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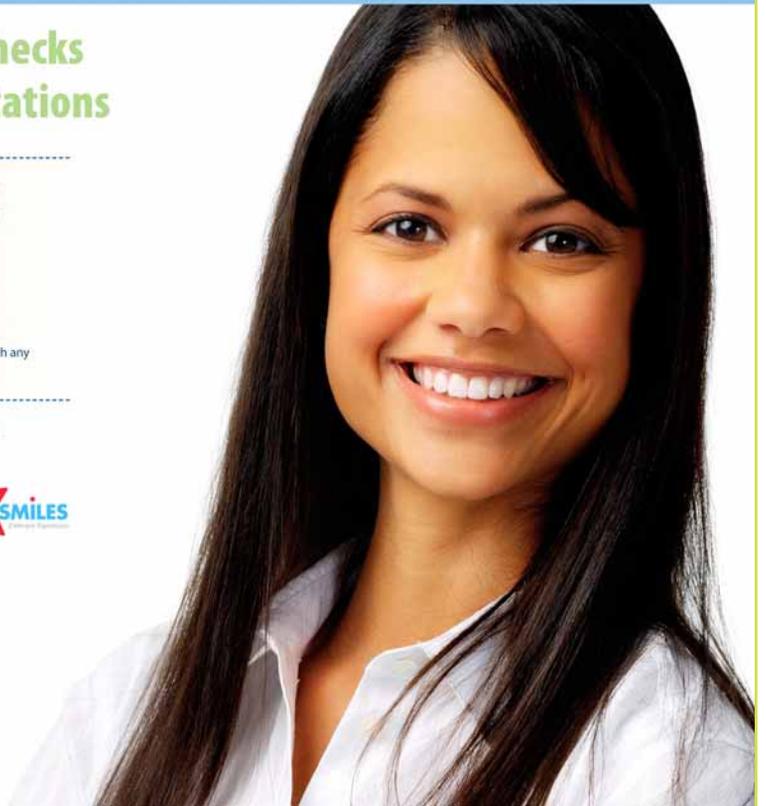


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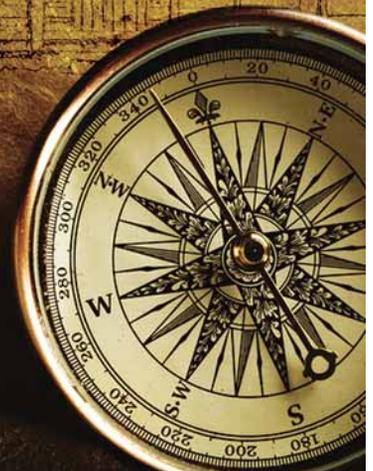


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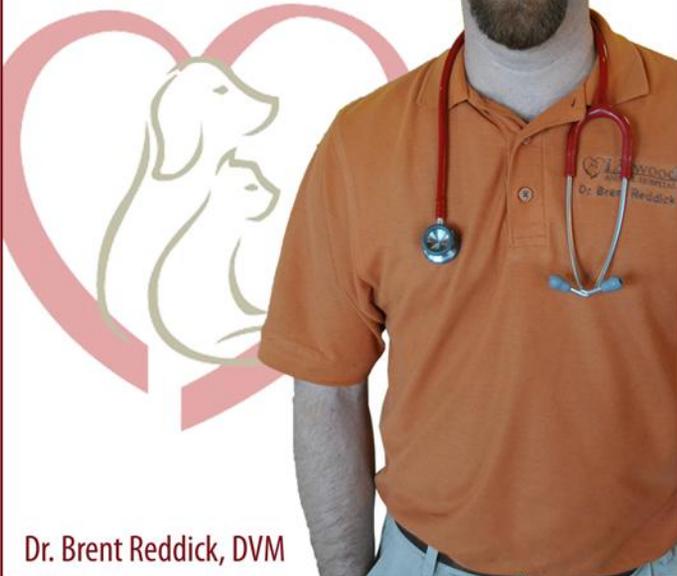
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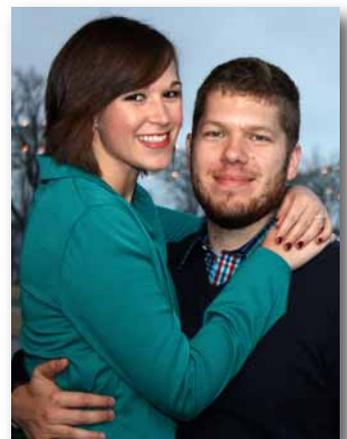
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Photo by Tim Rand Photography

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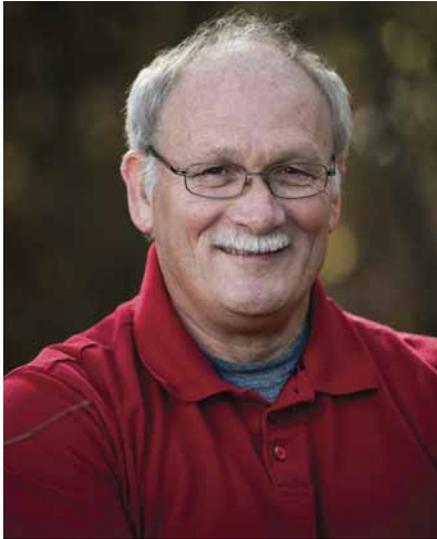
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From The Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

The present met the past when about 100 people attended a Civil War Marker Dedication Ceremony at Camp Ground United Methodist Church last month.

The contrasts between today and yesterday were visible, with many of those directing

the ceremony dressed in Civil War period outfits while pickup trucks and luxury cars dotted the background. A rebel flag wafted in the breeze, fronting a field that featured an electric utility pole and faced a concrete culvert.

The common bond was not situated so much in flags and costumes and ceremony as it was in our history ... a part of the country where men left family and home to fight a war they may not have fully understood, but battled just the same to preserve the only way of life they had ever known. The marker pays tribute to the men of the 5th Arkansas Infantry Regiment who camped and trained near the historic church and the natural springs in the area.

The Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, the Arkansas Civil War

Sesquicentennial Commission and the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council were responsible for the presentation and did a wonderful job of linking

today with yesterday. The music, the Three Volley Gun Salute, the Laying of the Rose ... the words, all served to remind us of a time when members of our community -- for some of us, members of our own families -- picked up arms and fought a costly war.



Photos from the dedication can be found on page 18 in this month's issue. The marker can be found right out front at the Camp Ground church, and parents should take their children to see a piece of history and encourage them to look at it, to read it and to understand its importance to us. ♦

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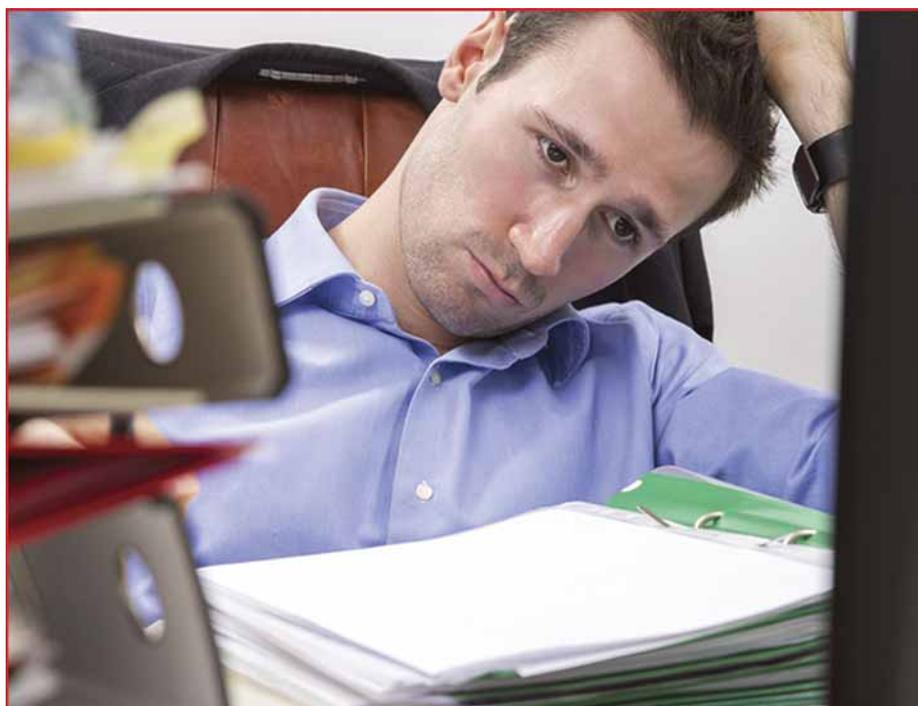
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A photograph of a man, Garrett Meier, wearing a tan baseball cap and a light-colored button-down shirt, smiling and holding a black Labrador retriever. The dog is looking towards the camera with its tongue out. They are outdoors in a grassy area with a chain-link fence and a wooden structure in the background.

*Hunting season never ends
for Garrett Meier*

Garrett Meier doesn't look at his students as being someone else's dogs. Just as coaches continue to follow the careers of athletes they have instructed from an early age, Meier considers the many labrador retrievers he trains to be "his" from that point forward.

"I establish tight bonds with these dogs," said Meier, 27, who has been training dogs professionally since the age of 18. "It's tough to see them go home. I take pride in molding a retriever because it puts a smile on my face. I make a strong effort to hunt at least once every dog I train."

Working on a 14-acre setup in the Campground community, Meier, the owner of Backwoods Retriever Training, puts labrador retrievers through a two-month regimen that ends with the owner's having a quality gun dog and water dog for hunting in the thick timber during duck season.

"I don't get them until they're at least six months old," he said. "Their mind is developing and getting them mentally prepared to be trained. Also, they are getting their adult canines in; if they're teething, they associate the training with the pain and they're not as willing to respond."

The two-month program for a basic gun dog starts with two weeks of obedience: Sit, Stay, Here, Heel. Meier is also judging the dog's ability to "want to" ... its strengths and weaknesses."

After two weeks, he tries to keep the owner involved as much as possible and if the dog is not working out he is "very up front about that. The way I was raised, you don't get paid for something you didn't do. So if the dog won't take training, I keep the two weeks' worth of the fee and refund the rest."

The next step is to start what he calls force fetching, basically telling the dog to retrieve. "They pick up a bumper (plastic stick), and I actually force drills like retrieving on command, using their name," Meier explained. "Then we start to process steadiness. If a bird is down, they stay until their name or a word the client chooses is said. The dog is introduced to water and gunfire, up on platforms, standing, working out of a little boat ... things that represent pit blinds."

After one month, Meier said the dog is educated to multiple tasks like "single retrieve, delivered to hand ... steady to shot, to not go until released, things like that. The owner is kept in the loop with the training as much as possible. The second month, we hit the ground running ... double marks (two birds down at the same time), send on the last bird down first -- it's usually the furthest and might be crippled, and I make sure the dog is sufficient in simple double marks, split doubles ... separated by distance. Then I work in a diversion on the second bird -- a surprise bird -- and teach it not to drop it, to mark it. We simulate a triple retrieve ... three locations.

"I'm one of the last few trainers that doesn't use a shock collar or electronic collar," he added. "I use the ear pinch method. I train every dog like it's going to be mine. I'm not going to have one that's not going to hunt. The last two weeks, the owners come handle the dogs with me, step-by-step. We set up simulated hunts, as close to the real thing as we can without breaking the law."

Meier said duck hunting with an expertly trained dog "makes the experience a whole lot better. Hunting with a really good dog makes it hard to hunt without one again; you get spoiled."

He can only train a few dogs at a time -- usually six -- in order to give each the attention it deserves, and "I'm booked to June of next year. Right now I could take someone interested in just obedience, but not retrieving.

"I take a tremendous amount of pride in these dogs," he added. "Each dog is different. I tailor the training to each dog. I don't push them; I show them what I want, then try to make them think it's their idea in the first place. I use their natural ability as much as possible."

Anyone interested in contacting Meier can reach him by calling 870-476-7001 or through the website paragouldretrievers.com. ♦

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Fun at the Greene County Fair

Rides that twist and turn and games offering the prospects of winning a prize always attract the younger crowd when the fair comes to town.





People ... walking the midway, giving their kids a free ride on their shoulders, holding the day's winnings, snapping some photos, visiting booths and other attractions, flashing a smile. It's the people who make the fair the annual success that it is.





Inside, away from the hustle and bustle, folks can display their handiwork and enter competitions for Best of Show.



New flag raised to start county fair

Members of local Boy Scout Troop 66 joined with Greene County Fair board members and others to raise a new American Flag prior to the opening of the 2013 version of the fair.

The scouts helped properly unfold and raise the new flag high above the midway, ending the ceremony with a salute to Old Glory. ♦



Scout and volunteers, left and below, unfolded the large flag, making sure it never touched the ground. After it was attached and raised, the flag flew proudly on the sunlit Saturday morning and signalled the start of the 2013 Greene County Fair season.



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Brittany Banning of Marmaduke, left, poses with the International tractor her family sponsors, along with the Dodd family, prior to the Tractor Pull competition. At right are a competitor doing his best to earn a high score and another entry, below, representing the John Deere line.



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Compassionate Friends stage "Walk to Remember" October 12

The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas invite bereaved parents, siblings, relatives and friends to attend a walk around Crowley's Ridge State Park Lake -- a "Walk to Remember" -- on Saturday, October 12, at 1:30 p.m.

The Compassionate Friends offer friendship, understanding, and hope to families that have experienced the death of a child.

The local Walk will start gathering at 1:30 p.m. at Crowley's Ridge State Park. Following the Walk, there will be a family picnic. The main dish, chips and drinks will be furnished. Participants are welcome to bring their favorite dish to share.

The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas meets monthly for sharing meetings the second Thursday of the month at Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road in Paragould, at 7 p.m. For more information, call Toni Baker at 870-476-6025. ♦

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First Zombie Walk was big; second is bigger and better

By Leisa Rae

The month of October has always been my favorite. Well, I am an October baby. And then there's Halloween, which is just awesome. Add to the equation the Downtown Paragould Zombie Walk, and I'm in geek heaven!

Yes, the dead will rise again on October 26, 2013, at the 2nd Annual Downtown Paragould Zombie Walk. Last year's Zombie Walk saw an incredible 500-plus zombies and dozens of onlookers ... a huge success! So, plans have been drawn, preparations made, and we hope to make this year's event bigger and better.

JACK FM has partnered with Main Street Paragould and other great sponsors to once again bring the most ghoulishly delightful fundraising event back to Pruet Street. That's right: The Zombie Walk is a fundraiser. All ticket proceeds go to Main Street Paragould to fund future downtown events. Why? Because we want to make Downtown Paragould as hip and as happening a place as you want it to be ... even if that means it will literally be dead for one night. Oh and, believe me, just because it's dead ... doesn't mean it won't be one howling good time.

We've thrown in some new twists. This year's Walk will follow a longer path, winding through more of the Downtown area. The costume contest kicks off at 7 p.m. and features more categories: Most Grotesque,



Paragould's inaugural Downtown Zombie Walk was so popular last year that the event is back bigger and better than before.

Celebrity, Novelty, Best Group, and Best Kid Zombie. There will be awesome trophies and prizes and we'll have some fun activities ... Zombie Hokey Pokey, anyone? GoYWP teamed up with Adams Florist to offer a photo booth for \$2 per print (even those proceeds go Main Street Paragould). We're also working on some fun game booths.

We've kept the admission prices low. Thanks to goYWP, you can pre-purchase your tickets online at Zombiewalkparagould.com and skip the registration line. You can also order t-shirts there; price is \$15 each. The living need to be well fed, so help out Mission Outreach by bringing a canned good item and save \$1 off your ticket price.

Here's where we still need some help. We want this year's Zombie Walk to have a fun,

festival atmosphere so we're looking for non-profit organizations, like your school club or civic group, to run a zombie themed game booth at \$.50 to \$1 per game. The catch? There isn't one! Your organization can keep the money you raise. We just want you to help us entertain the crowd. Booths need to be pre-approved by yours truly just to make sure we don't have any repeats. Remember, keep it family friendly. If you're interested, email leisa@kdrs.com.

Vendors are welcome, by the way, and can download vendor booth applications at zombiewalkparagould.com.

Make your plans to attend. All details can be found at neajackfm.com and at facebook.com/DowntownZombieWalk-Paragould. ♦

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Chateau On The Ridge stages October activities

Chateau On The Ridge assisted living center has set the dates for two events in October -- the All Things Senior Expo and the Festival On The Ridge.

The All Things Senior Expo will take place Friday, October 11, from 8 a.m. until noon, featuring the following free seminars:

8:30 a.m. - Estate planning and wills by Broadway & Broadway

9:30 a.m. - Ryan Vaughan of KAIT8 on weather

10:30 a.m. - Fire Safety by the Paragould Fire Department

11:15 a.m. - Identity Theft and Senior Scams by the Paragould Police Department

PLUS:

- The Greene County Health Department will be offering flu shots.

- Free smoke detectors will be given away to the first 50 participants and everyone will receive a free 9-volt battery.

- Unwanted prescription eye glasses will be collected for the Lions Club of Paragould.

- The Paragould Police Department will collect over-the-counter and prescription drugs for proper disposal.

- KAIT-TV Channel 8 Chief Meteorologist Ryan Vaughan will be programming weather radios.

- A \$500 Savings Bond will be given away to one lucky person.

The Festival on the Ridge on Saturday, October 19, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is \$3 (kids 2 and under are free) for a fun-filled day of face painting, games, prizes, a silent auction, and more. The Paragould Police Department will be administering identification kits (finger printing) for children while supplies last. Booth vendors will offer an array of gift ideas. Refreshments including hot dogs, ice cream, and popcorn will be available.

Chateau On The Ridge is located at 2308 Chateau Blvd. in Paragould. Call 870-215-6300 for more information. ♦

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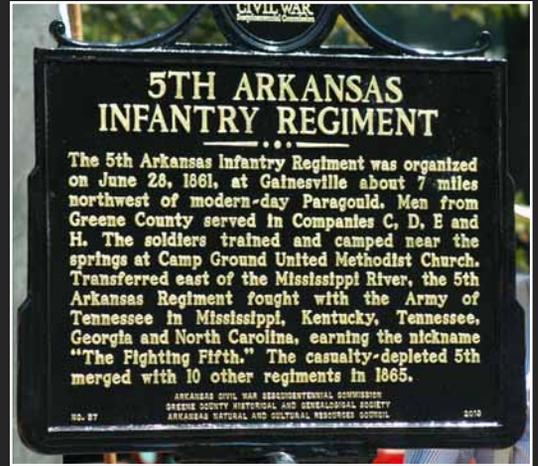
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Camp Ground United Methodist Church near Paragould was the site of a Civil War Marker dedication ceremony in September. Above, Rev. Eddie Harris, W. Danny Honnoll, M. Ray Jones III and Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill unveil the marker (pictured at right) at the end of the ceremony. Members of the 5th Arkansas Infantry Regiment camped and trained near the springs where the church building stands today.



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Libraries “stay relevant” with new technology, but still have plenty of books

By Caitlin LaFarlette

The growing popularity of e-readers may have some worrying about the disappearance of physical books, but library lovers can rest easy knowing the evolving technology isn't pushing paperbacks out of the picture.

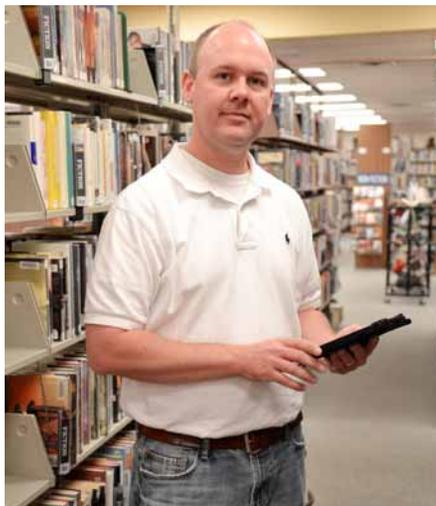
Mike Rogers, director of the NEA Regional Library, said after the introduction of e-books to the Greene County Public Library around 1,800 were checked out during August. “I think it's great for libraries because it helps us stay relevant,” he said. “I think people don't abandon physical books for e-books.”

Rogers said e-books merely create a simpler way for people with busy lives to enjoy the act of reading at their own convenience. He added that with four children himself his e-reader usage has increased.

“We get a lot of older people coming in to the library,” he added, saying they will receive e-readers as gifts from children or grandchildren and come in for help learning to use them.

At the Greene County Library, readers are allowed to check out four e-books at a time. When the turn-in date arrives, the books simply disappear from the reading device. “There are no late fees, which is great for the user,” Rogers said.

The library currently hosts around 3,000 titles and 20-30 more are bought once a week. Older



NEA Regional Library Director Mike Rogers says books are still popular ... in any form the reader desires.

books in the public domain such as *The Scarlet Letter* were added at no charge to the selection.

Even with the rise of technology, Rogers said readers are still looking to actual books for entertainment. “You have the tried and true that are going to come in and check (out) the physical book,” he said. “I invite everybody to come in and try the e-books. It's not for everybody. You can use both services or you can choose not to use the e-books.”

Rogers noted the e-books have produced an increase in readers that use the library. He said some who didn't know the service was available had an incentive to come in and obtain a library card when they have never had one before.

In addition to the e-books, the library also has iPads, Nooks and Kindles people can use to get the feel of an e-reader before they buy their own. “It just lets them get hands-on,” Rogers said.

Several magazine titles are available for download as well at the library. Rogers said they have everything from Cosmo to ESPN to get a wide variety for readers. Multiple users can access the magazine at once as opposed to one user per copy for the e-books. The library also tries to fulfill readers' requests when they want more titles from specific authors.

“I don't see it at all decreasing our circulation of the physical books,” Rogers said. “It brings in people that have not been library users in the past. It just shows them that benefit.”

Other additions to the library's electronic services include downloadable audiobooks and music downloads that offer three free songs per week the user can keep.

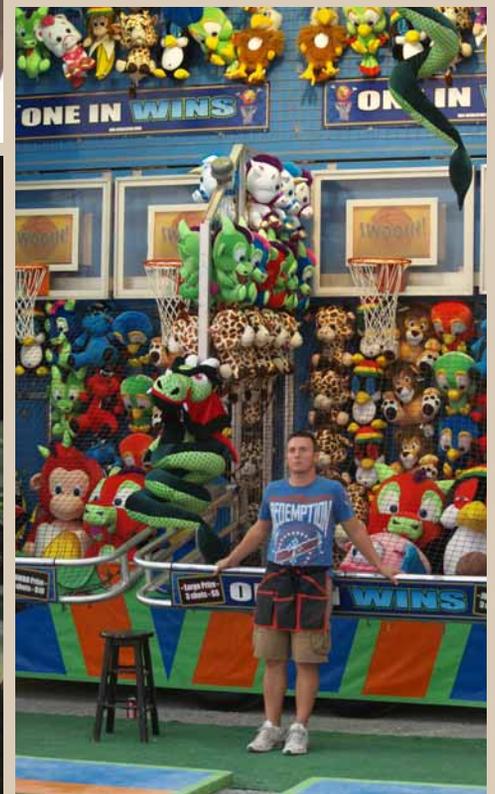
According to the Washington Post, e-book sales have begun tapering off in the last year and seem to be out of the “explosive growth phase.” Those who hold physical books near and dear to their hearts can continue filling up their bookshelves, breathing in that new book smell and visiting the stacks in local libraries, but have that additional option of e-books if life just gets too busy. ♦

An advertisement for Paragould Family Dentistry. It features a group of seven dental staff members (four women and three men) in scrubs, smiling. To the left, a large red ribbon graphic contains the text "PREMIERE AWARD WINNER" in gold, serif font. Below the staff, a light blue banner contains the text "Paragould Family Dentistry" in a script font, followed by "Award Winning Dental Care." in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the name "Kevin Mann, DDS" and the address "1224 West Court Street, Paragould | 239•5518" are listed. At the bottom right, the "CareCredit Patient Payment Plans" logo and the "invisalign" logo are displayed. Silhouettes of people are visible in the background behind the staff.

NEA District Fair



The skyline was aglow near Jonesboro as thousands of people made their way to the NEA District Fair, taking advantage of rides, music, games and various other forms of entertainment. Youngsters enjoyed a miniature Ferris Wheel of their own, left, while below, an adult kept up with her little one with the help of a harness; magician Rocky Clements worked his magic for the audience and a basketball shooting challenge offered colorful prizes to anyone who could sink a shot.





Do-it-yourselfers can produce inexpensive, yet beautiful, event garlands without much work

While planning my baby shower, my girlfriends asked me to suggest simple and inexpensive decor. They are not quite as crafty and needed a simple DIY project, and of course, I took pleasure in making suggestions and learning a few things myself.

Paper is always an inexpensive element to any party decor project, so this is where my idea began. I encouraged my friends to purchase some economical Chinese lanterns. One can buy them online for under \$20, and they add a perfect splash of color.

Next, I recommended a combination of garlands that are trendy and simple to construct. A chevron garland, as I call it, takes some cardstock, a shape punch and a sewn, straight seam. If you are not comfortable with or do



By Tiffany Napier

not own a sewing machine, these chevron clippings can be glued or strung with twine ... same concept. If you can punch a square with a shape punch from your local craft store, you are well on your way to crafting something fabulous. Cut your typical square, re-punch the corner (as illustrated) and line your chevron cuttings as if they were arrows. Finally, sew a seam to connect them or use a needle to thread them onto twine or string. You may even glue them if you wish.

I also love fringe of any kind, but these tribal inspired fringe garlands are all the rage and very unique! All you need is tissue paper, scissors and twine to string them. Fold one sheet of tissue in half, cut fringe about a half-inch from the fold, unfold and roll down the center, twist tight and fold it in half to form a loop. I secure the loop with my sewing machine as well, but a substitute for this is wire or pipe cleaner. Just wind it around just below the loop about three to four times. Then, slide the loops onto your twine to complete your garland.

These garlands can be hung any way you like, in any color. Purchase tissue and cardstock within the color or theme of your event. My illustrations are with Halloween colors for the upcoming holiday. Enjoy! ♦

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Even though I dislike sports, the game of football has advantages

I admit to disliking sports, especially football. It so bores me that I quit band because I — wanting to learn music — could not see how tromping around a field during halftime would teach me better trombone technique. But were it not for that game, I might still be single.

As most theatre people do, I met my future wife during a production at the Collins Theatre. It was hate at first sight; she thought me ill-tempered and arrogant — I found her a nuisance and tiresome. It was not till she appeared at another production in which I co-starred to say she was leaving for college that I realized my dislike for her was love in clever disguise. I watched her walk away with great regret.

Thank goodness for technology! I'd had no great success with computers, but I somehow found myself able to chat with close friends. (I remember neither who taught me how to do it nor what program I used.) One day, while chatting with one of my actors, a bubble



popped up that said, "Hello!" My heart leapt when I realized who it was, four hours away. She and I reconnected and spent the next few months chatting each day (when we both had other things to do), and it wasn't long before I realized that I looked forward to our discussions more than anything else — including rehearsals or writing. Two friends urged me to profess my affection for her; having never performed such a risky maneuver before, I laughed and called them both inappropriate names. Yet some insanity overtook me, and I found myself typing the words: I like you, you know. "Well, that's it," I thought. "She'll laugh in my face (as much as one can four hours away) and I'll never hear from her

again." To my astonishment, she returned the sentiment. I remember being at a loss as to what came next, as I'd never made it that far. She said she would soon be visiting home, and perhaps we could go on a date. I replied in the positive, logged off, and immediately began worrying in a way that one would've thought me dying of Typhoid rather than accompanying a young lady out and about. When I told my family what was happening, they didn't believe it. Indeed, when we left on our date, I noted several blinds poking open, a pair of eyes behind each.

I broached the subject of our destination; she suggested a football game, as she could say hello to former teachers and acquaintances. My heart fell. What sort of relationship could blossom from a seed built on football? Disappointed, I accompanied her to the game. She talked to everyone there while I sat unnoticed. She followed the game easily, whereas I couldn't keep up with which team was which. To make matters worse, the night chill deepened, and — as I'm forced to visit the necessary several times when cold — the evening became uncomfortable. (I don't use public conveniences.)

Just as I began to count the night a loss, the game ended, and she led me back to her car. The windows were fogged; the lot emptied. A cad could've taken severe advantage of such a situation ... but she behaved herself, bestowing only a ladylike gesture of affection. Giddy, I returned home, and we continued our daily conversations. A few years later, we were married. Next month, our son turns two.

I still don't appreciate football, but it has its advantages. ♦

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NEA Baptist earns Healthgrades Award again

NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital has received the Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award for five years in a row and has been recognized as being in the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation for four years in a row. NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital is the only hospital in the Northeast Arkansas region to receive the distinction and only one of four hospitals in the state of Arkansas to do so.

In addition to these awards, NEA Baptist announced in early 2013 that it was the recipient of Healthgrades Orthopedic Surgery Excellence award for the second year in a row. This award ranked NEA Baptist as No. 1 in Arkansas for orthopedic services and among the top 5 percent in the nation.

“This award truly recognizes our focus and commitment to providing our patients with the best health care experience possible - each and every time,” said Brad Parsons, NEA Baptist’s Chief Executive Officer. “Winning this award for five years straight says a lot about our employees and their commitment to our patients.”

NEA Baptist has been named one of a select group of elite hospitals identified as providing outstanding performance in the delivery of a positive experience for patients during their hospital stay, as measured by Healthgrades, the leading online resource that helps consumers search, evaluate, compare and connect with physicians and hospitals.

To identify the 2013 Outstanding Patient Experience Award recipients, Healthgrades analyzed HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) hospital survey data obtained from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, from April 2011 to March 2012. Award recipients performed in the top 10 percent in the nation for patient satisfaction, based on survey responses from patients treated at those facilities. Hospitals had to meet bed size, survey-response size, and clinical-quality thresholds in order to be eligible for the award.

“As hospitals continue to struggle with the delivery of high-quality, safe care in the face of mounting financial and regulatory pressures, the hospitals who have achieved Health-



NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital has earned the Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award for the fifth consecutive year.

grades 2013 Outstanding Patient Experience Award stand above the rest in terms of providing the most positive experience for patients during their hospital stay,” said Evan Marks, EVP Informatics and Strategy. “This exceptional performance reflects a commitment to superior quality of clinical care.”

NEA Baptist Health Systems is in the process of building a new medical campus which will include a new hospital and specialty clinic as well as a free standing cancer care center on the northeast side of Jonesboro. For more information about NEA Baptist visit www.neabaptist.com.

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Fire safety in the home is not something to be overlooked

By Gabriel A. Cook

The hurried lifestyle under which we all labor often demands our complete attention, blinding us to the hazards that lurk in our homes. House fires are common in the United States, and most start due to short attention spans.

Danny Rogers, Assistant Fire Chief for the Paragould Fire Department, outlined some of the more common mistakes we make concerning fire safety. "I hesitate to use the term 'common sense,'" said Rogers, "but, really, it is a matter of paying attention to your surroundings."

When asked about some of the issues he's faced in his official capacity, Rogers ticked off numerous situations conducive to catastrophe found in the average home. "The majority of home fires start in the kitchen," he said. "The major cause is unattended cooking — with a busy lifestyle, one might be heating grease and get distracted and involved in something else — and then, before one knows it, there's smoke and fire."

Rogers suggests using the back burners when cooking with pots, as the handles could easily catch a sleeve and be pulled away or overheat if placed over a lit front burner. "Always use a potholder instead of a towel. We've all picked something up with a towel and it was hotter than we expected. When you try to move that hot grease to the sink, it can overtake you, and then you've spilled hot grease either on yourself or something that could catch alight."

Another issue with ovens concerns using them to heat the house. Rogers strongly disagrees with



Danny Rogers, Assistant Fire Chief

the practice, and he's also wary of portable space heaters. He believes folks can become too comfortable with them, forgetting that they are drawing a lot of energy and putting off heat. He's answered calls where someone used a space heater to dry a towel or shirt, thus igniting them, the fire spreading beyond containment.

"Candles are used more frequently now than ever," Rogers added. "It used to be a holiday thing, but now people use them for fragrance and decoration. Make sure the area around them is clear — you need at least three feet of room. Heat, over a long period of time, can raise any nearby object to a combustible temperature. The best place to use candles is in a living room, so that when you leave or go to bed, you remember to put them out." Rogers suggests burning candles in metal containers, when possible, as heat can break glass candle containers.

Of all unexpected fire hazards, Rogers is most concerned with clothes dryers. He could not provide the number of calls the department has received in recent years due to neglected dryers, but admitted it was substantial. Common malfunctions include faulty thermostats or the lint itself catching fire, spreading to the clothes inside. The best way to prevent such accidents is to never leave the house with a dryer running.

The holidays often provide action for the fire department, as folks overload extension cords with Christmas lights and moving decorations. "They'll hide those cords under rugs or furniture, and if they've hooked up too many plugs and exceeded the wattage limit of the extension, it can catch within a matter of hours."

One of the most common hazards? "We've all been guilty of putting a 100-watt bulb into a 40-watt end, but it's highly dangerous. It's also difficult to determine the cause of a fire by this method. The appropriate wattage is clearly marked on most appliances."

Perhaps most surprising is Rogers' assertion that shop rags — used in conjunction with oil, gas, or kerosene — can spontaneously combust. "No flame or heat needed ... they generate heat themselves, and — next thing you know — you have a fire. The conditions have to be absolutely right, but it can happen."

Rogers stresses common sense and knowing your surroundings to prevent loss to property or life. For further information, call the Paragould Fire Department at 239-7525. ♦

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The Rotary Club of Paragould donated a "Protect Our Children" sign to the new Paragould Primary building. The sign will be placed in the school car line to remind parents and visitors to drive carefully during school hours. Pictured are Rotarian Carla Mitchell, Rotary President Malissa Lewis, Rotary District Governor Charles Elliot, Paragould Primary Principal Nick Jankoviak and Rotarian Mitchel Smith. The Rotary Club is also preparing for its annual fundraising auction, set for October 10-11 at Greene County Tech High School.

Paragould Rotary Club prepares for 64th auction

The Paragould Rotary Club will host the 64th annual Rotary Club auction Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11, 2013, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. This is the oldest Rotary auction in the world and has been used as the model for hundreds of other Rotary auctions around the globe.

The auction is the major fund raising project for The Paragould Rotary Club. In 2012, the auction generated more than \$12,000 to fund community projects and contributions. Over 98 percent of all the proceeds raised stay in Paragould and Greene County.

KDRS radio (1490 AM) and City Cable Channel 26 will simulcast the auction, and it can be found online at www.paragould-rotaryauction.com. The website will have all of the items available for preview and/or bidding.

This year's auction will contain a variety of items from merchandise to gift certificates, a great opportunity to get some amazing Christmas gifts at huge discounts. Winning bidders will be able to pick up their items each night of the auction until 10 p.m. and on Saturday, October 12, from 9-11a.m. at Greene County Tech High School. ♦

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Kristina Moss greets every day with a smile after surviving breast cancer.

Photo by Tim Rand

Kristina Moss: Without cancer, “I wouldn’t be who I am”

By Richard Brummett

For someone who has endured the fears and uncertainties associated with breast cancer, Paragould’s Kristina Moss offers a most unexpected view.

“I know it sounds strange,” said the kindergarten teacher in the Paragould School District, “but in a way I’m glad I went through this. Without it, I wouldn’t be who I am.”

So, who is this 32-year-old woman of such great strength and focus, one who embraces October’s National Breast Cancer Awareness Month with such gusto?

She is, for one thing, a survivor, someone who got the bad news no woman wants to hear but met the challenges of the disease with determination and refused to stay down for the count.

After her diagnosis at the age of 29, Moss said cancer “got me down good for a couple of weeks. Then as I went through all of this,



really and truly, it made me -- in my opinion -- such a different person ... for the better. You do have to ‘wear the shoes’ to see the wholeness of it.”

The 21st of this month marks the date three years ago when Moss discovered a lump on her breast through self-examination and followed up with her doctor. She left his office with a rather clear cut plan of action: If it was

nothing she’d be told so, but if the doctor wanted her back in his office, it meant bad news.

“When I got the call that said, ‘Can you be here today at 4?’ I knew,” Moss said. “I said, ‘It’s not good, is it?’ and they told me it wasn’t.”

From that moment forward Moss’ life was filled with mixed emotions. Who should she tell? Who should she confide in? What should she do?

She remembers having to inform her grandmother, Dolores Moss, who raised her, of the bad news and trying to be strong for her, and felt the need to share her diagnosis with her students and their parents.

“I wanted them to hear it from me, not from some outside source,” she explained.

“But then everything happened so fast, I almost didn’t have time to worry,” she recalled. “Things went very, very fast from there. I

mean, I found out on a Wednesday and my doctor said, 'I'll see you Friday morning at 8.' It was obvious what I had to do, and we just started doing it."

Sometimes she thinks back to the words she heard and they reappear in short bursts: "You have breast cancer ... triple negative ... stages three and four ... mammogram ... PET scan ... might spread to your lymph nodes."

"That all gets pretty scary," she recalled. "But after eight rounds of chemo, I'm wonderful; at least, no one has told me otherwise."

Today, her life is not filled so much with the medical terminology as it is with reflection upon her experience and with a desire to be of help to others, in whatever way possible. Cancer changed her life and her outlook, and she is determined to share.

"For some reason, crazy as it sounds," she said, "I thank God every day for this experience. The people whose paths I've crossed ... I never would have met otherwise. The people in the chemo room become a very close group. You learn their names, you hang out and get your drip. It gave me something to look forward to. The girls I met through this are amazing. They say God places angels in the chemo room. I think it's the honest truth."

Moss said the strand of cancer she had "doesn't always respond to chemo, so I'm fortunate and thankful. Most of the time it comes back in the first two years. I had a big celebration on my two-year anniversary when everything still looked good. The story is not always bad, unless you consider putting on 35 pounds a bad experience. The side effects were, for me, nothing like I imagined. I am an exception to all chemo rules: I didn't get sick and I gained 35 pounds. But I'll take that."

She takes frequent calls and requests from acquaintances and even from people she's never met, asking if she would be willing to share her story with someone they know who has also been diagnosed with breast cancer. "Of course I do," she said. "If my story can make a positive impression on somebody, I want them to hear it. For me, it was an absolute blessing the way it happened."

"When you first hear those words, you wonder if you'll ever get to smell the rain again, or have Christmas or Thanksgiving. You can look at it as a terrible, terrible thing ... a black cloud ... and lie in the bed and be depressed about it, or you can live life with no regrets to the fullest. Only after you're diagnosed do you realize how rampant this disease is and how many lives it has affected. I will always support the cause, just now from a different perspective." ♦

Numerous events planned in Paragould area

By Jennifer Thompson

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and there are numerous activities planned with a singular goal of helping Greene County residents raise money and awareness in hopes of finding a cure for the disease.

Events kick off on Oct. 3, with Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's 16th Annual Women's Health Fair in the AMMC Professional Office Building Auditorium at 1000 West Kingshighway from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. This year's theme is "Tailgating for a Cure - Breast Cancer Awareness." AMMC's function will include blood glucose, cholesterol, weight and blood pressure screenings. Attendees will also have chances to participate in various giveaways and featured booths that will showcase the latest information, products and trends in women's health care. All services are free to the public. The event includes a sub sandwich, chips and drink lunch for \$7.50. Oct. 4-6 sees the beginning of "Strike Out Cancer" hosted by the Paragould Youth Softball Association. The event is a four-game guarantee tournament with a prize of \$200. Event organizers have labeled the tournament as a "Pink Event" with umpires wearing pink shirts and each will be donating a free game to support the cause. Gate fees will be: \$5 for ages 12 and up, \$2 for ages 6-11 and ages 5 and under are free. Proceeds from "Strike Out Cancer" will be donated, in part, to AMMC's Project Hope as well as St. Jude's Children Research Hospital in Memphis.

Saturday, Oct. 12, the first annual "Fishing for a Cure" will benefit the American Cancer Society and Project Hope. Stacy Masters, a cancer survivor, hosts the event at Hoyt's Catfish Pay Pond in Cardwell, Mo., from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Events include: Fishing, face painting, lots of door prizes, and white corded breast cancer awareness necklaces and breast cancer awareness Mardi Gras beads for sale. All proceeds go to Project Hope at AMMC. There will be individuals scattered around the pond that day to assist with baiting hooks, taking fish off of the lines and helping kids and adults with whatever is needed. Individuals will also be on hand to clean fish for those who wish. The cost to fish is \$2 per adult; kids fish for free. Individual fishermen can keep what is caught at a cost of \$2 per pound. Additionally, a silent auction will also be held with a drawing for a 17 (HMR) Bolt Action Riffle, donated by Dave's Guns in Paragould. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. Masters said this project is near and dear to her heart after being diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. She said, "I learned of Project Hope when I was presented with a \$1,500 check from where friends had sold t-shirts to help my family as I went through the medical expense of having been diagnosed with cancer."

Paragould High School began the fight against breast cancer earlier this year when "Dig For A Cure" was hosted on Sept. 28th, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, as well as funds staying locally and going to Project Hope. "Dig For A Cure" has raised more than \$30,000 over the past five years. The event has encouraged other schools all over the state to begin their own "Dig For A Cure" events, according to Jill Gill, the event's chairperson. This particular event began six years ago in honor of Kim Gaston Smith, the mother of former PHS volleyball player Kobi Smith, who was battling breast cancer. After Kim lost her battle in 2009, the PHS volleyball program made a commitment to continue fighting the battle against the disease. Each year the event committee chooses individuals to honor and/or remember along with Kim. This year the committee chose to honor two women currently fighting breast cancer: Dana McDowell, former PHS volleyball mom of Natalie McDowell, and Rebecca Conway Stallings, a GCT teacher who is a two-time survivor.

Project Hope, which is a program sponsored by The Women's Council through The Foundation at AMMC, offers women with no insurance (or other means to pay), free mammograms if they are at-risk for breast cancer. ♦

Cathy Nixon “keeps on keeping on” despite illnesses

By Caitlin LaFarlette

After two open heart surgeries, six bypasses, two kidney transplants and a pancreas transplant, many people would slow down, relax and not worry too much about working. Cathy Nixon, however, used the multiple surgeries as a reason to help others.

“I’m just one of those types of people that keep on keeping on,” Nixon said.

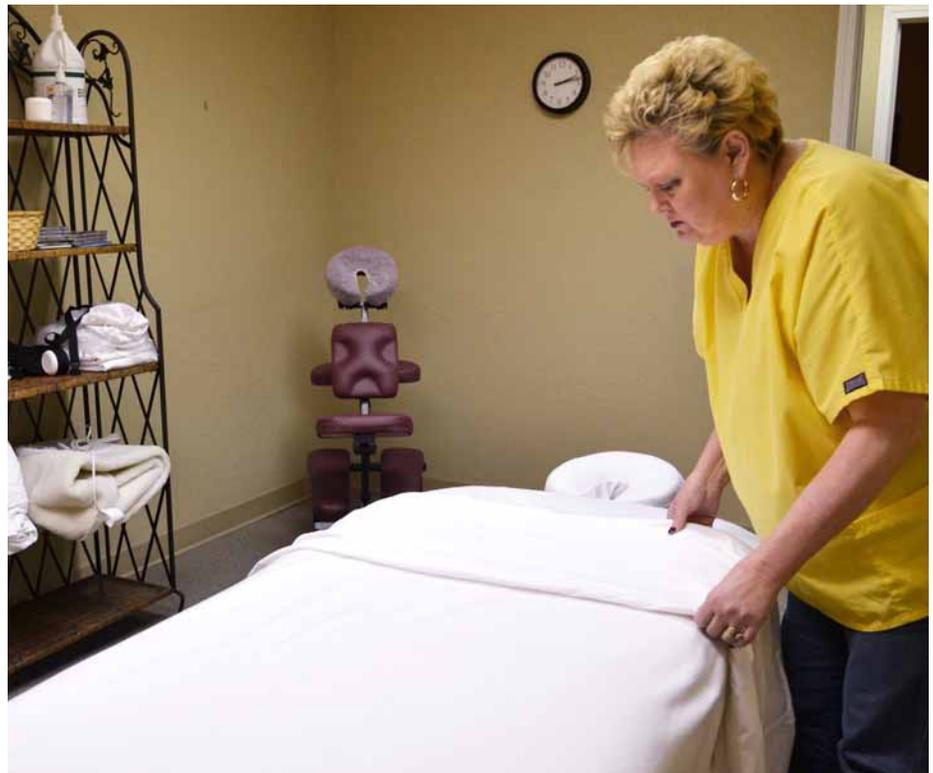
This might come as an understatement to some when learning about the trials Nixon has been through. The Jonesboro native had endured two-and-a-half years of chemotherapy in 2011 after a malignant tumor was found in her sinus cavity. The sinus cancer then led to multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells. Nixon is now completely blind in her right eye with limited vision in her left. In addition to her cancer, Nixon has been a diabetic for 47 years.

“I lost my vision at 26,” she said, explaining that she had to go through multiple eye surgeries to correct it.

When her husband Dennis began having heart complications, the couple considered how she would take care of herself if something happened to him. Nixon began researching and found the leading massage therapists in the world are blind.

“Their extra senses kick in,” she said. “I decided to go to massage school here in Jonesboro.”

While attending school Nixon was still going through chemotherapy sessions. A typical day consisted of going to chemo, then four hours of school and doing massage work in the afternoons. She said it was difficult for her to get her education in massage therapy while receiving chemo once every 90 days.



Massage Therapist Cathy Nixon, speaking from experience, says cancer patients’ faith is important for them to be able to cope with the pain associated with their illness.

Nixon has been in remission since August 2012 and graduated massage therapy school in February. She opened a therapeutic massage treatment center with her husband in Jonesboro over the summer, “A Healing Touch.”

“Her history and her future are why we picked the name of the business,” Dennis said.

“You get so caught up with feeling bad,” Nixon said. “If you have something else to focus on, and something to look forward to, then it really helps you get through all that.”

Nixon focuses on pain management and stress reduction, and her clients include other cancer patients and people with arthritis and plantar fasciitis. She

added that the therapeutic massages help them sleep better and cope with the pain of their illness.

“Cathy has a very strong gift,” Dennis said. “She understands pain.”

Dennis said his wife makes a big difference with her clients. He explained one woman with plantar fasciitis, who was scheduled for surgery, came to Cathy twice and hasn’t had any problems since. Because of her experiences, Nixon understands what her patients are going through.

Nixon said she wants other cancer patients to know their faith is important in coping with their pain, and advises them to focus on something other than the illness. She added that she was able to get through her troubles thanks to her husband’s support and being there for her through every step.

“You get so caught up with feeling bad,” Nixon said. “If you have something else to focus on, and something to look forward to, then it really helps you get through all that.” She also advises getting out of bed and putting on nice clothes and makeup to help get through the physical trials of cancer and chemotherapy.

Nixon speaks true when saying she “keeps on keeping on.” Her medical history is something that has given her a new purpose in life ... healing others. She is able to put herself on her clients’ level and understand their pain in a way other massage therapists might not be able to. “You have to have a vision of something,” she said. “I just want to help people and nurture them.”

A Healing Touch is located at 2917 King St. in Jonesboro. For more information on services call 870-316-9785. ♦

Abilities Unlimited to celebrate 50 years

By Joy Robinson

Having firm roots in Paragould, a local organization that takes pride in helping adults in need by providing them with tools and skills to lead a productive life is celebrating 50 years.

Abilities Unlimited, Inc., opened its doors in 1963. It was founded by the Jonesboro Jaycees, with only a small amount of money and an even smaller clientele, in a house on Jefferson nicknamed the "Jefferson House." Abilities now serves more than 400 clients, has over 400 employees, and has offices in Jonesboro, Blytheville and Paragould, and serves more than 18 counties in Arkansas and the Missouri Bootheel.

Abilities also offers professional services, such as document shredding. They offer recycling in Jonesboro, and are hoping to expand that to Paragould in the future. Consignment shops also provide clients job opportunities.

According to Heather Holmes, Director of Marketing, expansions have been made to adapt to the demand as far as donations for their consignment shops. Two of those, including the organization's main office, took home in downtown Paragould in 2011.

"With our local consignment shops, everything consigned or donated here, stays here,"



Jeremy uses a press while assembling switches for Monroe at Paragould's Abilities Unlimited.

Holmes said. "That means the money stays here, helping someone local." Each consignment shop provides items for purchase such as clothing, furniture, home decor seasonal items and accessories.

Holmes added that one donated item will be touched by fourteen different employees. "That's fourteen jobs. We are giving people the opportunity to work that wouldn't have the opportunity otherwise."

Phil Taylor, Abilities' CEO for more than 30 years, has been instrumental in creating new programs. The Work Activities Center provides individuals with the tools needed to learn new skills. They primarily serve adults 18 and above, but do have a few younger clients.

At any time, Abilities has anywhere from 25-30 job postings. Holmes added that all is required is a high school diploma or GED. "We are always looking for passionate, trainable employees who are willing to learn the specific needs of a client," she said.

Abilities Unlimited has recently acquired a home in Jonesboro that will house up to three clients, and will have rotating staff to assist them with day-to-day living. This, in addition to a 20-unit apartment complex, gives the clients the ability to live on their own.

Abilities Unlimited offers three different therapy programs: Speech, occupational, and physical. Each program helps participants get, and keep, jobs. In-house, clients give local businesses the ability to outsource with jobs such as parts assembly and rag cutting.

"So many individuals would've been sent to an institution simply because they are limited," Holmes noted. "This program allows them to be an individual."

She said any parent wanting to see if their child would qualify for the program should first talk to their school counselors. "We work very closely with the local schools, and when the transition time happens, we can try to place them where they fit and will enjoy where they are."

Abilities will host its 50th Anniversary event October 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Paragould location, 121 N. 2nd Street. Guests will enjoy food and drinks, as well as door prizes and tours of the facility. ♦



Outstanding Teachers



Tacey Cravens, CRA

Tacey Cravens, a sixth grade teacher at Crowley's Ridge Academy, has been teaching for 46 years.

She said she had "awesome teachers growing up and they inspired me to become a teacher."

Tacey taught first grade for the first six years and had an aide working in her classroom, leading to one of her most humorous teaching moments.

"My students were at their listening station with headphones on and my aide was bent over their table helping them," she said.

"Well, her false teeth fell out and landed on the table in front of the students. My entire

classroom of 28 students ran out screaming. I have never laughed so hard!"

Tacey said she "was married for 49 years to my wonderful husband who passed away in 2007. I have two sons. Johnny retired from teaching at Nettleton this past year and is now working for the postal service. He is married to Kathy (a former teacher at Westside) and they have two sons -- Brett and Scott.

"My younger son Victor is a teacher and coach at Annie Camp Jr. High and he has two daughters -- Katey and Kelsey. My husband supported and encouraged all of us in the teaching profession." ♦

April Willis, a kindergarten instructor at Greene County Tech's Primary School, is in her 11th year of teaching. All of April's teaching campaigns have been spent at the kindergarten level.

"From the time I entered elementary school, I knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said. "As a child my bedroom was like a miniature classroom complete with a chalkboard. I couldn't wait for the end of the year when my teachers would often hand out outdated textbooks and materials for children to take home. I couldn't wait to get home and play school!"

April said she has "special memories from each year I have taught. One memory, though, that is carried from year to year is that feeling of reaching the end of a school year and reflecting on how much the children have learned and grown over the course of the year."

April said she has been married "to my supportive husband, Flynn, for nine years and we live in Walcott with our four-year-old daughter, Avery." ♦



April Willis, GCT

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GOD BLESS *our* TROOPS



NEA CASA Board President Jake Hampton addresses members and guests at the Arkansas State CASA Association's Conference.

Hampton receives state CASA award

Northeast Arkansas CASA Board President Jake Hampton earned one of the 2013 Faces of CASA awards at the Arkansas State CASA Association yearly conference in Little Rock.

Awards were presented to volunteers and agency members and Hampton was honored for his support and management of the 2nd Judicial District's CASA organization and program, which services five Northeast Arkansas counties.

CASA volunteers work within their local courts, at the request of the judge, on behalf of all children taken into foster care. The goal is to secure a safe and permanent home for the children with the opportunity for each to thrive. This year's conference contained sessions led by national child and family abuse experts and counselors, legal, government and juvenile law enforcement representatives, as well as medical and drug enforcement professionals.

Arkansas State CASA Association is comprised of 25 local programs that recruit, train and supervise volunteer advocates for children in foster care across the state. With a CASA volunteer advocating for them, children that have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect are half as likely to languish in foster care and more likely to find a safe, permanent home quickly. In 2012, 1,113 volunteers advocated for 3,398 children in Arkansas.

For more information on the CASA program email volunteercasa@arkansas.gov or contact Arkansas State CASA Outreach Specialist, Susie Cover, at 870-919-7235. ♦

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The Motorhead Traveler comes to Arkansas

The Motorhead Traveler recently made a stop in Bay to experience racing with the Arkansas Lawnmower Racing Association (ARLMRA).

Kevin Cullen, host of The Motorhead Traveler that broadcasts on MAVTV, is known internationally as the Motorsports Man. His show examines all things fast as he travels and experiences the local culture, cuisine, and history surrounding the favorite Motorsport of the area.

Kevin interviewed Jason Murray, ARLMRA president, and was schooled about Lawnmower Racing. After he watched others show him how it is done, he raced. "I have never experienced anything like this!" he said. Hitting speeds of over 45 miles per hour on a lawnmower is a unique experience.

The edition will air on MAVTV at a later date. Fan The Motorhead Traveler Facebook page and watch for air dates here in Premiere. Anyone interested in getting involved in Lawnmower Racing can contact ARLMRA through its Facebook page. ♦



Kevin Cullen and Jason Murray discuss technique preparing The Motorhead Traveler for his Lawnmower Racing debut, pictured below.



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Girls youth softball organization makes donation to Circle of Friends

The Paragould Youth Softball Association promoted the "Back to School Bash" softball tournament as a benefit for Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The ACH/Greene County Circle of Friends Chapter worked the gates and distributed materials about ACH/Circle of Friends during the tournament. Brian Coleman, President of PYSA, presented a \$6,150 check to COF members/officers Cheri Shelton, Treasurer, and Lindsey Watson, Co-Chair. Plans for next year's tournament are in progress.

If anyone is interested in becoming an ACH/Circle of Friends member, contact Denise Middleton at 870-476-0754 or Cheri Shelton at 870-240-3688. "Until no child needs ACH, we need you." ♦



*hope * faith * courage * strength * hope * faith * courage * strength * hope * faith * courage * strength * hope*



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In the month of October Image Realty will donate \$25.00 for every new listing and closed property to Project Hope at AMMC.



Lynn Childers



Megan Mitchell



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Junior Auxiliary of Paragould welcomes incoming provisional class

Junior Auxiliary of Paragould welcomes its incoming provisional class for the 2013-2014 year.

This group of ladies has shown interest in the Paragould chapter and will be trained for six months, as well as attending Chapter meetings and projects to determine if they wish to volunteer their time to their community through the organization for the next five years.

Junior Auxiliary is a national non-profit organization that encourages members to render charitable services which are beneficial to the general public, with particular emphasis on children.

Junior Auxiliary of Paragould was chartered by a group of caring, enthusiastic women in 1994 and continues to grow and thrive throughout Greene County and Paragould.



Junior Auxiliary of Paragould welcomes its 2013-2014 provisional class. Pictured left to right, back row; are Tiffany Eubanks, Nicole Walker, Emily Carpenter, Amie Slayton, Emilee Bobbitt and Audra Brown; front row: Heather Masingale, Elizabeth Sheldon, Tina Bruce, Lindsey Watson, Tiffany Ryan and Latoya Coward. Not pictured is Crystal Baldwin.

Volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year on a variety of projects that focus on local children and families in need of assistance.

Junior Auxiliary of Paragould is a part of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries (NAJA), a non-profit organization founded in 1941 with headquarters in Greenville, MS. NAJA has more than 13,500 active, associate, and life members in 101 chapters in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

The NAJA slogan is "Care Today – Character Tomorrow" and when teamed with the current focus of the Association, Junior Auxiliary chapters are working more than ever before to increase awareness of child health and welfare and how it affects their futures.

For more information on the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould, visit www.japaragould.com. For more information on NAJA, visit www.najanet.org.

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Paragould TOPS club member is "queen" among weight losers

By Gabriel A. Cook

There are several companies promoting rapid weight loss schemes these days, but health advocates agree that losing weight takes time and effort. Little wonder the TOPS organization has been successful since 1948. "It was founded, literally, around a kitchen table," explained Sharon Easley, team leader of the local TOPS branch. "It is the only non-profit, non-commercial weight loss support group that promotes successful management with reasonable weight loss philosophies. We promote healthy eating, regular exercise, and wellness information. TOPS has 150,000 members with 9,000 chapters across the country."



Shirley Fields was queen of the TOPS weight loss crowd in Arkansas last year.

TOPS is an acronym for Taking Off Pounds Sensibly. There is also K O P S : Keeping Off Pounds Sensibly, and o n c e m e m b e r s achieve that status, they are recognized at a yearly meeting.

Local resident Shirley Fields found herself Queen last year for losing the most weight. "I started years and years ago, as an on and off thing," said Fields. "My husband was in the military at the time, so we moved around a lot. After a time, I had to quit. My husband passed away, and — after staying single for a while — I married a man who convinced me to go back. Sharon had been begging me to return, and I didn't know if I wanted to. My husband agreed to do all the things I do and stick with me. I'm glad I went back. I returned the 11th of January, and by September last year, I'd lost 68 pounds. They contacted me by phone and told me I was the Arkansas State Queen!"

When asked how beneficial it was to have

someone accompanying her along her weight-loss journey, Fields emphatically stated: "It helps tremendously, especially when it's a spouse. It would be difficult to prepare a meal for me and one for him. We went from fried foods to baked foods, and it was much easier with someone encouraging me.

"We have the best club you could ask for. We have incredible support, and our leader goes out of her way to help everyone reach their goals."

Fields said the benefits of her weight loss are numerous. She'd been employed for 17 years in a job that eventually let several people go — Fields included. Her husband encouraged her to get a GED for better employment opportunities, which she did. Soon after, she went to work at her current job, but her tasks kept her on her feet all day, walking an estimated 8 miles a day. Losing 68 pounds in less than a year changed her life. "It's unbelievable. I don't have a bit of problem. My feet don't hurt; life is great. I never want to go back to the way I used to be."

TOPS steers clear of traditional dieting, focusing instead on healthy choices and portion control. The loss might take longer, but it's easier to keep it off with this method. The organization does not use paid celebrities as spokespeople, nor do they promise quick or unreasonable body change. It is in this fashion that most members are successful.

Fields is adamant that TOPS is for everyone. "It's never too hard. All you have to do is set your mind to it, and you can do anything. If I can get a GED and lose all this weight at 58 years of age, it's never too hard."

Local members meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday mornings in the Activity Room of the Paragould Community Center. Meetings begin with a private weigh in.

"I can't stress the word private enough," Easley said, "as no one is forced to do so in front of others." The meeting commences at 8:15 and lasts about an hour. Yearly dues are \$28; weekly costs are \$1. Go to www.tops.org for more information. ♦



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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Bobbie Barnett, representing the Mother of Civil War veterans, dressed the part at the Civil War Marker dedication ceremony near Paragould.

Happenings!



1



2



3



4

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Happenings!

1. JA of Paragould Attends Session

Junior Auxiliary of Paragould recently attended the area meeting of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries (NAJA) in Southaven, Mississippi. Hundreds of women heard from Mississippi State Senator Sally Doty on the topic of Teen Pregnancy Prevention. The 2013 area meeting focused on getting members ready to rise to the challenges facing communities and chapters. Pictured left to right are Jessica Williams, Andrea Spence, Tina Bruce, Mimi Jumper and Amber Farmer. For more information on Junior Auxiliary of Paragould, visit www.japaragould.com. For more information on NAJA, visit www.najanet.org. The NAJA slogan is "Care Today – Character Tomorrow" and when teamed with the current focus of the Association, Junior Auxiliary Chapters are working more than ever before to increase awareness of child health and welfare and how it affects their futures.

2. Church Group Celebrates 130 years

First United Methodist Church in Paragould turned 130 years old on August 18. A number of activities were staged in celebration of the event, including a combined service, brunch, and the signing of a poster by members indicating their names and the year they joined

FUMC. Pictured signing are Matilene Kirk along with Donna and Charles Brazil.

3. K Day Sets Record

Each year during the Greene County Fair, members of the Paragould Kiwanis Club invade the studio of KDRS-AM and stage K Day, reading advertisements sold to local and area businesses as a fundraising effort. This year, Kiwanians set an all-time record, bringing in more than \$5,000 through the selling of commercials. Funds are used for Kiwanis Club community projects.

4. AMMC Foundation Golf Tournament

The Foundation, the fundraising arm of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, raised \$43,000 at its 19th Annual Golf Tournament held at the Paragould Country Club. The Foundation supports the growing healthcare needs of the people of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Forty-nine teams participated in the morning and afternoon flights and teed off for a great cause. Pictured left to right are Barry Davis, AMMC President/CEO; Melanie Stacy, RehabCare Area Operations Director; Don Wilcox, AMMC RehabCare Director and Terry Austin, AMMC Foundation Director. ♦

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Paragould baseball team earns national title

Lots of area sports teams enter the season hoping to make it as far as the state tournament and, if things work out favorably, maybe to win it.

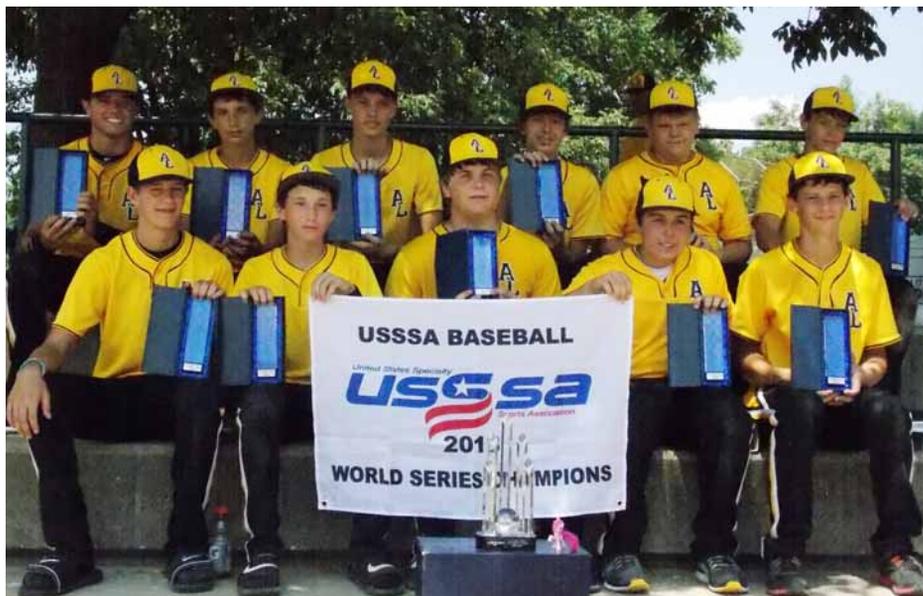
A Paragould-based baseball team took its adventures much further, winning the AA USSSA World Series -- the national championship -- for its age division during the summer.

The Arkansas Legends 14-year-old team ran the table at its championship tournament in St. Louis July 11-14.

Head coach Mark Mullins credited a talented roster of players as being the main reason for his team's success, but also said, "The parents were great and very supportive and I also had the two best coaches (Kevin McFadden and Brandon McNeil) that I could have ever asked for to help me with these boys."

The Legends went a perfect 6-0 on their way to the championship trophy, opening with an 8-3 win over the Missouri's second-ranked Springfield Midwest Nationals.

A 7-1 win over the Missouri Mad Dogs in the second game continued their successful run,



Members of the National Championship Arkansas Legends are, front from left, Chase Baker, Preston Hart, Breydon Weitkamp, Briar Morrow and Andrew Cooper; back, Colby Boyd, Peyton Hart, Drew Mullins, Chase Hutson, Garrett McCord and Caiden McFadden.

then Caiden McFadden's no-hitter sparked a 12-0 romp over the St. Louis Pirates.

A late 8-run rally boosted the Legends to a 10-3 victory over the Columbia Phoenix and moved them into the tournament semifinals, where Preston Hart's three hits paced a 3-2 win and set up a championship game battle with the O'Fallon (Ill.) Bombers.

It took extra innings but the Legends pushed across the winning run in the 2-1 victory when McFadden singled, moved up on Colby Boyd's sacrifice bunt, and sprinted home on Andrew Cooper's game-winning two-out base hit.

Cooper had 2 hits and also picked up the victory in relief.

McFadden was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament while Cooper won the top defensive player award.

Mullins said every player made key contributions to the winning effort and that winning the title "was the biggest thrill I have ever had" in 20 years of coaching summer baseball.

Schools represented by players on the Legends roster include Greene County Tech, Paragould, Pocahontas and Walnut Ridge. ♦



Business Is Good

Local baseball, softball players now have training/practice facility

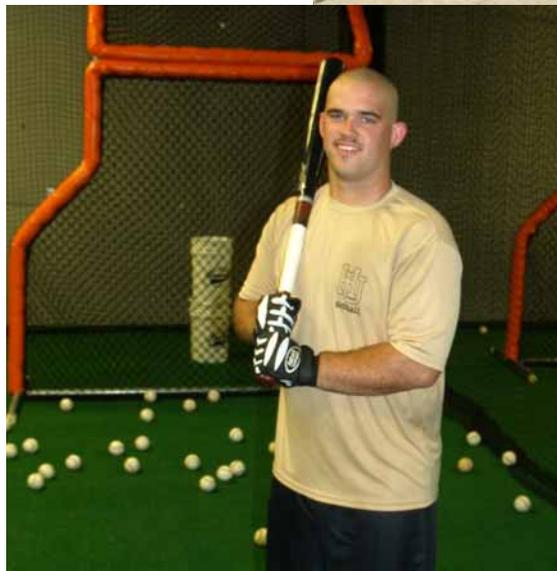
By Richard Brummett

Ross Adams' desire to have a place for night and weekend batting practice may have been the inspiration behind his father's decision to open up The Hack Shack but don't be fooled: Dad isn't beyond going out and taking a few swings of his own when work is slow.

"Yeah, I've slipped out there and hit a few off the tee," admitted Dane Adams, owner of the new baseball/softball training facility.

Ross, a freshman baseball player at Harding University, is like many other Paragould athletes in that he loves his sport and wants to spend as much time as possible sharpening his skills. Until now, finding a local spot to work on hitting and fielding was next to impossible.

"There is definitely a need for this in the area," Dane said. "I'm not taking anything away from Jonesboro, but so many kids from here and Walnut Ridge have had to drive to Jonesboro just to get some extra hitting practice because nothing was available to them in Paragould. This is here for



The outside of The Hack Shack is painted to resemble an outfield fence; inside, hitters like Ross Adams can take swings off the tee, off live pitching, or through the soft toss method.

kids to utilize ... I want it to be used."

Located at 103 Mountain Home Road, the Shack has four batting cages suitable for swings via soft toss, live pitching or batting tees. There are no machines. The area can be opened up for pitching or fielding drills as well, Adams said.

The Hack Shack is open seven days a week and teams, as well as individuals, are welcomed. There is, however, is a two-hour limit on workouts.

Purchasing one of facility's membership plans entitles hitters to several benefits, which can be explained by calling 870-586-HACK (4225). ♦

The advertisement features a black background with white and orange text. On the left, there is a logo for the Paragould Rotary Club, which includes a blue and white gear-like symbol with the words "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL" and "PARAGOULD ROTARY CLUB". Below the logo, the text reads "PRESENTS THE ROAST OF MAYOR MIKE GASKILL & JOE WESSEL". On the right, the text reads "ON NOV. 26 HOLD NOTHING BACK RED GOOSE BANQUET HALL 6 P.M. TICKETS: \$25/CORPORATE TABLE: \$250 LIMITED SEATING. RESERVE NOW." At the bottom right, there is a Facebook logo and the text "FOR MORE INFORMATION, LOG ON TO PARAGOULD ROTARY".

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PARAGOULD ROTARY CLUB
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ROAST OF
MAYOR MIKE GASKILL
& JOE WESSEL

ON NOV. 26
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LIMITED SEATING. RESERVE NOW.

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Tom and Theresa Kirk honored with James Bond themed birthday party



The 007 place setting, above, punctuates a meal catered by Kiss The Cook. At right, Dr. William Bulkley and his wife Lara play the bagpipes while at far right David Kirk points out his appearance in the 1995 James Bond film GoldenEye ... as the pilot of a fighter jet. Guests were asked to come in black tie and James Bond-like attire, while the evening featured gaming and entertainment worthy of the infamous cinema spy. The Kirks' children hosted the party.



In the top left photo are Aaron and Kristin Garner, Tom and Theresa Kirk, Matilene Kirk, and David and Michelle Kirk; at right, Tina Bazzell, Theresa Kirk, Debi Crysler, Kristin Garner and Lynn Knott.

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Giving new meaning to "Friends with Benefits"



Macie Copeland and Boyce Cate prepare their hogs for showing at the NEA District Fair.

Greene County representing 4-H very well

By Jennifer Thompson

Although most would immediately think of agriculture when they hear of the 4-H program, the organization encompasses much more. This year the Greene County 4-H program is having a stellar year, boasting of two members, Macie Copeland and Boyce Cate, who are currently serving as elected officers with the long-established program.

Both Greene County Tech students, Macie, 18, and Boyce, 17, have been involved in the 4-H program since they were approximately 5 years old and both teens praise the program for what it has given them.

Macie serves as an Officer At Large for the organization and Boyce serves as the program's Delta District Vice President. These aren't positions that are simply given to the students. According to both, any student who wishes to run for a 4-H office has a list of items to accomplish before even attempting to run. "You have to be involved in things like Teen Leaders, Foods and Nutrition and Public Speaking," Boyce said.

"It is like a ladder program," Macie added. "You have to go through certain steps to get to the top. You start out as a Teen Star. Then you go to an ambassador. Then you can run for office at the district and state levels."

"There are so many different things you can get involved with through this (4-H) program," Macie stated. "You can get involved in leadership programs, sewing, showing (animals), computers ... the program teaches you so much about responsibility and gives you valuable time management skills as well. These leadership skills we are learning are life skills that we can take with us out into the real world."

Macie isn't the first Copeland to go through the 4-H program. Both of her older sisters, Lauren and Tori, also participated during their high school years, marking the first time three members of the same family have been officers in the state of Arkansas.

When asked how all three daughters wound up in 4-H, their father, Ray, said, "My brother, Dr. Jerry Copeland, brought home a pig one day. The girls were interested in it, and we've been doing this since then." The eldest of the three sisters, Lauren, has received her college degree and has now gone on to work for the state Extension Office in Little Rock. Tori is currently attending college, with Macie being the next in line to move on to higher education.

Macie and Boyce were both preparing to show their pigs at the NEA District Fair in Jonesboro. Both did quite well at the Greene County Fair. Macie won first and second rankings, Reserve Senior Showman, Grand Champion Commercial Ewe and sixth in class in ewes. Boyce received first and second in class in hogs and third in Showmanship.

As for having two Greene County 4-H members elected as state officers, Boyce said, "It's virtually unheard of for there to be two officers for one county," a fact Lance Blythe of the Greene County Extension Office backed-up. "This is the first time in at least seven years we have had this happen, where two of our students are officers for the 4-H program."

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of the University of Arkansas' Division of Agriculture with offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas.

For more information on the 4-H program, call 870-236-6921. ♦

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Family reunion brings into focus things that are really important

We had a family reunion a few weeks back and the good news is I didn't have to crash it -- I was invited.

More than 50 members of the Brummett/Butler clan got together for an afternoon of catching up on each others' lives, something we all readily admit we could use some work on. Instead of just going to see each other we wait for scheduled events like reunions and funerals to try and cram as much of life as we can into a few hours.

When we were kids, Sunday afternoon get-togethers were the norm for those of us who lived here. One of the families with a big yard had all the aunts, uncles and cousins over and we entertained ourselves without the benefit of TVs and video games: We actually talked to each other. The men pitched washers, the boys played ball, the women caught up on the latest news of interest and I have no idea what the girls did, but I know they were there.

Several years ago my cousin, Stan, lamented that loss of family closeness by pointing out that

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



when we were young we looked forward to the weekend interaction with cousins; by the time we had children of our own, life's format had changed in such a way that weekends meant hopping into a vehicle to travel across the state - or the state line -- to watch our kids participate in their sports and activities of choice and as a result they don't even know some of their cousins' names.

Gone were the days of weeknight baseball and basketball games only, replaced by weekend tournaments that required travel and pushed family time deep into the background.

I can remember being a kid and being told that family was coming to visit, and if it involved any of the Butlers I wanted to be there, sitting in the

house and listening to their hilarious tales. This side of the family is notorious for its storytelling, a trait handed down from generation to generation. It's not something rehearsed and produced, but rather a spontaneous act prompted by listening to the story of another and then taking your own turn at knee-slapping humor. Some of the stories you've never heard, some you've heard a hundred times; sometimes you're laughing at the story, other times at the story teller.

It wasn't hard on this most recent occasion to close my eyes and picture my father right in the middle of the action, just as I could see uncles and aunts who -- like my dad -- have passed on and I was thinking that even if my mom made a mistake and brought the wrong baby home from the hospital, and I should have been raised by people who were rich and famous, I'm glad I was allowed to grow up in this family instead.

This trading of love and laughter and affectionate hugs and kisses is not something we do ... it's who we are, and I'm happy with that. ♦

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Mike Dickerson

Mike Dickerson joins MOR Media sales team

Mike Dickerson has joined the staff at MOR Media, adding a veteran presence to the advertising sales team.

Mike spent 10 years in the music retail business in Paragould and Jonesboro, then had an eight-year stint in ad sales with the Paragould Daily Press. After a short time out of the sales business with Sunrise Distributors, Mike said he was eager to return to the sales force and is "very much ready to get out and see people and get the wheels turning."

The relationships built between customer and salesperson are things he values, saying, "I like to develop those relationships with clients, and develop something I see that would help them. More than anything, it's building the client's trust, knowing that I'm not going to take their money and disappear. That takes a little time, but it's what I like."

His main focus will be on the Jonesboro market for both radio and magazine advertisements.

Mike and his wife Kelli -- a second grade teacher at Brookland -- have been married for 33 years and have two grown sons, Kyle and Kade, and a young granddaughter, Paisley.

Mike can be reached by calling MOR Media at 870-236-7627. ♦

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Cassie Morrison & Matthew Deramus
November 9

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Tina & Bob Watson

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Engagement Announcements



Photo by Natalie Gray

Matthew Deramus and Cassie Morrison

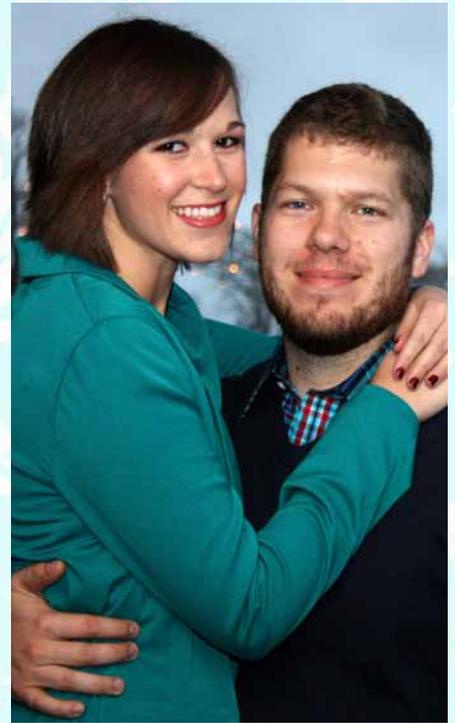
Morrison-Deramus

Cassie Morrison and Matthew Deramus have announced their plans to be married in November.

Cassie's parents are Steve and Cheryl Morrison of Paragould.

Matthew is the son of Tom and Mary Ann Zakrzewski of Little Rock.

The wedding is planned for November 9, 2013, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lafe. ♦



Natalie Sigsby and Joseph Rogers

Sigsby-Rogers

Natalie Sigsby and Joseph Rogers announce their plans to exchange wedding vows in November.

Natalie's parents are Steven and Lark Sigsby of Rector.

Joseph is the son of Terry and Vicki Rogers of Paragould.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, November 2, 2013, at the Rector First United Methodist Church. ♦

To have your wedding plans included
in **Premiere Magazine**,
email information to

editor@paragouldpremiere.com

no later than the 15th of the month.
Call 870-236-7627 for information.

LIFE *style*



1. Gold Tree Stem Necklace, \$11⁵⁰, 22 Lou Boutique
2. Judy Blue Brown Leather Jacket, \$42⁵⁰, 22 Lou Boutique
3. Available Black Leather Top, \$21, Tru Boutique
4. White Leather Chair, \$129⁹⁹, LIV Home & Holiday
5. OPI Nail Lacquer Assorted Colors, \$8⁵⁰, Mosaic Salon
6. Old Gringo Mayra Boots, \$510, Ima's Fashions
7. Citizens of Humanity Avedon Skinny Jeans, \$162, Ima's Fashions



October

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

AMMC HOSTS 16th ANNUAL WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR. held in the AMMC Professional Office Building Auditorium from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. This year's health fair will include: blood glucose, cholesterol screenings and blood pressure checks; weight and nutrition information and screenings; many other healthcare providers will have booths set up to showcase the latest information, products and trends in women's healthcare. Additional information is available at www.myammc.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

GCFAC PRESENTS "THE HOBBIT". at The Collins Theater in historic Downtown Paragould. Play is based on the book by J.R.R. Tolkien. Showtimes: Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm; Sunday at 2:00 pm. Tickets are available online at www.gcfac.org or at the door.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

AMMC HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS. held in the Auditorium of the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Each person who successfully donates blood at the August blood drive will receive three (3) \$5 coupons

to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria, or The Foundation Station. Held from 11:00 am - 5:30 pm.

64th ANNUAL ROTARY AUCTION.

held at the Greene County Tech High School October 10th and 11th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. The auction will be simulcast on KDRS radio (1490 AM), on City Cable Channel 26, as well as online at our auction website www.paragouldrotaryauction.com. Our website will have all of the items available for preview and you will be able to bid on the items directly on the site. Winning bidders will be able to pick up their items each night of the auction until 10:00 pm and on Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 am-11:00 am at Greene County Tech High School. If you would like more information about this topic, please e-mail Shay at shay.willis@arkansasmethodist.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS MEMORIAL "WALK TO REMEMBER" CHILDREN. held at Crowley's Ridge State Park Lake at 1:30 pm. Bereaved parents, siblings, relatives and friends are invited to attend. Following the Walk, there will be a Family Picnic. The main dish, chips and drinks will be provided but you are welcome to bring your favorite dish to share. For more information, call Toni Baker, Chapter Leader at (870) 476-6025 or email tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com

DOWNTOWN'S 3rd ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST.

from 10:00am - 5:00pm, think fall festival with a German theme. Artists and crafters are invited. We're building on last year's success...more entertainment, more food. We'll still have the Running of the Wieners and the Dog Parade and Biergarten. Joining

us Downtown is the Northeast Arkansas Volks-Folks and their 14th Annual All German Car Show. Kid admission is \$5.00 and includes pumpkin painting, a bouncy house, and more! There is no charge for adults.

AMMC HOSTS CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES.

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OPEN HOUSE. friends and family are invited to attend an Celebration of life Open House for Mattylee Wright of Marmaduke, who will be marking her 100th birthday. The event will beheld at the Marmaduke First Baptist Church from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

PARAGOULD HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR. held from 8:30 am - 10:30 am in the PHS Gym. For more information contact PHS Counselor Beverly Cook at 236-7744.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

MARK 1:15 MINISTRIES CITY WIDE REVIVAL. the multi denominational event will run October 21 through October 25 at 6:30 pm nightly, held in The Collins Theater. The theme for this years revival is "Resurrection of Faith". Featured ministers include Pastor Patrick Tucker, Brother Steve Hughes, and Pastor Jason Treadway with great gospel music each night For more information, contact Brother Lee or Sister Carol Stone at (870) 236-6131.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

AMMC HOST'S 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 AMMC. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. For more information, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467 or the Greene County Health Unit at (870) 236-7782.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

GHOSTS, LEGENDS, AND THE UNEXPLAINED AT CROWLEY'S RIDGE STATE PARK.

from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. There will be a Haunted Hayride (\$2 per person), crafts, and a Trail of Treats (bring a flashlight!) where the kids can pick up goodies. Costumes can be worn but are not necessary. For more information contact Crowley's Ridge State Park by phone at (870) 573-6751 or (870)573-6351, or by email at crowleysridge@arkansas.com.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

2nd ANNUAL DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD ZOMBIE WALK.

Join JACK FM & Main Street Paragould for a night of undead fun! Activities, vendors, and hordes of Zombies! Registration 5:00pm, Costume Contest 7:00 pm, Walk 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 kids 12 & under, and \$2.00 for humans. The costume contest is an additional \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 for kids 12 & under. Categories are Most Grotesque, Celebrity Zombie, Novelty, Best Group, and Best Kid Zombie. Complete details at neajackfm.com

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY.

with The Panches Family. The music starts at 7:00 pm at The Collins Theater, 120 West Emerson Street in Downtown Paragould.

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 Tuesday of every month: The Greene County Wildlife Club meets at the Paragould Community Center beginning at 6:00 pm.

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.

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

COMING UP IN -november-

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2

Downtown Christmas Open House.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22

GCFAC presents "The Odd Couple" a dinner theater at The Red Goose Deli.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25

KASU's Bluegrass Monday.

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no
other

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AGS



Name: Alexandria Elise Murray

Where you live: Brookland

Occupation: Student

Who taught you how to cook? I learned from my mom and by reading cookbooks.

When did you start cooking? When I was younger my mom would let me help bake cookies.

Who do you like to cook for most? Family and friends ♦

Summer Salad

Ingredients:

2 cups water	
2 purple onions	1 cup sugar
6 medium cucumbers	1/2 cup vinegar
4 tomatoes	2 teaspoons salt

Slice onions into thin rings, separate slices. Slice cucumbers to preferred thickness. Add cut tomatoes in small chunks. Mix remaining ingredients into bowl and refrigerate 2 hours before the big game. ♦

NEA COOKS -- TAILGATE STYLE



Simply Grilled Chicken

Ingredients:

4 pounds of chicken (about 8 pieces)

2 cups favorite BBQ sauce

Salt

Pepper

Prepare grill medium to high. Salt and pepper chicken to taste. Place on grill for 10 minutes on each side. Brush on sauce and cook an additional 20-30 minutes, turning once. (Be sure chicken cooks thoroughly.) Use remaining BBQ sauce for dipping. ♦

Banana Nut Bread

Ingredients:

2 cups Bisquick mix

2 overripe bananas

1 cup sugar

2 eggs

1 cup walnuts

8 oz package cream cheese (softened)

Mix dry ingredients together, add eggs. Slowly work in bananas and cream cheese. Pour mix into a loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour (or when toothpick comes out clean). Wrap in foil and enjoy. ♦



STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Feature



For November, Premiere will feature area businesses and individuals that have bought into the Pay It Forward theme, targeting their philanthropic endeavors.

Thanksgiving



We will again bring you interesting stories related to area folks and their views on the Thanksgiving holiday.

Events



Tractor Pull at the Greene County Fair

MOR Media representatives are liable to show up anywhere. Give us a call at 870-236-7627. ♦

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