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On the Cover: Racheale West
Cover by Tim Rand Photography



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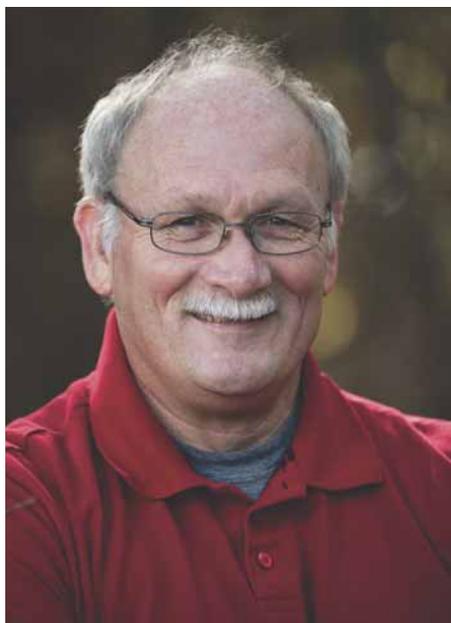
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From the Managing Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

With another year drawing to a close we reflect -- just as our readers do -- on the many ways we have been blessed throughout the last 12 months.

We're especially grateful for our dedicated advertisers, just as we are thankful for the reading public -- all people who collectively keep us in business and encourage us to keep turning out what we think is a quality product.

A great example of early Christmas presents for me is represented by all the instances when readers have taken the time to tell me how much they enjoy Premiere Magazine. Positive feedback and a few kind words go a long way toward making me think we are providing something readers want.

We hope in the coming year to add new features that will mix well with our current lineup, and we will try to bring the "good news" stories of individuals and organizations in the Northeast Arkansas area into your homes.

Our December theme is "The Spirit of Giving" and we think we have settled on some excellent feature subjects to get the point across, people who give more than just dollars and cents -- they give time, effort and love to causes that matter to them and by doing so make our communities better places to live.

There are also several pages dedicated to the various factions that took the time to honor our veterans during the previous month, and we agree that the sacrifices of those who served in the branches of the military also are indicative of the giving spirit.

The center spread of this month's magazine is dedicated to the Paragould High School Lady Rams, who won their second consecutive state volleyball championship. Our congratulations go out to them and to head coach Angie Donner and her coaching staff, just as our well wishes go out to all of our area high school athletes and their teams as they pursue the ultimate trophy in the sports they choose to play.

The Premiere staff is already in the process of planning next year's monthly themes and coming up with individuals to spotlight, and you are invited to make suggestions regarding people you would like to see in the pages of our magazine. Just send your information to any of the email addresses contained on the next page and we will give it sincere consideration. ♦

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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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Home For The Holidays Cooking Show



Dave Aronson of Ironhorse BBQ instructs guests on how to brine a turkey.

The 3rd Annual Home for the Holidays Cooking Show, hosted by the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Women's Council, was held in November at the Community Center in Paragould.

Featured chefs were AMMC Certified Diabetes Educator Pat Malone, RN; Dave Aronson with Ironhorse BBQ and Nancy Hoke of Swirlz. Nearly 300 guests enjoyed more than 20 vendor booths, demonstrations of spanakopita, turkey and dressing and cinnamon rolls, as well as drawings for several nice door prizes.

The event raised more than \$3,000 to benefit AMMC's Community Diabetes Program. ♦



Above, Nancy Hoke of Swirlz demonstrates how to make her famous cinnamon rolls. At left are members of the AMMC Education Department before the 3rd Annual Home for the Holidays Cooking Show. Pictured left to right are Tina Adams, Allison Hitt, Shannon Gomer, Pat Malone and Debbie Baker.

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ORTHODONTICS



Veterans gave much, asked little in return

Major Jim Largent addressed students, families at Paragould High School

The Paragould High School National Honor Society hosted a Veterans Day program November 11 to honor students' military family members. Guest speaker Major Jim Largent addressed students on the history of Veterans Day.

Largent served in the Army for 23 years during Vietnam and Desert Storm, earning the rank of Major. Largent is now the Commander of the American Legion Post 17.

He explained Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and on June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all veterans.



"That's why we're here today," Largent said, "to honor American veterans who gave so much and asked nothing more in return than their service and devotion to this great country be remembered."

He added a veteran is an extraordinary human being who sacrificed his or her ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.



Above, Brandon Jones, Carol Jones (served in Army), and Elizabeth Burnett



At left, Mark, Claire and Bill Rowland (served in Army)



Tori Henry and Ashley McIninch began the program by recognizing military veterans and current serving members while Paragould students honored military members of the audience, right.





Gerald Mason cuts a birthday cake while fellow Marines look on in a ceremony held at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Paragould.



Veterans celebrate Marine Corps birthday

United States Marine Corps veterans gathered at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Paragould to celebrate the 239th birthday of the military branch in November. History dictates that the oldest and youngest soldiers in attendance get the first two pieces of cake, and a Marine Corps Sword was used to cut it. The sword was brought in by Veteran's Service Officer Larry Pierce from his time in Vietnam. It is about 55 years old and special permission was needed to have the sword on the premises. A VA Federal Police Officer was present to okay its use for the ceremony, held at the Linwood Drive location. ♦



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Vietnam veterans salute Frank Hyde, a veteran and resident of Belle Meade Nursing Home in Paragould. The group presented Hyde with certificates of recognition -- which his wife, Polly, shared with him -- and a comforter to honor his service to our country.

Local group pays tribute to veterans in area nursing homes

Their goal is simple: Making certain veterans in nursing home facilities understand their service to our country is not forgotten.

A local motorcycle club, The Vietnam Veterans and Legacy Veterans, visited area nursing homes around Veterans Day to present former members of the military with gifts of appreciation.

"We just want them to know they are not forgotten," said group member Don Foster. "Unfortunately, some of them are just forgotten. I actually had a daughter who had tears running down her face tell me that it hadn't been even a week ago that her dad said no one remembers what he did for our country. We're just trying to say that we haven't forgotten."

Club members presented the veterans with a throw and with letters of recognition from Congressman Rick Crawford and Secretary of State Mark Martin.

"The letters added a real personal touch," Foster said.

Foster said the idea started because "someone is always doing something for the kids or for veterans who are out and about, or even for the ones that are deceased. But the ones in nursing homes, they're forgotten about."

He said they gave the gifts to 30 veterans in Paragould, and learned after the fact that two women had been nurses in the military "and we ordered more comforters for them. Just to show you how quick things can change, between the time we got everyone's names and the time we delivered, a couple had already passed away.

"We hope to make this an ongoing thing. It depends on how much money we can raise as to what we can do. We just want them to know we remember them." ♦

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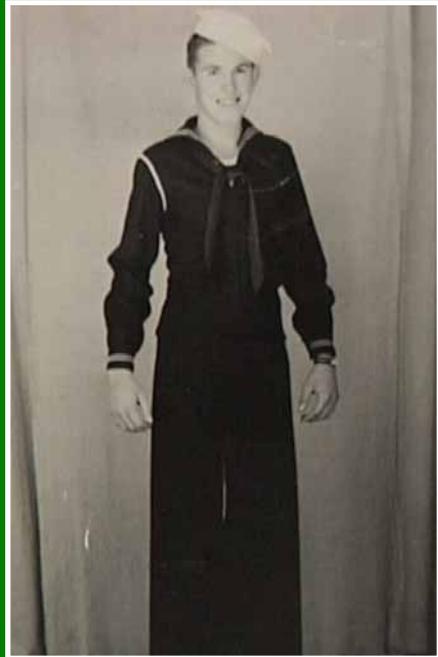
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Greene County Tech adds three to Veterans' Hall of Fame



First Lieutenant Norman Mayo Tillman

After serving as Cadet Captain in the Arkansas State University R.O.T.C. while in college, Norman Mayo Tillman enlisted in the Marines in 1943. He was a First Lieutenant Communications officer for the First Marine Artillery. On February 20, 1945, he was fatally wounded at Iwo Jima when an enemy shell exploded in the message center he was in charge of. In June of 1945, his parents were awarded the Purple Heart Medal for his service. ♦



Seaman First Class C.P. Butler

A Seaman First Class in the United States Navy during World War II, C.P. Butler served in Okinawa, Guam, and the Philippines.

During his time of service, he was assigned to the USS Atlanta, where he worked in the powder room loading gunpowder into the big guns.

In 1945, he witnessed the surrender of Japan to General Douglas MacArthur at Tokyo Bay. ♦



Chief Warrant Officer Tommy Grooms

A Chief Warrant Officer from the United States Army who served his country for 21 years, Tommy Grooms served on the border of East and West Germany during the Cold War, as well as in Korea.

He was the chief pilot and instructor of a unit that fought in Iraq during 2003 and he flew over 60 combat missions in and around Baghdad, Iraq. He has received 4 service medal awards, 4 Army commendation medals, 3 National Defense medals, a Good Conduct Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, a Korea Defense Service Medal, and a Master Aviator Badge. ♦

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Witt House feeds more than 100 for holiday



One hundred seventy one people were given help this Thanksgiving when volunteers at the food pantry of the Witt House, a ministry of First United Methodist Church, distributed turkeys and other food.

The ongoing ministry helps hundreds of people all year with food, giving them extra at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Church members donated the money for the turkeys. The goal of the ministry is to help provide support to the working poor.

The Witt House is named for Emmy Witt, longtime church member who left her home to the church in her will. ♦

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Wishing Many Blessings in the New Year!



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PREMIERE'S *Scene 'Ya*

Santa Claus paid a visit to Just Pretend Play and Party, and Premiere Magazine was there



Shelley, Halle and Kirk Brinkley visit Santa.

Above, Christian, Samantha and Amanda Traxler; at right, Hailee, Ryan and Noah Waldrum; below, Lauren, Kim and John Strope



Photos by
Caitlin LaFarlette



Above, Pacey, April and Joey Bowen; at left, Chelsie, Wes, Harper and Marley Gill

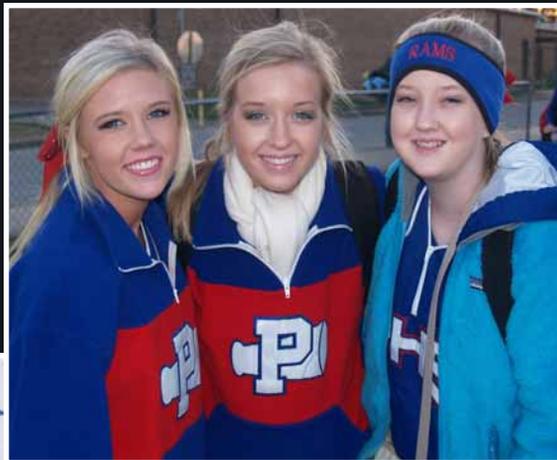
Citywide Tailgate Party 2014



A mountain of food awaited Greene County Tech and Paragould football fans prior to the football game at the annual tailgate party.

Dancers, cheerleaders, award-winning bands and plenty of food greeted visitors to the 2014 version of the Citywide Tailgate Party prior to the Paragould-Greene County Tech football game.

Hosted at PHS by MOR Media and other sponsors, this year's event featured a Spirit Award for the school selling the most tickets. MOR Media presented the award to PHS. ♦





Outstanding Teachers



Tonya Benefield

Getting to know Tonya Benefield, second grade teacher at Oak Grove Elementary School:

This is my 2nd year at OGE in 2nd grade. I was at Woodrow Wilson for a year as an aide in resource.

I have always enjoyed babysitting and when I would try to change my major or come up with a different plan, teaching was the only thing I could see myself doing. I always remembered the teachers that touched my life and helped me in so many ways. I hope I can be that to several students, but I would be happy if it is just one student.

A favorite teaching moment ... When I look out at

my classroom and they are all engaged, participating, and hopefully learning. That is my favorite moment ... sometimes we have those several times a day and sometimes it might only be once or twice a week. Standing up, raising hands, smiling, and the lesson clicking is what I love to see in my classroom.

I am married to Captain Marc Benefield. He works at the PEC on Camp Robinson in Little Rock. We have three active children. Blythe is in 6th grade at OGMS and plays basketball and soccer, Berkli is in 5th grade at OGMS and plays volleyball and basketball and Bradack is in 3rd grade at OGE and plays soccer and basketball. We also have two dogs, Winnie and Lola. ♦

Nominate your favorite teacher for consideration as Premiere's Outstanding Teacher. Email nominations to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Getting to know Susan Lewallen, English, Spanish, Speech, and Drama teacher at Crowley's Ridge Academy High School:

I have been teaching for 11 years. I love working with teenagers and realized I wanted to make a difference with my life.

A favorite teaching moment ... Some favorite memories

include listening to my Spanish students converse with each other in a made-up scenario, like a restaurant or giving directions; re-enacting the Battle of Gettysburg with my students in the gym; and "flour babies" with my Bible class.

My husband is Jason Lewallen and we have been married for 17 years.

We have two daughters, Katherine and Elizabeth. ♦



Susan Lewallen

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If bigger is better, "Jill" radio listeners should be happy with new sound

According to Brian Osborn, Programming Director for all of MOR Media's radio interests, "NEA's 'It' radio girl has a new home."

Jill Radio has found a new location on the FM dial, giving it a "bigger, louder, stronger presence," Osborn said.

"Basically, what we've done is move the programming from 103.9 to 99.3 on the FM dial," he added. "It's the same programming, the same fun ... The same great mix of music, delivered in a way only Jill can."

Osborn said Jill's approach is "to feature '90s to now, minus the talk. It utilizes a single personality approach which has proven popular with our Jack radio format. The whole Jill idea is - a singular person approach that puts the music out there without all the blah, blah, blah. Music, not so many words."

The move is designed to bring Jill to the listeners with a much stronger signal.



"It will better cover a larger chunk of Paragould, Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas," Osborn explained. "It provides truly better coverage, a signal that can be heard in your car and inside your office, at home. It is a lot easier to listen to."

He said Jill 99.3 is also streamed at neajillra-

dio.com, "and you can use our apps on your Smart phone.

"MOR Media now has Jill at 99.3, Jack FM 107 and coming soon, the all new IRock 103.9 ... a new rock station with just that, new rock. And KDRS AM which simulcasts with 103.9; IRock is taking Jill's old position." ♦

Happy Healthy Holidays

Join us in celebrating the holidays at one of our events

Auxiliary Christmas Tree Lighting and The Foundation Holiday Auction
Monday, December 1 | 6:00 PM | The Herget Atrium

Beautifully decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and other holiday items donated by local individuals and organizations will be auctioned off with the proceeds benefiting Prenatal Education at AMMC. Please join us as we kick-off the holiday season with an evening full of fun.

Holiday Tour of Homes
Sunday, December 7 | 2:00-4:00 PM | Hill Home Subdivision

Tour some of Paragould's most exquisite homes while they are decorated for Christmas. The tour begins at Chateau on the Ridge Assisted Living located at 2308 Chateau Blvd. For information and tickets, call The Foundation at 870-239-7077.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, December 8 | 11:00 AM-5:30 PM | AMMC Auditorium

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December 2014						
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	31			

Karter Tinley DeRoe, 2, got in the holiday spirit by enjoying a cupcake at Something Sweet in Paragould. Karter is the daughter of Tommy and Krista DeRoe.



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First Methodist Church in Paragould holds special service Dec. 21

Christmas can be a painful time for some. For that reason, First United Methodist Church of Paragould offers a special "Service of Healing and Hope" on December 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Everyone is invited to come out and join church members in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

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Jeri Hood Baldwin poses with the Letters to Santa mailbox at The Hairloom/Shear Glitz in Paragould and said anyone is welcome to drop by and mail their letters.

Official “Letters to Santa” mailbox set up at Downtown Paragould location

When the little ones have finished writing their letters to Santa this year, there is an official place for parents to drop them off.

The staff at The Hairloom/Shear Glitz in Downtown Paragould has a “Letters to Santa” mailbox set up right in the store, just waiting to be filled with children’s wish lists.

Owner Patty Garner came up with the idea and ran with it, and it has proven a popular decision.

“She was all excited about it,” said stylist Jeri Hood Baldwin. “I think she came up with it because no one else around here had a place for kids to send their letters.”

She said anyone -- not just store customers -- is welcome to pop in

Letters to Santa may be deposited at The Hairloom/Shear Glitz Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

and drop off their letters and to date they have “had quite a few. We’ve even had Santa come in and pick up some letters. The kids all seem to be really excited.”

The mailbox will be available “right up until Christmas,” Baldwin said, “and I’m pretty sure we’re going to bring it back next year and from now on.”

The Hairloom/Shear Glitz is located at 210 South Pruet Street and is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. ♦

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Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Tony Gross has been decorating his house for Christmas since 1992, and said he got started because his grandfather decorated as well.

“He’d always have his house covered in lights,” Gross said.

Gross said he would daydream during school and draw doodles of the house with all the lights. Now with his own army of yard ornaments, Gross adds to his collection each year and said he mostly enjoys decorating for the children in his neighborhood. ♦



Tony Gross' Christmas decorations brighten up the street and bring neighborhood children running to their windows to see the lights.



Photos by
Caitlin
LaFarlette



Lots of Santas ... that's one way Sherry West describes her house at Christmas time.

From a 300-pound Santa stationed outside near the front door to beautiful relics inside, Sherry's home definitely communicates holiday cheer. ♦



Every room provides the Christmas spirit, as does the exterior of the house. From the beautiful dining room, left, to the fireplace, top, and all points in between, Sherry's home shows off her skills as an interior designer.



Photos by
*Richard
Brummelt*



PHA Executive Director David Lange is proud of the new housing projects in Paragould.

PHA provides affordable housing for the elderly

Paragould Housing Authority's future is so bright, it has to wear mini blinds.

Tortured prose aside, it's safe to say that the stigma once attached to public housing in the city is giving way to a new, promising reality. And now in his 12th year as PHA's executive director, David Lange has witnessed the transformation of Paragould's existing housing developments and the construction of new units.

With 32 new apartments nearing completion, PHA's Rolling Hills development, located off Fairview Road north of Highway 135, reflects the agency's continued focus on affordable housing for a growing demographic: older Americans.

"These one-bedroom units will be for those 55 and over," Lange said. "For years, I've been getting the question: 'When can you build another mini-rise?' Unfortunately, HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) is not building any more like that."

That presented a problem for PHA, because its waiting list for senior housing has over 100

names on it. To alleviate that backlog, the authority has built new complexes for the elderly in Paragould, most notably in the Lakeview I and II developments (19 and 12 units, respectively) on Reynolds Park Road. Rolling Hills, slated to be complete by year's end, will provide housing for nearly a third of those waiting for an apartment.

And as Lange proudly points out, the new units provide more than just roofs over the heads of their aging occupants. The apartments are appointed with appliances -- washer/dryer, stove, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher -- and feature screened-in back porches. Community areas include a walking track, a community room, and a "safe room" for inclement weather. Smoking will not be allowed inside the units, and PHA will maintain the lawn, landscaping and maintenance and upkeep of the development.

"What we've found over the years is that if you provide something nice, most people will take pride in living there and will work to take care of it," Lange said. "That's especially true of our elderly residents."

Lange also noted that many people inaccurately assess public housing as a government handout. While the programs do provide reduced-cost housing for those with provable need, residents are still required to pay 30% of their adjusted gross income as monthly rent, with only a few exceptions made for those with significant medical expenses.

"Most people buying their own home are paying around 30% of their AGI," Lange noted. "Our residents are productive citizens -- they are paying their fair share of the rent."

As the so-called Baby Boomer generation approaches retirement age, Lange said the need for affordable housing for those 55 and over will outpace PHA's ability to build. "There's always going to be a need," he said, noting that the authority's goal is to continue to build for older Americans. "Developments like these afford residents the opportunity to live peacefully in a well-maintained apartment.

"It's their home." ♦

-- Terry Austin



Finally ... time to play ball

Kids and sponsors took to the field at the grand opening of the Miracle League of Jonesboro event.



*Miracle League
Field becomes
reality*



Photos by
Joy Robinson

After years of fundraising and hard work, area sports enthusiasts finally saw all the efforts pay off with the opening of the Miracle League of Jonesboro field in October.

Working on the theme "Every Child Deserves A Chance To Play

Baseball," organizers provided a fun-filled day at the new facility located at 5000 South Caraway Road in Jonesboro.

The \$2.8 million rubberized field is safe for wheelchairs and accommodates special needs children, providing a safer atmosphere. ♦





**Holiday
message
is clear:
Shop locally**



Suzanne Johnston works on a makeover at Ima's Fashions. Johnston said shopping locally creates a more personalized experience, and the store just has a homey environment.

Cold weather has hit and the holidays are sweeping in with that biting chill, but don't huddle up at home just yet to shop online for gifts. Braving the cool temperatures to shop locally can have more benefits than turning to Amazon.

"If you don't shop local, it kills the small towns," said Suzanne Johnston, manager of Ima's Fashions in Paragould.

Johnston explained shopping at large corporations can eliminate family businesses, and staying local means getting the chance to purchase more unique items. She added smaller businesses will be sure to carry not only boutique items, but name brand clothing as well. "You get the best of both worlds," she said.

Carol Blankenship, owner of Lipstix and Lollipops, also noted how shopping locally gives customers a more personalized experience.

"In the big stores you're going to get the same thing your neighbor is getting," she said. "(Shopping local) gives you a little more diversity."

Staying in the community also adds jobs, keeps locals committed to building their town and half the money spent locally stays here.

There is good news for those devoted to purchasing online. Several businesses are also relying on the internet to reach out to customers and launch their products to other states. Johnston said Ima's website was created earlier this year, and the goal is to get the store known nationwide.

Adding online business has also proven to spread the word locally. Blankenship said having a Facebook page for Lipstix and Lollipops was a good decision because of the large amount of people using the social media platform who end up discovering her shop.

"I have people come in almost daily who said they didn't know I was here," she explained.

Debra Lyles-Benedict, owner of 2 Sisters Daily Deals Boutique, said having a Facebook page for her business allows customers to have a personalized shopping experience. She is also looking into adding a website for online ordering as her business grows.

"I am looking into companies now that offer that service for small business," she said. "I want to use a local company to keep my dollars local too."

It can be a better experience shopping in physical locations, however. Lyles-Benedict said not ordering online means customers can actually touch the merchandise and be sure of its quality when purchasing. ♦

-- Caitlin LaFarlette

LIFE *style*

Jenny Bird
Multi Strand Chain, \$125
Steamroller Blues

Banded
Atchafalaya Vest, \$149
Hawk's Outfitters



Vera Bradley
Cosmetic Bag \$38
Ima's Fashions

Bobi
Long Sleeved Tee, \$54
Steamroller Blues

Mink Pink
Cardigan, \$116
Steamroller Blues



SOG
Rotohook Knife, \$49.99
Hawk's Outfitters



Hogs Fire Pit, \$249
Metal Creations



Tunic with Buttons, \$42
Tru Boutique

J Brand
Jeans, \$218
Steamroller Blues

- Between The Dashes -

Melanie
Heath
Posey



May 21, 1971 -
August 30, 2014

If anyone understood the shock and sorrow associated with the unexpected loss of a loved one, it was Melanie Posey. As a third generation funeral director and administrator with Heath Funeral Home, Melanie was familiar with the range of emotions families experience at such a time, skilled in the art of comforting those in need of a kind word or thought.

It seems strange then, that Melanie would leave us suddenly, taken at the age of 43, and we would be expected to face those emotions without her guiding hand.

Those of us who knew Melanie didn't look at her so much as a business acquaintance or friend, but almost as family because that's how she treated us. She and my family were entwined from the day her father, Jim Bryant, and grandfather, Peck, tricked me into coaching the Paragould elementary school girls' basketball program "until we find someone permanent," they said. After 13 seasons I finally found a way out, but during that time the Bryant family became my family, and almost every Saturday morning when most teenage girls were sleeping in, Melanie could usually be found at the old Paragould Middle School gym encouraging the coming generation of Lady Rams.

I watched Melanie play as a member of the Ridgecrest High School basketball program, knew she graduated from Ridgecrest and

Arkansas State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources. I saw her grow into a young woman both loved and respected by so many.

I think *respected* is the appropriate identifier. Recognized for outstanding performance in her chosen field, it was the extra -- the volunteer work, the thoughtfulness, the participation in worthy causes -- that helped her stand out in a community full of standout individuals. The information gleaned from her obituary tells her story, but not the entire story.

For example, she served as the organizer and founder of the funeral home's Tree of Memory Service, a memorial tribute service during the Christmas season to honor those they served.

As a parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Melanie served as president of the Parish Council and was a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. She was a member of the Rotary Club of Paragould and served as the club president from 2008-2009. The 2002 Rotarian of the Year, Melanie was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, the highest honor bestowed upon a Rotarian. She was the Rotary District 6150 Chairperson of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) for many years. She was active in the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould and the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, where she was a graduate of the first-ever Leadership

Paragould Class and was a former chairperson of the Paragould Relay for Life.

Melanie was an active member of the Phi Mu Fraternity while at ASU and became an enthusiastic member of the Red Wolf Foundation, backing her beloved Red Wolves. She was an active member, past board member and 1924 Sustaining Life Member of the Arkansas State University Alumni Association, and attended John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science in Nashville, where she graduated second in her class.

Melanie married Stephen "Bear" Posey in 2007 and they expanded their family with the blessing of their children, Kat and J.T. in December 2010.

She is survived by her loving husband and their precious children, of the home; her mother and "Big Daddy," Lynda Heath Bryant White and Kaut White of Paragould; sister and brother-in-law, Tanya and Scott Ellington of Jonesboro; sister, Kim Bryant of Paragould; her bonus sisters, Gina (Tim) Jarrett of Paragould, and Sharon (Tony) Dibble of Mountain Home; bonus brothers William Kaut (Cari) White of Jonesboro and David (Chris) White of Mountain Home.

And by all of us who knew and loved her dearly. ♦

-- Richard Brummett

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The Spirit of Giving

Beech Grove Methodist Church holds fundraiser for ranch

Bob Hager said Susan Boyd gives so much to her community through the efforts of her If Wishes Were Horses Ranch, that community members wanted to give back.

"I returned here in 2009 and was asked to serve at Beech Grove," said Hager, who heads up the congregation at Beech Grove United Methodist Church. "I heard about the work Susan was doing and felt it was our responsibility as a church to affirm and bless it.

"It's a very important part of our role to do good work, so the church has sort of partnered with her to encourage and support her efforts."

With that in mind, church members held a fundraising chili dinner that allowed them to present "well over \$500 to Susan and her work with the foundation."

Boyd's ranch and her Henry Wrinkles Foundation serve to encourage children with special needs and self-esteem issues, offering programs like equine therapy and educational opportunities, to mention only a few of the wide range of services provided.

"We like the idea that we are kind of a partner," Hager said. "We held the fundraiser, and we have a support group that meets with them



Church members were cooks and servers for the fundraising chili dinner.

once a week. We do some Bible study and things to encourage them, to let them know -- in today's vernacular -- that we have their back."

Guests were invited to drive up the road to the ranch after the chili dinner and take a tour of the facility. Once there, they were encouraged to pet the animals that roam

freely on the property, and there were also hot dogs and smores available for those who still had an appetite.

Boyd's ranch is located on Hwy. 34 in Beech Grove. She may be reached by phone at 870-586-9229 for those seeking additional information regarding programs and services. ♦

What is the Henry Wrinkles Foundation?

The Henry Wrinkles Foundation is a non-profit 501(C)(3) Organization, created in 2005 to utilize Henry's unique appeal and talent to support projects to help improve the lives of animals and children.

One hundred percent of the profit from income and donations related to the foundation goes toward two areas: Supporting "Spay/Neuter" programs and the "Animal Assisted Learning and Therapy Program."

Henry Wrinkles is a sharpie/lab mix dog that was adopted from the shelter as a puppy. As he matured it became clear he had a unique ability to connect with both children and adults. He is very patient and enjoys wearing clothes to schools/public events to help individuals build self-esteem and expand communication skills. Henry also seems to like doing unusual things like riding in remote control cars to create awareness for spy/neuter programs and adopting shelter pets. ♦



Henry Wrinkles was the guest of honor at a fundraiser in Beech Grove.

The Spirit of Giving

Greene County Community Christmas



Photo by Tim Rand Photography

Racheale West and her daughter Brianna coordinate the Greene County Community Christmas, feeding hundreds locally on Christmas Eve.

It all started with a visit to her daughter's school for a holiday dinner, and transformed into a gift from the heart.

Racheale West is in the process of coordinating her fourth Greene County Community Christmas, a day when she and a host of other volunteers feed hundreds of needy people in Paragould.

"When our little girl was in the second grade or third grade I went to school to have the holiday dinner with her," Racheale said, "and a couple of boys in her class did not know what turkey and dressing was. My daughter was so touched she wanted to adopt them for Christmas; I said, maybe we can feed them. It took a lot of community involvement and donations, but we got it going."

Right at noon on Christmas Eve, the B.C.

Lloyd Building at the Greene County Fairgrounds comes alive with the anticipation of the holiday meal -- turkey, dressing, corn, green beans, creamed potatoes, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, milk, tea and a variety of desserts.

"That first year, my daughter and I got out there and tried to get people to help," Racheale said. "The first person we asked was Rodney McClelland, who got us the building at the fairgrounds. And Lenny Edgar sent out mass emails to let people know what we were doing.

"Now, I do a lot of coordinating. I contact all the donors, collect donations, make calls, hold meetings, help with the cooking. Volunteers do it (cook). I'm there the day of, serving and whatever. We will never turn down a volunteer. Last year we had about a hundred.

We won't tell you 'no'; whatever you can do to help, come do it."

They served 350 people last year, up 100 from the first dinner. "And everything is donated," she said. "We could not do this without the community. Last year it was something like \$2,000 and 28 turkeys.

"People ask me how I know who needs it. I don't. I don't care where you come from or who you are. What matters is that you're hungry. We also transport to and from the dinner for anyone that needs it. I encourage volunteers to get a plate and sit by anyone who seems to be alone. No matter how little you have or how much you make, you can always help someone else."

Anyone willing to give time or money for this year's dinner can call Racheale at 870-335-8624 any day of the week after 4 p.m. ♦

The Spirit of Giving

"The Crazy Dancing Guy"



Every morning that he can, Mickey Hoggard starts the day at the Paragould Primary School, dancing, smiling and waving at drivers.

"I show up, help the kids out of the car," said Hoggard, a Vietnam Veteran who volunteers at the school. "I've got music on and I'm jumping around and acting crazy -- in fact, some people will see me out somewhere and say, 'You're the crazy dancing guy.'"

"I make sure when the kids get out they have their hoods on, and then I tell the parents, 'Have a good day.' I just want to help people start their day off with a smile. Almost every car that comes by, they wave at me and smile. I have two cars that won't smile ... but I'll get them."

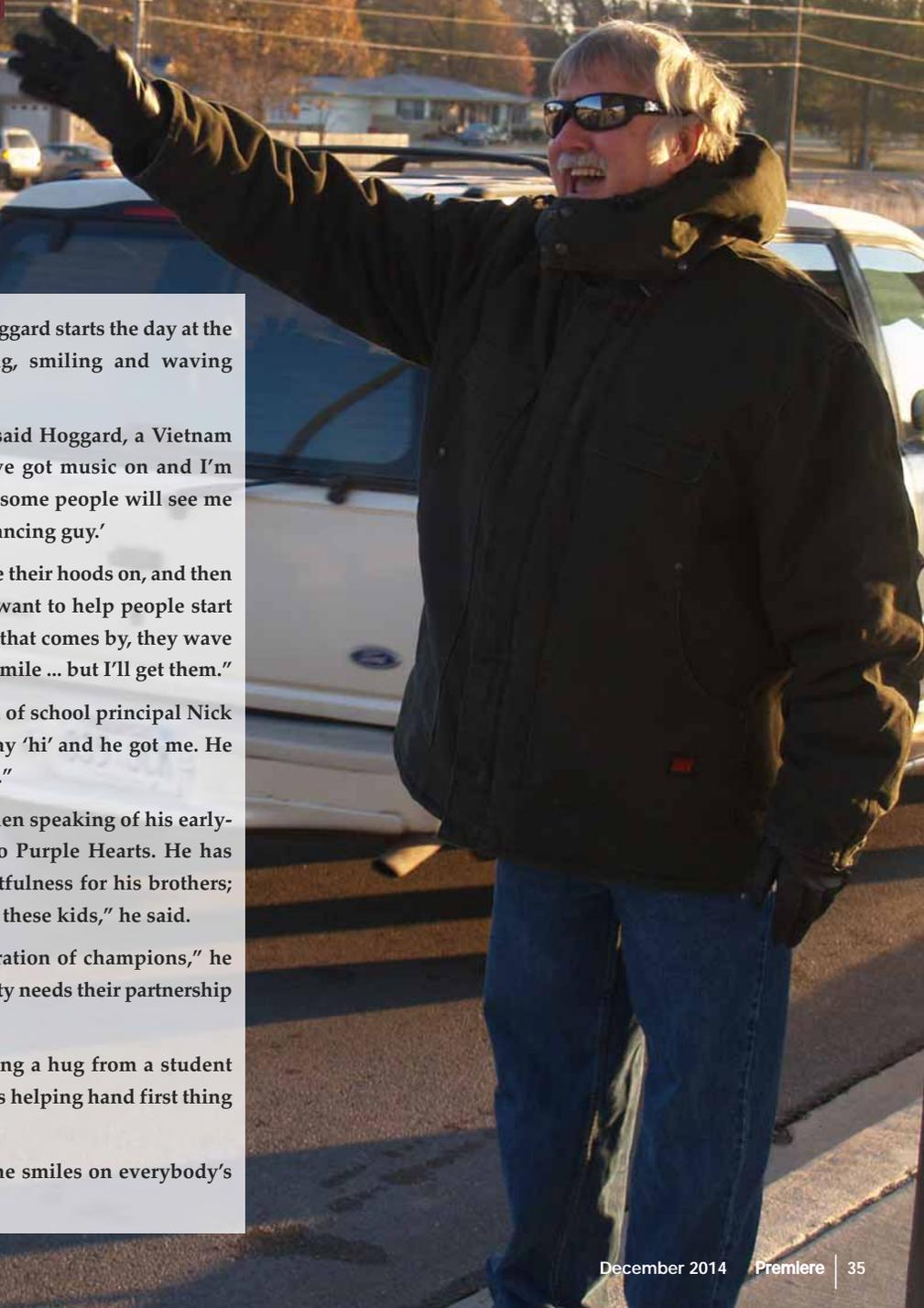
Hoggard said he has been a longtime friend of school principal Nick Jankoviak, and one day, "I stopped by to say 'hi' and he got me. He talked me into doing this, and now I love it."

Jankoviak gets a broad smile on his face when speaking of his early-morning greeter. "That gentleman has two Purple Hearts. He has spent his whole life demonstrating thoughtfulness for his brothers; now he's demonstrating thoughtfulness for these kids," he said.

"I believe wholeheartedly we have a generation of champions," he added, pointing to Hoggard. "This community needs their partnership to be successful."

Hoggard said he gets a thrill out of receiving a hug from a student and knows many of them look forward to his helping hand first thing in the morning.

"That's my reward," he said. "To just see the smiles on everybody's faces." ♦



The Spirit of Giving

Taking the time
to get involved



If you see Blake and Lauren Johnson out and about and they look familiar to you, there's probably a good reason: They're everywhere.

The Jonesboro couple certainly understands the meaning of community spirit, volunteering their time and efforts to a number of organizations that make theirs a better place to live.

"We're both involved in a lot of things," Lauren said. "We're on several civic and charity organization boards. Lots of times, we end up going together."

While she rattles off commitments like those with the St. Bernards Advocates, the Northeast Arkansas Advertising Federation, the

Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro and a recent position on the board at The Learning Center, Blake counters with an impressive list of his own.

"I volunteer a lot with the Chamber and with The United Way," he said, adding, "and Habitat For Humanity, Rotary, Craighead County Community Foundation, the Downtown Jonesboro Association ... we're gone a lot."

Both are in the banking business -- she at Heritage Bank and he at Evolve Bank & Trust -- and credit their former boss at still another bank, Ed Way, with showing them the way. "He was encouraging and determined at pushing things of value," Blake said. "I think

that applies to both of us. He would give you any resources you needed, whether that meant time off or understanding."

Lauren said having grown up in Jonesboro she knows the importance of "giving back to my community. With our jobs, we think it's important to be involved. We both have similar jobs in banking and want to help our home town thrive."

Blake's take is from a different slant, having moved here from an area where the volunteer spirit wasn't as focused. "When I came here, it energized me, excited me and it was easy to get involved," he said. "I'm not leaving here." *

-- Richard Brummett

The Spirit of Giving

Local women offered a place of healing, restoration

When Danielle Edgar adopted two babies that were both born addicted to drugs, she realized something needed to be done for the babies' mothers who had nowhere to go.

"I saw what they went through and I personally experienced it," Edgar said of her two children.

From this experience, The House of Virtue was created and opened April 7. Edgar said the house was a joint combination between her and Shawn Strouss, director of Lifehouse Ministries.

"She always wanted a place for the ladies to go," Edgar added.

The main goal of The House of Virtue is to help women with children that are homeless and help women who are pregnant and addicted to substances.

Since opening, Edgar said four clean babies have been born. The house is currently at full capacity with 11 women, two children and five babies.

"My main concern was the fact that babies are being born even here in Greene County that are addicted to drugs," Edgar said.

In addition to keeping the babies clean from drugs, the house teaches parenting, Bible and drug rehabilitation classes to the women. Full room and board and future employment assistance is also offered.

Edgar said the house runs completely on donations and the women are currently in need of not only clothes, but the simpler items.

"Diapers are a big need," Edgar said. "Even things we don't think about: baby Tylenol, children's Tylenol." She explained that diapers of any size are the biggest need at the house.

Along with donations, Edgar said fundraising is another project that needs to be tackled for the house. It will cost \$20,000 to purchase the building the women are currently housed in.

"That's \$1 from each person in Paragould," Edgar said.

She added if anyone has fundraising ideas they are more than welcome to jump on board.

Donations can be brought to Edgar at 617 W. Locust St. and The House of Virtue is located at 8330 Highway 135 N.

For more information, contact Danielle Edgar at 870-335-5279. ♦

"That's what we're striving to do is keep the babies clean."

-Danielle Edgar, director of The House of Virtue



-- Caitlin LaFarlette

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AMMC receives Guardian of Excellence Award

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has been named a 2014 Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey Associates, Inc. The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing facilities that consistently achieve the 95th percentile of performance in Patient Experience in Home Health.

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award is a nationally-recognized symbol of achievement in healthcare. Presented annually, the award honors clients who consistently sustain performance in the top 5% of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period during the course of the year.

Press Ganey is the nation's leading healthcare performance improvement company and partners with more than 11,000 healthcare



Employees of the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Home Health Agency proudly stand with the 2014 Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award. Pictured left to right in the front row are Stacy Knuckles Potter, PCT; Knea Morris, RN; Dollie Hafer, RN; Teresa Barker, LPN; Dinah Bates, RN; Lacey Songer, RN; Ashlie Davis, RN; Candy Yancey, RN and Alynda Tucker, PT. Second row are Karen Lenderman, Mary Swearingen, RN; Crystal Guinn, PCT; Marsha Miller, LPN; Jennifer Whitehead, RN; Sharon Grooms, PTA and Kevin Whitlow, PT. Third row are Sheila Dempsey, PCT; Suzanne Everett, RN and Linda Black.

facilities, including more than half of all U.S. hospitals, to reduce suffering and improve the patient experience.

"We are proud to partner with AMMC," said Patrick T. Ryan, CEO of Press Ganey. "The award is a testament to the organization's commitment to deliver more patient-centered care. By achieving and sustaining this level of excellence, AMMC is benefiting patients and

helping advance the quality of health-care."

According to AMMC President/CEO Barry Davis, "Receiving this award validates the commitment Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's Home Health staff has to the patients they care for every day in the area we serve in Northeast Arkansas."

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improvement for nearly 30 years, Press Ganey offers a comprehensive portfolio of solutions to help clients operate efficiently, improve quality, increase market share and optimize reimbursement. Press Ganey works with clients from across the continuum of care-hospitals, medical practices, home care agencies and other providers-including more than 50% of all U.S. hospitals. ♦

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Dr. Rose Glynn joins Arkansas Methodist Medical Center staff

Dr. Rose Glynn is one of the newest members of the medical staff at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. She joined the team in October of 2014. Dr. Glynn received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biochemistry from Wells College in Aurora, New York, and her Medical Degree at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts. She completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tufts Affiliated Hospitals, Harvard Medical School.



Dr. Rose Glynn

Glynn came to AMMC from Nash Healthcare Systems in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where she was a staff physician. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology; is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (FACOG) and is an active duty United States Air Force Physician. To schedule an appointment call 870-239-8676.

Warhurst is new CCU coordinator

Sara Warhurst, MSN, RN, CCRN, has been named the Unit Coordinator of the Critical Care Unit (CCU) at AMMC. She supervises nursing and ancillary staff, working to ensure standards of care set forth by regulatory agencies are met. She oversees patient care and performs administrative functions such as monitoring quality initiatives. She came to AMMC from LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, where she was the Patient Care Coordinator of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

She received her Licensed Practical Nurse Degree from Mid-South Community College in West Memphis; her Associates Degree of Nursing from East Arkansas Community College, also in West Memphis, and her Masters of Science in Nursing from Walden University.

She holds a Critical Care Nursing Certification (CCRN) in Pediatrics and is an Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) instructor. ♦

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Alissa Moore shares one of her gift bags with Tiffany Duty, RN, AMMC Women's Services Unit Coordinator.

Girl Scout wins award with her SIDS Awareness Project

Losing a child is something a parent never wants to experience. As a sibling and a parent, there are often many unanswered questions. Paragould teen and Girl Scout Alissa Moore turned her healing process into an act of awareness.

"Alissa provided an essay to AMMC when she completed her project on SIDS Awareness in the community," said Andrea Moore, Alissa's mother. "She lost her baby brother to SIDS on Sept. 11, 2007, at 2 ½ months old. As we struggled as adults to understand what was going on, so did she."

Andrea said Alissa, a 9th grade student at Greene County Tech, wanted to go beyond and work through the hospital to help provide education for parents who go through the same thing. She provided gift bags for the hospital that provide material for SIDS Awareness.

"It's helped me to prepare for my Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can win," Alissa said. "We had to plan a 'take action' project and research a cause. You had to choose an issue that you are passionate about, research it, and decide how to take action on that issue."

Once the project is complete, paperwork is submitted to the Girl Scout Council in Little Rock. Alissa turned out to be an award winner for her efforts.

"This project was a healing for me," Alissa said. "I wanted to educate new parents on SIDS so they wouldn't have to go through the loss we went through. I love to get out through the community and work through Girl Scouts, but this was an advocacy, a passion for me. FFA has helped me with public speaking and so I'm trying to use that gift to help with this project."

"For her, it was healing," Andrea added. Alissa was only 7 when Blaise died.

As a family, Andrea says they hold awareness events every April, and Alissa has always volunteered and helped coordinate ... anything from decorating to coordinating. This was her own project she did through Girl Scouts.

"This project has helped me so much on a personal level with how I handle situations and my leadership skills," Alissa said. "I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders, and so very happy that I have worked so hard to help families prevent SIDS." ♦

-- Joy Robinson

Surprise, surprise
MOR Media's Brian Osborn and Dina Mason share a laugh at the 65th Rotary Foundation Dinner in Paragould. Osborn showed up thinking he was to emcee a roast of Mason, only to find out he was being roasted by friends instead. In addition, Mason presented Osborn with documentation naming him a Paul Harris Fellow, which recognizes outstanding commitment to the community.

Photo by Tim Rand



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Gigi's Cupcakes opens in new Jonesboro location

Gina "Gigi" Butler, the entrepreneur and founder of Gigi's Cupcakes admits her story of success is full of sweet irony.

She opened her first Gigi's Cupcakes location just off music row in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2008 and in just six short years Gigi's became the largest cupcake franchise in the world. The singer/songwriter moved from California to Nashville in 1994 only to discover success in the culinary arts.

She learned her cupcake craft at an early age, being taught unique family recipes dating back to great-great aunts who were bakery owners in Oklahoma. As an adult, Gigi felt baking was becoming a lost art that needed to be resurrected. Even though people rarely have time to bake from scratch, they still enjoy eating delicious home baked goods, especially ones that remind them of their childhood.

Gigi's cupcakes are a full sensory experience and each cupcake is baked fresh daily, with great attention to detail, and finished with an artist's touch. Each handmade cupcake is made with the finest and freshest ingredients like Saigon Cinnamon, Madagascar Vanilla, farm fresh creamy butter, and hand selected fruits and nuts, along with the smoothest cream cheese.

While the menu is continually updated with new seasonal cupcakes, Gigi's offers an incredible variety of custom flavored cupcakes as well as new creations like Gigi's stuffed cookies, cheesecakes, seasonal pies and cakes for all occasions.

Gigi's vision is to work with local owners, helping them achieve their dreams, as they bring delicious confections to families in their market.

Mark Morgan, with wife, Dr. Rachel Morgan, owners of Harrisburg Family Eye Care and Subway in Harrisburg, is responsible for



Chamber of Commerce representatives and well-wishers gathered for the official ribbon cutting ceremony for Gigi's Cupcakes in Jonesboro. Gina "Gigi" Butler, fourth from the right in the black apron above, has turned the franchise into the world's largest.



bringing the Gigi's franchise to their hometown.

The journey to opening the store in Jonesboro has been a long one, but since first seeing the shared dedication to each customer and the quality of Gigi's confections, Mark knew it would be worth it. He is big on customer service and listening to the needs

of Jonesboro and the surrounding areas.

For example, Gigi's of Jonesboro will be offering not just one, but a variety of gluten free cupcakes each day, and cakes of all sizes for special events.

Gigi's is located between Panera Bread and Cheddar's at 2203 Red Wolf Blvd., Suite 3. ♦

Parkey named incoming Executive Director for St. Bernards Medical Group

L Lydia Parkey of Jonesboro has been named incoming executive director for St. Bernards Medical Group, the area's largest voluntary association of physicians.

A 2005 graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., she has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and mass communications.



Lydia Parkey

Parkey recently moved to Jonesboro from Washington, D.C., where she worked for eight years on Capitol Hill, most recently as the director of scheduling for Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV of her home state of West Virginia. In Jonesboro, she has worked in the office of the president and CEO of St. Bernards Healthcare.

Parkey is active in the community as a member of the Downtown Jonesboro Association, the St. Bernards Advocates, the Jonesboro Young Professionals Network and the St. Bernards Women's Council.

Her husband, Justin, is a Jonesboro native and is an attorney at Waddell, Cole & Jones, PLLC.

More than 240 physicians representing 43 specialties are members of St. Bernards Medical Group. They are bound by a single shared commitment — to make the very best healthcare accessible and affordable to all patients. The physicians of St. Bernards Medical Group make every effort to ensure their patients have positive experiences.

They sponsor the highly successful St. Bernards Medical Group Health & Fitness Expo each spring, the largest health and fitness related event in this region. In 2014 more than 15,000 people attended the Expo at the Convocation Center on the Arkansas State University campus. ♦

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center welcomes new Director of Physician Services

Janette Iglehart has been named the Director of Physician Services at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould.

She oversees multiple doctors' offices at AMMC including Cardiology, Surgery and Obstetrics/Gynecology. She brings nearly 30 years of healthcare experience, with more than 20 years in management, with her to the position.

Iglehart received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She is a member of the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA).

She has one son, Taylor, and is a member of Temple Baptist Church.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at www.myammc.org. ♦



Janette Iglehart



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Roger Cagle, M.D.

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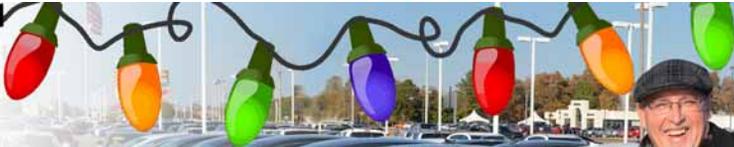
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Happenings



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Happenings

1. GCT Field Trip

Mrs. Debbie Horner's kindergarten class from Greene County Tech Primary School took a field trip to Pumpkin Hollow in Piggott. The students enjoyed lessons regarding pumpkins, gourds and farm life, and then had a picnic lunch. Each child brought home a pumpkin from the visit.

2. Successful Hunt

Blaine Wood killed a 10-point buck while hunting with his dad in Greene County on November 8th. He is the son of Chad and Starla Wood.

3. Class Visitors

Greene County Tech High School football players and Coach Simmons visited in Mrs. Debbie Horner's kindergarten class. The players talked

to the kids about making good grades, having good citizenship and choosing a sport to play.

4. How Low Can You Go?

Noah Huffman attempted the limbo during a contest at the Fall Festival held at First United Methodist Church in Paragould in late October. ♦

Send your photos to be considered for use on the Happenings pages to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

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



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Photos by
Joy Robinson

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Zombies unite in Downtown Paragould



With head sponsor MOR Media leading the way, zombies got in line for their annual walk around Downtown Paragould.

For the third consecutive year, the walking dead lined the streets of the city in October for the Downtown Paragould Zombie Walk.

MOR Media's Leisa Rae, chairperson for the event, said everyone who pitched in to make the night an exciting and enjoyable experience is certainly appreciated and she is "so happy to be a part of what has become an annual event. It's a lot of fun to see it come together and I'm already looking forward to next year.

"We really appreciate Main Street Paragould and all the sponsors who make this event so successful," she said, and encouraged anyone who hasn't taken part in previous walks to join in next year. ♦





Stacey Bryant Ryall, left, and the uniquely scary front door at her home, right.



Madilyn Dodd

Halloween Night

Everything from “spooky” to “cute” was on display as trick-or-treaters took to the streets



Samantha, Sunday and Summer Choquette



Landon Stuart and Bella Irby



Mikey Rojas Jr., Lea Rojas and Adam Rojas



Lilly Breckenridge

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Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



Christmas blessing came early this year

By this time of year we're usually hoping for some sort of a Christmas blessing, but I've already gotten mine.

One day recently I got up early in the morning, bundled up and headed for the Paragould Primary School to meet and photograph Mickey Hoggard. Mickey volunteers to help with the car line each day that he can, but that hardly sums him up.

We met, then went outside where he cranked up a boom box and began dancing on the sidewalk to "Shake Your Booty," which he did -- all the while smiling, waving and greeting parents and students. Moms and dads waved back to him as they dropped their kids off and very few were able to pass by without returning the smile Mickey sent their way.

Heck, I smiled. I stood there with a camera around my neck grinning, I went to my car smiling, I arrived at the office with a smile on my face. I don't know Mickey but after spending about an hour with him, I wish I did.

He doesn't get paid to do what he does ... he just wants everyone from sleepy parents to little children to start the day in a good mood.

His efforts were successful with me. I watched him bounce around and wave to folks who were on the lookout for him, saw him do his best to get a wave back from adults who were already too focused on the morning's agenda to take the time to lift a few friendly fingers and smile, loved seeing him interact with the children as he lifted them from their vehicles and sent them off to class with a hug and a loving message.

I need one less Christmas present this year, thanks to him. I got to see love in action, and that's a pretty good gift. ♦

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Engagements



Photo by Brent Simmons

Slader Marshall and Aubrey Cupp

Cupp-Marshall

Aubrey Cupp and Slader Marshall have announced plans to hold a January wedding ceremony.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Gary and Christy Cupp of Paragould.

The prospective groom's parents are Vernon and Ann Marshall of Juneau, Alaska.

The wedding is scheduled to take place Saturday, January 3, 2015, at The Silos. ♦

To include your engagement announcement in *Premiere Magazine* email your information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

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Hospital Corporation earns recognition from Joint Commission

The Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corporation has been recognized as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in the United States.

The AMHC was recognized as part of The Joint Commission's 2014 annual report "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety," for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for heart attack, pneumonia and surgical care. The Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corporation is one of 1,224 hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2013 Top Performer distinction.

The Top Performer program recognizes hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children's asthma, stroke, venous thromboembolism and perinatal care, as well as for inpatient psychiatric services and immunizations.

This is the third year The Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corporation has been recognized as a Top Performer. The AMHC was recognized in 2012 and 2013 for its performance on accountability measure data for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care. Arkansas Methodist is one of only 314 hospitals to achieve the Top Performer distinction for the past three consecutive years. To be a 2013 Top Performer, hospitals had to meet three performance criteria based on 2013 accountability measure data, including:

- Achieving cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures;
- Achieving performance of 95 percent or above on each and every



Some employees of The Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corporation proudly display certificates that recognize the medical center as a Joint Commission Top Performer on Key Quality Measures. Pictured left to right on the front row are Director of Quality and Patient Safety Candice Wicker; Chief Nursing Officer Lana Williams; President/CEO Barry Davis; Chief Financial Officer Brad Bloemer and Assistant Chief Nursing Officer Jason Masingale. On the back row are Melinda Reeves, Sarah Newberry, Misty Hancock, Tiffany Duty, Dr. Robert Alleman, Judy Foster, Mardy Holmes, Sara Warhurst, Beckey Stanfill, Kelly Rogers, Dr. Frank Schefano and Dr. Bob Warner.

reported accountability measure where there were at least 30 denominator cases; and

- Having at least one core measure set with a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and (within that measure set) all applicable individual accountability measures had a performance rate of 95 percent or above.

"Delivering the right treatment the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high quality healthcare. I commend the efforts of The Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corporation for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions," said Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president and CEO, The Joint Commission.

"We understand that what matters most to patients at Arkansas Methodist is the quality and safety of the care they receive. That is why we have made it a top priority to improve positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes," said AMHC Chief Nursing Officer Lana Williams, RN, MSN, CPHQ. Arkansas Methodist is proud to be named a Top Performer as it recognizes the knowledge, teamwork and dedication of our entire hospital staff," said Barry Davis, President/CEO at AMHC. ♦

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december

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

MONETTE CHRISTMAS PARADE, with refreshments starting at 5:30 pm at the Legion Hut, line up at 5:30 pm, judging from 6:00 - 6:30 pm, parade at 7:00 pm. Call Joe at (870) 486-5909 for more information or to register.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

PARAGOULD CHRISTMAS PARADE: "ROCKING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE", presented by Main Street Paragould and the Jaycees. Start time is 7:00 pm. Online registration at www.paragould-parade.com

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

AMMC HOSTS CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS, held 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:** December 9th, 16th, 23rd.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

THEMED JONESBORO CHRISTMAS PARADE, at 7:00 pm in Downtown Jonesboro.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

SCHOLASTIC WAREHOUSE BOOK FAIR, in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Public Library. From 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Email bhodes@libraryinjonesboro.org for more information. **Other Dates:** December 5th from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, December 6th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and December 7th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

AMMC HOSTS BREAST-FEEDING CLASS, held 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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

AMMC HOSTS INFANT SAFETY CLASS, held 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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

TALES AND TRAILS STORY-TIME, in the Nature Center at the Jonesboro Public Library, starting at 10:00 am. Email bhodes@libraryinjonesboro.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

STORYTIME WITH SANTA, at the Jonesboro Public Library, beginning at 10:00 am. Come sit on Santa's lap! Refreshments sponsored by the FOL. For more info, email bhodes@libraryinjonesboro.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

AMMC HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm in the Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

"CHRISTMAS AT THE COLLINS" BENEFIT, presented by

A Time to Dance at the Collins Theatre, 120 W. Emerson St. at 7:00 pm featuring A "Frozen" production number as well as dances in ballet, pointe, lyrical, contemporary, tap, and jazz. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Historic Collins Theatre Foundation. Sold at the door, tickets will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Please visit www.atime2dancestudio.com for more information.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

CHAD GARRETT & FRIENDS, at The Collins Theatre. Featuring Ken Wadley, Kevin King, Randy Aden, Brad Owen with special guests Dana Johnson and Shellee Morris. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids 10 and under. Advance tickets are available at The Treasure House two weeks in advance.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

CHRISTMAS CANTATA, "The Heart of Christmas" as presented by the Chancel Choir and accompanying brass, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church. Reception to follow. Call (870) 239-8541 for more information.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

TEA WITH MRS. CLAUS, in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Public Library, beginning at 2:00 pm. For more info, email bhodes@libraryinjonesboro.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

MOMMY AND ME BREAST-FEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING, brought to you by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and the Greene County Health Unit. Held 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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP,

held at the First United Methodist Church Welcome Center classroom at 6:30 pm. We will focus on grief during the Christmas Holiday. The groups are free of charge and are open to anyone suffering from the loss of a loved one. Childcare will be provided. The church is located at 404 West Main Street. You can call the church office at 870-239-8541.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY,

in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Public Library, beginning at 3:00 pm. For movie info, email bhodes@libraryinjonesboro.org.

Other Dates: December 23rd beginning at 1:30 pm and December 26th.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29 AMMC HOSTS HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS,

held 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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29 ELECTRONIC GAMING,

in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Public Library, From 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. For more info, email bhodes@libraryinjonesboro.org.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30 BINGO FOR KIDS,

in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Public Library, beginning at 2:00 pm. For more info, email bhodes@libraryinjonesboro.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 KIDS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY,

in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Public Library, from 3:00 pm to 5:00pm. There will be games, crafts, prizes and more!

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.

First & Third Thursday of every month: Alive After Five, Downtown street market in Downtown Jonesboro.

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 Thursday of every month: 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 \$6 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. At. St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould.

Every Third Monday: Greene County Retired Teachers Meeting, 11:30 a.m. at Grecian Steak House. All retired Greene County school personnel are invited.

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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Talented writers, photographers contribute work to Premiere Magazine

We are blessed to have a number of talented photographers and writers who contribute their work to Premiere Magazine. In the coming year we look forward to sharing their feature stories and professional photos with you.

Joy Robinson

Joy Robinson, Owner/Photographer at Joy Robinson Photography in Paragould, has served as a freelance writer/photographer for Premiere Magazine off and on since 2007.



Joy Robinson

She recently left her full-time job to dedicate her time to her own photography business. Besides being behind the camera, Joy enjoys spending time with her family and participating in local performing arts events.

Cheryl Nichols

Cheryl Nichols consults for public and non-profit organizations to develop program priorities and secure grant funding.

Cheryl's passion for program development and grant writing started nearly twenty years ago while working for a public agency. Her love for the craft of grant writing was cemented when she was among a small team of graduate students selected to develop and write various major grant proposals to benefit

Northeast Arkansas. Since then, she has secured over \$20 million for public and non-profit organizations. After serving Arkansas State University as Director of Research Development, Cheryl recently fulfilled her professional dream by establishing her consulting



Cheryl Nichols

group to provide training, program development, grant writing and evaluation services.

Caitlin LaFarlette

Caitlin is an Arkansas State University graduate with a degree in Journalism. She began her writing career with the ASU Herald newspaper and works as a freelancer for regional publications. She also runs a side photography business.



Caitlin LaFarlette

When she's not designing pages, writing or shooting people with her camera, she spends time reading, crocheting and teaching yoga.

Terry Austin

Terry Austin is the director of the AMMC Foundation. He enjoys writing and photography in his spare time, and said he appreciates Premiere for affording him the opportunity to provide content.

Terry is a board member of the local Kiwanis Club, Habitat for Humanity, and the Greene County affiliate of Arkansas Community Foundation.



Terry Austin

He and his wife, Torre, have been married 18 years and have four children.

Tim Rand

Tim Rand has a background in communications and has been focusing on photography for the last 11 years. He shoots the cover photos for Premiere. His wife, Mary Ann, teaches at Greene County Tech. They have two children and one grandchild – a granddaughter born in July.



Tim Rand

Tim is looking forward to many more trips around the sun with his family.

Lesley Hobbs

Lesley Hobbs, owner of Lesley Hobbs Photography, lives in Paragould with her husband and three small children. After 10 years of using her Business degree, she decided to follow the dream she'd always had of living behind the lens. ♦



Lesley Hobbs



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In January ...



Get healthy, get fit ... and stay that way. Premiere staffers will explore the world of health and fitness and bring you tips from experts on how to lead a healthier lifestyle.

New feature



Cheryl Nichols, The Facilitator

Community, by guest contributor, Cheryl Nichols

The word "community" is a term of unification. Throughout our lives, we all desire to belong and contribute to our local, regional, national, or global community in some form or fashion. We need community to raise our children, provide for those in need, give praise, work through grief, and so much more. We look forward to highlighting our community in our 2015 issues of Premiere Magazine.

Cheryl loves meeting community-givers and highlighting their superpowers. By the way, Cheryl's superpower is smiling and her superhero name is "The Facilitator." ♦

Ajax Floor Center

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The advertisement features a collage of five Polaroid-style photos showing different flooring options: laminate, hardwood, carpet, tile, and polished concrete. The Ajax Floor Center logo is at the top, and contact information is at the bottom.

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The advertisement features a woman in a white crop top and blue jeans with a smartphone in her pocket. The phone screen displays the JACK logo. The text "IS THAT A JACK IN YOUR POCKET?" is overlaid on the image. Below the image, there are QR codes for downloading the app on Google Play and the App Store, along with social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The JACK 107.1 neajackfm.com logo and slogan "playing what we want" are at the bottom.



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