

# PREMIERE

JUNE  
2014

- DOG SHOW WINNERS
- ACH RADIOTHON
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS
- RELAY FOR LIFE

# Lucky DOG SHELBY

A PUBLICATION OF MOR MEDIA, INCORPORATED

# THE PREMIERE AWARDS

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## Beauty & Fitness

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Cosmetic Studio:

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Nail Salon:

Tanning Salon:

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## Life Events

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## Entertainment/Relaxation

Live Entertainment Venue:

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Movie Theater:

Night Club/Bar:

Radio Station:

Radio Personality:

Television Station:

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Coach (List School):

## Gifts/Decor Shops

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BBQ:

Breakfast:

Buffet Style:

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Catfish:

Chicken:

Frozen Treats:

Italian:

Local Flavor:

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Sandwiches:

Steak:

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Farm Supply Store:

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Pet Supplies:

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Auto Parts Shop:

Auto Dealer/New:

Auto Dealer/Used:

Car Wash:

Convenience Store:

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# PROGRESS

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it moving  
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## MIKE GASKILL *leads* PROGRESS

I have been the Mayor of Paragould since 1997. My original purpose for running for this office was to do my part to help improve the City of Paragould. I was born and raised in Paragould, this is my hometown, and I love this community. Everything that has been accomplished is for this community. The citizens have been supportive, and my goal is to continue to improve the services and the "quality of life" for the citizens. My goal has always been to do what is best for Paragould!

### Awards

- Distinguished Citizen of the Year - Rotary Club
- Business Person of the Year - Kiwanis Club
- Presidential Citation Award - Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association
- Adrian White Municipal Leadership Award - Ark Municipal League
- Marvin Hinson Commitment to Excellence Award - Ark Municipal League
- Outstanding Volunteer Award - Greene County Community Fund
- Member of the Year - Chamber of Commerce
- Certificate of Appreciation - Military Officers Association of America
- Certificate of Appreciation - Paragould Lions Club
- Friends of 4-H Outstanding support - Greene County 4-H
- Certificate of Appreciation - American Legion
- Certified Municipal Official - Arkansas Municipal League
- Spirit of America Award - Crowley's Ridge College

I would sincerely appreciate your support in the upcoming general election in November of this year.

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When canine lovers cast their votes for the most photogenic dog entered in the Paragould Rotary Club's "Paws For A Cause" dog show, Shelby was the people's choice. Learn about her on [page 26](#).

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On the cover: Shelby  
Photo by Tim Rand Photography

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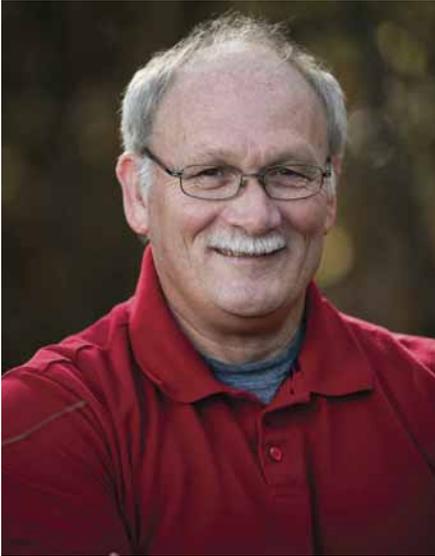
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## From The Managing Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

**T**humbing through the pages of this month's Premiere should give you the impression early on that there was a lot happening in the Northeast Arkansas area recently.

The Area I Special Olympics, the annual ACH

Radiothon, "Paws For A Cause" Dog Show ... the list goes on and on, but one of the biggest attractions was Downtown Paragould's first Arts & Music Festival, a move in a different direction from the town's longtime May event, the Loose Caboose Festival.

Due to a variety of complications, organizers settled on a new format -- arts and music -- and we would have to say the new venture was a winner.

Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, said the positive comments have far outweighed the negative regarding the new format.

"There were a lot of happy people in Downtown Paragould," Jarrett said. "Many, many areas went wonderfully: Artists -- thrilled. Musicians and groups -- thrilled.



"So many people said they were so impressed with the thespians in the park, and the screening of 45 RPM went wonderfully. We had the best music we've ever had in Downtown Paragould and, with the exception of Bluffett, all had a Paragould or regional tie ...

22 music ensembles, all with a local tie. It's amazing at the local talent we have. There was just a big Paragould influence."

While the carnival might have been smaller than some hoped for, Jarrett said most attendees seemed "thrilled with a music and arts festival. Will everyone

like it? No. But those that like music and art and enjoy all the many talented folks that we have in the area, they thought it was wonderful. For the first year, it was a wonderful start for a new attraction."

We have to agree. See photos from the festival on pages 16, 20 and 21. ♦

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In the United States alone, nearly 19 million people have been diagnosed with diabetes. Another seven million are unaware they have the disease. What's even more alarming is that roughly 79 million Americans are at risk. Help managing diabetes can be found at the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Diabetes Care Clinic. The clinic is open during the week and patients can be seen by a Certified Diabetes Educator with a referral from their physician. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 870-239-7016.



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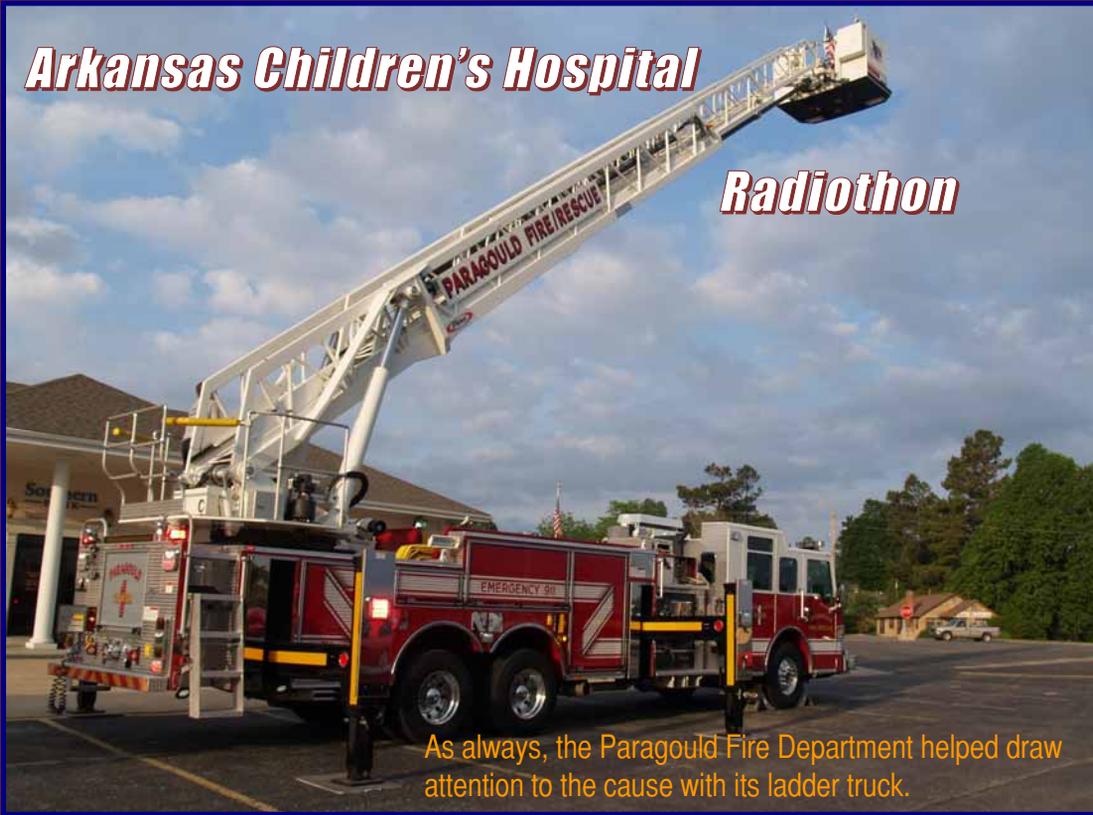
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# Arkansas Children's Hospital

# Radiothon



As always, the Paragould Fire Department helped draw attention to the cause with its ladder truck.



Donations were taken in a number of ways: Walk-ups, drive-ups and pledges



Southern Bank in Paragould again served as the host for the ACH Radiothon, sponsored by the Greene County Circle of Friends, 107.1 JACK FM and MOR Media. Above, members of the First National Bank team work the phone banks soliciting donations; at right, MOR Media's Dina Mason and Denise Middleton from the Circle of Friends compile hourly totals.





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Almost \$26,000 in donations poured in during the 12-hour radiothon, which featured guests alongside local radio personalities. At top, Denise Middleton, representing the Greene County Circle of Friends, and Jillian Hastings of Children's Hospital share some air time. Above, JACK FM's Brian Osborn and Leisa Rae conduct interviews with the various guests who dropped by the Southern Bank parking lot to share their stories. Below, representatives of the Saints & Sinners Riding Club present Middleton with a check for \$5,371.81, proceeds from their annual Angel Run bike ride. The club is one of the top contributors to the cause each year.



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KEENA GRAHAM & TERRY JOHNSON ••• JUNE 14, 2014

SAVANNA MOORE & JOSHUA SMITH ••• JUNE 20, 2014

SHELLY HUDSON & DUANE PYEATT ••• JUNE 21, 2014

ANNA WYATT & BLAKE TENNISON ••• JUNE 21, 2014

STEPHANIE DYE & EVAN ELMORE ••• JUNE 25, 2014

JULIA TAYLOR & LUKE HANSEN ••• JUNE 28, 2014

ANNA OVERBAY & JONATHAN BRUMFIELD ••• JUNE 28, 2014

MARCIA WOOLDRIDGE & JAY ERVIN ••• JUNE 28, 2014

JESSICA BALDWIN & GREG RODRIGUE ••• AUGUST 2, 2014

ANNA EASON & TREVOR DEANGELO ••• AUGUST 9, 2014

KELSEY GRAMLING & DEREK MATHENEY ••• OCTOBER 25, 2014

Baby Registry

SHAY & JEREMY WILLIS  
SARAH & NICK TOUNGETT



Classmates and faculty members welcomed Blake Williams back to school at Greene County Tech with a surprise Fun Day.

## GCT students welcome back ailing classmate

**E**lementary students at Greene County Tech welcomed back fellow student Blake Williams on Fun Day.

Blake is a GCT student who has been out most of the school year battling cancer. He is now cancer free and Fun Day was also his first day back at school.

Robin Williams coordinated putting together a great surprise party for Blake. ♦



## St. Bernards plans signature fundraiser

**S**t. Bernards Medical Center will hold its annual signature fundraising event -- Triple Swing -- June 21-23.

Triple Swing features multiple opportunities for donors to participate in raising money to help St. Bernards continue providing quality, compassionate healthcare.

Saturday the 21st is the Dinner and Dance, a casual evening for approximately 400 guests at the St. Bernards Auditorium. Ticket purchase includes eligibility to win prizes and trips given away during the evening. Both silent and live auctions are also offered.

The V.I.P. Golf Classic takes place on Sunday the 22nd, exclusively for Platinum, Gold and Silver level sponsors. The four-player scramble teams three golfers with a celebrity and entry includes cart fees, tee gift, commemorative team photo, on-course refreshments and prizes for winners. Each sponsor is invited to a post-tourney cocktail party.

The Golf Classic on Monday the 23rd is also a four-person scramble with a choice of morning or afternoon flights. Included are green and cart fees, tee gift, team photo, breakfast and luncheon, and on-course refreshment and snacks. There will be prizes for First, Second and Third in both flights, and a hole-in-one contest. All players are eligible for the Golf Ball Drop.

Sponsorship levels are Platinum, \$20,000; Gold, \$10,000; Silver, \$5,000; Bronze, \$3,000; Major Donor -- Guardian Donor Club, \$1,700; and Corporate Donor -- Provider Donor Club, \$1,000.

Each level contains different forms of recognition and Triple Swing benefits.

For more information, contact Dana Housley, Volunteer Coordinator, St. Bernards Development Foundation, at 870-207-2502 or email [dhousley@sbrmc.org](mailto:dhousley@sbrmc.org). ♦

# AREA I SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Once the official flame was lit, the athletes were off and running ... and jumping ... and throwing ... and waving





The opening march around the track at Paragould High School featured banners hoisted by the individual groups represented, and an opportunity to interact with the crowd. Once the action began, participants gave it their all in events like races, the softball throw and the long jump.



# PREMIERE'S SCENE 'YA



Shannon Freeman and Everyday Life presented the Decades of Rock and Roll show.



Bryan and Elizabeth Miller



Above, Josh and Marie Lantz; at right, Becky and Chris Linder



Above, Marilyn and Stacie Russell; below Cohen, Crimson, Sebastian, (back) Jennifer, and Randol Keys



Downtown Paragould's Arts & Music Festival drew big crowds in its inaugural season, treating the eyes and ears of visitors



Headline act Bluffett -- a Jimmy Buffett tribute band -- delighted the crowd Saturday evening.



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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					

It's birthday month for Blakley Williams, who will turn 7 on the 29th of June. Blakley is the daughter of Brad Williams and Charla Cusson, and is photographed in the ice cream parlor of Marilyn's Clogging Company on the square in Pocahontas.



## Greene County Museum will host antique car show June 7

The Greene County Museum will host its third annual antique car show June 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Arkansas Antique Car Club will be the host and area car enthusiasts are invited to display their vehicles. There is no entry fee and the museum will give a People's Choice trophy to the vehicle that gets the most votes from attendees.

The museum will be open during the car show. Admission to the show and to the museum is free, but donations are appreciated. ♦

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MOR Media's Leisa Rae gets the Saturday evening crowd pumped up to hear feature act Bluffett.



Downtown Paragould's first-ever Arts & Music Festival provided a little something for everyone, including excellent musical acts and incredible artwork



A wide range of visitors walked the streets of Downtown Paragould during the Arts & Music Festival, a three-day celebration. Young and old alike, music lovers and art enthusiasts, and those who were just curious to see what all the commotion was about filled the area and were treated to excellent entertainment, most of it provided by local and area artists and performers.

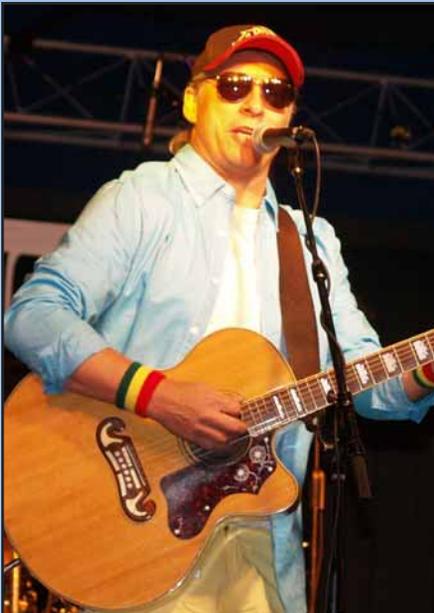


One of the little ones was not certain about petting a rabbit in the carnival area.



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# Pocahontas library gets grant from Dollar General Literacy Foundation

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded the Randolph County Library in Pocahontas a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to help support its adult, family and summer literacy programs.

This local grant award is part of more than \$6 million in grants awarded to approximately 700 schools, nonprofits and organizations across the 40 states the Dollar General company serves.

“At Dollar General, we are passionate about our mission of Serving Others throughout the



communities we serve,” said Rick Dreiling, Dollar General’s chairman and CEO. “It’s exciting to see the Dollar General Literacy Foundation’s outreach in action as we partner with organizations to further education and literacy and make a real difference in people’s lives.”

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## Macie Copeland earns Arkansas Fair Manager's Scholarship

Members of the Greene County Fair Board surprised a local student in May when they presented her with the Arkansas Fair Manager's Scholarship for the fall 2014-15 school year.

Macie Copeland was presented the \$1,000 Steve Skelton Memorial Scholarship by James Ratliff, a board member of the Arkansas Fair Managers Association.

Macie, the daughter of Ray and Debbie Copeland, is a Greene County Tech High School student and a member of 4-H. She plans to attend Arkansas State University in the fall. ♦

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AMMC's Allison Hitt, left, and Pat Malone encourage patients to live healthier lives.

## For Malone, the reward is seeing people get healthy

**P**at Malone always knew she wanted to be a nurse. "I was always one of those kids that said when I grew up I was going to be a nurse," she said. "From my earliest remembrance I always said (that)."

Malone's love for the health profession stayed with her as she entered the workforce. She went to nursing school and entered critical care for 30 years as a cardiovascular nurse before moving over to diabetes education. Malone, a certified diabetes educator, practices what she preaches to others on healthy living. To the registered nurse, if Americans want to live healthy lives they must eat better.

"You have to move your tail feathers," she added.

That ideal is something she carries with her even outside of her Diabetes Care Clinic office at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. When she isn't working, Malone enjoys spending her time swimming, sewing and reading. And of course, exercising.

Living such a healthy lifestyle aids Malone in giving the best care she can to the patients she educates on diabetes. Malone urges others to be involved in at least 30 minutes of physical activity five times a week and stay aware of blood sugar levels. For three years she has also presented cooking shows throughout the community to provide better meal choices.

"They want Pat's healthy recipes," Allison Hitt, also a registered nurse, said.

Other than cooking demonstrations, Malone works with her patients to provide education on carb counting, exercise and diet. She said seeing a patient with high blood sugar levels work to get those numbers down is the best part of her job.

"I think just seeing the influence we have on making patients become healthier people, to me, that's the reward," she said.

Malone strives to spread diabetes awareness to the surrounding area and get citizens involved in any way possible, such as through schools and AMMC's M.A.S.H. program.

AMMC will also host the 4,000 Steps for Diabetes two mile run and walk June 7 at the Paragould Community Center. For more information visit [ageeracetiming.com](http://ageeracetiming.com) or [crathleticclub.com](http://crathleticclub.com).

### Healthy eating guidelines

- Cook ahead for the week and freeze meals.
- Don't eat anything heavy: get rid of heavy sauces that are more popular during the winter.
- Dessert can be a piece of fruit.
- Get out the crockpot to cook meals throughout the day.
- For breakfast, take out sugary cereals and opt for a quick breakfast burrito.
- Use the grill for chicken or pork and make a quick stir-fry with a lot of fresh vegetables. ♦

-- Caitlin LaFarlette

## Contest Winners



Best Tailwagger -- Lilly, owned by Wesley Watkins



Best Kisser -- Cappie, owned by Brent and Autumn Taylor



Cutest Puppy -- Del Rey, owned by Shena Swink

## The people have spoken: Shelby wins cover photo contest

When the Paragould Rotary Club was looking for a new wrinkle in its second "Paws For A Cause" Dog Show, organizers decided on a beauty contest of sorts.

Pets that were registered at either of two pre-contest events became eligible to win a gig as the cover model for Premiere Magazine, with the public serving as judges.

The dogs were photographed and on the day of the actual dog show at the B.C. Lloyd Building in Paragould, those photos were put on display with jars placed in front of them; spectators wishing to vote were asked to drop money into the jar in front of their favorite dog, and the one bringing in the most money would earn the right to be featured on the magazine cover.

That's how Shelby came to greet readers of this month's issue.

Owned by Dr. Emily and Brian Carter, Shelby is a standard poodle whose age is actually unknown. According to Amber Puckett, Hospital Manager at the Paragould Animal Clinic, Dr. Carter adopted Shelby when she was surrendered to the clinic.

"They've estimated her age at about five-and-a-half years," Amber said.

She said Shelby has "a lot of very human qualities. Her personality comes out in her face. She's very animated ... she will make you smile."

Like many dogs, Shelby loves to play and retrieve things and, apparently, loves the camera.

Her photo was the people's choice at the Rotary



Shelby takes a breather, above, during an afternoon of play with one of her owners, Brian Carter. Shelby is a standard poodle and the winner of the right to appear on the cover of Premiere Magazine.

Club's fundraiser, and a good one it was. ♦



Most Macho -- Kujo, owned by Lindsay Lewis



Best Costume -- Chica, owned by Julie Laxton



Dogs of all shapes and sizes showed up for the Paragould Rotary Club's "Paws for a Cause" contest



Contest Winners



Looks Like Owner -- Captain Teemo; Shena Swink/Mary Dickson



Most Talented -- Krieger, owned by Felice Troutman



Most Beautiful -- Kei Kei, owned by Julie Laxton

Photos of contest winners provided by Shades of Life Studios in Paragould. Photograph of Shelby and Brian Carter provided by Tim Rand Photography.



Most Handsome -- Gandaff Fletch, owned by Zach and Brenda Garner

# Flag Etiquette

The right way to care for our national symbol

**F**ederal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions:

- The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.
- The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.
- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used for any decoration

in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.

- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.

● The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind placed on it, or attached to it.

● The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

● When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

● The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

● When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner. ♦

-- Information provided by USA Flag Site

## Col. Christopher B. Carlile retires with national recognition

**A** former depot commander and five-combat tour veteran retired from 29 years of service with national recognition for his strategic guidance and lasting contributions to the joint warfighter.

Col. Christopher B. Carlile, special assistant to the Army Materiel Command's commanding general, received the National Defense Industrial Association's Leadership Excellence Award as he celebrated his retirement in a ceremony at AMC headquarters May 21.

NDIA bestows the honor on those who have contributed significantly to the defense posture or technology advancement for at least 15 years. Carlile, a former Paragould resident, met and exceeded those expectations.

Gen. Dennis L. Via, Army Materiel Command's commander, referred to Carlile as a great soldier, outstanding aviator and a great leader. Carlile previously served as battalion commander of the 1-223d Aviation Regiment and deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker; and director of the Unmanned Aerial Systems Center of Excellence and

commander of Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas. The NDIA nomination recognized Carlile as one who fostered and instituted change in every organization he led throughout his career. Via gave examples of Carlile's leadership: "While at Corpus Christi Army Depot - one of AMC's crown jewels - Carlile executed a complete business reorganization."

Corpus Christi Army Depot had not been restructured in 50 years. The results were a nearly \$400 million increase of revenue despite having 600 fewer employees. The nomination said Carlile's efforts at Corpus Christi Army Depot left an indelible mark on the Army Aviation enterprise during a time when cost-effective measures were critical to support the war effort.

Via said Carlile's successes set him up for his most recent assignment where he completed a comprehensive review of the Organic Industrial Base. He developed a strategic business plan for the entire base, and created more than 20 initiatives and a seven dimensional analysis method for program management. The process became the standard for AMC and Assistant



Col. Christopher B. Carlile

Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology.

Carlile credits his accomplishments to those around him. "I am good at one thing and that is seeing the talent in others. The talent they don't see in themselves," said Carlile. "You could say that I'm the Army's best cheerleader. It is those talented people that have made me successful."

In retirement, Carlile said he plans to work for a small profit and loss analysis company at Fort Rucker and spend time with his family. ♦

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	7:30 AM Yoga Fusion Becca	7:30 AM Balance Barre' Pump Becca	7:30 AM Yoga Fusion Becca	7:30 AM Balance Barre' Pump Becca	7:30 AM Yoga Fusion Becca
	8:00 AM Hot Yoga Caitlin	8:00 AM Hot Yoga Caitlin	8:00 AM Hot Yoga Caitlin	8:00 AM Hot Yoga Caitlin	8:00 AM Hot Yoga Caitlin
	5:30 PM Kids' Yoga Becca	5:30 PM Kids' Yoga Becca	5:30 PM Hot Yoga Caitlin	5:30 PM Kids' Yoga Becca	5:30 PM Hot Yoga Caitlin
	5:30 PM Hot Yoga Caitlin	5:30 PM Hot Yoga Kim	5:30 PM Balance Barre' Pump Kim	5:30 PM Hot Yoga Kim	5:30 PM Hot Yoga Caitlin
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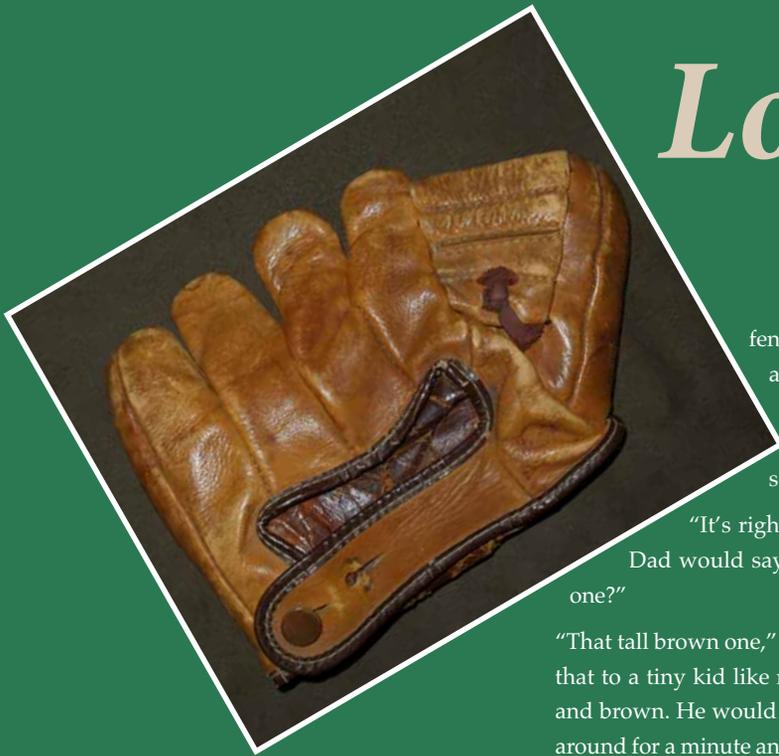
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# Love in the Glove

## A Father's Day Tale



**T**here is no reason to assume my father knew when he brought home a present for me in 1956 that he would, on that day, shape my life.

I was 4 when he returned from work one afternoon and said he had something for me, and soon thereafter handed over my first baseball glove.

We laughed about it over the years because when you compare it to the gloves dads buy their sons today, it looks pretty sad. As you can tell by the picture above, it certainly wasn't much to look at, this flat piece of leather that probably cost \$5 or less at the time, a glove that had no shape or pocket and would never make it off the shelf in this day and time.

Sometimes I would drag it out and ask, "What kind of dad would stick his kid with this thing?" and he would say, "I don't know, but I wish you'd throw it away."

I didn't, and won't, because that glove was the key that opened the door to so many things and will forever serve as a direct link between me and the man I loved dearly.

The earliest memories I have of Dad and me together center around the two of us playing ball in the yard beside our house. His job was to toss a rubber baseball into the air and hit it with a bat, mine was to chase it down and try to catch it with that first glove. I can still picture the ball bounding past me, under the

fence and into the weeds, and my frantic state at being unable to locate it so we could play some more.

"It's right there by that weed," Dad would say, and I'd yell, "Which one?"

"That tall brown one," he'd answer, knowing that to a tiny kid like me *all* weeds were tall and brown. He would cross the fence, stomp around for a minute and pick the ball up, then say, "See? I told you it was by this tall brown one" and I thought he had the best eye in the county. It took me a few years to figure that one out, but it didn't matter back in the day because it meant that in just a few seconds I was again trying to catch ground balls.

Once I slipped my hand into that glove, life

### Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



was never the same. From that day forward, all I ever wanted to be was a ballplayer and I still get an incredibly comfortable feeling whenever I slide my hand into a ballglove. I doubt Dad knew that giving it to me would eventually give me a sense of belonging, or would provide the only area of existence in which I had supreme confidence ... I figure he just wanted his son to experience the great game he had spent so much time enjoying.

He had played ball himself for decades. At age 16 he was recruited to catch on a semi-pro team whose ace pitcher was recently retired major leaguer Mott Stewart, a man whose fastball so pummeled Dad's hand that the next day he hitchhiked to Memphis and bought a top-of-the-line mitt with which to catch him next time.

It was his long-time love affair with the game

that he wanted to pass along, and he succeeded. For the remainder of my youth I put baseball before girls, popularity, all other sports and sometimes even before school-work. I was often intimidated by life itself, feeling like an outsider until you put me on the baseball field. There, I didn't care how hard you threw, I believed I could hit you; didn't matter to me how hard you hit it, I felt I could catch it. I wasn't always right but I operated with the confidence necessary for success, and over the years had plenty.

Following that glove around the baseball world led me to play in college, where I met as good a friend as a guy could find, one who today -- some 40-plus years later -- I still talk on the phone with weekly. It took me to the top of the men's softball world, where I became teammates with people I would have met for no other reason, men who today rank among the greatest companions I have. But, more importantly, it kept me connected to baseball, which was the common denominator for Dad and me.

We went to games together, watched them on TV, talked baseball year-round. One evening when we were watching a game he commented on the modern catcher's mitt and how he envied the players of the day. His mitts were stiff and round with the pocket right in the middle; the more advanced ones were flexible and more like a fielder's glove and he said he wished he could have caught in one just once, to see how it felt. So I got him one, and took it to him at his house and we went outside and played catch -- for the last time, as it turned out. We threw and he smiled as the ball popped loudly into his mitt, and we tossed the ball back and forth with no conversation necessary.

I hope he felt the same way I did when he gave me my glove, because I felt as though we might have come full circle. He's gone now, but our gloves share a place in my room and in my heart, not just on Father's Day, but every day. ♦



The "Dynamic Duo" of Michelle Rushing and Dina Mason were all smiles before the jump. Thanks to all their supporters, they raised over \$2,000.



Rhonda Thomas, above, raised over \$3,000. Det. Thomas has worked many cases with the NEACAC and passionately supports the mission and need for the center for children affected by abuse.



Coming in for a safe, and happy, landing are NEACAC Executive Director Kristy Nichols, left, Michelle Rushing, above, and Dina Mason, right.



## Locals take part in "Leap of Faith" skydive

Giving entirely new meaning to the phrase "lofty goals," a number of Paragould-area residents participated in the Northeast Arkansas Children's Advocacy Center's "Leap of Faith" skydive in May.

In order to take part in the fundraising effort -- topped off by strapping on a parachute and jumping from a moving airplane -- interested parties had to commit to raising a minimum of \$1,000 each for the center, which is located in Jonesboro.

The NEACAC opened in 2009 and serves as an outlet for abused children to tell their stories to qualified professionals. In 2013 alone, the center served 331 children in Northeast Arkansas.

All of those children were offered trauma

focused mental health therapy, regardless of their ability to pay, thanks to Mid-South Health Systems, Life Strategies Inc., and other agencies in the area.

The numbers have surpassed 200 cases already in 2014. Every one of these children took an enormous LEAP OF FAITH by telling their story of abuse and allowing NEACAC to be there for them through the process. By understanding the courage of these young superheroes, a jump from a plane seems a little less daunting and more of a representation of the respect we have for their bravery.

Some of the statistics relevant to our area for 2013 that the center has compiled include:

- \* 869 reports were accepted by the Child Abuse Hotline to be investigated by the Arkansas State Police Crimes Against

Children Division.

- \* Approximately five children die each day from child abuse.

- \* Statistically, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys have experienced sexual abuse before their 18th birthdays.

- \* More than 98 percent of the children served by NEACAC in 2013 were offended by someone they knew and trusted.

The "Leap of Faith Skydive" took place at West Tennessee Skydiving in Whiteville, Tennessee, 35 miles east of Memphis. The event raised a total of \$21,453.

NEACAC plans to have another fundraising "Jump" August 9th -- Wolves UP for ASU students, faculty and staff!

Find information at [neacac.net](http://neacac.net) or call Kristy at 870.275.7902. ♦

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# Relay For Life names four honorary survivors for June event

**F**our local residents -- Whitney Weeks-Miller, Donna Archer, Sherry Brown and Blake Williams -- have been chosen as honorary cancer survivors for the annual Relay For Life event.

This year's Relay will take place in Paragould on June 13. Following are the stories as told by the four honorees or family members.

## Whitney Weeks-Miller

In December of 1995 at the age of 5, I was diagnosed with leukemia. I was treated at Arkansas Children's Hospital where I received excellent care.



Even though such a situation sounds devastating, it was not a terrible experience. Our entire community seemed to rally around my diagnosis and gave my family unbelievable support.

Such an experience taught me to be resilient and live in the moment. I learned to be tough at a very early age and truly appreciate my health.

## Donna Archer

April 26, 2013, began one of the most frightening

and blessed journeys of my life. That is the day I received the news that I had breast cancer. Secretly, I had tried to prepare myself that it was cancer, just in case, but that did not prevent the shock of Dr. Fonticiella's words, "Donna, Donna, Donna ... it's cancer."

The next month was a blur of new doctors, appointments, and tests. Dr. Berry and Dr. Chandler performed surgery on May 29. I underwent a unilateral mastectomy (right side)

with reconstruction and lymph node removal (9 of 21 lymph nodes contained cancer). My cancer then had a classification -- Stage 3A.

Three weeks after surgery I began chemo treatments with Dr. Scroggin. I have completed two rounds of chemo (4 treatments each) and will complete a year of targeted treatment (Herceptin) in August 2014. I also take a daily Tamoxifen tablet and will continue it for 10 years.

In November, Dr. Lynch began my daily radiation treatments. I completed my 33 treatments on Dec. 17. I deeply appreciate each physician and their staff for the excellent care I have received.



This is not a journey to be traveled alone. The encouragement and prayers of my friends, my co-workers at First National Bank and my church family at Hillcrest Church of Christ have made the past year a true blessing. I thank God for answering the many prayers offered on my behalf and for walking this journey with me. When I needed a chauffeur, a chemo companion, a congratulations sign and balloons, a hug and so much more, my family patiently met my needs. Thank you Mike, Erica, Alex, Jessica and Reid for your love and support.

## Sherry Brown

On the morning of November 20, 2013, I was working at the Greene County Tech Administration office when my phone rang. I knew the nurse would be calling to give me the results of my biopsy, but I never thought I would hear the next sentence out of her mouth. I remember the nurse telling me that the biopsy came back and that I had breast cancer. When I heard the nurse say the word "cancer" I became numb. Somehow, I managed to walk to Mrs. Amy Lucius' office so there would be someone else to listen to the conversation. I knew I would not be able to comprehend all that she was telling me and I was right. Although my world shattered, I was determined to find the strength to fight and God has given that to me with lots of prayers and encouragement from others.

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The next few months were a whirlwind of appointments and changing plans. In the beginning I was to have surgery first, but after blood work revealed that my breast cancer was hormone and Her2 positive, plans changed. On the day I was originally scheduled for a lumpectomy, I was having a port put in for chemo transfusions. I had to receive the first round of two different types of chemo drugs every two weeks for a total of four infusions. These infusions were the worst. I dreaded going every time because of how sick I would be afterward. During the next phase,



I received two types of chemo administered every week for 12 weeks. I remember being so tired and exhausted. There were days I could not make it to work because I did not have the energy to get out of bed. A couple of weeks into the 12-week cycle, I woke up with my left arm swollen and my hand turning blue. An ultrasound in Memphis revealed I had a blood clot. The oncologist hospitalized me over the weekend to monitor the clot and begin blood thinners. The following week I went to the clinic to have the port removed. Now, without a port, the remaining infusions would have to be done through an IV in my arm. I would have to wrap my arm in a blanket to make it more comfortable. Finally the 12 weeks were over and my surgery was scheduled for May 21. I was ready to have surgery behind me in hopes it would ease my mind about the outcome. I was still worried and concerned that the cancer had spread somewhere else in my body.

As I am writing this, I am waiting to have my surgery. Radiation is scheduled to begin after surgery and I will be receiving chemo every three weeks until February 2015.

I would not have been able to make it through the days I was so sick, or just too exhausted to go, without the support and encouragement of my family, work family and friends. Everyone has been so caring and loving. I know that is what has kept me going, along with my faith in the Lord.

Thank you to all of you for your prayers, love, support and encouragement. You have all given me the strength, hope, and faith I need to fight the battle, just as it is revealed in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I will finish the race, and I have remained faithful."

### Blake Williams

During the spring of 2013, my son Blake started complaining about very bad migraines. These headaches would completely wipe him out. He wouldn't eat or drink and would sleep for hours and sometimes all day.

The pain was so severe he would hum to comfort himself. In July 2013 he had a CT scan and blood work and both came back normal. He kept having migraines. The last week of August he had a large chicken egg size bump



on the base of his skull. Our family doctor said it was a hematoma and would go away.

I wasn't going to accept that answer. I knew something was very wrong. I texted a nurse friend about Blake's symptoms and she told me to get him to a children's hospital ASAP.

August 31, 2013, I left work early and took him to NEA Baptist Jonesboro and the ER doctor there said it was also a hematoma and maybe he should have an eye exam for glasses.

I took him to Dr. Cullins at Paragould Wal-Mart Eye Clinic and he told me that Blake had severe swelling of the optic nerves and a possible tumor. He said Blake needed an MRI stat.

We went to AMMC and explained his situation and they sent us to LeBonheur in Memphis.

Later that night LeBonheur told me Blake had cancer. They did a biopsy to confirm and sent us to St. Jude's. Blake was a patient for nine months and underwent chemo and radiation treatments for Ewings sarcoma.

He was declared cancer free April 18, 2014. ♦





# Outstanding Teachers



## Randal Foshee Crowley's Ridge Academy

**R**andal said she "originally chose to go into teaching because I wanted to be a volleyball coach. I enjoy coaching, but I fell in love with being in the classroom. Being around students and being able to share my passion for math is extremely rewarding."

Like many of her teaching peers, some of her favorite teaching moments occur "when I'm helping a student that is struggling and the "Aha!" look comes over the student's face when he/she finally understands."

She has been teaching secondary math and coaching volleyball and girls track for five years at Crowley's Ridge Academy.

Randal and her husband, Chris, will have been married for six years in August. "We have a beautiful son, Owen, who was born last December," she said. "We also have a golden retriever named Rex, a labrador retriever named Cali, and a goldendoodle named Tessa." ♦



## Lizabeth May Paragould

**L**izabeth became a teacher "because I wanted to make a difference in a child's life. My second grade teacher, Mrs. Murphy, made a difference in my life. I was a very shy child. She took the time to talk to me and encourage me to always try. She was an awesome teacher and I wanted to be just like her. Also, my grandmother believed in me. She encouraged me to go into the teaching field."

She said there are too many great memories over her 30 years of teaching to choose a favorite: "Each day is an adventure!"

Lizabeth graduated from ASU in 1983 with a BSE and in 1984 with her MSE. She taught at Wynne for five years and has been with the Paragould School District for the last 25 years.

"I married my wonderful husband 26 years ago in June," she said. "We have a beautiful daughter Anna Clara. She is in the 9th grade at PHS. We have two dogs and two cats. We also have extended family that live in Europe. They were our exchange students several years ago." ♦



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# St. Mary's team takes first place in Battle of the Books

**S**t. Mary's may have been the smallest school in the field, but it brought home the biggest prize.

Competing against 13 other Arkansas Catholic schools in the annual Battle of the Books in Conway, the team of Paragould fifth- and sixth-graders captured first place for the first time in school history in May.

"We've had seconds and thirds before," said teacher Teresa McKay, "but this is the first time we've won. We are so excited, especially since we were the smallest school there."

The team, made up of six participants and two alternates, correctly answered 58 of the 59 questions directed its way.

McKay said the students had to read 15 books, take notes on what they read, and then be

prepared to answer questions about the stories. The reading material covers a wide range of topics, anything from mythology to sports.

Using practice skills devised by McKay, the students then "got down to work and really studied. The week before the competition, we had a lock-in and a pizza party, and we worked hard together.

"It's a lot of work," she said. "There's lots of notes and lots of reading and lots of questions. But it all came together nicely."

The team, made up of six participants and two alternates, correctly answered 58 of the 59 questions directed its way.

"That was incredible," McKay said. "I was so proud of them."

Team members are Mackenzie Register, Kaite Stoddard, Ridge Masingale, Hannah Halverson, Gracie Dement, Justin Nelson, Seth Bouldin and Cameron Vester. ♦



Surrounding contest coordinator Teresa McKay are, front from left, Mackenzie Register, Kaite Stoddard, Ridge Masingale and Hannah Halverson; and back, Gracie Dement, Justin Nelson, Seth Bouldin and Cameron Vester.

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# Business Is Good



Matt Knight of Mid-South Health Systems Inc., above, entertained an audience made up of Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce members during its quarterly meeting. Knight used a presentation featuring Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs to illustrate “the secrets of a happy workplace.”



## Paragould residents recognized at special dinner at St. Bernards

**F**our Paragould residents – including one with 30 years of service – were among 53 employees honored at a recent employee recognition dinner at St. Bernards.

Those honored at a quarterly event represented more than 600 years of service to St. Bernards. They come from 12 towns in four different Arkansas counties.

Paragould residents include Jessica Camp who works in management information systems; Natalie Marotti who works at the Center for Diabetes Management; Albert Pyland who works in radiology; and Deloris Evans who works in medical records.

Camp and Marotti have been on staff for five years each. Pyland has been at St. Bernards for 10 years, and Evans has been on staff for 30 years.

Honorees received desk plaques. ♦



Deloris Evans of Paragould has been with St. Bernards for 30 years.



## Brengard honored by co-workers upon retirement

**P**aragould resident Bobbye Brengard retired from Dickinson & Associates Real Estate and was given a royal sendoff by co-workers and friends.

She had been in the real estate field since 1988 and was called “an inspiration to lots of other realtors, and a mentor.” ♦



Well-wishers gathered at Dickinson Realty, above and at right, to celebrate the retirement of Bobbye Brengard, pictured at far left.



## Business Is Good

Willow Salon holds  
Open House in Paragould



Carrie Carle, Summer Huffine, and Vicki Bishop-Nigro posed at the Open House for Willow Salon, while Charity Fisher, below, got a makeover from one of the artists. On display for visitors at the beauty salon were many of the clothing and accessories offered.



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# Happenings



1



2



3

## 1. Riding Clubs Stage Toy Drive

Area motorcycle enthusiasts turned their thoughts to the children affected by tornadoes in the Mayflower and Vilonia areas, collecting a trailer full of toys. Riders met at the Saints & Sinners clubhouse in Paragould before heading out on the mission of mercy.

## 2. Vacation Bible School

The kids at First Baptist Church in Paragould invite children to Vacation Bible School June 16-20 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. The theme is Agency D3, with secret agent-type events slated. Adults will be on site by 8:00 a.m. to love, teach and take care of children. Transportation is available by calling the First Baptist Church office at 236-8584.

## 3. Superior Pianists

Piano students of Lillian White who earned Superior ratings in the AFMC Junior Festival also performed at Chateau On The Ridge. They are: (front from left) Olivia Rowe, Jo Beth Mitchell, Ashton Rodrigues, Shea Malone, Allison Rowe, Alicen Dixon; (back row) Ava Pekrul, Zoe Rodrigues and Hannah Leisure. ♦

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## Fond farewell



Former Oak Grove students and their families walked the halls of the old building one last time, snapping photographs and picking out old friends from the class composites on display.

## Oak Grove "rock building" hosts final tour

**O**ak Grove Middle School offered alumni and residents the chance to say farewell to the former high school building before it is officially replaced by a new state-of-the-art facility.

The OGHS "rock building" was constructed in the 1930s but when Oak Grove consolidated with Paragould in 1986, the building was used to house the sixth grade students. It will be replaced by a new building with a price tag of \$4.5 million by the beginning of the next school year.

This new building will have classrooms, administration offices, nurses' office, counseling office, rooms for music and art and more for sixth grade students in a modern setting. The project was funded in part by the millage increase that also helped fund the Paragould Primary School building.



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## Birth Announcements



Brycen Kane Baker

**Z**ac and Angela Baker of Paragould welcomed a son, Brycen Kane Baker, on March 3 of this year. Brycen was born at 9:34 a.m. at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 14.5 ounces and was 19.8 inches long. Siblings are Aubree Baker, Benjamin Baker and Beckam Baker. ♦

**J**osh and Michele Matheney of Paragould announce the birth of a son, Caleb Anthony Matheney.

Born at NEA Hospital, the baby weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Siblings are Kaitlyn, Jaden, and his late brother Jackson. Grandparents are Tony and Belinda Matheney, Patty Matheney, Larry Garner, and Francis Bishop. ♦



Caleb Anthony Matheney



Caleb Aaron Davis

*Photo by Melissa Donner*

**B**lake and Kari Ann Davis of Paragould announce the birth of their child, Caleb Aaron Davis.

Born at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches long.

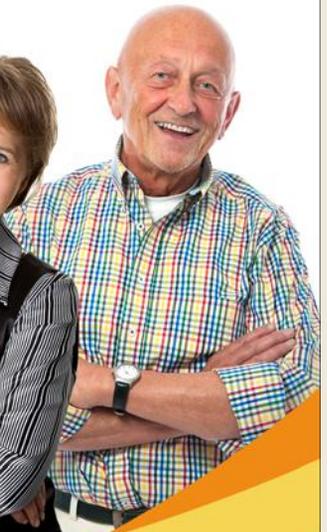
Grandparents are Kim and Gail Barker, and Doug and the late Vera Davis. ♦

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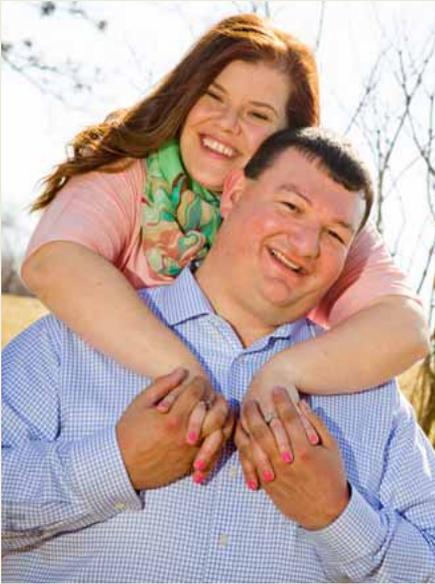


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# Engagement Announcements



Marcia Janae Wooldridge and Jay Ervin

## Wooldridge - Ervin

**M**arcia Janae Wooldridge and James "Jay" Everett Ervin announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

The bride is the daughter of Joan Wooldridge and the late Hal Wooldridge of Paragould. The groom is the son of Glendal and Una Ervin of Corning.

The couple will exchange wedding vows on June 28, 2014, at eleven in the morning at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould. ♦



Joshua Daniel Smith and Savanna MaeLynn Moore

## Smith - Moore

**S**avanna MaeLynn Moore and Joshua Daniel Smith announce their engagement and marriage plans.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Julie Green and Chris Moore of Paragould.

The prospective groom is the son of Brenda Copeland and Rick Smith of Paragould.

The couple will exchange wedding vows on June 20, 2014, at Topsail Island, North Carolina. ♦



Jonathan Brumfield and Anna Overbay

## Brumfield - Overbay

**A**nna Overbay and Jonathan Brumfield have announced their plans for a June wedding.

Anna is the daughter of Omer and Paula Overbay of Paragould. Jonathan's parents are David and Alisa Brumfield of Hobbs, New Mexico.

The couple will exchange wedding vows on June 28, 2014, at the 7th and Mueller Church of Christ in Paragould. ♦

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# Engagement Announcements



Terry Johnson, Jr., and Keena Graham

## Johnson-Graham

**K**eena Graham and Terry Johnson, Jr., announce their plans to exchange wedding vows in June.

Keena is the daughter of Mike and Debbie Graham of Marmaduke.

Terry's parents are Kim Johnson and the late Terry Johnson of Marked Tree.

The wedding is set for June 14, 2014, at Paragould's Red Goose Banquet Hall. ♦



Jason Wood and Annalise Lester

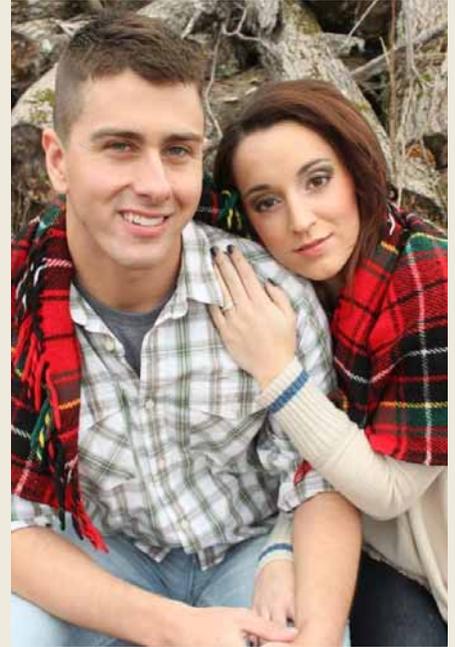
## Lester-Wood

**A**nnalise Lester and Jason Wood will exchange wedding vows on Saturday, June 7, 2014.

The bride-to-be's parents are Paul and LeAnn Lester of Summerville, South Carolina.

Jason is the son of David and Cindy Wood of Paragould.

The wedding ceremony will take place at Legend Oaks Golf Club in Summerville. ♦



Luke Hansen and Julia Taylor

## Taylor-Hansen

**J**ulia Taylor and Luke Hansen have set a June date to exchange their wedding vows.

Julia is the daughter of James Taylor and Libby Glasco of Paragould.

The prospective groom's parents are Charles and Monica Hansen of Jonesboro.

The wedding will take place Saturday, June 28, in a private ceremony in Bono. ♦

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# June

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TUESDAY, JUNE 3

**AMMC HOSTS CHILD-BIRTH PREPARATION CLASS**, held in the Second Floor Conference Room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register. **Other class dates:** June 10th, 17th, and 24th.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 7

**SUPPORT GROUP HOSTS 4,000 STEPS DIABETES AWARENESS WALK/RUN**, at the Paragould Community Center at 3404 Linwood Drive, beginning at 8:00 am. Register online at [ageeracetiming.com/events/229/](http://ageeracetiming.com/events/229/). Pre-registration closes at midnight on June 5. Cost is \$15 for both walkers and runners. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). For more information, please call (870) 239-7016.

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

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

### THURSDAY, JUNE 12

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

**MUSIC IN THE PARK**, in Centennial Park in Downtown Paragould from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Grayson Simpson is performing. Order take-out, pack a picnic basket or fill your cooler!

### FRIDAY, JUNE 13

**"GUYS AND DOLLS"**, at the historic Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould. **Other performance dates:** June 14th, 20th, and 21st

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14

**OAK GROVE CITYWIDE YARD SALE**.

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FOR THE OAK GROVE HEIGHTS FIRE DEPT. PANCAKE BREAKFAST & AUCTION**, held at the fire station in Oak Grove Heights. For more information, call Shalane Slatton at (870) 476-0559.

### MONDAY, JUNE 16

**MOMMY AND ME BREAST-FEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**, brought to you by Arkansas

Methodist Medical Center and the Greene County Health Unit. This is an opportunity for new and expectant mothers to share experiences. Held in the Second Floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at AMMC. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. For more information, call the Greene County Health Unit at (870) 236-7782.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 22

**SEERSUCKER & LINEN SUMMER SOCIAL**, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 305 South 10th Street, an afternoon benefitting MOCA Arkansas. Starting at 4:00 pm, join us on the lawn to play croquet, boccie ball, bag-o, and sip MOCA Mint Juleps. Even enter our hat or bow tie contests! For ticket information, call Rebecca Hoskins at (870) 215-3398.

### MONDAY, JUNE 23

**RIDE THE FAULT LINE**, Ride the Crowley's Ridge Parkway, Mississippi River Trail & Great River Road on our 4 state bike tour! Tour begins in Sikeston on Sunday, June 22 and will be in Paragould on the 23rd. For more information and registration, visit [www.ridethefault.com](http://www.ridethefault.com).

### MONDAY, JUNE 30

**AMMC HOSTS HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS**, held in the Second Floor Conference Room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

Please send all information for upcoming events to [editor@premiere-magazine.com](mailto:editor@premiere-magazine.com).

## RECURRING EVENTS

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

**Every Wednesday:** Perking on Pruett, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. At Something Sweet. Find out what is happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

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

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

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

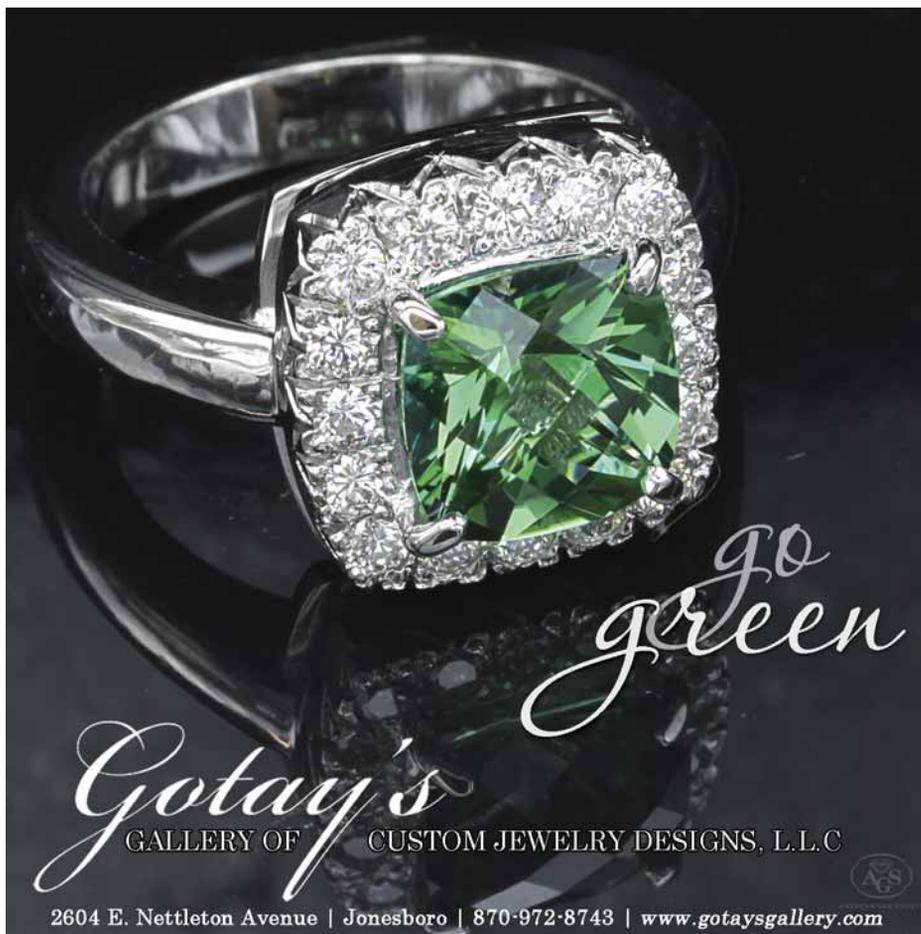
The Memory Cafe, support group for those having memory, dementia or Alzheimer's at 1:00 pm at Swirlz Yogurt and Coffee.

**Second Wednesday of every month:** St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. At St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould.

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

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

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



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## Broadaway helps with funding of scholarships for ASU Academy

**W**ith the benefit of special scholarship funding arranged by State Rep. Mary Broadaway of Paragould, several children will be able to participate in Summer Camp Academy this year at Arkansas State University.

Scholarships are designated for at-risk children, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, including those with developmental special needs. Local school administrators are assisting with identifying interested children.

Broadaway presented a check to Dr. Charles L. Welch, ASU System president, and Dr. Beverly Gilbert, dean of Continuing Education and Community Outreach (CECO), during an afternoon reception and announcement ceremony. CECO conducts the Summer Camp Academy.

The District 57 representative arranged the funding for the scholarship grant through the state General Improvement Fund.

"Teachers in the camp academy are dedicated to helping children build self-confidence, advance academic skills, and experience new ways of learning," Gilbert said.

She added the staff strives to provide fun, educational programs for youth through a variety of activities including art, literature, drama and creative play, along with the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) projects.

The Summer Camp Academy activities are led both by A-State faculty and teachers from across Northeast Arkansas. Camps are scheduled for half days, both morning and afternoon, Monday through Friday.

Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first serve basis and in consideration of student and family need. ♦

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## STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month



Allen Engineering Corp. (AEC) celebrated 50 years of business in the concrete industry in April. We'll take a look at their impact on the local economy, as well as featuring several other locally owned family businesses. ♦

### Patriotism



July naturally brings on thoughts of patriotism, fireworks, cookouts and more, and Premiere staffers will bring related stories and photos to you. ♦

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