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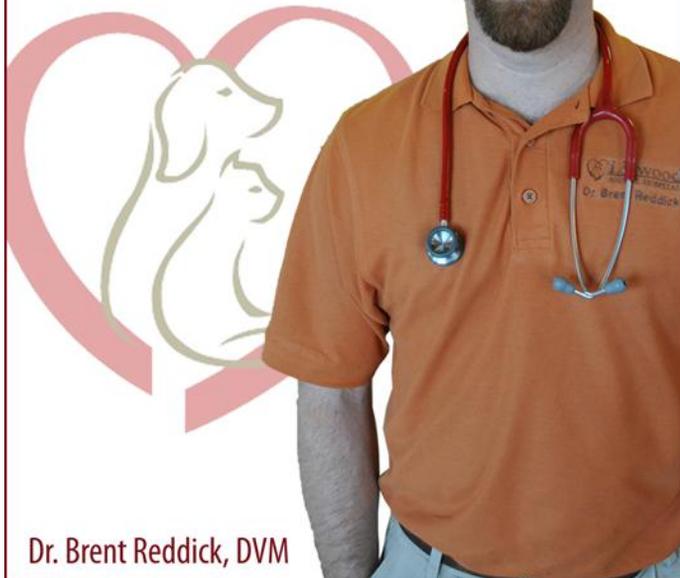
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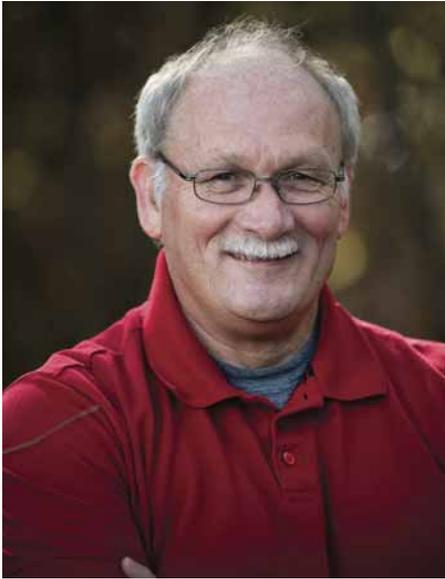
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From the Editor...



Richard Brummett, Editor

Back in my days as a newspaper Sports Editor I filled the role of guest speaker at a number of high school and college athletic banquets.

I'm well aware that it's not only the players who have great passion for the games they

play, but parents and grandparents, as well. They spend countless hours on the road, traveling to games in hopes of seeing their kids and grandkids capture the ultimate prize: The state championship.

In fact, I often asked everyone in attendance at the banquets to stand if they played high school sports. As you can imagine, most of the people there rose. Then I would ask for only those who played in the state tournament to remain standing, and the number was often cut by half or more.

Finally, I would ask that only those who were members of a team that had actually *won* a state tournament stand, and the numbers decreased drastically. In some cases, not one person in the audience had ever been a member of a state championship club, which shows you how rare the accomplishment is.

While some coaches have multiple championship seasons on their records, many, many, many more can coach for decades and never have the opportunity to win even one. Coming out on top is as difficult as it is memorable.

This year, Premiere Magazine readers can

boast not one, but three basketball state champions from our circulation area.

The Paragould girls and Jonesboro boys each earned a spot in the title game for the third consecutive season, this time bringing home the big trophy to match championship hardware for their schools from seasons in the past.

Brookland High School's boys also emerged as the last team standing in their division, capturing the first-ever state title for the Bearcats' program.

To salute those teams and their followers, we have put right in the middle of this month's issue team photos that run the width of two pages, situated in such a way that readers can pull them from the magazine and hang on to them as keepsakes. The photos are provided by Lifetouch National School Studios.

We take this moment to not only congratulate the teams involved, but to also thank the advertisers who came on board to sponsor the pages and add their compliments to the players, coaches and fans as well, bringing a fitting end to remarkable seasons for the three teams. ♦



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Dr. Kevin and Mrs. Kim Mann and Jacin Hammett of Jonesboro in front of Jacin's 1928 Studebaker Phaeton.

AMMC Foundation Ambassadors host Great Gatsby Gala

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Foundation Ambassadors recently hosted The Great Gatsby Gala at the Paragould Community Center.

Attendees went back to the Roaring Twenties, enjoying an evening of fun and fundraising, including great food and live music and dancing from Al Paris and the Heartbreakers.

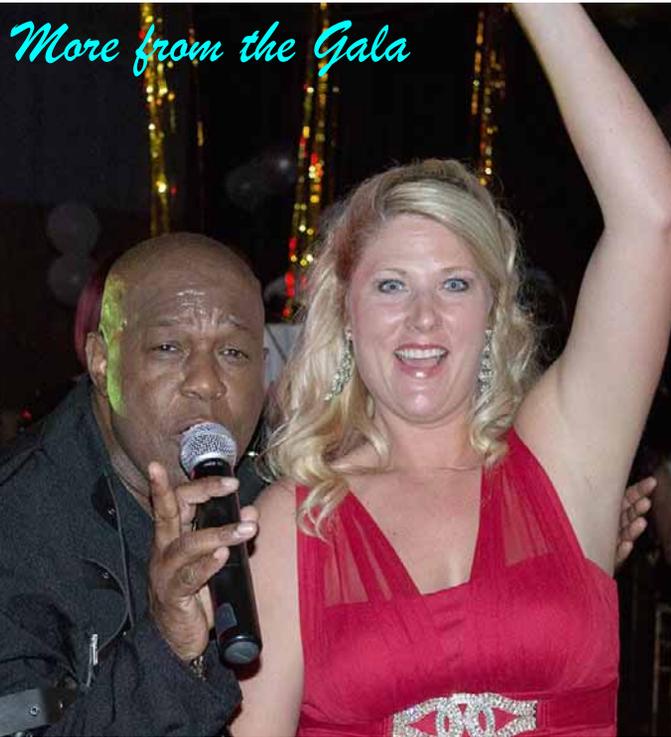
One lucky couple, Dr. Kevin and Mrs. Kim Mann, arrived in style thanks to Jacin Hammett of Jonesboro, who escorted the pair from their home to the event in his 1928 Studebaker Phaeton. And one lucky gala attendee, Carolyn Hurley-Block, won the beautiful tanzanite and diamond pendant donated by Sissy's Log Cabin, while several others secured the winning bid on 10 different parties that were up for auction.

Preliminary fundraising totals indicate that the 11th gala generated more than \$35,000. ♦



Above are Charles and Donna Brazil and Anne and Bill Fisher standing in front of Mack Hester's 1934 Plymouth. Pictured at right are Candice Wicker, Miss AMMC Ashley Meadows, Carolyn Hurley Block and Jenny Bennett. Carolyn was the winner of the tanzanite and diamond pendant donated by Sissy's Log Cabin.





Al Paris of Al Paris & the Heartbreakers and Samantha Spillman



Casey Byrd, Kim Mann, Latoya Coward and Shay Willis



Tori Thompson, Jason Gazaway, Robert Thompson and Lisa Gazaway

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Utility Trailer celebrates 100 years

Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company, the industry's largest manufacturer of refrigerated trailers and a leading manufacturer of dry freight vans, flatbeds, and Tautliner® curtainsided trailers, recently commemorated its 100th anniversary in La Quinta, California.

"To mark 100 years of manufacturing the world's best trailers, we celebrated with customers, dealers, and vendors from all over the Americas at the biggest and largest event ever in the history of our company," said Craig Bennett, Senior Vice President Sales & Marketing for Utility. "Over 600 guests attended the event at La Quinta Resort & Club. At the event, dealers and customers had the opportunity to attend several business meetings that examined the past, present and future of Utility. Additionally, guests were able to play golf, participate in

special activities, and attend dinner parties with special guest performances," added Bennett.

Utility vendor partners also participated in the celebration by showcasing concept and future innovations in the Utility Technology Pavilion.

Attendees were treated to decade-themed parties and videos that chronicled the history of Utility. Guests were also given a special commemorative 100th Anniversary book honoring Utility's pioneering spirit and rich history of building innovative trailers. "We want to thank our vendor partners, dealers, customers, and employees for making this celebration a huge success, and we look forward to the next 100 years of innovation."

Utility's anniversary celebration will continue throughout the year with many other events being held for employees, customers and dealers. ♦

Local groups sponsor Drug Take Back program

The Paragould Police Department, Greene County Sheriff's Department and the Rotary Club of Paragould will host a National Drug Take Back Day and Food Drive on Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Wal-Mart of Paragould.

By the time Arkansas high school students have reached their senior year, nearly 1 in 5 has abused prescription drugs. Most teens obtain the drugs they abuse from the medicine cabinets in their own homes, or the homes of friends and relatives. Many parents think prescription drugs aren't as dangerous as

streets drugs and that they aren't addictive. In reality, medication abuse remains the leading cause of drug overdoses nationally.

The Rotary Clubs of Arkansas have provided a number of 24-hour collection boxes across the state – including one at City Hall and at the Greene County Sheriff's Department in Paragould – in support of the Arkansas Take Back program. These collection boxes, installed at secure locations, provide an easy way to properly dispose of your old medications.

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Chamber honors members at annual banquet

As Mayor Mike Gaskill played a prerecorded musical salute to each presenter, members of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce took the stage to recognize fellow volunteers at the annual Chamber banquet.

Gaskill, an avid baseball fan, likened the presenters' approach to the podium to that of relief pitchers entering a professional baseball game, and provided tunes he considered representative of each person, much to the delight of the audience at the Paragould Community Center.

Award winners were:

- * Charles Brazil, Ambassador of the Year
- * Micah Brinkley, Member of the Year
- * Charles Long, Lifetime Achievement Award

The featured speaker was former Paragould resident Dan S. Wilford, who shared stories from his days as an official in the National Football League, among others.

The crowd also heard remarks from outgoing chairman Barry Davis and chairman-elect Terry Melton. ♦



Keynote speaker Dan S. Wilford entertained the crowd at the Paragould Community Center, as did the Chamber's chairman-elect Terry Melton, below left, and outgoing chairman Barry Davis, right.



Above, from left, Roy McSpadden presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Charles Long; Rusty McMillon presented Micah Brinkley with the Member of the Year Award; and Charles Brazil accepted the Ambassador of the Year Award from Rebecca Edwards.

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Perfect Touch





The team from Families, Inc. was cooking up lots of fun at the Mission Outreach Chili Rodeo.

Mission Outreach fundraiser brings in more than \$9,600

Mission Outreach staged its annual Chili Rodeo fundraiser in the B.C. Lloyd Building at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Paragould, raising more than \$9,600.

According to a panel of judges, the Grand Champion of the cookoff was Chalk Bluff Smokehouse, followed by Blake Freeman and Adam Butler (Chili Vanilli) in second place and the team from Ridge Kids Dental in third.

The People's Choice Award went to Teleflora.

In the booth judging competition, First Place was awarded to Details Salon/The Blind Lady; Second Place went to the Flower Shop Network; and in Third Place was Fellowship Bible Church. ♦



While Shannon Freeman and Everyday Life belted out some popular tunes to entertain those in attendance, above, Karen Bogard and her daughter Taylor, representing Details Salon/The Blind Lady at right, came away with the first place honors for their booth, according to the judges.





Mission Outreach Chili Rodeo



Kimberly Dale and Dustin Rumsey worked the Rotary Club's booth, above, while Misty Hyde and Joey Pillow served customers at Revolution's stopover, right.

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AMMC, American Red Cross partnering to host Blood Drive on April 10

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center is sponsoring a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross Thursday, April 10, from 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The event will take place in the auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, located at 900 W. Kingshighway in Paragould.

According to the Red Cross, one in 10 people entering a hospital needs blood. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims due to accidents and burns; heart surgery; organ

transplants; women with complications during childbirth; newborns and premature babies and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer and other diseases such as sickle cell anemia.

At Arkansas Methodist Medical Center alone, approximately 100 units are transfused monthly. To give blood for transfusion to another person, you must be healthy, be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law (includes Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee). You must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks

(56 days) or double red cells in the last 16 weeks (112 days).

"Healthy" means that you feel well and can perform normal activities. If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure, "healthy" also means that you are being treated and the condition is under control.

Each person who successfully donates at the April blood drive at Arkansas Methodist will receive three \$5.00 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station ♦

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Above is a look at the central cell pod at the new Greene County Jail. Pictured at left is the South Control Room.

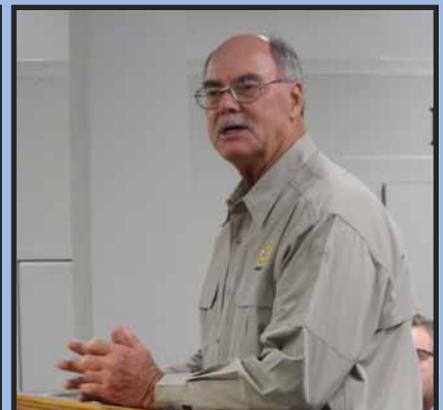


Numerous dignitaries attended the dedication ceremony at the jail, including 2nd Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Scott Ellington and Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, above. Below left are Rusty McMillon of the Blue Ribbon Jail Committee, McDaniel, Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, Ellington and Greene County Sheriff Dan Langston.

Greene County shows off new jail facility

City, state and community leaders attended a dedication ceremony for the new Greene County Jail in Paragould in March, saying the modern facility should give area residents “more peace of mind.”

The north and south ends of the new building will hold 156 inmates. No date has been set for transferring inmates to the new facility. ♦





Jenny Keller, Melinda West, Sue Mitchell and Nanette Heard



David Early and Elea Pulliam



Ed Way and Dr. Tim Hudson

United with the Stars fundraiser benefits United Way of NEA

It was an evening filled with fun -- all for a good cause -- when approximately 200 guests attended the "Live United With The Stars!" party at the home of Arkansas State University Chancellor Dr. Tim Hudson in Jonesboro to help raise money for The United Way of Northeast Arkansas.

Many of those in attendance arrived dressed as Hollywood celebrities or as those from the world of music -- Elvis Presley, Pee Wee Herman, Marilyn Monroe, Billy Ray and Miley Cyrus, to name a few -- and shared smiles throughout the night, enjoying food, beverages, a silent auction and entertainment.

Thanks to the efforts of the guests and event sponsors approximately \$7,300 was raised for The United Way. ♦



Dr. Deidra Hudson and Selena Barber



Howl and Scarlet



Lane Holmes and Heather Holmes



Dr. Yeoman and Lori Bryant, above; Ed Watson, Mary Dawn Marshall and Helen Watson, left

Chateau On The Ridge to host "All Things Senior" Expo, free seminars for seniors

Chateau On The Ridge Assisted Living Retirement Community will host three free seminars during its "All Things Senior Expo" Friday, April 11.

Sessions will run from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Chateau, located at 2308 Chateau Boulevard in Paragould.

The free seminars include:

8:30 - Amie Cole, Greene County Tech Agriculture Teacher ... "Container and Pallet Gardening"

9:30 - Kelly Chronister, Administrator, Southern Eye Associates ... "Glaucoma and

Tours of Chateau on the Ridge will also be available.

To register for the Expo, call 870-215-6300.

Cataracts"

10:30 - Pat Malone RN, CDE, AMMC ... "Getting Your Daily Dose of Antioxidants-Foods that Heal"

Other events scheduled are:

- Free Glaucoma and Cataract Testing
- Free plants and herbs will be given away by the Greene County Master Gardeners.

- Food Safety by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

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

- Drawing for three \$50 Cash Prizes

Tours of Chateau on the Ridge will also be available. To register for the Expo, call 870-215-6300. ♦

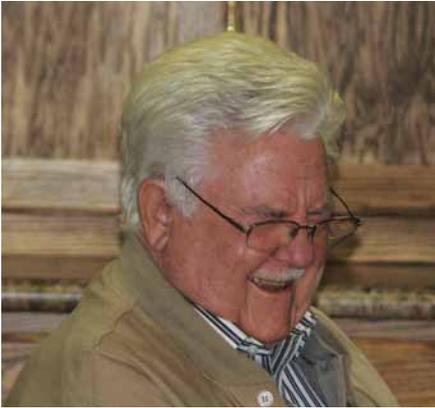
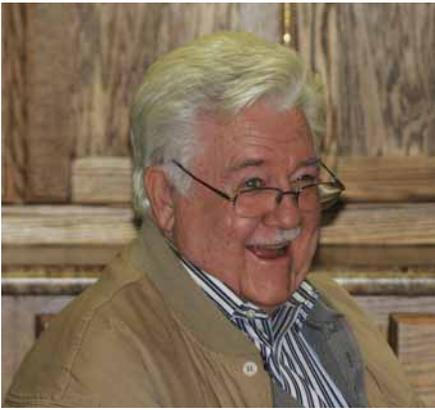
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The advertisement features a bright blue background. On the left, three oval frames show clothing items: a red dress with a necklace, a light blue top with a colorful skirt, and a pair of shoes. On the right, a woman in a yellow jacket and black skirt stands in front of a window. At the bottom left, there is a graphic of a white rabbit and a basket of colorful Easter eggs. At the bottom right, there is a graphic of a brown rabbit sitting on a colorful Easter egg. The text 'Just in time for SPRING' is written in a yellow, cursive font. The 'Tru Boutique' logo is in large, bold, black letters with a blue circle and a green square. The address and phone number are in a smaller, blue font. The slogan 'A little bit of everything for everyone!' is in a pink, cursive font.



Even though the jokes were at his expense, James Balcom, left, joined in with well wishers and enjoyed as big a laugh as anyone at his retirement "roast" at the Paragould Children's Home.

Children's Home supporters roast James Balcom

Friends and coworkers joined forces in March to say a fond and humorous farewell to James Balcom, Executive Director Emeritus of Paragould Children's Homes, Inc.

Those in attendance were invited to relate their fondest memories of working or dealing with Balcom, who along with his wife Charlene moved to the campus as houseparents in 1965. They left in 1977 and came back in 1986, when he was named Assistant Executive Director.

A year later he became the director and served until 2004. Balcom maintained an office on campus in that capacity until Dec. 2013.

In 2005, CHI opened the James and Charlene Balcom Learning Center, which can serve 24 students along with its counseling department. In addition to starting numerous programs locally, Balcom has also been an active supporter of legislation relating to childcare in Arkansas. ♦

-- Information provided by Adam Sweeney

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Close friends and coworkers like Gary Cupp, above, and Paul Schandavel, left, both praised and took humorous jabs at Balcom, who enjoyed looking at a gift scrapbook with his wife, Charlene. At right is a cake expressing the Children's Homes workers' feelings toward Balcom.



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April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month

April has been nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse is physical, sexual, or emotional maltreatment and/or neglect to children ages birth to 17 years old.

In 2013 the Greene County Department of Human Services (DHS) completed 878 child abuse investigations that were called in to the Child Abuse Hotline. Of that, 150 reports were found true, with most having more than one child as a victim of child abuse.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the 2nd Judicial District will be recognizing the children who were in foster care in 2013 and victims of child abuse. CASA will be placing pinwheels throughout the courthouse yard on DHS Juvenile court days April 10th and 23rd to represent children in foster care.

CASA says child abuse can be prevented with some helpful tips to parents. Ask for help from a relative or friend, learn that it's okay to walk away from a crying baby, and never shake an infant! Parents are overwhelmed with day to day demands; stress at work, bills, etc ... adults need to take a "time out" for themselves and not take their anger and frustrations out on their children.

If child abuse is suspected, you may contact the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-482-5964.

For more helpful tips and resources to stop child abuse in Arkansas, interested parties may visit www.stoparchildabuse.com.

If you are interested in CASA and want to help become a voice in the court system for children who have been abused and/or neglected, contact your local CASA office.

Training for new CASA volunteers will begin the week of April 21.

Contact Amanda Frankenberger, the Advocate Coordinator for Greene/Clay counties at casa2ndgreencounties@yahoo.com or 870-240-8955 for information. ♦

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April's calendar celebrity is Eli Edgar, 4, son of Jeremy and Brittany Edgar.



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National Dental Month Poster Contest

In honor of Dental Month Ridge Kids Dental sponsored a dental poster contest at GCT Primary and Baldwin Elementary Schools. Featured are pictures of the winner's from each school. ♦



Health & Fitness Expo Scheduled for April

The seventh annual St. Bernards Medical Group Health & Fitness Expo is scheduled for Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13, at the Convocation Center on the Arkansas State University campus.

One of the highlights of the 2014 Health & Fitness Expo will be the appearance of Vince Papale, former professional football player. Papale is a colon cancer survivor and the subject of the Disney movie *Invincible*.

Presented by St. Bernards Medical Group, the three-day expo will include free health screenings on Saturday and Sunday, more than 120 vendors of health and fitness services and products, educational programs, entertainment, free pre-participation evaluations for student athletes in Craighead County schools and more. Free health screenings will be offered by St. Bernards Saturday from 8 to 3 and Sunday from 11 to 4 for the blood lipid panels and skin cancer screenings. Participants are urged to come fasting to ensure accurate results for the blood lipid panel screening.

In addition to that, some of the St. Bernards Medical Group physicians and clinics will offer screenings at their clinic booths. OFSC will perform auditory screenings, Vision Care Center will be giving vision screenings, St. Bernards Heart & Vascular will do carotid artery and ankle brachial index screenings and St. Bernards Sleep Center will be conducting COPD screenings.

Free screening mammograms also will be available for qualifying women, with onsite screening mammograms done in the St. Bernards Mobile Women's Health Unit. Physicians from St. Bernards OB-GYN Associates will perform clinical breast exams for women who qualify for mammograms. Mammograms will be available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday only.

Saturday events will start with the St. Bernards Medical Group Doc Rock and Run half-marathon at 7:30 a.m. The 5K will begin 30 minutes later at 8. Doc Rock & Run will benefit the St. Bernards Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Interested runners and walkers can secure additional information and complete registration by going to www.docrockandrun.racesonline.com. A kids run is planned for Sunday afternoon at 1.

All events except the races and Saturday dinner are free of charge.

Additional information can be found on the Expo web site at www.stbmd-expo.com. Expo hours are 5 to 8 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

All events except the races and Saturday dinner are free of charge.

Additional information can be found on the Expo web site at www.stbmd-expo.com.

St. Bernards Medical Group was formerly known as Healthcare Medical Group. ♦





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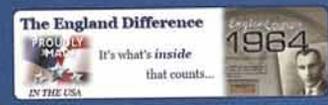
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Noah Warmath is pickin' and grinnin'

Some kids bounce a ball, some play a musical instrument ... Noah Warmath collects old things.

The Paragould 14-year-old's fascination with gathering antique items led him to a once-in-a-lifetime experience, culminating in an adventure with TV celebrity Mike Wolfe, star of the show *American Pickers*.

Noah saw an advertisement for the Wal-Mart Capri-Sun Kid Pickers Contest and jumped at the opportunity to spend a day with the TV star. In order to qualify, he had to upload a photo of his favorite pick (an old item or artifact), submit a witty caption and include a short essay.

"Out of 150,000 entries," said his mother, Kimberly, "he won. Needless to say, he was pretty excited."

The contest prize package included a three day, two night trip for four to Nashville for a meet and greet with Wolfe, and the chance to go on a picking exploration with him.

On the show Wolfe and partner Frank Fritz hit the back roads from coast to coast to find and restore forgotten relics to their former glory. *American Pickers* follows them as they tour the country looking for treasures hidden everywhere from garages to old barns.

As contest winner, Noah got to spend a day with Wolfe as he looked for items to be recycled.

"It was a really fun time," Noah said. "He is a really nice person and I had a great time picking with him," purchasing a fan, some walkie-talkies and insulators, among other items. (Any material that keeps energy such as electricity, heat, or cold from easily transferring through is an insulator. Wood, plastic, rubber, and glass make good insulators.)

Kimberly agreed that Wolfe lives up to his TV persona. "Sometimes you meet a celebrity and he's not as nice as you would think," she said. "Mike Wolfe is even nicer. All throughout the day, he took time to talk to people, he had time to have his photograph taken, he had time for autographs. You can tell, he genuinely likes people." Knowing that Kimberly has a fondness for



Paragould's Noah Warmath was the winner of the Wal-Mart Capri-Sun Kid Pickers Contest, earning the right to "pick" with Mike Wolfe, star of the TV show *American Pickers*.

antique nursing memorabilia, Wolfe presented her with a World War I nurse recruitment poster at the end of the day.

"She was stunned," Noah said.

As for his start in collecting, Noah said he was riding his bike around his neighborhood about four years ago and "I saw a box of old camera stuff in the trash. I grabbed a Kodak and took it home. That's how I got started."

Since then he's come across more camera equipment -- some given to him by neighbors and friends -- but he really likes "electric stuff," his mom said. "He has tons of insulators. He has a small room with shelves where he groups things, and he has a tree house and a lot of the 'commons' go out there. I never know what I might come home to -- packages

from Canada, Australia, England."

Noah admits his penchant for bringing things home sometimes causes his mother to panic, but said he can "sprinkle my magic fairy dust and find a place for it and she's okay."

Kimberly and her husband, Allen, consider Noah's adventure "a life changing event for him," she said. "To Noah, it was affirmation that it's okay to be the person he is. It's okay not to be like everyone else."

Noah said he would like to someday start an insulator museum to display part of his collection, but mostly just wants to be himself.

"I usually stay in the background," he said. "People have just now found out about the contest. I'm not really famous yet." ♦

-- Richard Brummett

Local landfill sees plenty of input from area recyclers

Each year, Americans use 102.1 billion plastic bags. We also throw away enough plastic spoons, forks, and cups to circle the equator 300 times.

On average, each of us uses about the equivalent of one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products each year. In 2008, only 23.1% of glass disposed of was recycled, and only 7.1% of plastics and 21.1% of aluminum, according to www.cleanair.org.

If you eye those numbers with skepticism, a trip to the recycling center at the Northeast Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management landfill might change your mind. It's there that, day after day, two employees sift through items donated locally for recycling.

Tammy Wheaton, the center's manager, has seen a little bit of everything over the 21 years she's spent at the facility. And though she spends several hours sorting through a mound of items that look an awful lot like



The colorful piles of recyclable items at the county landfill serve a purpose.

garbage, she has no trouble uncovering a silver lining at day's end.

"I know I've completed something," Wheaton said. "It's that much that didn't go into the landfill."

From February 19 until March 21, the

recycling center filled 20 boxes -- roughly the same dimensions as a pallet, and three feet high -- plus five bales of plastic, cardboard and other materials, and shipped it away to be recycled. The items came from residents in the four-county area of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District (NEARSWMD). Ten large recycling receptacles are set up in Greene, Clay, Randolph and Lawrence counties, where green-conscious residents voluntarily drop off their collected recyclables.

And it doesn't take long to pile up in the recycling center. Numerous bays in the building hold mountains of sorted materials: soda bottles in one, plastic milk jugs in another, a colorful variety of plastics in a third. Each item has been hand-sorted from a huge pile of recyclables that Wheaton pushes and moves with a Bobcat. Remarkably, she said, most of what's donated is actually recyclable.

"I'd say what we get from Paragould (where there are two receptacles) is 80 to 90 percent (recyclable)," she said. "Every once in a while, we get a bag of trash thrown in." And occasionally, she said, well-intentioned people donate items that the center can't process, such as kids' plastic riding toys, garden hoses, trash cans, and wood items.



Each receptacle has a sign listing what can be recycled, and the list is also on the NEAR-SWMD website: www.nea-landfill.com.

In Paragould, the recycling receptacles are located on the City of Paragould's property near the airport (behind Burger King), and in downtown Paragould in the lot behind Red Goose Deli.

Pounds of materials recycled at the recycling center in 2010 --

1. White Goods: 161,820
2. Old Newspaper: 90,840
3. Old Corrugated Containers (OCC): 47,440

4. Tin & Steel: 377
5. Clear Glass (GLC) 6,255
6. Mixed Office Paper (MOP) 28,728
7. Plastic Soda Bottles (PET) 10,730
8. Natural & Colored Milk Jugs (HDPE) 4,220
9. Aluminum 1,084
10. Batteries 0
11. Electronic Waste 54,480
12. Plastic Bags 0
13. Magazines and mixed books 24,562

TOTAL RECYCLED POUNDS: 430,536

Source: 2011 Solid Waste Management Plan Update for NEARSWMD

ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED LOCALLY:

Clear glass, aluminum, scrap metal, plastic bottles, plastic bags, cardboard, chipboard, household appliances, waste motor oil, auto batteries, newsprint, office/home wastepaper, computer paper, and electronics

ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE RECYCLED LOCALLY:

Colored glass, bulbs, mirrors, car window glass, aerosol and paint cans, pesticide and oil containers, styrofoam, black trash bags, waxed cardboard, wet newspaper or dirty newspaper; carbon paper; small batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V); electronics that have wood on them. ♦

-- Terry Austin

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*Donna Jones
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Donna Jones scoffs when asked if she's been a gardener all her life.

"I've been a gardener wannabe," she laughs.

Don't let her fool you; Jones is much more than a wannabe. A 15-year veteran of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's Master Gardeners program, Jones has achieved the rank of lifetime member within the group. The honor is bestowed on Master Gardeners who complete 15 years with the organization.

It's been quite a turnaround for Jones. Her husband, David, was in the Navy, which meant she never could plant much of a garden on the grounds of their military housing.



Donna Jones has reached lofty status as a Master Gardener.

"We moved every few years, but when he retired, we moved here," she said. "And suddenly I had a yard to put in a garden."

Soon, Jones and a handful of friends took the classes necessary to become a Master Gardener. However, the group didn't establish a chapter in Greene County. Jones joined some friends, Dee Lindsey and Holly Fletcher, in the NEA Herbal Society, and when the Master Gardeners came to Greene County, she was among the first to sign up.

Today, the Greene County chapter boasts 32 active Master Gardeners, and while that's a highly educated lot, Jones notes it doesn't guarantee anything.

"Gardening can be frustrating, but it's a lot of fun," she said. "But just because the Master Gardener label is there doesn't mean it will be a success. We're still learning. You never quit learning."

She recalls sitting in a class on garden design when an overwhelmed classmate queried the instructor about where to start landscaping a big yard.

"He said, 'Get a plant, put it in the ground. If you like it, leave it. If you don't, move it,'" she said. "You just have to get started somewhere."



That's what the Master Gardeners did in Downtown Paragould's Centennial Park a few years ago. New construction on Pruett Street led to removal of some trees in the downtown district. The Master Gardeners planted a beautiful garden next to the new building.

With a brutal winter (hopefully) past, Jones is worried about how the plants will respond during the spring and summer.

"It's been a rough winter," she said. "There have been a lot of days when the ground stayed frozen. But," she continued, "that's one of the greatest parts of gardening -- these plants are so resilient."

"He said,
 'Get a plant,
 put it in the ground.
 If you like it,
 leave it.
 If you don't,
 move it,'" she said.
 "You just have to get
 started somewhere."

That might also describe the Master Gardeners, who remain active in beautifying Greene County, one group project at a time. In addition to Centennial Park, the Master Gardeners also oversee gardens at both the new and old courthouses, the Greene County Museum, at the City of Paragould signs on the east and south city limits, around the Main Street Paragould office downtown, and at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Clearly, these folks have a lot of energy, but Jones, in her inimitable style, has a different perspective:

"I just don't think you ever lose your desire to play in the dirt," she says. ♦



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Upcycling is creative form of conservation

So you've heard of the term recycle, as in, materials useful for reuse while saving our planet from pollution? A very good initiative, in theory, but an even more clever defense of waste is on the upcycle. Making hoarding functional is the real idea.

Every Southern girl believes in conservation and rustic charm. My favorite collectibles are often nostalgic or just too cool to throw away. Why dispose of something you can upgrade? Upcycle is the new recycle, people ... clean out the attic and make your junk fabulous!

First, I've taken an old window stored away after the death of a family member. I couldn't leave it at her home. She was a collector and I could tell the frame had been painted several times. There's something about antiques ... a



little mystery, a story left to the imagination. In this case, maybe a little comedy.

I took the window, left the paint in its original condition and used a hammer to knock out random glass panes. On the remaining glass, I used spray glue to attach cork board to the remaining glass and wired yarn to attach succulent vases to the bare frames. This is perfect for a mud room, laundry room or office.

The ever popular pallet decor is all the rage; and, of course, pallets are easy to find. Most

retail spaces that receive freight will gladly give you a pallet or two if you come calling.

I used a pallet to create an inexpensive coffee table. This one is low profile, but add an extra pallet for a larger scale. I turned the raw pallet over, added casters with the packaged hardware. Turn the pallet over and apply a craft wood that fits the top. In this case, I used two panels to complete the entire top. Use short wood screws to attach the wood top, from underneath, being careful not to pierce the top side. Finally, lightly apply a watered down Zar stain in modern oak to match the natural wood grain and rough the top up with sandpaper.

The last example is a complete find from Amazing Things in Paragould. This table was a steal compared to a retail version. Happy hunting! ♦

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Outstanding Teachers



LEE ANN OWEN ST. MARY'S

Teaching actually chose me. I was majoring in accounting. A friend who was majoring in education was doing homework with me. I became interested in what she was doing and began asking questions. I switched my major the next summer.

There have been many precious moments. I always enjoy watching students uncover new knowledge and gain the confidence that comes with it.

One memory was in my first year of teaching. I had just finished reading *Farmer Boy* to my class and we were at Parker Pioneer Homestead on a field trip. We were touring an authentic cabin and one of my students looked up at the loft and excitedly exclaimed to me, "Oh, Mrs. Lee Ann! There's Almanzo's bedroom!"

I have been teaching for eleven years at St. Mary, and before that, eight years at Riverside.

I have been married for 22 years to Mark Owen. We have two daughters, Lauren and Emilee. ♦



DEBBIE KIESTLER GREENE COUNTY TECH

Becoming a teacher came naturally for me. I played teacher as a child. I have been Sunday School teacher and Vacation Bible School teacher. I have been blessed with parents that instilled at a very early age the importance of an education and being a lifelong learner. My goal as a teacher is to be a positive influence in the lives of my students.

It is gratifying to me when students who complained about the hard work in class, come back to me and thank me. They thank me because now typing a research paper is easier and faster. I stress to my students to "work smarter, not harder." Some have obtained jobs because of their knowledge of computer software. Some simply come back to thank me for being supportive of them during a difficult time in their lives.

I have had the pleasure of teaching at Greene County Tech for 10 years in the Business Department as well as serving as FBLA Adviser.

I have been married to my husband, Tony, for 31 years. We have one daughter, Tonia Kiestler, who is a graduate of GCT and ASU with a degree in finance. ♦



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Annual Radiothon to benefit Children's Hospital scheduled for May 8

It's a mother's worst nightmare: an accident or illness that puts her child's life or well-being at risk.

This year, just a few days before Mother's Day, there's something you can do to allay those fears. Thursday, May 8, is the date for the annual Radiothon to benefit Arkansas Children's Hospital, hosted by MOR Media radio station JACK-FM and the Greene County Circle of Friends.

The Radiothon, now in its tenth year, typically raises around \$30,000 for ACH, the Little Rock based hospital and burn unit. "Even though Children's is in Little Rock, it provides service to a lot of people from this area," said Brian Osborn, program/operations manager at JACK-FM. "Several thousand children are aided by the hospital every year, including several children in Greene County and Northeast Arkansas."



The Saints and Sinners Riding Club brings in one of the biggest donation checks to the Radiothon each year.

The Saints and Sinners Riding Club hosts its annual Angel Run in conjunction with the Radiothon. The Angel Run has raised as much as \$10,000 in the past, and the club typically presents the run's proceeds during the Radiothon. Over the last two years, Paragould's version of the fundraiser has totaled about \$60,000.

The Radiothon happens between Southern Bank and Batten's Donuts and Bakery in the

Paragould Plaza. For 12 hours beginning at 7 a.m., the programming on JACK-FM will change to encourage giving to ACH.

"Where JACK-FM is more musically focused most of the time, we're going to be more hospital focused," Osborn said. We'll be talking with several groups that raise money for this event, and encouraging people to give."

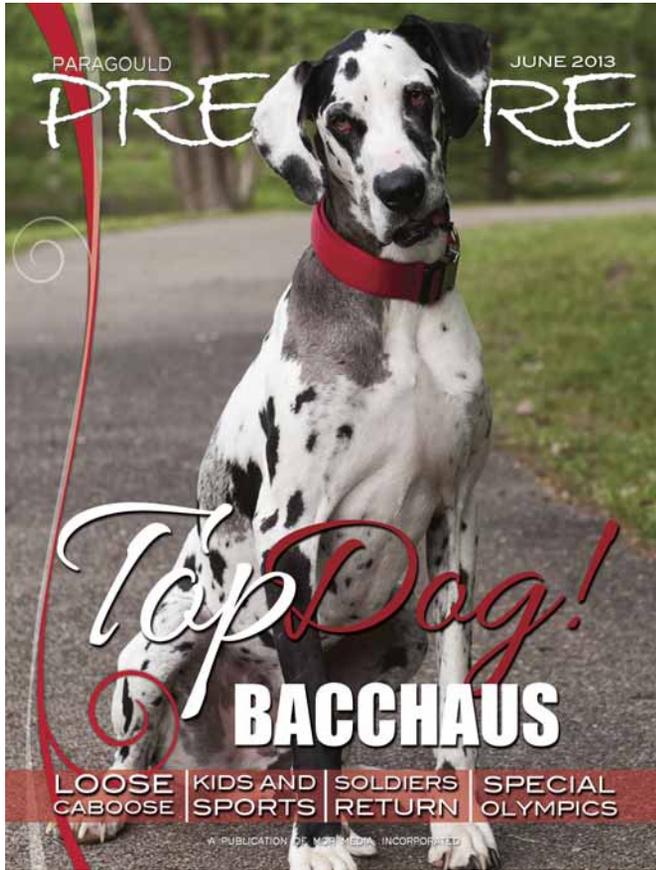
Southern Bank hosts a phone bank staffed by community volunteers, so listeners can call in and make pledges for the event.

Businesses and other organizations often challenge one another to see who can raise the most funds.

Because ACH operates the only burn unit in Arkansas -- serving both kids and adults -- the Paragould Fire Department also participates in the Radiothon, typically bringing a ladder truck to the Paragould Plaza. ♦

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Paragould Rotary Club staging dog show with chance for your pet to be cover model

How would you like to see your dog featured on the cover of an upcoming issue of Premiere Magazine, just like Bacchaus was in June of 2013?

It's a possibility, thanks to the Paragould Rotary Club's second "Paws For A Cause" Dog Show. The show itself is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Registration will begin that morning at 10:00, with the show starting at 11 a.m.

However, for your favorite canine to have a chance to appear on the cover of Premiere, you must attend one of two pre-registration events to have it photographed:

- * Saturday, March 29, at Veterinary Healthcare Clinic from 2-4 p.m.;
- * or Saturday, April 19, at Paragould Animal Clinic from 1-4 p.m.

Pre-registering also gives you a break on the entry fee per category ... \$10 each by registering early, \$12 on the day of the event.

The Most Photogenic category winner will be chosen from the above events, and that dog will be on the cover of the June issue of Premiere.

For more information, email mlewis@americanrailcar.com. ♦

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Radio Personality:

Television Station:

TV Personality:

Kids

Child Care Center:

Dance/Gymnastics Instructor (List Academy):

Martial Arts Instructor (List Academy):

Park/Playground:

School Administrator (List School):

Teacher (List School):

Coach (List School):

Gifts/Decor Shops

Home:

Baby:

Wedding:

Holiday:

Restaurants

Asian/Chinese:

Bakery/Sweet Treats:

BBQ:

Breakfast:

Buffet Style:

Burger:

Catfish:

Chicken:

Frozen Treats:

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Pizza:

Sandwiches:

Steak:

Shopping

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Liquor Store:

Pawn Shop:

Shoe Store:

Clothing:

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Sandi Bradford, Alex Perkins and C.J. Condray at Just Pretend and Play in Paragould



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Amanda Procter and Ryleigh Locke at Just Pretend and Play



Ashlynn Miller and Mollie Kelley, and Valory and Brooke Hammon at Brickhouse



Dan Ring and Kevin Nienhuis at Brickhouse



Kim, Julia and Joseph Young at Just Pretend and Play

Happenings



1



2



3



4



5



6

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Happenings

1, 2. Royalty At The Chateau

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Treece were named Valentine's Day King and Queen at the Chateau On The Ridge. Some of the cupcakes were decorated by residents and the cake was decorated by Lauria Baker, activities director. Also, as part of the Valentine's Day Celebration, a silent auction table was set up for the residents, visitors and staff. All proceeds went toward activities for Chateau residents. Pictured is resident Wanda Downs placing her bid on an item.

3. Birthday Gift

Alexis Strong, who just turned 9, celebrated her birthday by inviting friends to Just Pretend in Downtown Paragould. Instead of the normal presents, she asked her guests to bring food for the food pantry at the Witt House, a ministry of First United Methodist Church. Alexis is the great-granddaughter of Iona Stone.

4. Accomplished Speller

Paragould Junior High School 7th grade student Jackson Parker placed second in the Arkansas State Spelling Bee on March 1 in the Reynolds Auditorium on the University of Central Arkansas campus in Conway. This year's spelling bee was hosted by the Arkansas

Democrat-Gazette and 56 students participated. As the second place winner Jackson received a Kindle Paper White, a \$50 Amazon gift card, a digital Merriam-Webster dictionary, and a beautiful crystal trophy. Jackson won first place in the Greene County Spelling Bee on January 28. The Greene County Spelling Bee was hosted by the Greene County Retired Teachers' Association and First National Bank. Jackson is the son of Melanie Parker of Paragould.

5. Tenneco Donation

Tenneco corporate pledged \$10,000 and Tenneco employees pledged \$27,220 to the Greene County Community Fund. Pictured are, from left, Kera Crafton, Benton Nathan, Sherrie Greene, Nancy Shain, Gary Lynch, Tim Bain and Rusty McMillon (GCCF Board President). Seated are Patricia Stultz and Betty Massey.

6. \$1 A Week Offering Grants

First United Methodist Church gave away \$11,322 to seven organizations in Greene County during its worship services recently. The money was part of the \$1 A Week Offering, where all of the single dollar bills are collected from the offering plate and given to the community. This is the third year for the church to give this offering, which has totaled \$27,056 since the late Bill Leslie began it. ♦



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International Guitar Month

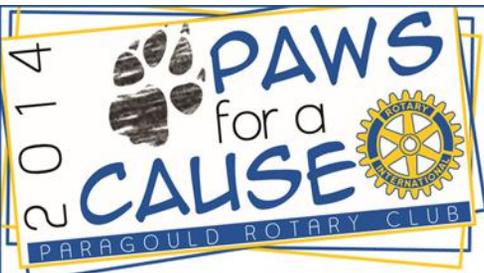
March is International Guitar Month, and there are few better representatives of that musical talent than our own Mike Dickerson.

Mike, a Media Consultant for MOR Media, is also considered one of the top guitarists around and has been strumming away since he was 9 years old.

"I grew up around music," Mike said. "My mom was the church organist and piano player and my dad played the guitar in his childhood. He quit, but had an old guitar around the house and I was drawn to it. He saw that and started up again, and put me around people who showed me a lot of helpful things. I grew up playing mostly bluegrass and gospel."

Mike is currently lead guitarist for the popular band Drive South, but for a while was sort of a "utility player," picking up with and filling in for numerous acts in the area. "I don't do much moonlighting now," he said. "That's something that takes a lot of nerve to jump into but I guess by word of mouth it got out that I was available for a while. People realized how much I enjoy it and would call."

Calling himself a country guitar player, Mike said he sees "no jumping off point" soon. "I still love it." ♦



Saturday, May 10, 2014

@ BC Lloyd Building
Greene Co. Fairgrounds, Paragould
Registration 10 am
Show Begins 11 am

**Pre-Register: Saturday, April 19, 1p-4p
at Paragould Animal Clinic**

- To enter in the Most Photogenic contest, you must bring your dog to the pre-registration event to have them photographed. There is a \$25 entry fee that includes an 8x10 photo. Winner of the contest will be Premiere's June cover dog!

- 9 other possible categories, \$10/category(pre-reg.); \$12/category(event day)

Find Paragould Rotary Club on Facebook for details!



WCRC presents "Barnyard Bash"

The Women for Crowley's Ridge College (WCRC) presented the 23rd Annual "Barnyard Bash" to a sell-out crowd in March, raising approximately \$8,000.

Several local and area artists provided music and comedy for the crowd of approximately 500 people.

Money raised at the event will purchase needed items for the CRC Paragould campus and dorms. The next Barnyard Bash has been scheduled for March 27, 2015. ♦



Above, Christy Cupp, Barry Joiner, Aubrey Cupp, Steve Goins, Angie Joiner, Jordan Taylor and Karen Pillow perform a musical number; at right, Nancy Joneshill (as Minnie Pearl), Judy Lambert (as Lulu), David Summitt (as Jr.) and Ricky Hale (as Grandpa) participate in a skit.



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Business Is Good

Nancy Hoke brings famous cinnamon rolls to customers at Swirlz

For great cooking like your grandma taught you, you don't have to look any further than your nearest yogurt stop. Swirlz, a frozen yogurt and coffee shop in Paragould, has recently added Nancy Hoke's famous cinnamon rolls, pies, empanadas and several other delectable desserts offered fresh every morning. It's a nice pairing to the Caribou coffees also offered at the spot that is expanding to offer morning treats in addition to the yogurt they sell throughout the day.

Several times a week, the long-time chef rises early to arrive at Swirlz by 5 a.m., allowing enough time for dough to expand, cookies to bake and the other foods to be prepared and ready by the store's 6 a.m. opening. The choices are varied and include foods she's known how to cook for decades.

Nancy remembers cooking with her mother when she was a small child. "Mama was



Nancy Hoke and Swirlz owner Rick Nunn have teamed up to provide pleasurable morning treats to customers.

busy," said Nancy. "She had four kids. I

wanted to hang out with her. I remember my head just reached the counter and I would say, 'Mama, can I help you cook?' I couldn't have been more than 8. She cooked country, and made fried chicken on Sundays. She made the best fried chicken in the world."

Nancy also remembers learning how to make an apron and make biscuits in 4-H. "I liked the idea of a recipe. I could cook it all by myself," she said, though she didn't have a cookbook until several years later. "I didn't know I needed a cookbook." At 15 she was baby-sitting and was asked to cook lunch, for which she received high compliments.

Today, she strives to keep her cooking tasting like it came from your mom's kitchen, relying on old recipes, the freshest ingredients and years of experience. She has owned her own catering business, Loaves and Fishes, for about 20 years, and still caters, offering dinner rolls, pies, and cinnamon rolls in particular, though she can master most any food or event. Loaves and Fishes can be reached at 573-0214.

Swirlz is open 7 days a week ... at 6:00 Monday-Friday and 8:00 Saturday and Sunday. It is located at 2709 West Kingshighway. ♦

-- Karole Risker

An advertisement for Arkids Pediatric Day Centers. It features a collage of images showing children engaged in various activities: reading, playing with toys, and interacting with staff. The text is arranged around the collage. At the top, it says "Kids learn through PLAY" with "PLAY" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below that is the "Arkids" logo in a stylized font, with a small cartoon character holding a kite. Underneath the logo is "Pediatric Day Centers" and the tagline "developing our greatest natural resource". A list of "Pediatric Therapy Services" is provided, including Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychological Therapy, Early Intervention, Cognitive Therapy, Counseling, Case Management, and Speech/Language Therapy. At the bottom left, contact information is listed: "6263 Highway 49 South By Glen Sain GM | Paragould, AR www.arkidspdc.com | 870-240-0444".

Kids learn through **PLAY**

Arkids
Pediatric Day Centers
"developing our greatest natural resource"

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Business Is Good

Son Rise Bookstore is open

Son Rise Christian Bookstore and Church Supplies has opened at 1305 West Kingshighway, Suite 1, in Paragould.

Owners Jonathan and Shanna Peel offer shoppers a variety of church and communion supplies to compliment Bibles of various kinds and versions for all ages.

Son Rise has books on a wide range of topics, as well as art items, T-shirts, wedding gifts, presents for the newborn, jewelry for men, women and teens, graduation gifts and guides, DVDs, CDs and soundtracks.

Customers can shop Monday through Saturday, beginning each morning at 10:00.

Shanna said the store "is something we have really needed here in Paragould. We're excited about it."

Shanna, at far right, is pictured with store helper Stephanie Ward. ♦



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Engagement Announcements

Lands-Tabor

Caitlin Brooke Tabor and Logan Jackson Lands have announced their plans for a May wedding ceremony.

Brooke is the daughter of Don and Lissa Tabor of Paragould.

Logan's parents are Russell and Melissa Lands, also of Paragould.

The ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, 2014, at First United Methodist Church in Paragould.

All friends and family are invited to the wedding and the reception which follows at the Paragould Country Club. ♦



Logan Jackson Lands and Caitlin Brooke Tabor

Birth Announcements



Photo by Paige Yawson, His Creations Photography

Amelia Jewell Kirby

BJ and Angela Kirby, residents of Jonesboro, announce the birth of their daughter, Amelia Jewell Kirby.

Amelia Jewell weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

She was born at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Grandparents are Gary and Nora Woodsmall and Rick and Pat Kirby. ♦



James Wyatt McClelland

Mike and Jamie McClelland of Paragould announce the birth of their son, James Wyatt McClelland.

The baby weighed 7.65 pounds and was 21.1

inches long.

He was born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

Grandparents are Phillip and Michi McClelland, and James and Rhonda Thomas. ♦

Birth Announcements



Adrian Reed Hilderbran

Jimmy and Shayna Hilderbran of Paragould announce the birth of a son, Adrian Reed Hilderbran.

The baby weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 22 inches long.

He was born at St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro.

Grandparents are Tom and Sherry Hazlewood of Paragould and Kenny and Samantha Hilderbran of Trumann. ♦

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April

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

GREENE COUNTY FINE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS "YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN", at 7:30 pm, The Collins Theatre.

Tickets on sale now, \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors. **Other performance dates:** April 4, April 6 (2:00 pm), April 7

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

AMMC HOSTS INFANT SAFETY CLASS, held in the Second Floor Conference Room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

AMMC HOSTS BREASTFEEDING CLASS

, held in the Second Floor Conference Room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

CHAD GARRETT AND FRIENDS

, at The Collins Theatre, 7:00 pm. Featuring Brad Owen, Randy Aden, Ken Wadley, and Kevin King with special guests Josh Gregg and Erica Epps. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

AMMC HOSTS HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS, held in the Second Floor Conference Room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

AMMC HOSTS CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS, held in the Second Floor Conference Room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register. **Other class dates:** April 15, April 22, April 29.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

AMMC HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, held in the Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm. Each person who successfully donates blood at the February blood drive at AMMC will receive three \$5 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

GREENE COUNTY TECH HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS DEPT. PRESENTS "ALL SHOOK UP", in the GCT High School Performing Arts Center at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students at the door. **Other performance dates:** April 12

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

COUNTRY MUSIC SUPER STAR, COLLIN RAYE, TO PERFORM AT CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE, for the Spirit of America XXI at 6:00 pm. The Spirit of America award will be awarded to a local individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary level of community service and involvement over the years in Paragould and Greene County.

For more information and ticket prices, call (870) 236-6901 or email ajohnson@crc.edu

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

PRE-REGISTRATION EVENT FOR ROTARY CLUB'S PAWS FOR A CAUSE DOG SHOW, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Paragould Animal Clinic. To enter the Most Photogenic contest, you must bring your dog to be photographed. There is a \$25 entry fee that includes an 8x10" photo of your dog. There are nine other contest categories, \$10/category fee at pre-registration; 12/category entry fee on day of event.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

AMMC HOSTS MOMMY AND ME BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP AND 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 the Greene County Health Unit at (870) 236-7782.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

PPD, GREENE CO. SHERIFF'S DEPT, AND ROTARY CLUB HOST DRUG TAKE BACK DAY AND FOOD DRIVE, at Walmart of Paragould from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to help find a solution to prescription drug abuse. 24-hour collection boxes, installed in secure locations across the state, provide an easy way to properly dispose of old medications.

CITYWIDE CLEAN UP, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

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.

Greene County Master Gardeners present a Brown Bag Lunch Program at the Greene County Library, 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 12-1. Bring a lunch and enjoy a free gardening presentation.

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.

The Memory Cafe, support group for those having memory, dementia or Alzheimer's at 1:00 pm at Swirlz Yogurt and Coffee.

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.

Every Third Tuesday: Alzheimer's Support Group with the Alzheimer's Arkansas Association and Absolute Care Management, 1:00 pm at the Paragould Library.

Fourth Tuesday of every month: Greene County Master Gardener Meeting, Greene County Library, 6 pm, guests welcome.

T.O.P.S. (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) Wednesday mornings at the Paragould Community Center in Room E. Private Weigh in at 8:00 a.m.; support meeting at 8:30 a.m. May attend one meeting as a guest.

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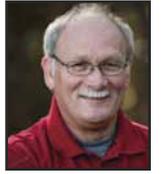


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Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



Winning is important, but friendships are best

Sometimes I am amused when watching parents on the sidelines at their kids' sporting events. Many of them live and die with each pitch or bounce of the ball, simply because they want their children to experience the joy of winning.

If I could, I would comfort them and share words of wisdom gleaned from a lifetime of participation in sports. I would let them know that -- win or lose -- there is a very good chance their sons and daughters will someday look back on their years as athletes and consider them among the best of times.

We all like to win; it makes the long hours of practice and the times we got yelled at or chastised or benched somehow seem worth the effort. But the real thing we "win" by being members of sports teams is friendship -- true, right-down-to-the-heart friendship, which is infinitely more valuable than trophies and medals.

For many years I had a men's slow-pitch softball team that was ranked among the best in the nation for our classification. We won, and won a lot, but the real cement for the bond we established was in the love we came to share for each other. Men are not so good at telling another guy they love him, but after more than 20 years apart we staged a team reunion and the love was evident.

Obviously, we relived games and plays and moments that either made us proud or made us laugh, but the truth surfaced quickly: Our time together represented something special, and our time apart seemed too long.

During that afternoon we laughed, we cried, we hugged ... we loved each other as only longtime teammates could.

So, parents, sit back and smile as your kids build friendships of their own, regardless of the score. That's the important part. ♦

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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Theme



We will take a ride with area bicyclists and find out what has made that the booming pastime it has become.

Features



Sunday, May 11, is Mother's Day and we will bring you some fun, touching and interesting features regarding that special event. Be sure to catch that and much more in the May issue of Premiere Magazine. ♦

This is a
GAME CHANGER

A photograph of a stationary bike with a large digital display panel. The display shows '080', '2400', and '25'. The bike is blue and white.

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A photograph of a woman's waist wearing blue jeans. A smartphone is tucked into her pocket, displaying the 'JACK FM' logo. The phone is black with a red and white logo.

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