

# PREMIERE

JANUARY  
2014

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- HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES
- HIDDEN TREASURES
- HOLIDAY TRADITIONS
- ROTARY CLUB ROAST

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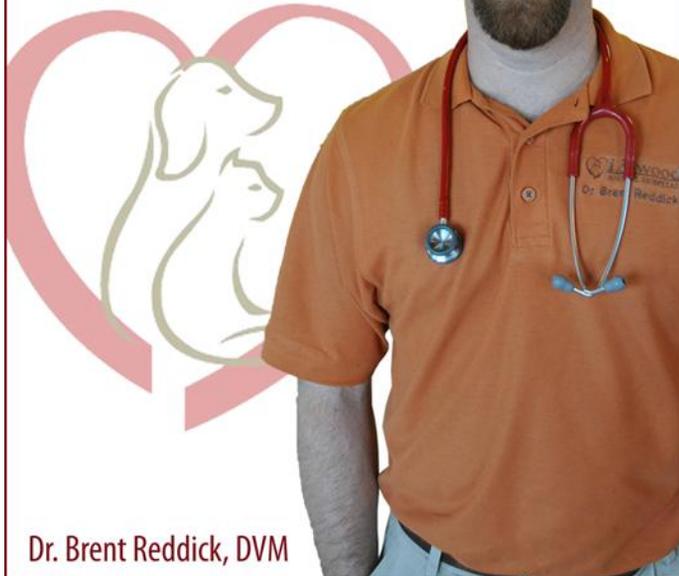
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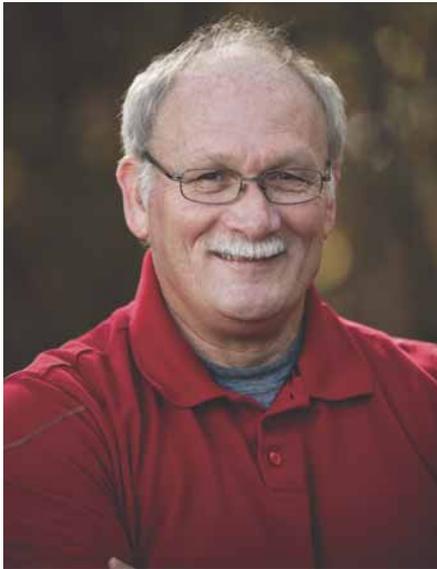
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## From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

**F**or many people, the start of a new year signals the need for improvement, a desire to produce a new look and a new attitude.

We are pretty much in the same mood here at

Premiere Magazine, looking for ways to present a more attractive picture to the reading public. Picture is the key word here: We plan on displaying more photographs, larger photographs, intriguing photographs to go along with our features and stories.

We will continue to focus on Paragould-area people and events, but have some exciting changes in the magazine's layout and design in mind. One very noticeable improvement -- thanks to the talents of our own graphic designer, Megan Koller -- is the new-look cover, which we think should catch your eye right away.

The excellent work by staff writers continues with feature stories in the middle of the magazine, such as articles on the area's "hidden treasures" like Crowley's Ridge State Park and The Collins Theatre, among others, things we have right in our laps but sometimes forget to appreciate. People come from far and wide to attend activities at many of our area venues, yet we tend to overlook their excellence and importance.

Writers Caitlin LaFarlette and Joy Robinson deliver that information to you.

We are also proud in this issue to bring attention to the amazing success of the Main Street Paragould program, honored recently by receiving the City of Distinction Main Street Preservation Award for cities above 20,000 residents.

The award is presented by the administration of the statewide publication, *Arkansas Business*.

Main Street Paragould, under the direction of Gina Jarrett, aids in the growth of the downtown business district and was recognized for its efforts in "assisting investors with opening new businesses, promoting those businesses, acting as a conduit between the local government and private investors, networking with other Main Street programs" and more, according to *Arkansas Business*.

We hope readers approve of our new look and we feel certain they will continue to enjoy the features we present each month.

We're looking forward to celebrating a Happy New Year with Premiere readers, all year long. ♦



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# Holiday TOUR OF Homes

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Foundation and Women's Council again hosted its Holiday Tour of Homes and Chateau on the Ridge Holiday Open House in December.

Homes on the tour included Bob and Bonida Poyner's on Pruet's Chapel Road, John and Stacey Roleson's on Highway 358 and those of Kody and Carla Riggan and Robert and Tori Thompson in the Callaway Hills Subdivision.

Visitors toured some of Paragould's most exquisite homes while they were decorated for Christmas, beginning at Chateau on the Ridge Assisted Living, located at 2308 Chateau Boulevard. A complimentary shuttle was provided to the homes. ♦



Kay Giddings, Sandra Curtiss, Mary Beth Walter, and Ladonna Gilbert were among the first to arrive at The Chateau for the event.



Above Left: The home of Bob and Bonida Poyner, the first stop on the tour.  
Left: The kitchen in the Poyner residence  
Above Right: John and Stacey Roleson's home.  
Right: The Rolesons' beautiful Christmas decorations





Above: The home of Kody and Karla Riggan  
 Right: The Riggins' festive front door



The Thompson Residence, home to Robert and Tori Thompson.



The Thompsons' fireplace, all ready for Santa, complete with milk and cookies.

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# Holiday Traditions

Since Mother Nature chose to disrupt plans for the annual Christmas parade, folks gathered in Downtown Paragould for a number of festive events a week later. Carriage rides, viewing of floats and a visit from Santa highlighted the day, which started with a drop-in reception for parade Grand Marshal Bettye Busby at Something Sweet.



Friends, family and well-wishers dropped by Something Sweet to congratulate parade Grand Marshal Bettye Busby, above, while below folks took advantage of a sunny morning to enjoy carriage rides before visiting with Santa.





## *Holiday Traditions*



The float entered by The Agape House, above, was chosen as the winner of the Grand Marshal's Award. At right, elves Catelynn Bragg, Cassie Morrison and Tara Taylor pose alongside their winning entry. First place in the non-profit group went to Cub Scout Pack 599 while second place was awarded to the float belonging to the Paragould Church of God.

# HIT THE GROUND RUNNING THIS YEAR.

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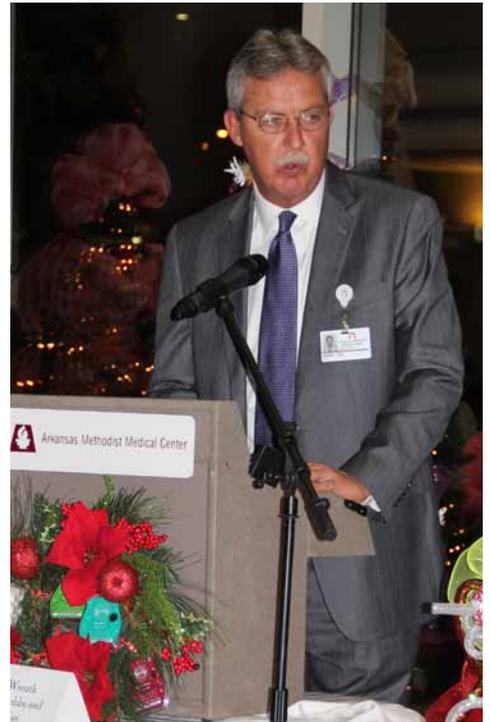
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AMMC Foundation Director Terry Austin, above, welcomes attendees to the Auxiliary Tree Lighting and The Foundation Auction. At right, AMMC President/CEO Barry Davis also welcomes visitors



## AMMC Foundation stages annual tree lighting

**A**rkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould played host to the AMMC Foundation's annual auction and tree lighting ceremony in December.

Local businesses and organizations decorate trees and wreaths and submit them for bidding by the audience, with the funds

being used for the Foundation's many community ventures.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Greene County Tech Junior High Chamber Singers.

Twenty-three items were auctioned off, bringing in more than \$5,600. ♦



AMMC Auxilian Pat Dowdy lights the hospital's Christmas tree, above, with the help of one of the children from the audience. Below are Miss AMMC Ashley Meadows and Auctioneer Kenneth Grady.



Mary Esther Herget, Carolyn Langley and other Chateau on the Ridge residents enjoy the entertainment at the Foundation Holiday Auction.

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Lilly Cancilla, 3, enjoyed a hug from Mom on a cold winter day. Lilly is the daughter of Kelly Cancilla and Pete Cancilla of Paragould.

# The "Get-Fit Guy" suggests making a new you for the new year

I'm honored this year to get to write a monthly column on health and fitness for you. I'm excited to continue getting out hopefully helpful information about diet, nutrition, training and lifestyle in Premiere each month.

With a whole lotta you and a little bit of me, I know we can get you to your health goals and make 2014 your best year yet!

In case you might be wondering who the "Get-Fit Guy" is, well, he's a guy who really needed to get fit...

Some athletes come that way. It seems from the time they first waddled across the room they could throw a ball just right. They could run and jump and catch like crazy. It looked like God was showing off when he made them. "Them" is not me.

I once scored two points for the other team in sixth grade basketball. I once dropped a fly ball for the final out in a Little League playoff game. That kid on your team throwing wrong, swinging wrong, shooting wrong, dead last on the run to the fence and back? Me.

To top it off, I graduated high school at 305 pounds, which would have been bad enough if I were, say, 8 feet tall, but I was 5'-10"! The belt I wore in my senior pictures is, like, "Ugh. I want a divorce."

But what happened next is kinda fun. My

## The Get-Fit Guy

By Shannon Beasley



freshman year of college I lost 150 pounds. I did it the wrong way – I went on a starvation diet and did non-stop cardio (and by starvation diet I mean I went one week on a roll of SweetTarts, four a day, and by non-stop cardio I mean chronic twice-a-day running) – but I did it.

I began to educate myself about health and fitness. I immersed myself in all the latest research on diet and exercise and nutrition. I became certified as a personal trainer and started helping others find the athlete inside them.

I had great friends and family and coaches who helped me along the way. To lose weight and get in shape is as hard as that wall over there. Everyone needs someone. We want this column to be your someone. If you have no one, you now have someone.

But this column is for far more than just the overweight and out of shape. It's for everyone looking to make positive changes in their overall health and fitness. In future columns in addition to addressing exercise, nutrition, training, diet, and lifestyle, we will discuss the

latest in fitness trends, interview people in our community dedicated to living a healthy lifestyle, get advice from medical professionals, profile our local fitness facilities – and most importantly, answer your questions.

You have a few, right? Send them in and we will get you the best answer we can.

Yes, some athletes are born. Some healthy, fit people just came that way. But most are made. Let's get to work. Let's let this new year make a new you.

You are better than you think you are. You can do more than you think you can. Go get fit!

*Shannon Beasley is a certified personal trainer. Contact him online at [www.victoryfitnessstudio.com](http://www.victoryfitnessstudio.com), email him at [shannon.k.beasley@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.k.beasley@gmail.com), or visit his studio at 111 West Emerson in downtown Paragould.*

*Disclaimer: Please recognize the fact that it is your responsibility to work directly with your physician before, during, and after seeking fitness and diet consultation. As such, any information provided is not to be followed without the prior approval of your physician. If you choose to use this information without the prior consent of your physician, you are agreeing to accept full responsibility for your decision. ♦*

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# Wounded Warrior Project banquet, hunt rescheduled for January 10-12

**D**ue to the extreme weather conditions the Northeast Arkansas area faced during December, the scheduled Wounded Warrior Project Duck Hunt and Banquet has been rescheduled for January 10-12, 2014.

The banquet will continue to keep the "Tribute to Pearl Harbor - 1941" theme and will be located at the Black River Technical College in Pocahontas, Arkansas.

All tickets sold prior to the event will be honored at the January 11 banquet. Tickets will still be available to the public during the coming days.

"I wish to thank everyone who has taken an active roll in preparation for the event and look forward to our continued efforts in the coming weeks to complete our task for our veteran 'warriors'," said John Phillips, Event Coordinator - Northeast Arkansas Affiliate - Wounded Warrior Project. "Our hope is that you stay safe in the coming days." ♦



The Wounded Warrior Project Duck Hunt and Banquet, originally set for December of last year, have been rescheduled for January 10-12.

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## Paragould's new Medical Park is officially open for business

**R**epresentatives of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and St. Bernards Healthcare joined in the official opening of the Paragould Medical Park, located at 4000 Linwood Drive.

The 60,000 square foot complex houses four physician clinics: Paragould Doctors' Clinic, Fonticiella Medical Clinic, Paragould Pediatrics, and Richardson Orthopedic Surgery and Pain Specialists.

Other services available on site include those provided by Paragould Wound Healing Center, AMMC Outpatient Radiology, AMMC Outpatient Lab, AMMC Pre-Admission Testing (PAT), St. Bernards PAT, St. Bernards Rehabilitation Services (Physical Therapy), St. Bernards Specialty Clinic and St. Bernards Infusion Center.

The new facility, which carries a \$12 million price tag, is connected via fiber optics to both Arkansas Methodist and St. Bernards.

Physicians at the clinic provide family medicine, occupational medicine and acute/urgent care. Those physicians include Drs. Asa Crow, Len Kemp, Lance Monroe, Vincent Lee, Mack Shotts and Dwight Williams.

Williams, Monroe and Lee also provide wound care management.

Dr. Adalberto Fonticiella is an internal medicine specialist who also provides wound care management at the Fonticiella Clinic; Dr. Kristina Wenger is a pediatrician at Paragould Pediatrics; Dr. Travis Richardson is an orthopedic surgeon whose office provides pain management.

Paragould Medical Park is a joint venture between AMMC and St. Bernards Healthcare and sits on 48 acres north of the new Greene County Tech High School.

The development allows access to quality primary care and other health services in a convenient location, letting Greene County residents receive the very best of care close to home. ♦



Above, Dr. Dwight Williams poses with one of two new hyperbaric oxygen chambers in the Paragould Wound Healing Center; at right, Dr. Mack Shotts speaks with visitors to the new facility; below, Terry Womble and Laura Pickens of St. Bernards greet guests in the Rehabilitation Services area.



## Main Street Paragould earns City of Distinction Award for 2013

**M**ain Street Paragould was selected by *Arkansas Business* as its winner of the 2013 Arkansas Business City of Distinction Main Street Preservation category for cities over 20,000.

"It's a huge honor," said MSP Executive Director Gina Jarrett. "To be recognized in *Arkansas Business*, a prominent statewide publication that deals with business, lets others know we've got a great downtown."

Main Street Paragould, a nonprofit incorporation, aids the growth of Paragould's downtown district by assisting investors in efforts to open new businesses, promoting those businesses, acting as a conduit between the local government and private investors, and networking with other Main Street programs.

Jarrett said the award will be presented at the annual Arkansas Municipal League's meeting



Main Street Paragould Executive Director Gina Jarrett

"with mayors and city officials, and that will help get the public recognition that is good for us, but is also good for communities that are struggling with their Main Street programs. It

helps show them what can be accomplished. It is just good recognition for the city of Paragould."

Created in 1999 as an affiliate of the statewide Main Street Arkansas program, MSP adopted its "One and Only" plan for downtown Paragould, a plan that takes its name from the fact that there's only one town in the world called Paragould.

*Arkansas Business* praised Main Street Paragould for excelling at planning and promotion, drawing people into Paragould's core to enjoy shopping and dining.

Downtown Paragould is the site of many annual city events, it said, "including Art & Stroll, Oktoberfest, Holiday Traditions, an annual Christmas parade, Perking on Pruett, Rummage at the Rails and even the largest Zombie Walk in the state of Arkansas." ♦

### NEA Baptist dedicates new hospital

**N**EA Baptist Memorial Hospital and Clinic held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony in December, bringing together leaders in government and medicine, as the new campus on Hwy. 49 readies to open doors to patients.

NEA Baptist spent \$400 million to build the

campus, which houses the NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital, the Clinic and the Cancer Center.

NEA Baptist also announced that it is renaming the Cancer Center after the Fowler family, who gave the largest gift in the hospital's history, creating an endowment to assist the treatment of cancer patients. ♦

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# Business Is Good



## Annual Open House

Abilities Unlimited staged its annual Christmas Open House events in Jonesboro and Paragould in December. Refreshments and drinks, great sales and door prizes were offered to visitors at the Paragould Unlimited Boutique, as well as an opportunity for the little ones to visit with Santa at the Thrift Store. At left, Angie Walker, Tanna Wise and Judy Wheelless welcome guests to the Paragould boutique. Above, Santa and Cassie Mangrum put on smiling faces for the customers.



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Joe Wessell, left, and Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill had the last word at the Rotary Club's roast of the two men.

## Rotary Club stages roast of Gaskill, Wessell

Paragould's Rotary Club members staged a "Hold Nothing Back" roast of Mayor Mike Gaskill and Joe Wessell at the Red Goose Banquet Hall.

Six guest "roasters" -- Jeff Branch, Keith Legrid, the duo of Tom Kirk and H.T. Moore, and MOR Media's Brian Osborn and Richard Brummett -- teamed with emcee Randy Philhours to do their best to embarrass the two celebrities, who then had an opportunity to respond at the end of the evening.

The night of food and fun helped raise funds for the Rotary Foundation. ♦



Tony and Amy Lucius



Keith Legrid with Stephen and Melanie Posey

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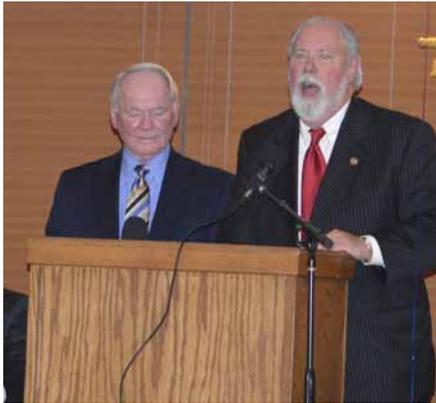
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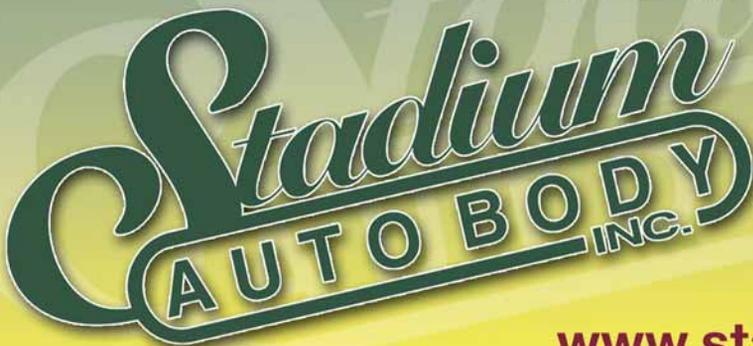
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There was plenty of laughter at the roast of Mayor Mike Gaskill, left, and Joe Wessell, right, flanked by emcee Randy Philhours and roaster Jeff Branch. Immediately below, roasters Tom Kirk and H.T. Moore compare the two men to other famous duos; at center right, one of Gaskill's former "customers" from Big Star (played expertly by Karen Cooper) interrupts the action and gets the desired response from the mayor; at bottom left are Gaskill and his wife, Tammie; and at bottom right, Wessell's family ... Kevin and Jill Gill, Reba and Joe, daughter Amy and granddaughters Carson and Chandler Gill.



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Vonnie Greer and Audrea King are fixtures at the annual Polar Plunge, helping raise money for a cause they believe in.

# TAKING THE PLUNGE

## Two area school administrators are champions of the Special Olympics cause

To some, it may seem strange that two highly educated women would dress up in crazy costumes and hop into a freezing lake in the middle of winter.

But for those who know Audrea King and Vonnie Greer, driving forces behind the annual Polar Plunge in support of the Special Olympics, the act isn't silly at all.

Labeled "The Ice Princesses" by MOR Media's Brian Osborn, the two have become fixtures at the annual event and have seen it grow from something people weren't certain about into something people certainly want to be a part of.

"The first year, we had seven plungers and raised about \$1,500," said King, the principal of Marmaduke Elementary School. "Now, we have seventy-plus plungers and last year we raised right at \$43,000."

That first experience, according to Greer, was in Jonesboro with the Area 7 Special Olympics representatives and soon the two "decided after we plunged in Jonesboro to start our own with Area 1. We contacted Crowley's Ridge State Park and spoke to Mrs. Gretchen and we have been having the plunge there ever since. This will be our tenth plunge for Area 1."

Staged at Lake Ponder in Crowley's Ridge State Park in January, the Plunge features teams and individuals who raise money for the Special Olympics. All gather beside the lake and, when recognized for their contributions, head down through a gauntlet of onlookers and wellwishers to take a quick and chilly plunge into the icy waters.

"The support of the community is unbelievable, and all of the money raised truly goes back to these athletes," said King.

King also said because she taught Special Education and "worked with children and adults with disabilities, it means something to me. It's a cause I truly believe in. It gives something special to these people, and the



Audrea King, left above, and Vonnie Greer are mainstays of the Polar Plunge, helping raise money for the Special Olympics.



Special Olympics gives them an opportunity to shine."

Greer, like King, a principal at Greene County Tech Elementary with a Special Education background, echoes the sentiments regarding the special athletes.

"Special Olympics allows these athletes to become an active part in their communities and to develop lifelong friendships and skills they will use forever," she said.

"Special Olympics is very near and dear to my heart because of my sister (Tina Newboles), who was Special Needs," Greer said. "I learned at the age of three what unconditional love really means. My sister gave unconditional love on a daily basis without ever speaking a word. She taught me that it is what is on the inside of a person that truly makes a person. After my sister passed away I continued my degree in Special Education and taught Special Ed for 12 years."

She said through her special needs students she continued to be taught. "Now I continue to be taught many life lessons and receive such love from these very special athletes," she explained. "I love spending time with them. They brighten my day and make me smile every time they walk into a room."

Because of the relationships with their students and their families, King and Greer have no reservations about dressing up and taking part in the fun-filled adventure.

Their goal for the fundraising teams this year is a lofty \$50,000, a figure they feel Greene County area folks will pitch in to achieve.

The two have been Area I directors for more than a decade now, and get immense enjoyment from taking part in activities like the

Polar Plunge.

King said she has no problem braving the cold and taking a dip in the lake, regardless of the temperature.

"Oh, heck no," she said. "It's just a part of it. Whatever it takes to do for these kids. I wouldn't ask them to do anything we wouldn't do ourselves. "I believe in it and love to do it. The organization inspires people to be a part and to open their eyes to see these athletes in a different light."

This year's Plunge is set for Saturday, January 25, at Lake Ponder. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. with a Post Plunge Party immediately following at Walcott Baptist Church featuring chili, soup, and chicken 'n dumplings.

Contact Theresa Book at 870-598-4908 or [theresa@specialolympicsarkansas.org](mailto:theresa@specialolympicsarkansas.org) for information. ♦

# Hidden Treasures



*Crowley's Ridge State Park*

***Sometimes, the best things in life are right in front of you all along***

**R**esidents of Northeast Arkansas may often forget the beauty and history in their own back yard with Crowley's Ridge State Park.

One of Arkansas' first state parks, Crowley's Ridge is a beautiful product of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the early 1930s.

Evidence of their work is seen in the beautiful

log and stone structures located within the gates. Lake Ponder provides a beautiful landscape, as well as recreation like swimming and paddle boating in the summer. During the fall, the lake acts as a mirror to the vibrant fall color provided around the 3-½ acre water feature.

For the history buff, details about the CCC, settler Benjamin Crowley and other historical

information about the park are featured throughout. For the vacationer, the park features several lodging options, including duplexes and campsites. Interpretive programs are also offered during the year.

For more information, visit [www.arkansas-parks.com/crowleysridge](http://www.arkansas-parks.com/crowleysridge) or call the park office at 870-573-6751. ♦

**-- Joy Robinson**

***Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould boasts a beautiful campus in addition to providing a quality educational experience.***



*Crowley's Ridge College*

**S**panning 150 acres just atop Crowley's Ridge is Crowley's Ridge College, a private church-affiliated institution that offers Associates and Bachelors degrees.

Founded by Emmett Smith, Jr., and his vision for Christian education, CRC opened in 1964 with only 80 students. Today, CRC maintains its mission statement to "lead them into a future of service to God and the community" and "promote academic and spiritual growth in every

student" by counting more than 5,000 alumni since its opening.

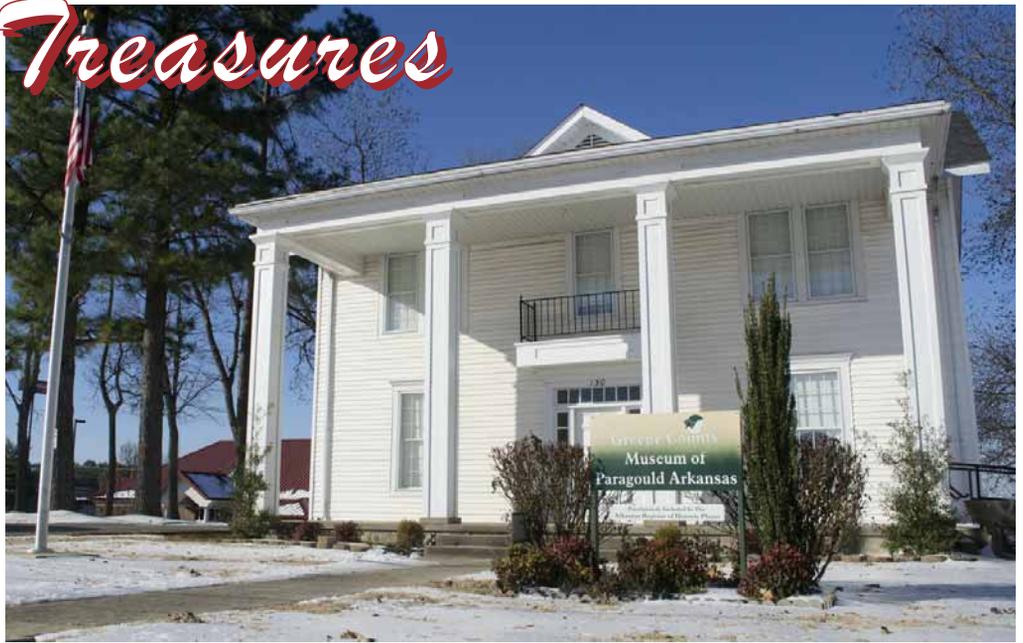
CRC's intercollegiate teams compete in the NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association) in men's basketball, baseball and soccer and in women's basketball, volleyball and softball.

Crowley's Ridge College will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014, with the college's sixth president, Ken Hoppe, at the helm. ♦

**-- Joy Robinson**

# Hidden Treasures

## The Greene County Museum in Paragould links past to present



Nestled on a residential road just off the busy highways of Paragould sits a building dedicated to “preserving the past for the future” of Greene County: The Greene County Museum.

“It’s really amazing how many people (say), ‘Oh, we have a museum?’” said Doris Hagen, co-president of the Greene County Museum Board.

For those who have never been inside the building that used to be the home of Governor J. Marion Futrell, a multitude of historical riches awaits. Items of the museum are categorized together and placed in rooms such as the Industry Room, Education Room and the Native American Nook.

“It would take days to go through and see everything,” Hagen said. “It’s really hard to imagine how many treasures we have here.”

The museum opened in 2008 and now boasts items such as a coat from the Civil War period, a typewriter from 1939 and even an entire room dedicated to memorabilia from Paragould and Greene County Tech high schools. Hagen said many of the items were donated, and the museum looks for things that are at least 25-30 years old and still in good condition.

Karen Wheeler, a teacher at Woodrow Wilson Elementary, has taken her third-grade students to visit the piece of Greene County history twice. She said her first impression of the museum was one of

fascination.

“I saw several artifacts that were similar to items I had seen in my parents’ and grandparents’ homes,” she said.

Mayor Mike Gaskill visited the museum when it first opened.

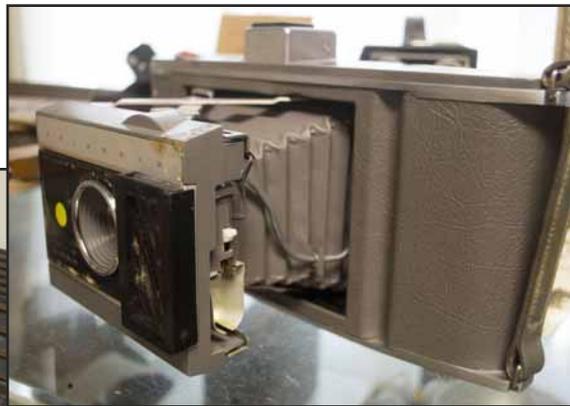
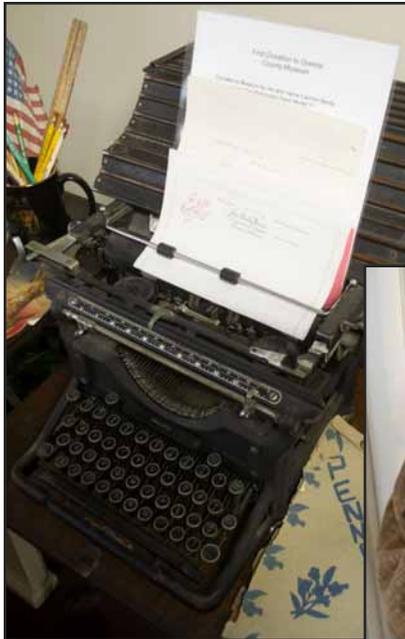
“I am very appreciative of the fact that we have people in our community interested in preserving our history,” he said.

Gaskill said he recommends anyone who has lived in Greene County all their lives or only for a short time visit the museum and see how the citizens have made it a great place to live.

“It allows everyone that lives here to relive the past that our city and county heritage grew from,” Wheeler said.

More information on the museum can be found at [www.greenecountymuseum.com](http://www.greenecountymuseum.com).

-- By Caitlin LaFarlette





# Hidden Treasures

## Paragould's Collins Theatre stands the test of time

Tales of a ghost, a world movie premiere and some of Arkansas' first showings of "Cats" and "Les Misérables" are brands the Collins Theatre has hosted through the years. Yet Rick Lane, co-manager of the theater, believes many people who have never been to the site are foregoing the great local talent.

"A lot of times they miss a really good show," Lane said.

Remington Kienbusch, who has been involved with the theater for about 10 years, also recognizes the great acting ability of those who put on the plays.

"Go see one of the Greene County Fine Arts Council's shows," he said. "You won't be disappointed."

The plays and music shows are what the theatre is mostly known for, but when it opened in October of 1925 the Collins was used for Vaudeville performances (different acts grouped in one show) and even war bond

drives. One thing that has remained the same throughout its history is how the Collins has given back to the locals.

"It's always been a community theater," Lane said.

Kienbusch said he thinks it offers a great deal to the public since it can be rented out for weddings, concerts, and fundraisers, providing plenty of entertainment opportunities.

Aside from the obvious performances, Lane explained an interesting, yet often overlooked, piece of history about the Collins: In 1941, the world premiere for "The Man Who Came to Dinner" was shown, a movie starring Bette Davis and Paragould native Billy Justice.

Any historic site would not be complete without its own ghost tales, either.



"A couple of people have sworn they've seen a lady in white," Lane laughed, adding the famous Collins ghost is considered to be that of Frances Collins checking in to make sure the theatre is being taken care of.

"I still think the ghost pesters the little ones from time to time," Kienbusch said. "I still get spooked out any time I'm working in the theater alone."

Ghost stories aside, the Collins Theatre has lasted nearly nine decades, and with some wonderful renovations is remaining a vital role in Paragould's history. ♦

-- Caitlin LaFarlette

Who is Greene County?

# I Am Greene County



## Haylee Keating Age: 16

**What I do:** I am a sophomore at Paragould High School and a member of the Greene County Youth Advisory Council. I am also a Counselor Worker at school. I play softball for the PHS Lady Rams and the Mid-South Predators.

**What I Like Most About Paragould/Greene County:** The awesome opportunities and activities that are offered to young kids like me ... the schools are AMAZING!!!

**My Family:** My family plays a huge role in my passion for succeeding in everything I am involved in, including school and softball. My dad, Corey Keating, is the Business Manager at Glen Sain in Kennett. I am such a daddy's girl. My mom is Amy Keating. She is a stay-at-home mom and is always by my side, no matter what. She is my rock. I have a 19-year-old brother I am so proud of. His name is Jake Keating. He is a farmer and will also be attending BRTC Paragould in January.

**Hobbies/Interest:** Softball all the way; and drawing.

**Something very few people know about me:** I am pretty bashful. I have been bullied quite a bit over the years from this, as well as people not understanding some of the special challenges I face on a daily basis, with medical challenges. But what I take from all of that has led me where I am today. I don't let those things keep me from doing and becoming what I want to be.

I take all the negative and turn it into positive. It has made me a much stronger person.

**One of my favorite experiences:** Every time I step on the softball field.

## Parade Grand Marshal

Betty Busby, right, was named Grand Marshal for the 2013 Paragould Christmas Parade. Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, made the announcement at the annual Arkansas Methodist Medical Center auction and tree lighting ceremony held at AMMC in December. Busby is the coordinator for the Greene County Museum and is an auxiliary member at the hospital.



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**Tim Rand**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

www.randphotography.com | 870-236-2275 | tim@randphotography.com

A photograph of a bride in a white dress and five bridesmaids in purple dresses, all holding large purple parasols. They are standing outdoors in a wooded area. The photo is framed by a white dotted border.

# Happenings!



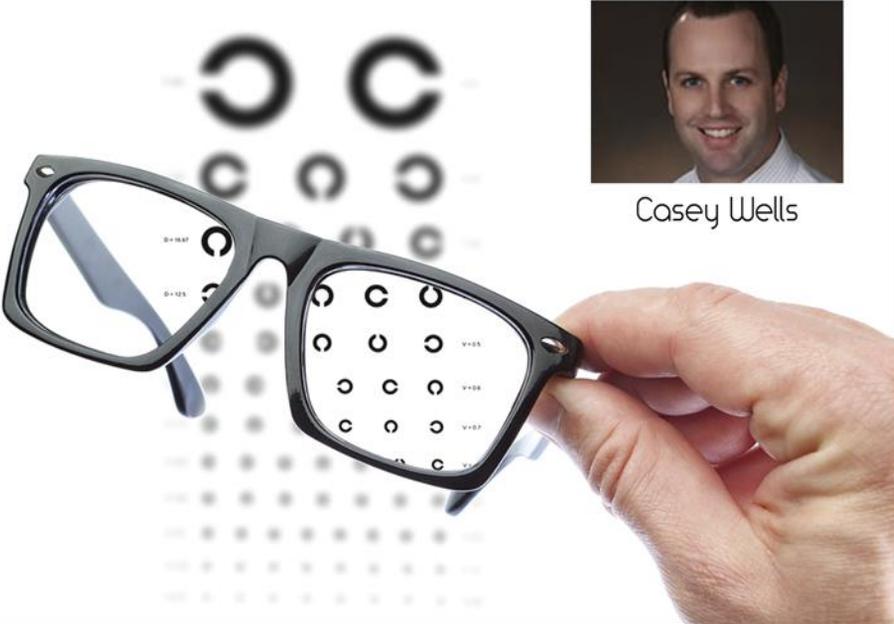
Approximately 60 third graders from Woodrow Wilson Elementary and their teachers toured the Greene County Museum. The students gathered information about various inventions for their upcoming projects. They also decorated the museum's Christmas tree with ornaments they had made a few days earlier at school.



The Greene County Retired Teachers Association recently completed two of its annual community service projects. One is its annual food drive. Pictured are Mary Hester and Brenda Ortcutter, members of the Community Services/Special Projects Committee, who delivered the food collection to Mission Outreach, the recipient for 2013. The collection consisted of canned goods as well as monetary donations. ♦

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# NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation's 11th annual Duck Classic Excels

What began 11 years ago as an idea has now grown into the largest and most successful outdoor oriented fundraiser in the region.

The 11th annual NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation Duck Classic exceeded expectations, raising more than \$425,000, drawing 1,300 people from a 10-state area and gaining national recognition from corporate sponsors like Avery, Drake, and Under Armour.

The most current event, held December 5-6 at the NEA District Fairgrounds, began with a banquet featuring the traditional live and silent auctions, raffles, a barbeque dinner, and even more chances than ever for attendees to win cash and prizes. On the morning of Friday, December 6, the pre-registered teams participated in a competitive duck hunt involving strategy and a scoring system. Hunters were paired with landowners/hosts that showcased Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas as a premier duck hunting destination.

Following the hunt, the teams validated their scores at an official duck scoring and awards event held at sponsor location, DNW Outdoors Archery Range. The winning team, "Who's Your Daddy", hunted on land owned by George Washington, guided by Logan Mitchusson. Team "Carolina Bill Collectors" came in second with host Charles Petty and Team "First Security Bank" came in third.



The winning team in the Duck Classic was Who's Your Daddy.

"Each year, Duck Classic relies on the countless volunteer hours, sponsors, landowners, hunters and the support of our community to be successful and this year is no different," said Darrell King, CEO of NEA Baptist Clinic, "It is a blessing to see how this event has grown and continues to bring the community together to support the programs of our foundation."

Feedback from hunters, landowners, and local businessmen included, "Great event, great cause; looking forward to next year; and Duck Classic was phenomenal!" One hunter, who has participated in the Duck Classic for 11 years, stated that it was the best hunt yet.

Proceeds from the Duck Classic support the programs of NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation, all of which are free to the community. NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation has a mission to help change lives through the programs and services it supports in Northeast Arkansas. It accomplishes this through five programs, each of which is free to participants: Medicine Assistance Program, HopeCircle, ShareHope, Center for Healthy Children, and Wellness Works.

For more information about NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation, call (870) 934-5109 or log on to [neabaptistfoundation.org](http://neabaptistfoundation.org).

# Handwriting is apparently on its way out of today's classrooms

**I**t was with both interest and sadness that I recently read a story detailing the belief that cursive writing will soon be a thing of the past.

Students today are being raised on the computer keyboard and spend their free time texting and emailing and skypeing and tweeting and doing whatever else it is that people with a better understanding of technology than I have do to communicate, instead of penning letters and passing handwritten notes back and forth in class the way we used to.

This disturbs me because I made a concerted effort to produce very legible handwriting while in school, even though because of that on more than one occasion my tenth grade English teacher, Mrs. Taylor, had me write things on the blackboard during class time and she might as well have called me "Nerd" instead of "Richard" when asking me to do so.

There are lots of things a 15-year-old boy likes to hear while surrounded by his peers, but being praised for having "pretty" handwriting is not necessarily one of them, especially when the only other people being asked to write on the board are girls.

My mother, also a teacher, while grading tests at home would sometimes bring a student's paper to me and say, "Can you read this answer?"

I learned later that often she was really pulling for the kid to make a good grade because he had been trying hard, but she could hardly give full credit for an answer that resembled Egyptian hieroglyphics instead of the English language.

"Please write so that your teacher can read it," she pleaded with me, so I tried my best, still uncertain to this day why that is one of the

## Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



few requests from my parents I felt compelled to act upon. I'm pretty sure they also asked me to do things like clean my room, study hard and keep my temper under control, but I was able to expertly act as if I did not hear those demands.

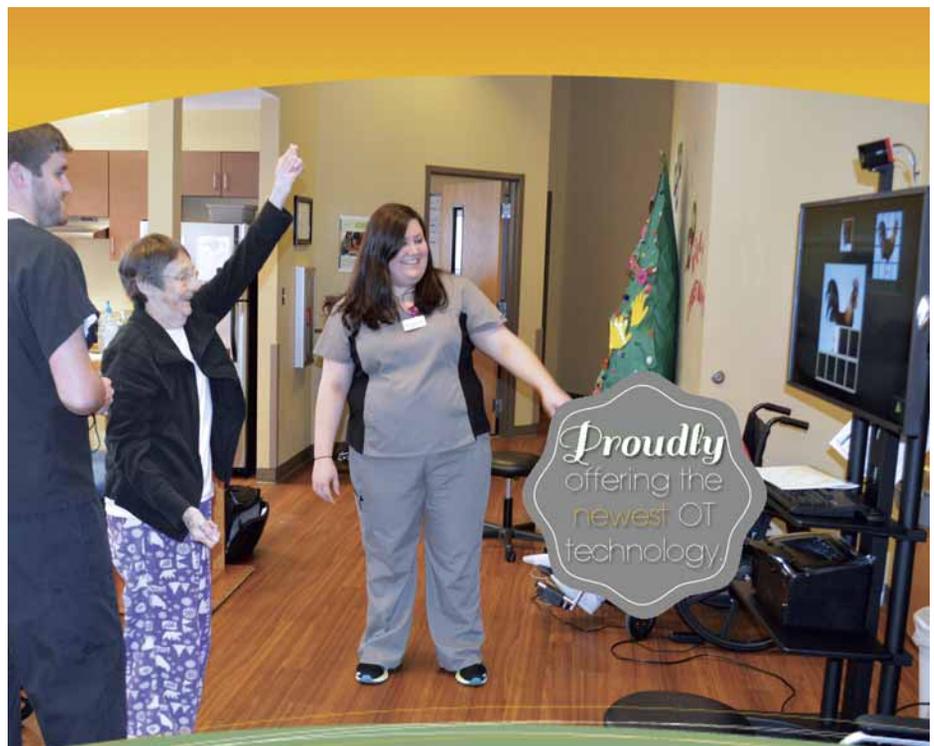
Since writing longhand was a pain in the wrist, I sort of combined cursive and printing -- I could have dubbed it "printive" but I prefer to call it "cursing" -- and developed what others tell me is an attractive and very readable handwriting style.

Personally, I think nice handwriting is something to be proud of and now know it doesn't necessarily make you a sissy if you're a guy

who writes so that people can read it. When I was in high school someone theorized that people who are incredibly smart often have terrible handwriting -- presumably because there are so many incredible thoughts bouncing around in their heads that they can't slow down long enough to put them on paper in an acceptable manner. However, I also know a number of people who are incredibly dumb who scribble like kids trying to get one more answer down before the teacher says, "Put your pencils down and pass your papers to the front," so I'm figuring if you find yourself right in the middle -- not necessarily smart, but certainly not dumb -- maybe you write nicely.

It just pains me to think that using a pen or pencil will soon be a forgotten art, gone the way of Latin -- now known as "the dead language."

And just for the record, I also took two years of Latin. ♦



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Who is Greene County?

# I Am Greene County

## Irene Rodriquez Age: 29

What I do: Cashier at Jordan's Kwik Stop on the east side of town.

What I Like Most About Paragould/Greene County: I like the people of Greene County. Everyone is always friendly and has a smile on their face. Well, almost everyone. A lot of really friendly people come in here every day.

My Future Plans: Hopefully, to go back to school and graduate. I would like to become a substance abuse counselor.

Hobbies: I'm a very "outdoors" type. I like to do about anything outside.

Something Most People Don't Know About Me: I'm really a pretty open book about a lot of things. If you ask me, I'm going to tell you what I think. I'm pretty honest.

One Of My Most Interesting Experiences: Always when I get to go home to Kansas where my parents are. Earlier this year I got to go home and it was really nice.

# LIFE *style*



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**Foundation gets grant**  
 Arkansas Methodist Medical Center President/CEO Barry Davis, AMMC Foundation Board President Angela Gray, Senator Robert Thompson and Foundation Director Terry Austin stand in one of two new rooms in the AMMC Outpatient Radiology Department at Paragould Medical Park, located at 4000 Linwood Drive. The equipment featured in the room was purchased through a \$75,000 grant AMMC received from the Arkansas General Assembly.



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# Outstanding Teachers

Vicki Cook  
Greene County Tech  
Intermediate



Vicki is in her 37th year of teaching, all at GCT. She teaches 4th grade, but has also taught Special Education and 3rd grade. "I love teaching at Greene County Tech," she said. "I have always been blessed to get to work with some of the greatest people. The ladies I work with are just like a part of my family!"

Her parents were teachers and "I just felt it was natural for me to follow in their footsteps. I began working with students in the junior high special education classes when I was in high school during my study hall time. I have worked with children, where I attend church at East Side Baptist, since I was in college. I had great role models for teachers while I was a student. They all contributed to me wanting to become a teacher."

Her favorite memories include students who grow up to become teachers and succeed in the profession. "I am equally proud of my former students that grow up to be successful and productive citizens," she said. "It makes me very proud when I get to have children of my former students in my own classroom."

Vicki is married to Charles Cook and they have a daughter, Juli Morgan, who lives in Bryant with her husband, Wes, and their children, Ross, 8, and Tinley, 3. The Cooks' son, Trey, lives in Dallas with his wife, Carrissa.

Shannon Curtis  
Oak Grove  
Elementary



Shannon has been teaching for 10 years total. She previously was a junior high math instructor and has been a school counselor for six years.

"I got into education because I wanted to make an impact on future generations," she said. "Education goes beyond book learning. I hope to teach my students how to respect others, how to face challenges, and that hard work leads to success. I want every student to know that they have greatness inside and help them to be their best. I hope to make a change in my students and make the world a little better."

While she doesn't have any one specific teaching memory she says, "Each time I hear a student put into practice something that is learned in guidance, it reaffirms why I do what I do. These students are our future and every day I learn as much from them as they do from me."

Shannon is married to Kevin Curtis and they have two children, Connor and Mikyla, and one granddaughter, Madilyn.

"We also have have a sweet boxer puppy, Holliday," she said, "who is a handful!"

Resolution?

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# Fitnessforward



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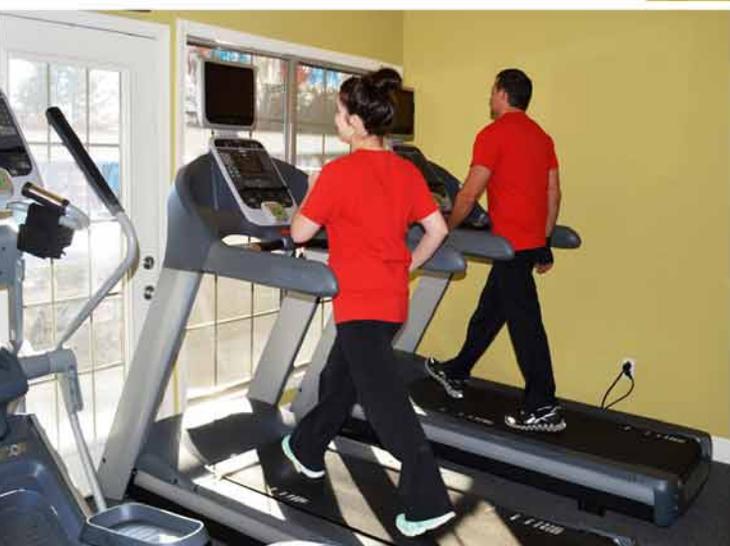
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*Bibb Yoga & Wellness is located at 1400 West Court Street in Downtown Paragould above Just Pretend Play & Party. (870) 335-9066*



## AMMC WELLNESS CENTER

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Wellness Center is a hospital-based fitness center open to the community 24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year. The facility offers traditional fitness equipment complete with over 150 pieces of free weights, 15 selectorized weight machines, 15 cardiovascular machines, and a cushioned indoor walking path. The unique features of a medical component include monitoring of blood pressure, body composition, lung capacity and nutritional analysis to assist in achieving a healthy lifestyle. The focus of the AMMC Wellness Center is to be an extension of the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's mission of health, hope and healing.

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## Birth Announcements



Photo by Karole Risker, Pitter Patter Photography

Emma Tiffany Huffman

Larry and Kelley Huffman of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Tiffany Huffman.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. She was born at St. Bernards Regional Medical Center.

Siblings are Noah, Jacob and Alexander Huffman; grandparents are Susan Risker of Paragould, Loren Risker of Sterling, Illinois, Larry Huffman Sr. of Corning, and the late Connie Sprouse. ♦

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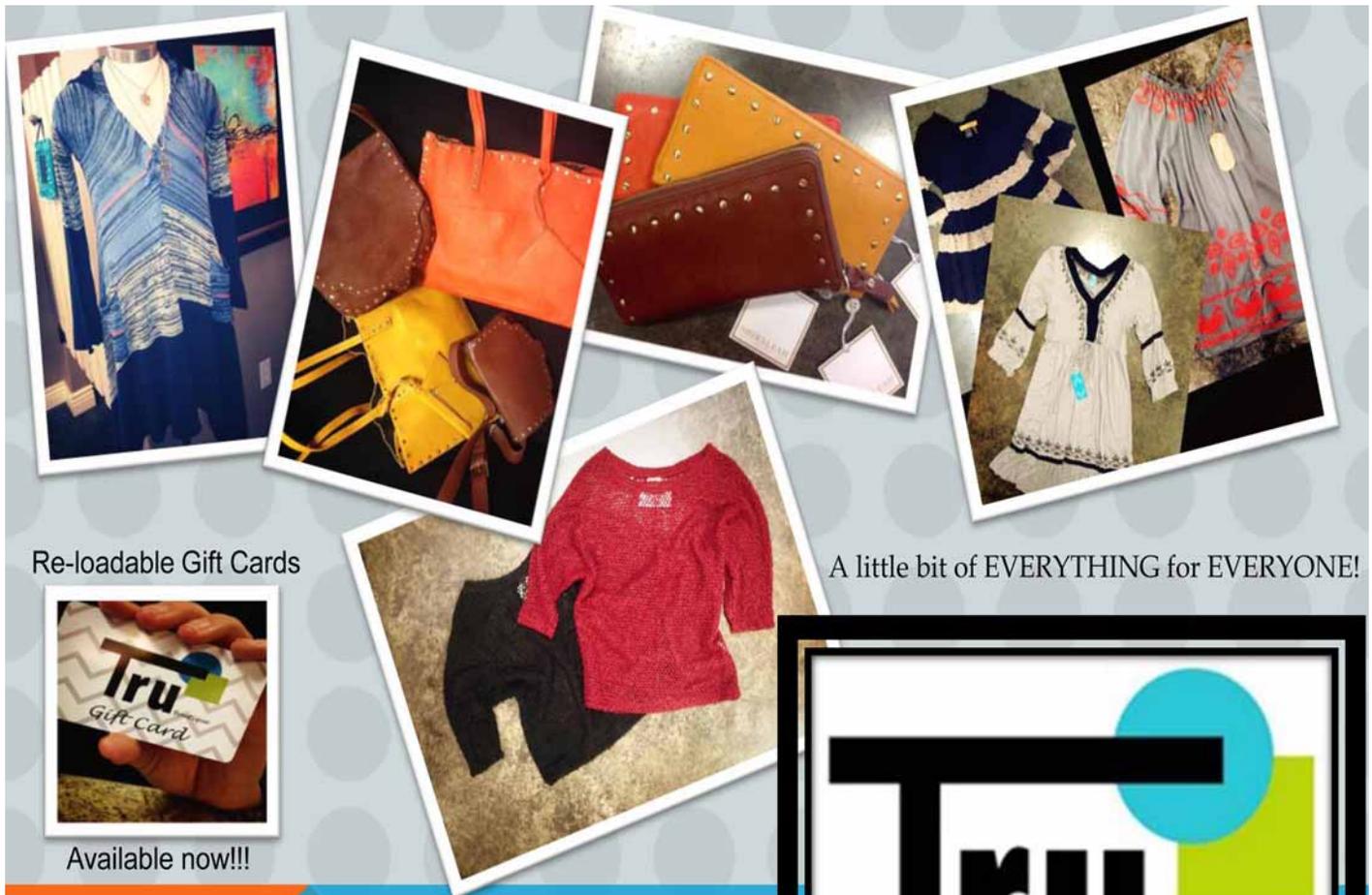
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**AMMC gets grant money**  
 The state of Arkansas awarded an \$18,000 grant to Arkansas Methodist Medical Center for the purchase of a new Holter Heart Monitoring System. The grant, awarded by the East Arkansas Planning and Development District, was recommended by State Representative Mary Broadaway. Pictured left to right are AMMC Foundation Director Terry Austin; Tabby Johnson, RN; Renee Gardner, Director of Cardiopulmonary at AMMC; AMMC Foundation Board President Angela Gray; State Representative Mary Broadaway; AMMC President/CEO Barry Davis and Brian Thompson from the East Arkansas Planning and Development District.



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# PREMIERE'S SCENE YA



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Ronnie Williams & Martin Bobo



Kirsty Hastings

Sunjum Hundal



Michelle Lipsey, Tamara Bell & Tiffani Johnson



Judy Roberts & Vickie Brewer



Sandra Holt & Ryan Wood



Eugene & Cameron Neff



Tracy Mothershed & Katie Howe



Courtney Curtwright & Kara McQuay

# January

CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

### ARTIFACTS SHOW

7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Reynolds Park Building. Admission is free for the "buy/sell/trade/educate" event featuring Indian artifacts and Civil War era items. For more information call Dan Martin at (870) 215-1627.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 27

### KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY

with Monroe Crossing. The music starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Collins Theatre, 120 West Emerson Street in Downtown Paragould.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

### STROKE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Rehab Dining Room on the fourth floor of the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. This meeting is open to stroke survivors, families and/or caregivers.

## RECURRING EVENTS

**First Monday of every month:** Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon.

**Every Wednesday:** Perking on Pruet, 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 p.m.

**Second Thursday of every month:** The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 p.m. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

**Second Wednesday of every month:** St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. At St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould.

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

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# NEA COOKS



**Adrienne Whitlow**

**Where are you from?** Brookland

**Family:** Married for 10 years to Kevin Whitlow; we have two daughters, Piper, 15, and Claire, 7.

**What is your occupation?** Respiratory Therapist

**Who taught you how to cook?** Cooking with my mom.

**When did you first begin cooking?** Probably age 12.

**Who do you like to cook for most?** Kevin

**Do you have a favorite cooking memory?** Making pies with Grama Wicker.

**What is your absolute favorite thing to cook?** Casseroles

**What is the one ingredient you can't live without?** Strawberry's Dry Rub

**Do you have any general cooking advice to share?** You can always add to, but you can't take away!

**What is your family's favorite dish that you make?** BBQ Chicken

**What would you consider your worst cooking disaster?** Using Karo Syrup for vegetable oil trying to make popcorn. I was maybe 13, and it was the same color. ♦



## Orange Slice Cookies

### Ingredients:

1 cup granulated sugar

1 cup packed brown sugar

1 cup shortening

2 eggs

1 tsp vanilla

2 cups flour (All-purpose)

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

2 cups quick cooking oats

2 cups candy orange slices (cut into small pieces)

1 cup coconut

Directions: In a large bowl, cream sugars and shortening until fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla. Beat well. Stir in flour, baking powder, salt and soda. When mixed well, add oats, orange slices and coconut. Using about 1 tablespoon of the mixture for each, roll into 1-inch balls. Place on a greased cookie sheet and bake at 350-degrees for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on cooling rack. ♦

## Broccoli Cornbread

### Ingredients:

2 boxes Jiffy cornbread mix

2 sticks melted butter

1 10-oz bag frozen, chopped broccoli,

thawed

4 eggs

1 24-oz. container of cottage cheese

3 tbsp milk

Directions: Mix ingredients together. Bake in a greased, 9x13-inch pan at 350 for 40-45 minutes. ♦

## STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

On The Cover



For February, Premiere writers will take a look at Amazing Kids, featuring several of our area's young people who are having an impact on the lives of those around them. Whether it is through school activities, church work, sports or the various interests of their own, these young people stand out as some we are proud to call our own ... winners in a variety of ways.



Mark your calendars for the Polar Plunge, freezin' for a reason for Special Olympics. Premiere will recap the event at Crowley's Ridge State Park. ♦

# Arkansas's Community Bank now in 22 more communities.

Liberty Bank and Centennial Bank have long shared the philosophy of being there for our communities. So it's only natural our 88 branches now all share the same name, giving our customers the ability to bank in 22 new communities around the state. After all, keeping communities strong is what we're all about. And now in even more places around Arkansas, it's where we call home.

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# Larry's Auto Sales Chronicle

VOLUME 9

PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, JANUARY 2014

NO. 1

## LARRY'S HAS LAYAWAY!

*HIGH ON THE HILL* - Many persons are saying you can choose a vehicle at Larry's Auto Sales now with just a small amount of money down. The vehicle is held in layaway, reports say up to three months, until a larger down payment can be made. According to sales manager Karry Davis, many utilize their income tax return.

## JUST IN: BUYING IS EASY AT LARRY'S

*BREAKING NEWS* - Reports say that with your downpayment Larry's Auto Sales will set up low weekly payments. But what may be bigger news is that Larry's Auto Sales never charges interest. Sales manager Karry Davis confirms "That's right - you never pay interest when you finance at Larry's."

## INCREDIBLE SELECTION OF 350+ VEHICLES!

Larry's Auto Sales, with two locations in Paragould, features a selection of over 350 different cars, trucks, vans and SUV's. Pictured is a 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix GT, equipped with leather, sunroof, and many other accessories. Matt Drew of Larry's summed it up in two words: "It's nice."



# LARRY'S AUTO SALES

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AT THE CITY LIMITS  
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