) will host its 11th Annual Hispanic Celebration on Saturday, May 4th, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Craighead County Fairgrounds located at 7001 E. Johnson in Jonesboro.

Over 1,000 people attended last year's celebration, and HCSI is expecting even more to join this year's event.

"We want to share our culture and traditions in a day full of enjoyment and fun," said Gina

Gomez, Executive Director of Hispanic Community Services. "This is the day when communities from all over Craighead County come together to celebrate our heritage."

The family fun cultural festival will feature live entertainment on the main stage throughout the day; children's activities that include games, face painting, bouncy houses and a petting zoo; and a variety of foods ranging from traditional tacos, tamales, nachos, and bakery items, to carnival favorites like hot dogs, snow cones and refreshments. Tickets

for food and beverages will be on sale at designated stands.

The festival is free and open to the public. Entrance to the children's activities will be \$3.00 per armband, and t-shirts will be on sale for \$12.00. Proceeds from the festival will support the activities of the HCSI and contribute to annual scholarships for deserving students attending Arkansas State University. For more information contact Gomez at (870) 926-1118, go to www.facebook.com/JHCSI, or visit the official website at <http://jhcsi.org>.

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Engagement Announcements

Helen Marie's PERFECT TOUCH

Our Bridal...

Amanda Dutka & Joseph Pankey

May 4

Tamara Dutton & Caleb Bell

May 4

Kayla Hammersley & Matt Mullins

May 4

Kelsey Huggins & Tyler Garnett

May 18

Jordan Mallard & Holden Smith

May 18

Kelly Drury & Aaron Reddick

May 25

Whitney Weeks & Matthew Miller

June 1

Jessica Davis & Tyler Nutt

June 1

Haley Johnson & Spencer Price

June 1

Kymberlee Hale & Garrett Meier

June 1

Casey Hosman & Jordan Drennin

June 8

Jessica Bruce & Luke Brewer

June 29

Hillary Tripod & Casey Jones

July 13

Erica Schabbing & Jacob Pierce

July 20

Gretchen Jetton & Tanner Smith

July 20

Katie Wilhite & Russ Brewer

July 29

Shayna Scott & Blake Nunn

August 3

Allie Melton & Norman Berry

August 10

Molly Philhours & Ben Blakeman

October 26

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Ashley & David Reynolds
Shadow & Shane Inskeep
Crystal & Michael McKinney

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Haley Johnson and Spencer Price

Johnson-Price

Haley Johnson and Spencer Price have announced plans for a June wedding in Little Rock.

Haley's parents are Steve and Angie Johnson of Paragould.

Spencer's parents are Wade and Dorothy Price of Plano, Texas.

The wedding is set for June 1, 2013, at Bobrook Farms in Little Rock. ♦

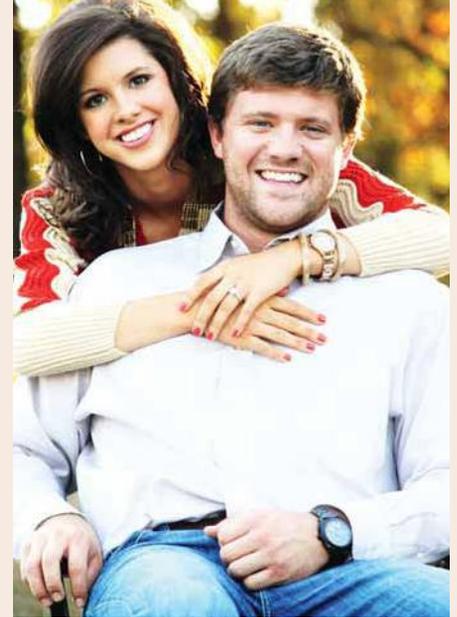
Weeks-Miller

Gene and Jill Weeks of Paragould announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Whitney Lane, to Matthew Stephen Miller.

Matthew's parents are Mark and Melissa Miller of Paragould.

The wedding is set for June 1, 2013, at 6 p.m. at Paragould's First United Methodist Church.

All friends and relatives are invited to the exchanging of vows and to the reception which will follow at the Paragould Country Club. ♦



Jessica Brooke Davis and Richard Tyler Nutt

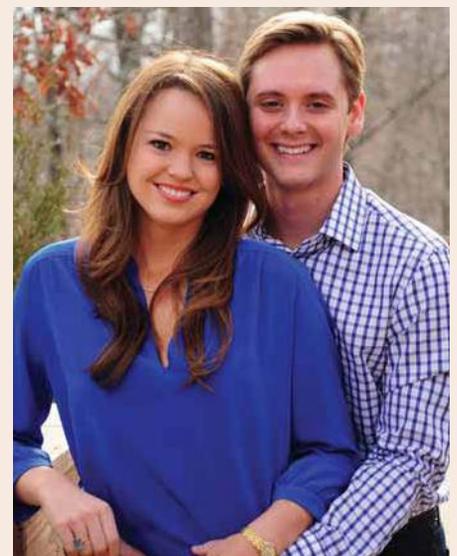
Davis-Nutt

Jessica Brooke Davis and Richard Tyler Nutt announce their plans to be married this summer.

Jessica's parents are Jack and Rhonda Davis of Paragould.

Richard is the son of Raney and Jayne Nutt, also of Paragould.

The wedding is set to take place on June 1, 2013, at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould, at 4 p.m. ♦



Whitney Weeks and Matthew Miller



Jessica Colter and Nicholas Stone

Colter - Stone

Nicholas Stone and Jessica Colter will be married on Saturday, May 25, 2013, in an afternoon ceremony at The Tree Farm, 515 Greene 422 Road in Marmaduke.

Jessica is the daughter of Darren and Rebecca Johnson.

Nicholas' parents are Timothy and Janet Stone.

The wedding is scheduled to take place at 4 p.m. and a reception will also be held at The Tree Farm following the ceremony.

The couple plans to live in Fayetteville. ♦



Jacob Mathew Pierce and Erica Lynn Schabbing

Schabbing - Pierce

David and Annette Schabbing of Cape Girardeau, Mo., announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Erica Lynn, to Jacob Mathew Pierce.

Jacob is the son of Phillip and Debbie Miles and the late Jamie Pierce of Arbyrd, Mo.

The couple will wed Saturday, July 20, 2013, at 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Mo. All friends and relatives are invited to the ceremony and the reception which will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Jackson. ♦



Photo courtesy of Pollard's Prints

Kymerlee Hale and Garrett Meier

Hale - Meier

Kymerlee Hale and Garrett Meier have announced their plans to be married in June.

The prospective bride's parents are Jess and Donna Hale of Marmaduke. The groom-to-be is the son of James and Phyllis Meier of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place June 1 at Swindle's Cabin in Paragould at 4 p.m. ♦



Tim Rand
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Summer Camp Academy

June 3rd-7th

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Lights, Camera, Createl (2nd-6th) \$100

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Summer Fun with Eric Carle (PreK-2nd) \$100

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Afternoon Tea Party (PreK-2nd) \$120

Making Memories: Scrapbooking (2nd-5th) \$100

Robotics I (6th-12th) \$175

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Beginning Chinese (3rd-9th) Tuesdays-All Summer

Beginning Chinese (PreK-2nd) Thursdays-All Summer

June 17th-21st

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Camp Umizoomi (PreK-K) \$100

Mini Olympics: Summer Games (4th-6th) \$100

Harry Potter at Hogwarts (3rd-12th) \$125

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

ASU Summer Piano Festival

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

CSI: Classroom Student Investigations **

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

There's An App for That (7th-9th) \$75

Creative Arts & Crafts (1st-3rd) \$125

Mini Olympics: Summer Games (K-3rd) \$100

2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Disc Golf (4th-12th) \$75

June 10th-14th

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Medieval Times (3rd-6th) \$125

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Get Moving: Get Reading (1st-3rd) \$100

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Howl 4 Health (7th-9th) **

Afternoon Tea Party (Pre-K-2nd) \$120

June 24th-28th

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Once Upon a Time... Literacy Day Camp (K-3rd) \$125

Summer Scholars (K-6th)

Adventures with Katniss & Peeta (5th-9th) \$100

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Mad Scientist (3rd-6th) \$125

Sharing with Flair: Social Media Tips (5th-9th) \$75

Dig It: Archaeology Camp (3rd-6th) \$125

Technology Camp (6th-12th) \$125

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Engagement Announcements



Morgan Jean-Eva Law and Anthony Andrew Hill

Law-Hill

Morgan Jean-Eva Law and Anthony Andrew Hill have announced their plans to be married in June.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Donnie and Sheila Law of Paragould.

The prospective groom is the son of Tony Hill and Andrea Warner, also of Paragould.

The couple will be married on Saturday, June 22, 2013, in Walnut Ridge. ♦

To have your engagement announcements included in *Premiere Magazine*, email information no later than the 15th of the month to:

editor@paragouldpremiere.com

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Birth Announcements

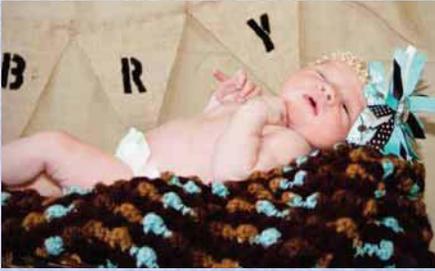


Photo by Misty Long, Captured Memories Photography

Bryer Grace Newman

Rodney and Larissa Newman of Paragould announce the birth of their baby, Bryer Grace Newman.

Bryer Grace weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20-1/2 inches long.

The baby was born at St. Bernards Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro, and has a sister, Dixie Mischeall Newman, 7.

Grandparents are Ernie and Teresa Vaughn, and Lorene and the late Roger Newman. Great-grandparents include James and the late Lois Fielder, Marie and the late Raymond Vaughn, Lois and the late George Newman, and Bill and Betty McCarrell. ♦



Photo by Kevin Barber

Jackson Cash Barber

Kevin and Jill Barber, residents of Jonesboro, announce the arrival of their son, Jackson Cash Barber.

The baby weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Jackson was born at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Grandparents are Harold and Phyllis Barber of Jonesboro and Jackie and Dana Jarrett of Dumas. ♦



Demitria Ann Zaharopoulos

Brenna Culbreath and Chris Zaharopoulos of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Demitria Ann Zaharopoulos.

Born at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital, the baby weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She has a brother, Aleczandros Zaharopoulos. Grandparents are Shelly Culbreath and Pete and Debbie Zaharopoulos, and great-grandparents Juanita Copeland and Margie Tolliver, all of Paragould; and great-grandparents Dural Culbreath of Jonesboro and Leon and Carolyn Gates of Mountain Home. ♦



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Arkansas Methodist Medical Center celebrates National Hospital Week May 12 -18

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center says "thank you" to our dedicated staff of professionals as we celebrate National Hospital Week. Because of your hard work and dedication, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center continues to be a beacon of caring and hope for the residents of our surrounding communities. Your commitment to excellence is recognized by our patients and by healthcare organizations regionally and nationally.

- Named one of the nation's Top Performers on Key Quality Measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in America.
- AMMC Home Health was named to the 2012 HomeCare Elite, a compilation of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States
- AMMC Emergency Department received two awards from the VHA. The Improved Performance Award recognized the ER for decreasing the number or percentage of patients who left the emergency room before being seen and the overall length of ER stay. ER also received the High Performance Award for maintaining a level of performance equal to or better than CDC national benchmarks.

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May

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 2

MAIN STREET'S ANNUAL ART AND STROLL

features artists and their work either inside or outside of businesses up and down Pruett and Court streets with live entertainment beginning on the street at 5:00 p.m. Event occurs from 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. NOTE: The south half of the 200 blocks of North and South Pruett will be closed to through traffic beginning at 4:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

at Paragould High School.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

FUN DOG SHOW

brought to you by Paragould Rotary Club. Door prizes, vendor booths, merchandise, and entertainment. BC Lloyd building at the Greene County Fairgrounds. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Admission: \$5 (\$2 for children under 12). Pre-Registration: \$10 per category; Day of Event: \$12 per category (Registration includes admission for 2 dog handlers.) Categories: Best Tail Wagger, Cutest Puppy (Under 1), Most Macho, Best Kisser, Most Beautiful, Most Handsome, Looks Most Like Owner, Most Talented, Best Costume. For more information call Malissa Lewis at (870) 476-0727 or email mlewis20@americanrailcar.com

CELEBRATING THE RUN FOR THE ROSES

put on by The AMMC Foundation, provides an opportunity to watch the 2013 Kentucky Derby, try your luck at games of chance and join the winner's circle. Women are encouraged to wear their best Derby hats for an opportunity to win a \$200 Ina's Fashions gift certificate. Proceeds from this event will help purchase an infant bedded warmer for the nursery in the Women's Services (OB) Department. For more information, call (870) 239-7077.

AMMC HOSTS CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES

Session one of two. Held in the auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Free to those delivering at AMMC, otherwise it is \$50. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Participants will have a break for lunch. For more information or to register, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

PARAGOULD SCHOOL DISTRICT RAM RUN

at Paragould High School.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

ANTIQUÉ CAR SHOW

hosted by the Greene County Museum will feature vintage autos, including a 1915 Model T, a 1935 Ford, and classics from the 1950s. Free admission, however, donations are appreciated. 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

AMMC HOSTS CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES

Session two of two and is a feeding class. Held in the auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Free to those delivering at AMMC, otherwise it is \$50. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information or to register, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467.

MONDAY, MAY 13

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY

Nothin' Fancy starts at 7:00 p.m. at Collins Theatre, 120 West Emerson Street, Downtown Paragould. NOTE: Special date due to Memorial Day holiday.

THURSDAY MAY 16

LOOSE CABOOSE XXIV

kicks off at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Festival runs May 16 - May 18.

MONDAY MAY 20

AMMC HOSTS MOMMY AND ME BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

for new and expectant mothers. Offers a chance to meet other moms and share experiences. Held in the Second Floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. For more information, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467 or the Greene County Health Unit at (870) 236-7782.

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 is happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

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.

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.

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.

COMING UP IN *june*

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 Southern Bank Movie Night

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 Relay For Life

MONDAY, JUNE 24 Bluegrass Monday brought to you by KASU. The music starts at 7:00pm, at The Collins Theatre, 120 W. Emerson Street.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 The Great Race Lunch Stop

Please send all information for upcoming events to editor@paragouldpremiere.com

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NEA COOKS

Apple Cobbler

Ingredients

1 1/2 sticks	Butter
1 1/2 cups	Self-rising flour
1 1/2 cups	Sugar
1 1/2 cups	Whole milk
2 large cans	Apple pie filling

Preheat oven to 350; place butter in a 9x13 pan, place in oven until butter is melted and hot. Mix flour, sugar and milk in bowl on high until smooth. Remove butter from oven, add apple filling and spread evenly in pan, pour mixture over apples and butter; place back in oven bake until golden brown. ♦



May's NEA Cook: Paul Hayes, with children Jacob and Victoria

Where are you from? Paragould; born in Kennett, Mo.

Family: I am married to a wonderful lady named Victoria. We have two great children, Victoria and Jacob, and a not-so-smart boxer dog.

What is your occupation? Self-employed and one of the head cooks of Hog Heaven Competition BBQ team.

Who taught you how to cook? Mainly self-taught.

When did you begin cooking? As a child.

Who do you like to cook for most? Total strangers.

Do you have a favorite cooking memory? Just one of several, but it was our first competition and we took 2nd place in the Rib Division.

What is your absolute favorite thing to cook on the grill? Baby back ribs.

What is the one ingredient you can't live without? Cajun seasoning.

Do you have any general cooking advice to share when grilling? Always cook to internal temperature, not by looks.

What would you consider your worst cooking disaster? When we went camping and we forgot the lighter fluid and the other people we were with said, "You can use lantern fuel, just let it sit a while." So I did, and I lost a full set of eyebrows and a mustache! ♦



HOG HEAVENLY BABY BACK RIBS

Ingredients

1 side	Baby back ribs
2 TBS	Plain mustard
1/2 cup	Your favorite BBQ rub
1 cup	Your favorite BBQ sauce
2 oz	Honey

Wash ribs and bring smoker up to 250 degrees, rub ribs with BBQ rub on both sides; place on smoker for 4 hours; sprinkle ribs with rub, mix sauce and honey brush ribs top and bottom; return to smoker and cook for 30-45 min. ♦



HOG HEAVEN KICKIN' CHICKEN

Ingredients

1 chicken	Cut in half or butterflied
1/2 cup	Your favorite BBQ rub
1/4 cup	Cajun seasoning
6 cups	Pineapple juice

Place washed chicken in gallon zip lock bag; pour pineapple juice over it, remove all air and seal, place in refrigerator overnight. Bring grill up to 300 degrees, remove chicken from juice rinse, dry, mix rub and Cajun seasoning together; rub entire chicken; place on grill over direct heat, bone side down, for 30 min., then flip every 15-20 minutes until chicken reaches 165 degrees internal temperature in the deepest part of the thigh. ♦

STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Cute Pets



The Paragould Rotary Club is staging its first-ever Dog Show in May, and the winner gets to be our cover subject for June. ♦

Loose Caboose



We were there when the Loose Caboose Festival opened at its new location. Check out photos in the June issue. ♦

Kids and Sports



Paragould offers area youngsters the opportunity to participate in numerous sports activities. We'll take a look at some local young people who take part in the various sporting events. ♦

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