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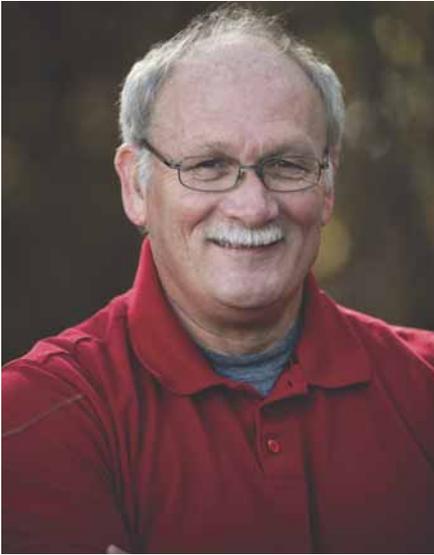
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Way To Go Mitch!

From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

My first real job -- something other than mowing lawns -- was at Gazaway Lumber Company.

I was 16 years old and my father set the job up for me, talking his good friend Boyd Gazaway into taking me on as a truck

loader/driver, floor sweeper and general performer of odd jobs and tasks as ordered by Mr. Gazaway and his son, Moud.

That was a long time ago and both Gazaway's and I have seen a number of changes over the years, but as of our publication date both of us were still plugging along.

Since those early days, Gazaway's has expanded into a full-service building supply dealer and home center, and is marking 50 years in business in the Paragould community. Moud recaps many of the changes and issues confronting those in the business world in our cover story found on page 26 of this month's issue.

Our focus this time is on locally owned family businesses and several from the area are featured. We thank them for their cooperation and hope we have brought their stories to the readers in a pleasing manner.

September is also National Piano Month and we have profiled one of our most dedicated and well-known piano instructors in Lillian White. Her story, brought to you by writer

Jennifer Thompson, can be found on page 14.

Paragould's new downtown mural is eye-catching, but the story of artist Cheryl Draper is every bit as interesting. Staff writer Caitlin LaFarlette presents a fun-filled feature with the entertaining Draper, starting on page 10.

There's plenty more to keep you interested, from Frank Lee -- who was part of a 1949 district basketball championship team -- to school news including a photo layout of Paragould's fantastic new Primary School.

We are confident you will find something worthy of your time.

In the August edition, Karole A. Risker, Director of Media/Communications at First United Methodist Church, and her sister Kelley Huffman collaborated on a nice story about the church's 130th birthday.

Their bylines were inadvertently dropped from the last line of the story, and I wanted to both credit them and thank them here for their contributions. ♦

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PARAGOULD PREMIERE is a publication of MOR Media, Incorporated. Editorial, advertising and general business information can be obtained by calling (870) 236-7627, faxing to (870) 239-4583 or e-mailing to dina@kdrs.com. Mailing address: 400 Tower Drive, Paragould, AR 72450.

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The Reddicks' 50-state journey took them to The Grand Canyon, above, the Napali Coast at Kauai, left, and Disney World, right.



Completing the “Bucket List:” Reddicks pay visit to all 50 states

Our travels began in 2004 when our son-in-law had a stem cell transplant in Seattle, Washington. We flew together for the first time to go visit with him and our daughter, and brought their infant daughter back home with us.

The following year, we took a road trip through the Black Hills and Badlands to see Mount Rushmore. Other road trips followed to the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas, Natchez, Mississippi, Niagara Falls and New England in autumn.

My husband Barry retired June 30, 2010, from Greene County Tech schools, having taught for 35 years. I retired at the end of my second term as City Clerk on December 31 of that same year. We flew to Honolulu in the spring of 2011 and went on an island-hopping cruise on *Pride of America* as a retirement gift to each other.

In July 2011, we took a road trip to Glacier National Park, Beartooth Scenic Highway, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and Mesa Verde National Park,



Barry and Judy Reddick recently completed their goal of visiting all 50 states.

putting more than 6,000 miles on our car.

We flew to Monterey, California, and rented a car, then drove Big Sur Highway, saw Hearst Castle, Sequoia National Park and Yosemite National Park. We drove into Oregon and saw Crater Lake National Park, and Multnomah Falls in Oregon.

In March 2012, Barry wanted to take me to

Disney World. He had been with a school group a couple of times, but I had never been.

In May-June 2012, we went with the Arkansas Retired Teachers Association on a cruise-land tour to Alaska. We stopped in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway, where we took a bus into the Yukon Territory in Canada. We saw Glacier Bay National Park, Denali National Park and the Alaskan pipeline in Fairbanks.

In November 2012 we flew to San Antonio and rented a car. We enjoyed seeing several missions, including the Alamo, and the River Walk and drove to Castroville, Little Alsace of Texas.

Barry and I are enjoying retirement very much. We spend a lot of time watching the grandkids' activities. When our four Tech baseball players went to Myrtle Beach on spring break, Barry and I went, too, and then on to the nation's capitol and Maryland and Delaware. Delaware, the nation's first state, was the Reddicks' last and completed our goal of seeing all 50 states. ♦

-- Judy Reddick



Operation Jumpstart's graduating class of 2013.

Program jump starts business hopefuls

By Gabriel A. Cook

Not long ago, governors of several states encouraged cities to work with their colleges to engage in entrepreneurship training in an attempt to curtail unemployment through the growth of local job opportunities. Initially developed by Southeast Missouri State University (with assistance from the Kaufman Foundation), Operation Jumpstart has been implemented in over 20 counties in Tennessee and Missouri, and is now a joint program between Black River Technical College and the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The goal of Operation Jumpstart is to give rise to microenterprises through a series of steps, including: A six-week, thirty-six hour evening course taught by an entrepreneur with educational experience; a series of guest speakers, including lawyers, bankers, and other business leaders; multiple coaches to mentor individual program participants; five plan feasibility judges; sponsors to donate seed for seed grants and program startup; and entrepreneurs to offer office space to help get each microenterprise on its feet.

The NEA Operation Jumpstart objective is to identify prospective entrepreneurs in the hopes of training and educating them with the coaching and support necessary to jumpstart their enterprise. Participants showing the most promise through advanced business plans will be further supported. Last year's donations from Paragould businesses totaled over \$7,000, which helped keep tuition low for each participant. Out of 12 hopefuls, five businesses came to fruition through the program.

The 2013 NEA Operation Jumpstart semester will run from September 24 through November 7. Classes will include communication of the business concept, gathering information for feasibility, products and services, market analysis (industry/competition and market segments/strategies), price and profitability, and how to create a feasibility plan. A graduation dinner will take place on November 12, and seed grant awards will be dispersed on December 17. It is the program's goal to raise \$9,000 to offset travel costs for participants, marketing, instructors, and seed grant money. Any amount raised beyond the goal will be put toward the 2014 semester.

Besides applicants, the program is in need of sponsors. Those interested in either opportunity can contact Audra Howerton through Black River Technical College at 870-239-0969. ♦

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Paragould's new Downtown mural can be seen on the south side of the Iron Mountain building, above left, located at the northeast corner of Main and Pruet streets. The Iron Mountain building is home to Mosaic Salon and Something Sweet. Artist Cheryl Draper provided photographs of the various stages of her work.

Downtown mural artist Cheryl Draper: "You can make anything out of anything"

By Caitlin Lafarlette

There are constant speckles of paint around Cheryl Draper's fingernails and the artist would rather wear a pair of overalls than a sundress. She is easy going around people, which is evident when she feels more comfortable sitting in the grass for a talk instead of on a bench.



Cheryl Draper is rarely found without a smile on her face and a story to be shared.

"I'm anything but perfect," she said, adding that she carries that mantra over into her work.

Draper has been painting for as long as she

can remember, joking that she was an artist while still inside her mother's womb. Draper believes people are born with their talents. Her gift of painting began as a hobby and was eventually cultivated into her career.

The Forrest City native originally had plans to go to nursing school, but with the birth of her youngest daughter she realized she didn't want to attend school with a baby at home. After working ten years in her father's doctor's clinic, Draper began selling prints of botanicals. From there her life as an artist took off.

Since turning her passion into a career, Draper has worked on several projects, including the children's mural at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, the Red Goose Deli mural, and the Hill Top Spirits logo in the entryway of the store. Draper explained that "there's really no limit" when it comes to painting. If it can be painted, she has attempted it. She has worked on canvas, furniture, and even clothes. "You can make anything out of anything," she smiled.

Draper absorbs herself in her work and is truly passionate about it. She doesn't mind getting dirty, and mentioned that people tend to give her strange looks if she is ever dressed up nicely. "If I had to dress up and look decent every day, I would die," she laughed.

As much as she enjoys painting, Draper explained it can be not only physically demanding, but mentally. When she is working on a mural, she noted that up close things might look okay, but after stepping back and taking it all in she finds something to fix. When that happens, she knows it comes to a point where she needs to accept her work and move on. "There's no such thing as perfect," she offered. Draper reminds herself of that often, but also admitted she loves detail.

Draper's most recent project is the mural in Downtown Paragould at the corner of Main and South Pruet streets. She works early in the morning, and walkers and bikers come by every day to check on her. "I have some new friends," she said. In fact, it is the interaction

with people that Draper enjoys more than anything with painting. Whenever she works in a client's home, she feels like she becomes a part of that family, which helps her get on their level.

"I've worn Cinderella shoes and I've been barefoot," she said. "It helps me understand people more."

The artist explained that the one good thing about murals is they get a person out and about, and that artists can be like caged birds if they don't get their freedom. She loves the diversity of where painting takes her.

Draper has been married to her husband Jimmy for 37 years, and they are parents to three daughters: Dixie, Giny, and Morgan Ashley. ♦

US Renal Care to host 5k run/walk

US Renal Care will hold a 5k run/walk on Saturday, October 5, 2013, in Paragould.

US Renal Care's Caring for Kidneys 5k Run/Walk is a community fundraiser that calls attention to the prevention of kidney disease and the need for organ donation.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the National Kidney Foundation. Awards will be given to the overall top three male and female runners and walkers as well as for the top three male and female runners in each age group/division. Those who register by September 25 will be guaranteed a T-shirt.

The race will start at US Renal Care's dialysis clinic in Paragould, located at 901 West Kingshighway, across the street from Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Race day registration will be \$25 and will be from 6:45-7:45 a.m.; the race will start at 8:00.

Runners/walkers may visit the website at www.racesonline.com and select running/walking in the drop down menu, 72450 for the zip and then change the month in the calendar to search from 10/01/2013-10/31/2013 and it will pull up races during that month in Paragould. Click on the USRC race for the option to register online. ♦



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Giving new meaning to "Friends with Benefits"

September designated National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

There is no better time than September, during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, for men to talk with their health care providers about this disease so they can make informed decisions about maintaining their prostate health. Although prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men, when detected early it also boasts some of the highest survival rates.

This year approximately 217,730 men will learn they have prostate cancer and more than 32,050 men will die from the disease. African-American men are disproportionately affected by prostate cancer, having higher rates of prostate cancer diagnosis and death than men of all other racial or ethnic groups in the United States. Almost one third of prostate cancer cases are found in men during their prime years at work.

Today, 1 man in 6 will get prostate cancer during his lifetime, but only 1 man in 34 will die of this disease. More than 2 million men

in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today. When detected during these earliest stages the 5-year survival rate is close to 100%.

In an effort to educate and inform the public, the American Cancer Society recognizes September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The key is getting men to know the facts on prostate cancer and to know what their real risks are. Learning about your personal prostate cancer risk helps you make informed decisions.

The American Cancer Society recommends that men have the opportunity to make an informed decision with their health care provider about screening for prostate cancer after receiving information about the uncertainties, risks, and potential benefits associated with screening. Men at average risk should start talking to their doctors beginning at age 50. Men at higher risk, should talk to their doctor about prostate testing earlier, including African Americans, at age 45, and men who've had a first-degree

relative diagnosed with prostate cancer, at age 40. For both men at average risk and higher risk, information should be provided about what is known and what is uncertain about the benefits and limitations of early detection tests and treatments so they can make informed decisions about testing.

The American Cancer Society offers a wide variety of free programs and support services to help men facing prostate cancer get involved and find the answers they're looking for. The organization offers a 24-hour toll-free cancer information hotline at 1-800-227-2345 that provides information and a support network 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hotline will also give you information on Man to Man, a local support group dedicated to connecting those facing prostate cancer with survivors who've "been there."

If you or someone you know have questions on prostate cancer, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit on-line at www.cancer.org. ♦



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September ... National Piano Month

Longtime instructor Lillian White sings praises of learning to play piano

By Jennifer Thompson

September is National Piano Month. The purpose of the designated holiday is to acquaint those unfamiliar with, and to celebrate, the instrument and the music it helps create. One Paragould resident, Lillian White, has been teaching locals the joys of the piano for 34 years, though she has enjoyed playing the piano since she was about 5 years old.

White said, "All four of us (kids) took piano lessons. My older sister, Leola, was the one who really got me started ... it just stuck with me. I love to make a piece of music sound like fun and come alive. I taught at the Baldwin magnet school for music for four years and I think that was one of the most fantastic piano programs I have been involved with, though they aren't doing piano currently; they did for quite some time. I have tried to do other things (other than teaching piano), but I always come back to this.

"Playing the piano is good for your nerves ... it's very calming," White stated. "Playing, or listening to piano music, focuses your mind on something more calming. Studies show that students who play piano (statistically) do better at their studies and tend to be on the honor rolls at their schools."

White said she does not limit herself to taking on only children as piano students. "Anyone can take lessons," she added. "I have had students of all ages."

An article published by Forbes.com in 2004 states, "After nine months of weekly training in piano or voice, new research shows young students' IQs rose nearly three points more than their untrained peers ... It exercises parts of the brain useful in mathematics, spatial intelligence and other intellectual pursuits."

White said, "People have different abilities, but generally, I would say



Lillian White has seen countless students succeed in her 34 years of teaching piano.

anyone can learn to play something on piano, though, there must be some level of commitment to doing so. You really have to be patient with yourself when learning to play. I require my students to practice 20 minutes each day. I ask my students to strive for quality practices, rather than quantity practices, mostly because it is an individual thing. Some students will come out of their lessons loving it (piano) as much I do, but I know not everyone will. I still want them to get as much as they can from their lessons while they are here."

White noted that, while not much has changed over the course of her 34-year piano career, she does now

have the opportunity to teach her students with the help of music theory workbooks which were not as readily available when she began teaching.

In addition to teaching piano, White tries to challenge herself and hone her own skills by playing two recitals each year in conjunction with her fellow piano teacher, and daughter, Harmony Fortson. "We play two piano recitals each year together in Jonesboro and I will also play at weddings. I also often find myself at some of the local nursing homes playing because the people out there seem to really enjoy when I come play for them," White added.

White currently has a few available slots open for new students if anyone is interested in taking lessons. She can be reached by calling 870-236-2714. ♦

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September ... National Piano Month

Piano has proven to be one of our most versatile instruments

By Gabriel A. Cook

Of all the instruments in orchestral creation, the piano is perhaps the most versatile. While it lacks the portability of the guitar, it claims the widest range of notes. With proper training, the pianist can achieve sounds and harmonies unlike any other instrumentalist. The piano's original name, *pianoforte*, is Italian for soft-loud, which indicates its tonal reach and variation.

A distant cousin to the harps and dulcimers of the Middle Ages, the piano went through various designs to become the instrument we know today. Along the way, it was known as a clavichord — which produced sounds through the use of blades and brass strings — and the harpsichord, which plucked its strings in the same manner as a guitar.

It is believed that Bartolomeo Cristofori, an Italian instrument maker, developed the first piano around 1700. Since then, pianos have gone through a number of variations, including the Upright and, of course, the Grand, whose strings are so taut a bar must bear the tension lest the entire instrument collapse on itself.

Early composers — Bach being the most

stringent — thought not much of the new contraption, but advances in mechanics and volume control eventually endeared the likes of Mozart and Beethoven to its virtues. Making use of the piano's powerful low end and twinkling high end, composers sought to create new, evocative pieces that remain well-known today.

What could have been an instrument suited mainly to classical music persevered through the ages, bringing with it technical innovations, such as twelve-tone composition, which means all notes (keys) are equal — a radical notion to Western ears accustomed to "pretty" sounds with pleasant resolves (much like the "Amen" chord that ends most church hymns).

In the 1920s, the piano proved versatile in popular music, leading to the Blues, Boogie-Woogie, and Vaudeville two-steps. Not long after, ballads took advantage of the piano's ability to strike and sustain long, sonorous chords. The "torch song" became the calling card of such performers as Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra.

Because the instrumentalist must learn not only all 88 keys but how they interact, the player typically spends years in study. Those

lucky enough to possess innate talent from birth still must learn piano theory, and those who start from scratch typically practice an hour or more a day for years to achieve basic ability.

The appropriate age to begin lessons depends upon the individual; a five-year-old's attention span may inhibit his or her learning curve, but that is a generalization; lessons have started as young as four and as old as ninety-two.

It is the desire to learn and create music, that most enigmatic of art, that leads to success, whether it's going on to perform professionally or just playing for fun. Those dozens of black-and-white keys can look daunting the first time one sits before them, but — with time and practice — they can provide the player a lifetime of joy.

If one is interested in learning piano — whether taking it up after a long absence or starting fresh — churches, schools, and the Yellow Pages provide opportunities to find numerous local teachers. The hours and years spent learning the piano are worth it, as listening to music may be heavenly, but making it is divine. ♦

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Our Wedding Story: Blake Nunn and Shayna Scott

Shayna Scott and Blake Nunn met when they were just teenagers and seemed to hit it off right away.

"It was the summer going into my junior year in high school," she recalled. "He had just graduated and we met through mutual friends. He went to Paragould, I went to Tech."

Their love and friendship blossomed from there, and one day years later Blake caught her off guard.

"He proposed on the sixth anniversary of being boyfriend and girlfriend," she said. "I was shocked."

On August 3 of this year family and friends gathered at The Red Goose Banquet Hall to

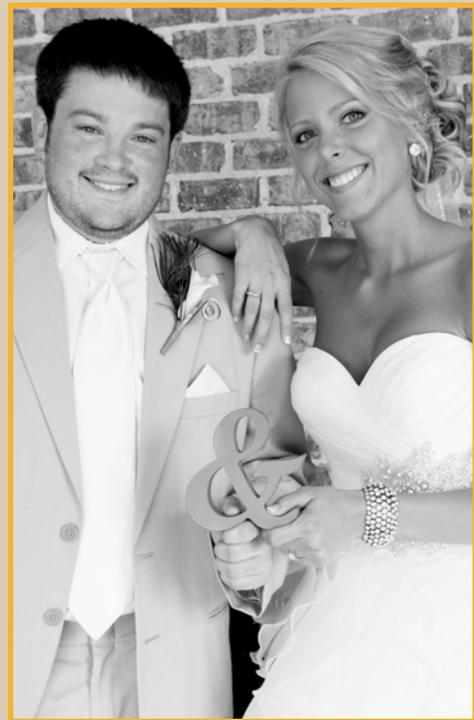
see the two united in marriage.

"We had a tropical theme," she said, "with about 200 people there. The Razorback stuff is because he is a gigantic Hogs fan."

The newlyweds headed off for Orlando, Florida, and the theme parks, Sea World, Universal Studios, Island of Adventure and then "we swam with the dolphins at Discovery Cove. After that, we returned home and went back to work."

Shayna is employed by St. Bernards Heart and Vascular in Jonesboro as an LPN and is in RN School at Arkansas State University.

Blake manages Holiday Liquor Store in Paragould and helps father with his new business, Swirlz. ♦



Paragould District Debuts New Primary Building

Parents of students in grades
Pre-K through First Grade
were treated to a brand new
campus and building with
plenty of modern,
energy-saving
features

Pictured below are: One of the spacious
classrooms featuring ample cabinet space;
the library/media room; one of the teachers'
workrooms; and the new playground equip-
ment, located in a fenced-in area at the rear
of the building.





The large gymnasium, above, doubles not only as a perfect facility for physical education classes but also as a place for school assemblies and meetings with parents. Below is a look at the dining area, located adjacent to the gym, while at right is an example of the color-coded hallways that make finding classrooms easier for students and parents.



Business Milestones

Dr. Vincent Lee is newest addition to staff at Paragould Doctor's Clinic

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Children who grow up in a family business spend their younger years helping out and often continue with that job as a career. Dr. Vincent Lee took a different route from his parents' restaurant when he realized the service industry wasn't for him.

Dr. Lee, who recently joined the staff at Paragould Doctor's Clinic, graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and completed his residency at UAMS Northeast in Jonesboro after years of striving for good grades. As a young child working at his parents' restaurant in Forrest City, he didn't take school too seriously. "I was a really wild kid," he said, "very active."

At a certain point Dr. Lee realized he didn't want to cook and remain in the service industry. He sat down with his parents early on and told them he wasn't planning on joining the family business. Andy and Viola Lee explained to their son he needed to focus more on school. Dr. Lee explained how he started working harder to bring up his grades, and soon his dad recommended being a doctor.

Dr. Lee completed his undergraduate work at Hendrix College, and shadowed different doctors while at UAMS. "I found out I could definitely do this," he said, recalling his time of residency. During his clinical times, Dr. Lee began focusing more on exactly what he wanted to do. While rotating with specialists he realized that everything was repetitive.



Dr. Lee joined the staff at the Paragould Doctor's Clinic on July 22.

It was when he started rotating with primary care physicians that he found his niche in the medical world. Dr. Lee enjoyed working with not only adults, but children as well, and decided that family medicine was the best plan for him. It was exciting and different because "you never really knew what was going to walk through the door," he explained.

The next step for Dr. Lee was to tour different programs in the state to choose where he would practice. "I'm an Arkansas boy," he said. "I knew I wanted to stay close to family." He ended up in Paragould after Michael

Givens, administrator of St. Bernards, suggested the clinic. Dr. Lee wanted to get a feel for the community before making a final decision. He had the chance to moonlight at the clinic, which is working in addition to doing a residency. "I ended up really liking the area and the folks I met here," he said.

For Dr. Lee, the most challenging part of his career path was looking at a checklist of everything he needed to go through in order to become a doctor. "It's a lot of late nights and a lot of sweat," he said, concerning the choices of undergraduate and medical school, place of residency, and countless tests and applications. As for the rewarding aspect, "This is pretty much my dream," he smiled. "Family medicine is being able to be a very close part of families, and thus the community, and growing with them."

Pathology or radiology would have been different career choices if Dr. Lee wasn't as concerned about working closely with patients. Yet it is the interaction with people and getting to know them that makes his decision in family medicine a perfect one. Dr. Lee is focused on making a connection with his patients and figuring out how to best help them.

In addition to working at the clinic, Dr. Lee also serves the Rector community three days a week at the Rector Medical Clinic. Outside of work, his interests and hobbies focus on his family. "After a hard day's work, what makes you feel better is spending time with family and friends," he said. ♦

Stacy Hindman named director of nutrition services at St. Bernards

Jonesboro native Stacy Hindman has been named director of nutrition services at St. Bernards Medical Center.

She is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the medical center's nutrition department, overseeing patient meal service, cafeteria service, coffee shop service and food service

at St. Bernards Behavioral Health and the St. Bernards Flo & Phil Jones Hospice House, as well as catering. The department has approximately 75 employees and delivers an average of almost 900 meals and snacks to patients at the medical center every day.



Stacy Hindman

Hindman studied at Arkansas State University after graduating from Valley View High School and then earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Memphis in the fields of dietetics and clinical nutrition.

She holds membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and that organization's subgroup, Dietitians in Nutrition Support. She also is a member of Northeast Arkansas District Dietetic Association and has served in various leadership roles in that professional group. ♦

Business Milestones



The administration at the Paragould American Railcar Industries facility had a huge tent set up on the grounds and provided a free meal for employees in celebration of their outstanding achievement regarding lost time due to injury.



Paragould American Railcar workers recognized for efforts

American Railcar Industries, Inc., reported that its Paragould manufacturing facility recently achieved more than one million hours worked without a lost time injury.

“In heavy industry, this is a very significant achievement,” an ARI press release said. “On Thursday, August 15, the company celebrated this important milestone with a luncheon for the hard-working, dedicated, and loyal employees at the Paragould facilities.”

ARI is a leader in covered hopper and tank railcar manufacturing. ♦

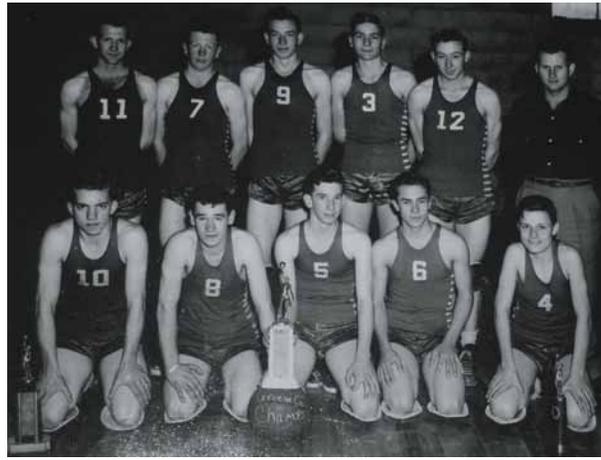
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Members of Delaplaine High School's 1949 County Championship basketball team were, front from left, O'Neal Kellim, Buck Austin, Everett Kellelt, W.L. Hoffscot and Frank Lee; and back, J.C. Haynes, Rupert White, C.W. Carter, Tommy Rice, Lamon Huckabee and coach Ernest Porter. Lee, at left and right, displays his baseball glove and DHS letter jacket, items he has saved over the decades.



Lee recalls days as member of Delaplaine's County Championship team

By Richard Brummett

Like most former athletes, Frank Lee holds on to memories and memorabilia that tie him to a time long since past.

Lee, nearing 82 and now living at Paragould's Chateau On The Ridge, recently shared some links to his days as a high school ballplayer at Delaplaine, recounting the time when the Indians ruled the court as champions of the 1949 Greene County Basketball Tournament.

"Our record that year was 30-9," Lee recalled. "The tournament was at Oak Grove and we beat them, and Beech Grove beat Marmaduke, then we won handily over Beech Grove 38-24. We beat Lafe 38-33 for the championship."

Lee still has the school letter jacket he was awarded after that season, a campaign that didn't wind up as well as he and his teammates hoped.

"We lost the first game in the district tournament," he said, "to Dyess ... Dyess Colony, I think they called it in those days. It's where Johnny Cash is from."

He emphatically denies being a good player, although he had 16 points in the County Tournament opening win vs. Oak Grove. "No," he flatly says, shaking his head from side to side when asked if he was a pretty good roundballer. "I just played because I enjoyed it. I guess you could say I was consistent, but I wasn't good."

He said the Indians' coach, Ernest Porter, favored the fast-break style of play and that suited him well since he was only 5-7. "Our tallest player was about 6-2," he recalled, "but we had several about my size. We would get up and down the court pretty fast."

The two-sport athlete followed up his Delaplaine days by taking his talents to Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge,

where he played both baseball and basketball.

Fate soon led him into the military and as an Army Corporal in the Intelligence Division during the Korean War his performance earned him a Bronze Star.

In 2006 he was inducted into Greene County Tech High School's Veterans Hall of Fame, something of which he is extremely proud. His military medals decorate his wall, just as his old sports items decorate his memories fondly.

He still has his weathered baseball glove, which he puts on, pounding the pocket emphatically, and he smiles when showing off the two-year letter jacket and the DHS team picture.

"Oh, those were good times," he said. "I just keep these

"We went wherever the work took us," Frank said, "but this was always home."

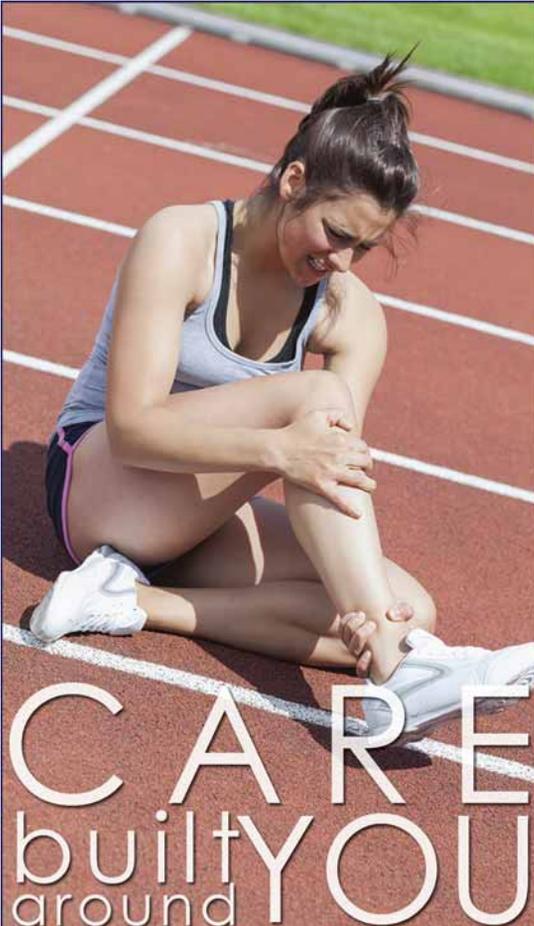
around for the memories."

After his time in the Army Lee eventually wound up working for Sears in management, moving from place to place, state to state, before returning to Greene County 16 years ago.

"Kentucky, Baton Rouge, Memphis," Lee recalled. "I was a store and sales manager for 20 years."

His son, Phil, remembers living in Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Illinois and seeing the old letter jacket in the closet in just about all of those places.

"We went wherever the work took us," Frank said, "but this was always home." ♦



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Rummage At The Rails

Buyers, sellers and just plain old shoppers converged on Downtown Paragould in August for Main Street Paragould's initial Rummage At The Rails sale.

The Main Street folks handled advertising and promotion and assigned spots to participants, while also accepting donations from those who didn't want to bother with a sale of their own. ♦



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First-ever rummage sale a way for Downtown to “reinvent” itself

There is so much history preserved along downtown streets. However, Paragould provides a unique mixture of nostalgia and modern day extra curricular. It's a combination Main Street Paragould Director Gina Jarrett says didn't happen overnight.

"We have retail, office professionals, and exceptional dining services. Our businesses provide personal and quality customer service. That's what downtown is all about" she said. "What downtowns have to do is reinvent themselves, and we're constantly doing that."

"I grew up here. I lived near downtown. It's where we shopped, went to the movies, bought our greeting cards. I know it's our downtown, but it's my downtown. There are so many memories here," she said.

Evolving is difficult to do on a small budget. Like most small towns, Main Street Paragould depends on fundraisers often orchestrated by local professionals and volunteers.

"I think people forget we are a non-profit organization. We do not sell product. We sell vision," Jarrett said.

These visions often come to life in the storefronts that line the streets and the kind people who occupy or befriend them. These relationships often build profits through events like last month's first annual rummage sale.

"I stole the idea! Main Street Russellville has had this event for some time. It's a great idea. There's no expense involved except for promotion and advertising. All the items for sale are donated, and it's very profitable," Jarrett said.

Profits will fuel what seems to be ignited growth on Main Street, as there is no absence of community interest.

"We've got lots of new business open or opening soon. We've got the complete refurbishing of 310 South. Skinny J's will be opening soon. (It is now open.) They plan to bring a nightlife vibe to downtown. We've got a lot of options for sit down, full service dining



to add to our already growing offerings," she explained. "The antique, boutique and unique are what works best and we've got it!"

In addition to the above mentioned, the new Bridget's Restaurant and Sports Bar, located in the Downtown area, offers unique Belizean and American cuisine, and the recently-

opened Mosaic Salon has already begun expanding its business.

For a hometown girl like Jarrett, this project is professional but personal. "I grew up here. I lived near downtown. It's where we shopped, went to the movies, bought our greeting cards. I know it's our downtown, but it's my downtown. There are so many memories here," she said.

She admits moving back here and taking on the job was at first a challenge, as she once described her initial visit back downtown as "scary."

Downtown Paragould is proof that vision can take shape in the dreams of a common business owner. Hope is alive on once deserted streets, and that is an accomplishment that will preserve the past while creating a future.

"We are vibrant and growing, our properties are selling and have affordable rent. We want to continue the growth. We only have one chance to make that first impression," Jarrett said. ♦

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Moud Gazaway oversees a family owned business that is marking its 50th year in 2013.

Lots of stories in 50 years at Gazaway's

By Richard Brummett

Having been a vital part of a family business that has spanned five decades, Moud Gazaway has plenty of stories to tell.

"When we first started, there was an old lumber shed at one end and lines of lumber storage bins where you slid the lumber into bays," he recalled. "In the winter, when work was slow, carpenters and painters and who knows who would congregate in the building and some of the awfulest stories and antics came out of there. It was pretty funny."

There's nothing funny, however, about the secret to the Gazaway company's success. It started as a lumber yard under the guidance of Moud's father, Boyd, and expanded years later into a full-service home center known as Gazaway ACE thanks to a lot of hard work.

Moud entered the fray in 1963 when he was

23, having come home from California. "I went out there to get rich," he said of his days with Pacific Gas and Electric. "I barely had enough money to get back home. Dad said if I'd come back to Paragould he'd help me get started building some houses; I built spec houses."

"I bought Dad out in '67," Moud said. "Dad didn't want a retail lumber business and inventory; he was interested in building houses. That changed immediately and, really, we just worked real hard. We didn't know we couldn't make it."

He said the original operation was smaller and more difficult than today, mostly because it was just getting off the ground. "We started with lumber, paint, building necessities," he said. "We were very small. All of our millwork came from Memphis Central Woodwork, ordered per job. We found ways to 'bundle this, bundle that.' We didn't even

own a forklift."

There was even a time when the Gazaway crew rented a forklift from another lumber yard, Rhodes.

"Twenty dollars," Gazaway said. "We'd rent their forklift for \$20 and their guy would drive it across town, we'd unload our truck, and he'd drive it back across town."

As competitors began to go out of business, places like Hickson Lumber, East Arkansas Lumber and, eventually, Rhodes Lumber, Gazaway's began to grow and gain faithful customers.

They teamed up with ACE "about the first part of the '80s," Moud said. "We'd been doing business with other hardware companies, like Bluegrass out of Kentucky, but the delivery was not the greatest for us. We had to find a company set up to handle what we needed, and that was ACE."

"More importantly," he said, "was joining with ABS in Monroe, La. We bought a share of their co-op with over 200 other lumber yards, all buying commodity lumber products. They buy containers or car loads, break it open, and send us our part. It's quantity purchasing and it helps us pass along savings. In the beginning, we thought a box car load was the largest you could purchase; ABS bought a block, or 14 boxcars, at a time. That made a big difference for us."

Gazaway's now has a second store on the outskirts of Jonesboro, and Moud said it has been fun to see the overall growth of the business.

"When you look back, you remember a lot of changes from those early days," he said. "Doris Wells was our first secretary. She was the lady who broke up the 'boys club' and some of the antics. The salesmen and the customers and just the stories that go with them ... that's worth a lot right there."

Moud's son, Todd, spent some time in Washington, D.C., after graduating from college but -- much like his father -- eventually chose to come home.

"He said, 'If I moved back to Paragould, could I have a job?' I said he could go to work for me and he took over about five years ago," Moud said.

"Now, every morning when I'm not fishing, I come in and drink coffee and talk with Bobby (Wells) and Todd," Moud said. "Or if I'm not at the Chateau On The Ridge and helping deal with something out there or sitting on the board of Liberty Bank and dealing with that, I run by here. Mostly, I try to stay out of the way."

He said one of the most enjoyable things about staying in the business so long is the people he's met, both as customers and employees.

"A lot of young boys have worked for us on their summer break from high school or college and it's fun to get to know those kids," he said. "For instance, Bobby was at Tech and started part-time here, and Tommy Bowers did the same thing and never left. Todd has spent most of his work life here.

"You know, we like people. I think you have to before you can do any kind of retail business." ♦



On October 31, Bob Wells will leave his General Manager's post with Gazaway ACE.

Wells retiring after long career with company

By Richard Brummett

When the end of October rolls around, the end of an era will accompany it.

Bob Wells, General Manager of Gazaway ACE in Paragould, is retiring after more than 36 years with the company. Now 58, Wells said he "never dreamed in May of 1977 that 36-and-a-half years later I'd still be here. I was the bottom man on the totem pole ... but the totem pole was not very tall back then. I was the guy who made deliveries. We had no forklift, so we had to load by hand, then unload by hand. I started part-time in '72 between my junior and senior years in high school, then went full-time in '77 after I graduated college."

Wells said he came to owner Moud Gazaway at the time to tell him he was going to use him as a reference, but wound up joining forces with him to help "grow the business. I started as Assistant Manager, then was made General Manager about 10 years ago. Moud is the best boss anyone could have. We've never had a cross word. We've argued some points here and there, but that's what he wanted. He didn't want a 'yes man', and I've never been

one. He's been my best friend and boss all these years."

The changing face of business ("Tommy and I want catalogs ... people don't don't do catalogs anymore. They want you to look at their website.") is something he has endured rather than embraced, because "I like the people part of it more. But I think I'm here because it's where God wanted me. I've done much more than sell building materials. I've counseled people one on one, customers and employees. If you're a friend, you earn a person's trust, and I don't just mean in buying and selling ... in life."

Upon retiring, Wells said he has some definite plans and some not so definite ones.

"I'm going to duck hunt the first two months," he said, "then spend a month in Nicaragua with Voice of Hope Ministries ... going 'into the jungle' I call it. After that, I'll kind of sit back and examine things. I have some rental property and I'll tend to that. I'll try to help my sons with their business interests. And I'll be able to spend more time at the jail as chaplain and coordinate the ministry out there. I don't expect to have trouble finding something to do." ♦

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Tiffany and Josh Sharp, along with daughter Willow, welcome folks to Look What I Can Do Learning Center in Brookland.

Look What I Can Do Learning Center in Brookland is growing at rapid pace

By Richard Brummett

Numbers would indicate something is being done correctly at Look What I Can Do Learning Center in Brookland. In the first week of operation, there were eight children enrolled; just a few months later that number sits at 80 and continues to grow.

Owner Tiffany Sharp, who runs the center along with husband Josh, said the daycare/preschool offers services to children "from six weeks old to kindergarten. We have before and after school programs for kids up to the age of 12, and we have summer programs for those ages. Our certified teacher works with the young ones on preparation for kindergarten and helps after school with homework to get that ready before the parents arrive.

"All the girls here are so wonderful," Tiffany said of her staff of 15. "They are truly compassionate. They love these children and look out for their best interests."

Tiffany worked in daycare through high school and into college. Both she and Josh graduated from ASU as Physical Therapist Assistants and have worked in hospitals and nursing homes in the area. After daughter Willow was born, Tiffany opened her own child care center. In addition to helping run the business, Josh is working on his master's degree.

The children are exposed to learning in a "fun atmosphere" in hopes of preparing them for their school days, Tiffany said.

The center is located on Hwy. 49 in Brookland, is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and may be reached at 870-934-0322. ♦

Eubanks Oil is a perfect example of a family-owned business

By Gabriel A. Cook

Greene County is lucky to claim two fully-functional, self-service stations of its own — one in Paragould, one in Marmaduke — both owned by Eubanks Oil.

Owner Kevin Eubanks explained that his great-uncle, Jones Horne, bought the company in the mid-1930s. “My family moved back to Paragould in ‘69,” Kevin said. “My dad, Wendell, had been a branch manager for Foremost Dairy. My uncle asked him to purchase the business in July of 1971. He bought him out, naming it Eubanks Oil in the process. Then Dad retired in ‘98, at which time I started buying him out. Since then, my wife Laurie and I have been running it.”

In the past, when transport was limited, such stations serviced small, individual clients. With current demands, Eubanks lays claim to bigger accounts. “We have bob trucks that load up and haul out to the various stations,” Eubanks explained. “In the summertime we have several farm accounts, servicing farm wells and rice tanks or whatnot. We also offer non-ethanol for weed eaters and lawnmowers. We stay local, to meet community needs for a community that’s been good to us. We take care of it as best we can. Whether a person has a 300-gallon tank or a 10,000-gallon tank, we service anyone.”

When asked if he sees another family taking over the business, Kevin chuckled. “I figure once I retire, someone outside the family will buy me out. This is a pretty tough business to be in. It’s been good to my family for the past 75 years, but it’s drastically changed. It’s a different ballgame.”



Kevin, Laurie, and Wendell Eubanks pose with an original gas pump from the Eubanks Oil business.

Different, perhaps, but one the Eubanks family has successfully managed through three generations. For more information, call Eubanks Oil at 870-236-3487. ♦

From lawnmowers to tractors, staff at Forbs Tire says, “If it rolls, we service it”

By Gabriel A. Cook

Just across the state line, in Cardwell, Missouri next to Mr. T’s Riverside, sits Forbs Tire. Owner Kenny Forbs, talking on the phone against a background of hustle and bustle, detailed his company’s history.

“I started out six years ago running a service truck for farmers — changing tractor tires and things. As I got more and more clients, I opened up a store to have a home base to operate out of,” he said.

When asked what goes on at Forbs Tire, Kenny said, “If it rolls, we service it. We do everything from lawnmower tires to tractor tires. It doesn’t matter. We do it all.”

Though open year-round, Kenny said that summertime is his busiest season. “There are three of us working here, and summertime sees us



Forbs Tire Service is located just across the state line in Cardwell, Mo.

doing a lot of work for farmers,” he explained.

Store hours are 7:30-5:00 during the summer, and 8-5 during winter. To contact Forbs Tire, call 573-654-2298. ♦



Jenkins Lamp Company marks 51 years of service

By Richard Brummett

Jenkins Lamp and Shade Mfg., Inc., is a family business in every sense of the word.

Jean Cox remembers when her parents, Isaac and Gladys Jenkins, started making lamps out of parts in their garage in 1962. Today, she and husband Jack Cox, along with their son Jeremy, have expanded the business into a full-scale wholesale lighting company.

Originally owners of Jenkins' Variety Store on Pruet Street in downtown Paragould, Jean's parents settled into the lamp-making business with "very low overhead, and cheap labor ... I worked for them while I was in high school."

After Jean and Jack were married, he took over the sales end of the business, traveling parts of Arkansas and Southeast Missouri pulling a trailer. Now the owners rely more on catalog reps who carry multiple product lines, rather than trailer reps, to market their approximately 150 styles of regular table and floor lamps, and approximately seven different styles of product (table lamps, floor lamps, oil paintings) for the collegiate market.

"We have more product for people to choose from, but you have to have more," Jack said, "because people have more disposable income today than they did in the '60s and we're a 'throw away society.' Everything we have is portable ... table lamps, floor lamps ... but we are a wholesale business only. We sell primarily to furniture stores, gift stores."

Jenkins Lamp Company marked 50 years in business in 2012 and has seen constant changes in the lighting field. Jean said for one thing lamp buying is "now pretty instead of just functional, so you have to be willing to change" and while they use "any American



Jean and Jack Cox, seated, and son Jeremy head up a family business that has been around for more than 50 years.

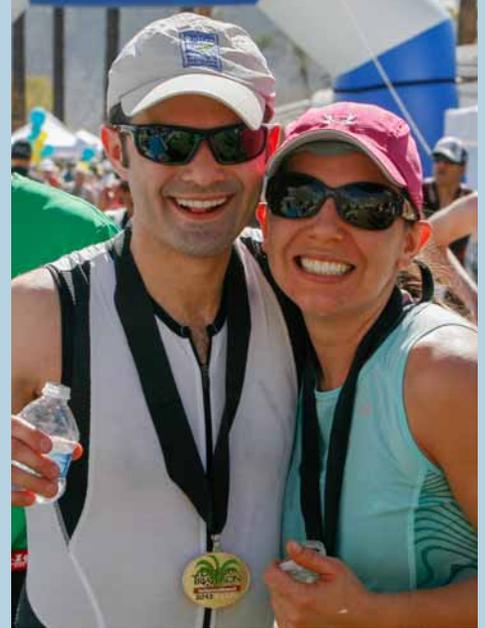
products we can," the fact of the matter is that after more than 30 years of making lamps with American made parts, few are manufactured here any more. "American parts dried up," Jack said. "It was either get out of the business or get into the import game."

Since suppliers took their manufacturing plants overseas, Jenkins has to import product, with the exception of approximately 40 American-made ceramics. "Our main jobs now," Jeremy explained, "consist of designing new product, keeping in touch with our suppliers over email and Skype for quality control, and then distributing it to gift shops, furniture stores and lighting galleries, shipping to them via FedEx Ground or shrink-wrapped on pallets."

Jeremy joined his parents in the business in 2005 and designed a line of Arkansas Razorbacks helmet lamps, a novelty at first, but something that now is desired by several schools and their boosters. About 30 percent of their business today is collegiate product, 70 percent traditional, he said.

Jenkins Lamp Company can be reached by calling 870-240-6266. ♦

NEW NEIGHBORS ... DR. STEFAN ALEXANDRONI AND CRISTINA



Dr. Stefan Alexandroni recently joined the Braces by Burriss team, and watching him in action it's easy to see he loves what he does.

Stefan and his wife, Christina, prayed that God would open up an opportunity for them to move to a smaller town.

"Cristina and I were looking for the opportunity to live and start a family in a non-urban community away from the hustle and bustle of the Los Angeles area," he said.

A mentor aware of what they were looking for introduced him to Dr. Ben Burriss, who offered the opportunity to work in Paragould. "We both feel a lot of peace about our decision and have been enjoying our time here in Paragould," Dr. Stefan said.

Stefan's family is originally from Romania. He came to the United States with his dad, mom, and sister when he was nine years old as a refugee. "We initially settled in Washington state and then moved to Southern California while I was still in high school," he said. "My wife is from Southern California and we met while I was in my orthodontics residency in Los Angeles."

Cristina comes from an immigrant family, as well. Her mother is from Columbia and her dad is from Mexico. Both say their grandparents also had pivotal roles in their upbringing, as well.

Dr. Stefan followed in the footsteps of his mother, who was also a dentist, forming a passion for the field. He attended college at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, majoring in Biomedical Engineering and minoring in Business Administration. He then attended dental school at the University of the Pacific in San Francisco, and "by God's grace" graduated No. 1 in his class. After working as a general dentist for one year in his mother's private practice, he completed a three-year orthodontics specialty program at USC.

"I love meeting new people and helping to achieve their goal of having a healthy and beautiful smile," he said. "At Braces by Burriss we hope to not only create great smiles but we also hope to make our patients smile by fostering a fun and lively atmosphere."

Cristina stays busy with her growing ministry "Beautiful Bricklayers" (www.beautifulbricklayers.com). Beautiful Bricklayers was formed when she "sensed a call to encourage and empower women to know their God-given purpose in life, pray for their future husbands, families, and ministry, and inspire them to live intimately with Jesus." She was single, and wanted to give other single women the tools needed to prepare for marriage. "I wanted to know how to prepare for marriage as a single woman," she said. "I wanted that firm foundation."

Cristina said the foundation of the ministry is the Four Ps: Purpose, Prayer, Partnership, and Preparation. While it started as a tool for single women, Cristina has information for women who are engaged and dating, as well. She hopes to carry her ministry to Paragould with her, and anyone interested may contact her through the website.

Stefan and Cristina have a very close marriage, participating in most of their daily activities together. They have traveled to more than 40 countries, most recently India, for a medical mission. They work out together, participate in events together, cook together, and are even learning how to Salsa dance via the Internet. "We work closely as a 'team', so Dr. Burriss actually asked 'us' to come because he knew how we worked together," they said.

In their spare time, Cristina and Stefan enjoy staying physically fit by running, cycling, and swimming.

"I also enjoy being in the outdoors, photography, cooking, working on cars, and spending time with family and friends," he said.

They are members of East Side Baptist Church.

"Most important is our faith," Cristina said. "Anyone who knows us, knows that our faith in God is where our joy comes from." ♦

-- By Joy Robinson

126th Greene County Fair opens on September 2

Paragould will play host to the 126th version of the Greene County Fair, starting on Monday, September 2.

Carnival armbands will be sold on opening day for \$14, allowing buyers to ride carnival rides all day long. The carnival opens at noon. Armbands will also be sold on the fair's final day, Saturday, September 7.

The official opening time has been set for 10 a.m. on Monday, although gates will open for entry exhibits at 8 a.m. All livestock entries are to be in place by 9 a.m. that day.

Some of this year's highlights include:

Monday -

2 p.m. Tractor pull in the rodeo arena (free with admission to the fair)

8 p.m. Ultimate Challenge Bull Riding (\$8 admission)

Tuesday -

6 p.m. Little Miss Greene County Contest and Miss Greene County Contest in the B.C. Lloyd Entertainment Building

7 p.m. ARLMRA Lawn Mower Racing in the rodeo arena (free with fair admission)

Wednesday -

6 p.m. Youth Talent Contest, B.C. Lloyd Entertainment Building

Thursday -

Senior Citizens Day; free admission for



Rides are always a big attraction when the Greene County Fair opens up.

seniors until 5 p.m.

7 p.m. Musical entertainment, including Gary Prince and Sugar Creek, as well as Brad Messer and the Refuge (free with fair admission)

Friday -

6:30 p.m. Demolition Derby, rodeo arena (\$5 additional charge at the arena gate)

Saturday -

Kids Day; all children admitted free until 4 p.m. Carnival Armbands \$12 each, good until 5 p.m.

In addition to the aforementioned events, the fair will have the usual judging of livestock, arts and crafts, clothing, photography and food, along with gospel singing, and much more.

Find more information at greenecofair.com.

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FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR



The Henson family was named Greene County's Farm Family of the Year. Pictured are, standing front from left, Brandon and Kisha Clayton, Mandy and Kory Randleman, Dustin Henson, Charity and Jason Andrews, Jina and Gary Henson and Bobby Henson; from the top are, Debbie Henson, Alfred "Colonel" Henson, Avery Randleman, Skylee Clayton, Jacie Andrews, Mikki Jo Andrews, Doss Clayton and Zoey Andrews.

BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR HENSON FAMILY

Like so many others before them, brothers Gary and Alfred Henson grew up working on the family farm.

They drove tractors, did odd jobs and chores and learned along the way exactly what goes into making a farming operation successful and, hopefully, profitable.

Today, farming remains a family enterprise and has led to the Hensons' being named Greene County's Farm Family of the Year for 2013.

The brothers learned the trade from their father, starting with the basics of growing and marketing rice and steadily added to their responsibilities as they grew older. They passed the love of the land down to their own children, who engage in farming in addition

to their other occupations. Alfred and Gary farm more than 3,000 acres themselves, with that total jumping to more than 4,400 when encompassing land worked by their children.

Rice, soybeans and wheat make up the brunt of the Hensons' crops and they remain active in conservation efforts, as well, through improved irrigation and drainage techniques to mention just a couple.

Both brothers are active in farm-related and community activities, criteria considered by the Arkansas Farm Bureau panel when selecting the Farm Family of the Year. Voters look at families' community leadership and home management in addition to their farming enterprises when choosing the annual winners.

Gary and Alfred have been Farm Bureau members since the early to mid-1970s and have aided efforts at local high schools and the Greene County Fair by volunteering time and equipment.

Alfred and his wife Debbie have two children: a daughter, Mandy Randleman, and a son, Dustin, who are carrying on the family tradition. Mandy and her husband Kory farm more than 700 acres, and Dustin more than 600 of his own.

Gary and his wife Jina also have two children, daughters Charity Andrews and Kisha Clayton. Charity and husband Jason farm just under 800 acres in Lawrence County while Kisha's spouse Brandon, a fireman, helps out on the Henson farm when available. ♦

Harvest the old-fashioned way

Visitors can take a step back in time at the Parker Homestead near Harrisburg



Above, an old hay rake sits beside the field where the Parkers plant sorghum and corn to be used in hands-on learning experiences for school students who tour the site each year in September, and for use during demonstrations at the Homestead's annual October festival. Below is a breaking plow while at right, a sickle mower sits in front of the log barn. At the bottom of the page are a fence containing numerous harvesting and farm-related tools from the past, and another sickle mower. Call 870-578-2699 to learn more.



The phrase “shake a leg” has taken on an entirely new meaning

For over a decade, I've walked with a limp caused by an ill-timed kick to the knee with a steel-toed boot. Ignoring the resultant pain, I soldiered on until the knee I favored also began to fail. My wife noticed a surge of pain relievers coming into the house, and — in the last two months — I've hobbled about on a cane. Performing in July's "Les Mis" did me in, and mobility became non-existent.

My family had had enough. In a type of one-on-one intervention, Mom, Dad, and wife told me to get my knees fixed or stop complaining about it. A doctor's appointment was made, and I soon found myself with pants around my ankles, the physician poking and prodding at my misshapen knees.

"Tell me if this hurts," she said, pulling my leg. I came to ten minutes later and admitted I'd had better experiences. She listen to the pops and creaks, examined a large dome that had formed on my right kneecap, and noted the fluid on both joints. X-rays were needed, and the next day saw me in the hospital, admittance tag round my wrist, being led to a small room with radiation symbols plastered on each wall.

I was told to hop up on a table. I replied that I hadn't hopped since 1996. With the help of two nurses, I lumbered to the tabletop and lay flat, knees smarting. "The table will move you into position," someone said, and the surface on which I lay began to jerk and slide, which was all well and good — but when someone with as much mass as I starts to wobble, it can take a while for everything to calm down again. I felt like a bowl of cherry Jell-O.

"Move your leg into an upright position."

With poorly-concealed impatience, I replied: "Lady, if I could move my leg into an upright position, I wouldn't be laying on this table."

To my horror, she grabbed my leg and pushed it into a pretzel shape; my moaning and groaning could be heard throughout the facility. They took eight shots of my knees, bending each into positions that would make Stretch Armstrong say, "Wait a minute!" As I lay there, panting with exertion, I heard someone mutter about problems with the



machine — they might need to do it all again. As I dislike crying in front of women, I excused myself to the bathroom. Upon my return, I was told all was right, and was discharged.

Next day, I awoke to a voicemail from my physician. In a tone not unlike Boris Karloff playing the Grim Reaper, she said, "Call me. Your X-rays are in. We need to talk." Fearing the end was nigh, I got my affairs in order. Before I could finish my will, I reached my physician, who said a great deal of arthritis had prevented a detailed look, but what they found on the X-ray required an MRI. An appointment was made, and — the following

Monday — I stood before a cavernous machine.

Previous to that, I'd been told the MRI room was a large, open affair, with a visible sky to discourage claustrophobia. As they slid me into this large coffin, I noted the day was dark and stormy. "The machine itself is loud," I was warned ... and how right they were! It was like sitting in the middle of the track during the Daytona 500. The procedure took an hour, after which I thankfully retired to my office to sit in peace and quiet. (And to allow the effects of the pre-procedure Valium to wear off. I vaguely remember petting our dog for some time — only to realize later that we don't own a dog.)

The results were not as bad as I feared, but not as good as I had hoped. I've an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon this month, and I can only wonder what torture is in store for me. Until then, I'm on a cocktail of painkillers that, at their worst, leave me loopy and sick, and — at their best — make me believe I'm George Clooney.

September 2013

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



Rylee Branch, 9, daughter of Jason and Angie Branch of Paragould, is all smiles on a pleasant afternoon.

Premiere's Outstanding Teacher contest taking nominations

Kimber McMillon earned a nice prize package from MOR Media and the fashion experts at Shear Elegance after being named Premiere Magazine's Teacher of the Year.

Now it's time for readers to start nominating and voting all over again. Each month, Premiere features two Greene County teachers, brought to our attention by magazine readers and nominated on either our Facebook page or via email.

At the end of the school year, readers are asked to vote on their choice for Teacher of the Year. For winning the most recent contest, McMillon received a gift certificate from Shear Elegance, good for \$75 worth of products and another \$50 in services, and a \$100 gift card from MOR Media.

Nominations are being accepted now. Email editor@paragouldpremiere.com or contact us on our Facebook page to submit the name of your favorite teacher. ♦



Greene County Tech teacher Kimber McMillon displays the prizes she won after being named Premiere Magazine's Teacher of the Year.

A winning combination

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Three Greene County Master Gardeners earn Advanced Status

People all over the county with horticultural skills, a willingness to learn, and a desire to help others become Master Gardeners. When the program was started, their role was primarily answering phone requests for gardening information and staffing plant clinics. In recent years, Master Gardener work has diversified. Thanks to Extension agents working in the program, non-horticultural skills have been recognized and combined with gardening interests and knowledge to play a valuable role in the community.

Greene County Master Gardeners who have reached Advanced Status are Cora Hailey Flanery, Patti Roberts and Holly Fletcher. Cora completed 10 Advanced Classes, and Patti and Holly completed five. Holly and Patti became Master Gardeners in 2000 and Cora in 2003.

Cora said, "I have been a Master Gardener for 10 years and have really enjoyed it. I have always loved to learn, and I get that chance with the Advanced Classes offered through Master Gardeners. I think it has taken at least three years to reach the Advanced Level. Since the classes are scattered across the state, it's hard to attend all classes offered, even though I would love to. The class on Plant Propagation was very interesting, showing tissue culture



Advanced Master Gardeners include Cora Hailey Flanery, Holly Fletcher, and Patti Roberts.

and how sterile everything has to be. There was a two-day class on Native Plants which was very interesting, since my main passion is Wildflowers. We actually went out on a field trip and got to see and 'taste' plants, such as 'slippery elm.' Dr. Eric Sundell was a great teacher."

When Patti was asked about a favorite class, she replied, "I do not have a favorite class. They are so different in every way. The instructors, subject matter, presentations; and I could go on and on about their differences. What they all do have in common is the information that you come away with, and the experience you have with other Master Gardeners that are on the same journey;

learning more about what we love--gardening."

Holly enjoyed Propagation Techniques and Hydrangeas & Hostas. "It took me a while to get started taking the classes, but once I did, I was always anxious to do another one. Most of my classes were taken in Jonesboro and I truly enjoyed all of them.

The Greene County Master Gardener Program has much to offer volunteers and the community, and their love of gardening is heightened by sharing it with others, and broadened by the opportunity to learn new things. For more information about the Master Gardener Program contact the Greene County Extension Service at 870-236-6921. ♦

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Master Gardeners required to participate in training, volunteer services to retain titles

Following a comprehensive training in horticulture, Master Gardeners have one year from the end of training to complete the agreed-upon volunteer time. This includes service hours by working on designated projects in the county, and also education hours related to gardening.

To retain the Arkansas Master Gardener title, individuals are required to participate in recertification training and provide additional volunteer service hours through the local Extension Office.

Once a Master Gardener has been in the program three years, they have the opportunity to take advanced classes to further their education and acquire another level of certification entitled "Advanced Master Gardener." These classes provide new in-depth training opportunities for current Master Gardeners allowing them to expand their knowledge and interests, as well as their continued interest in the MG program.

Three levels can be reached in the Advanced Master Gardener Program. Level One requires Master Gardeners to complete five advanced training classes. Level Two requires an additional eight advanced training classes for a total of 13; Level 3 requires an additional 10 advanced classes for a total of 23 and writing an article or giving a presentation. Subject matter is diverse, and may take several years to achieve.

Thirty-two Advanced classes have been offered since 2002. Greene County members have attended such classes as Propagation Techniques, Hydrangeas & Hostas, Vines of All Kinds, Native Plants, Tropicals, Invasive Plants, Rain Gardens, Landscape Design for Specific Areas & Materials, Habitat for Butterflies, and Aquaponics. ♦





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5. *Dolce Vita* Fain Sandals, \$180, *Mosaic Boutique* 6. *Hobo* Lindy Satchel in Black, \$278, *Glo Boutique*
7. Two Color Chain Necklace & Earrings, \$10, *Tru Boutique*

I became accustomed to living among the unknown years ago

Shortly after school started back a gentlemen walked up to me at the store, greeted me with a big smile and extended his hand for a shake. "We sure miss you coaching out there at Tech," he said. "Are you still driving a bus?"

I knew right away he had confused me with my good friend, Larry Elmore, not the first time this has happened in recent years. Personally, I don't see the similarity but I certainly consider it a compliment. Larry is one of the greatest athletes I ever saw, and just as fine a person.

My fear is that if the situation were reversed and someone confused him for me, he would immediately join the gym and go on a diet in order to never be mistaken for me again. The last time I saw him he certainly looked a lot better than I did, so I will apologize for both the gentleman's mistake and my appearance.

I'm accustomed to being among the unknown. All through school people confused me with my cousins Steve and Stan.

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



Even after I had been in the newspaper business more than 20 years, people who saw my mugshot and byline in print every day still didn't know me. One Friday night at a high school football game, I ventured to the south endzone at halftime and struck up a conversation with one of my bosses, Dave Edrington. Before long a local businessman approached and spoke to us; he got Dave's name right, and said to me, "How's it going, Stan?"

I said, "Fine."

About two minutes passed before another local man walked up, spoke to Dave and then said to me, "How you doing, Steve?"

I said, "Fine."

When a longtime customer of my father's

joined us soon after and said, "What do you know, Scottie?" Dave couldn't take it any more. He tossed down his cigarette and said, amid laughter, "Don't nobody know who you are, do they?"

It has been that way pretty much all my life. Paragould was a football/basketball town when I was a kid, yet I was a baseball player. Only in a little country community called Beech Grove was I known by name, because almost every man there was a baseball guy. Just as I did, they enjoyed spending weekend afternoons on dusty ballfields, watching men like Dwight Williams speed around the bases or seeing Earl McKelvey dazzle hitters with his knuckleball. Like me, they weren't going to be found in the stands at Friday's football game, but could be located at the country store on Saturday morning.

I could walk in out there and be greeted by dozens of "Hey, Richards," and I think that's why the community and its inhabitants are so dear to my heart.

If I get a bus route, I hope it's out there. ♦

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Members of the Paragould Rotary Club served dinner to 79 individuals at the Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas through the Common Table program. Pictured left to right are Malissa Lewis, Shay Willis, Beth Spaunhorst, Dustin Rumsey and Jay Scurlock. Not pictured is Kimberly Dale.

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Happenings!

1. Gator Swim Team

Members of the Greene County Gator Swim Team competed at the Junior Olympic games in Detroit, Michigan, in July. They qualified in several different events and competed at the University of Michigan facility. They participated with Team Arkansas at the games, featuring swimmers from all over the state. Pictured are, back row (holding flag): Trisha Adams and Hailey Beliew; second row: Alivia Treadaway, Shelby Adams, Genesis Cox, Audrey Williams, Luke Foster, Julie Foster and Sydney Adams; front row: Gracie Williams, Quincy Adams, Hayven Cox, Aidan Master and Elyse Pindell.

2. Museum Announces Millinery Exhibit

A variety of ladies' hats from the 1920s to the 1970s will be on display in the new exhibit gallery at the Greene County Museum, 130 South 14th Street, until the end of September. In the past, the well-dressed ladies in Paragould and Greene County wore hats, and usually gloves, to church and various social functions. The local stores featured hat departments and there was even a millinery store downtown. The exhibit also features purses from the past. The museum plans to feature a new exhibit every month or two and anyone with a collection they would like to display for four to six weeks should contact Bettye Busby, the museum coordinator, at 870-215-2407.

3. Realtor Of The Year

Lori Dowdy of EXIT Realty has been named the local Realtor of the Year. Chosen by the local Realtors' board, the winner is selected through voting based on local Realtor spirit, local board activity, community activity, professional activity and all-around attitude. Lori has been a Realtor approximately three years. She is the current Secretary for the Paragould Board and upcoming Vice President for 2014. She is married to Marcus Dowdy and they have two children, Hannah and Colton.

4. Hats For Newborns

Several ladies from the Paragould area meet every Friday at First United Methodist Church to make hats for the newborns at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Pictured from left in the back row are Kay Bland, Jackie Barnett and Diane Hart Blossom; and on the front row are Andrea Pearson and Martha Morgan with AMMC OB Unit Coordinator Lori Walker, RN. Baby Genesis is wearing a pink hat knitted by Martha. Other members of the group are Charlotte Thompson, Anne Honeycutt, Maghen Carpenter, Shirley Eliason and Linda Glickert.

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Our Bridal...

Lindsey Newman & Clinton Mitchell
September 14

Tiffany Eubanks & Jason Nolen
September 14

Molly Philhours & Ben Blakeman
October 26

Mallory Carlile & Sean Mitchell
October 26

Natalie Sigsby & Joseph Rogers
November 2

Juli Summitt & Cody Waits
November 2

Cassie Morrison & Matthew Deramus
November 9

Anna Rogers & Ryan Blankenship
November 16

Tanya Sisco & Jeramiah Curry
November 30

Laura Pollard & Kyle Thompson
December 14

Sarah Gillmore & Mark Hawkins
December 14

Our Baby...

Ashley & Matt Buchman
Abbie & Adley Tyson
Tiffany & Tim Napier

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Engagement Announcements



Sean Patrick Mitchell and Mallory Evan Carlile

Carlile-Mitchell

Mallory Evan Carlile and Sean Patrick Mitchell have set an October date for their wedding.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Brett and Lisa Carlile of Paragould.

The prospective groom is the son of Billy and Tammy Mitchell, also of Paragould.

The wedding will take place on October 26, 2013, at the home of Tim and Kelly Roswell in Paragould. ♦

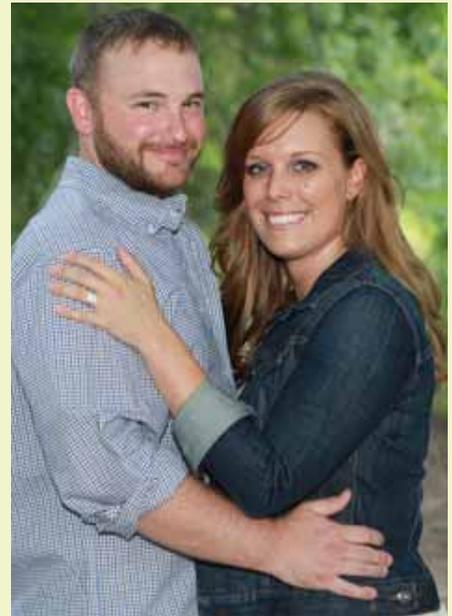
Eubanks-Sisco

Emily Eubanks and Beau Sisco have announced their plans for a November wedding.

Emily's parents are Kevin and Laurie Eubanks of Paragould.

Beau's parents are William and Taunya Sisco of Evening Star.

The private family wedding will be held at Lake Frierson on Saturday, November 23, 2013. ♦



Jason Nolen and Tiffany Eubanks

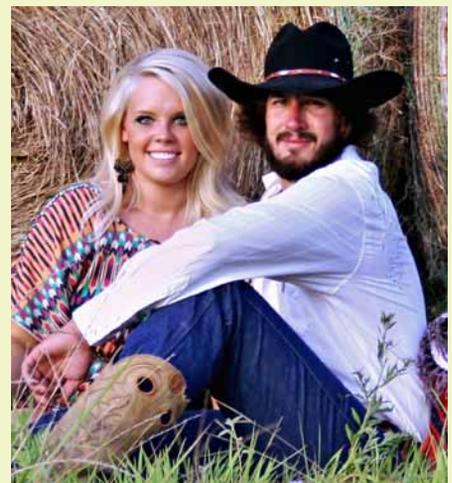
Eubanks-Nolen

Tiffany Sue Eubanks and Jason Nolen have announced their plans for a September wedding.

Tiffany is the daughter of Kevin and Laurie Eubanks of Paragould.

Jason's parents are Mel and Wanda Steed of Hot Springs.

The wedding ceremony has been set for Saturday, September 14, 2013, in Paragould. ♦



Emily Eubanks and Beau Sisco Photo by Amaris Pyland

Birth Announcements



Rylan Otto Cagle

Heath and Tameika Cagle of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Rylan Otto Cagle.

Rylan weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19.5 inches long. He was born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould.

He was welcomed by two sisters, Fallon and Kirsten, and one brother, Cayden.

Grandparents include Candy Goodman and Tommy Drury, and Rob and Staci Goodman, all of Paragould; and Louanne and Wayne Cagle of Leachville. Great-grandparents include Ruth Cross of Paragould, and the late Jackie Craig and Nina King of Leachville. ♦



Kelsey Abbott Photography

Justin and Lori Ethridge of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Ethan Andrew Ethridge on July 9.

Born at St. Bernards in Jonesboro, he weighed 8 pounds and was 20.5 inches long.

Ethan Andrew has a 5-year-old sister, Aubrey Elizabeth Ethridge.

Maternal grandparents are Carl and Kathy Jones, Jr.; great-grandparents are Carl and Beauna Jones. Paternal grandparents are Rev. Richard and Ellen Ethridge and great-grandmother is Carolyn Sims. ♦



Colt Merrill McMillon

Zack and Meredith (Smith) McMillon of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Colt Merrill McMillon.

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

He was born at St. Bernards in Jonesboro.

Grandparents are Keith and Gina Smith, and Tony and Patty McMillon. ♦



Jaylin Brooke Hall

Shaynen and Crystal Hall announce the birth of their daughter, Jaylin Brooke Hall, in February.

Jaylin was born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center on February 26, 2013. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long.

Maternal grandparents include: Keith and the late Teresa Huffman; paternal grandparents are Kay and the late David Hall. ♦

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September

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

AMMC HOSTS 16th ANNUAL MEN'S HEALTH FAIR. includes blood glucose, cholesterol screenings and blood pressure checks; weight and nutrition information and screenings; PSA testing; healthcare provider booths. AMMC Professional Office Building Auditorium, 7:00 am - 3:00 pm.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

FALL INTO ARTS FESTIVAL an arts and music festival held in Downtown Kennett, Missouri. This three day festival brings local artists, live music, theatrical performances and great food to Downtown Kennett square. The event is designed for all ages to enjoy with a variety of activities and scheduled entertainment. 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. For more information visit www.KAFTA.org or call 573-344-4223.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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 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.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information or to register, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

AMMC FOUNDATION 19th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT. four person scramble. Shotgun start

at 8:00 am, lunch provided to all golfers at noon, afternoon flight at 1:00 pm. At the Paragould Country Club, 3300 Pruetts Chapel Road. For more information about the FOundation or the golf tournament, call (870) 239-7077.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

IHRF BENEFIT CONCERT & SILENT AUCTION. featuring Martha's Sons, Gary Prince and the Sugar Creek Band, Doc's Friends and Hwy 49. Held at the Collins Theater, 120 West Emerson Street in Downtown Paragould. Event begins at 7:00 pm. Tickets in advance: \$8 (kids 12 and under are \$5) available at The Treasure House and Express Copies. Tickets at the door: \$10 (kids 12 and under \$7). 100% of proceeds from this event benefit the Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. For more information call (870) 450-0362.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

AMMC AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP & DRIVE LUNCHEON. at 12:00 pm, held in the AMMC Professional Office Building, Auditorium at 1000 West Kingshighway. The organization is open to men and women alike; dues are \$6 for active members, \$11 for inactive members.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

SHEPHERD'S FOLD BENEFIT CONCERT. with New Beginnings Quartet and The Edgars. Held at the BC Lloyd Building starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 each and can

be purchased at Post Net. For more information call 573-654-2280 or www.shepherdsfoldministry.org

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY. music by Mark Snider starts at 7:00 pm, at the Collins Theater, 120 West Emerson Street in Downtown Paragould.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

MISSION OUTREACH OF NORTHEAST ARKANSAS' 3rd ANNUAL BANQUET. held at the Red Goose Banquet Hall in downtown Paragould. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner served at 6:00 pm. 870-236-8080 for more info

ARKANSAS CARE TRANSITION PRESS CONFERENCE

held at the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce at 9:00 am. A community based coalition with a primary goal of reducing preventable re-hospitalization rates with 30 days after discharge or transfer by at least 20%.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

AMMC WOMEN'S CLINIC/DR. RICHARD GARD, OB/GYN BUSINESS AFTER HOURS. in conjunction with the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce. 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm, AMMC Professional Office Building, Suite 4.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

GREENE COUNTY FINE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS 'THE HOBBIT' 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.

COMING UP IN -october-

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Oktoberfest in Downtown Paragould.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

Mark 1:15 Ministries City Wide Revival, Oct. 21-25 nightly at 6:30 pm.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Downtown Zombie Walk

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

KASU's Bluegrass Monday with The Panches Family.

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

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NEA COOKS

Hawaiian Chicken

Ingredients: (Amounts will vary depending on how many you want to make)

Chicken breast, cubed

Bell Peppers (I prefer red and/or orange to add color)

Onion

Pineapple

Sun Dried Tomato Vinaigrette



grill and turn to cook evenly. Takes approximately 15 minutes.

Tip: Soak skewers in water to prevent them from scorching on the grill. ♦



April Oakes

Where are you from? Paragould

Family: Married to Chris Oakes and we have three boys: Zach, Karson and Ashton, and we have guardianship of one girl, Tiffany.

What is your occupation? RN; I work as a Home Health Specialist for the Arkansas Department of Health.

Who taught you how to cook? My mom and my cookbooks.

When did you first begin cooking? As a young teenager.

Who do you like to cook for most? My family and friends.

What is your favorite thing to cook on the grill? Hawaiian chicken kabobs.

What is the one ingredient you can't live without? Mexican vanilla; it's so much better than what we buy in the grocery stores here.

What is your family's favorite dish? Chicken kabobs. ♦



Tangy Lemon Cupcakes

Ingredients:

1 box lemon cake mix

½ cup melted butter

4 eggs

½ cup water

½ cup orange juice

Frosting ingredients:

8 oz. block cream cheese, room temperature

1 stick butter, room temperature

Zest from 1 lemon

1 tbsp. lemon juice

6 cups powdered sugar

1-3 tbsp. milk, as needed for consistency

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients for two minutes. Pour into lightly greased paper muffin cups and bake for approximately 15 minutes. Allow to cool before frosting.

Cream together butter and cream cheese, add lemon zest and lemon juice, and mix well. Gradually add powdered sugar while mixing until all is added. Add milk 1/3 tsp. at a time if needed to get desired consistency. ♦

To be included as one of Premiere Magazine's NEA Cooks -- or to nominate a friend -- email information to:

editor@paragouldpremiere.com

All you need are recipes and a smile.

STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Feature

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Premiere will feature stories related to local efforts to find a cure for breast cancer, including one as our cover story.

Zombies



Zombies of all ages will make their way back to Downtown Paragould for the second-ever Zombie Walk. We'll be there.

Events



Attend events with us as Premiere Magazine and MOR Media cover local happenings, including the Greene County Fair.



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Diabetes supply needs? We're right here for you.

While there have been some changes lately surrounding the purchase of diabetes supplies for Medicare patients, our stores in Paragould and Jonesboro still carry a wide range of those supplies for you. That hasn't changed, nor has our commitment to providing friendly and helpful service. Just like always. Give us a call today, and we'll explain your options.



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