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2015

- ALIVE AFTER FIVE
- STATE CHAMPIONS
- AG FOR AUTISM
- CHILI RODEO
- OUR COMMUNITY

JACK BROADAWAY

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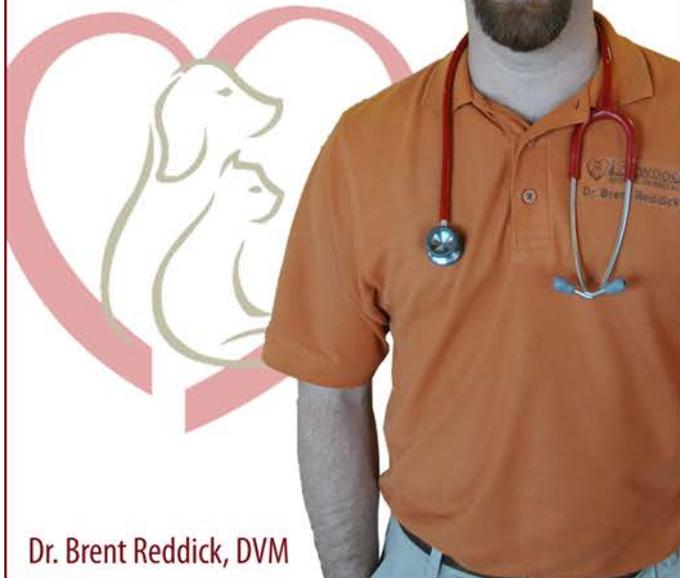
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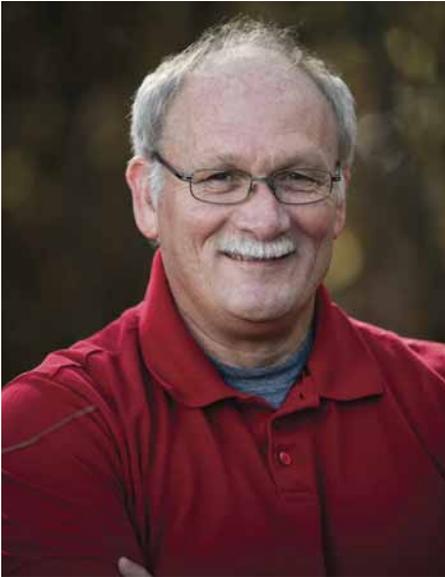
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From the Editor...



Richard Brummett, Editor

It's a good time of year here at Premiere Magazine, a time for congratulating some championship athletes -- something we're always happy to do -- and a time to prepare to recognize reader favorites.

Marmaduke's Lady Greyhounds recently

captured their school's first-ever girls' basketball state championship trophy, and the centerfold this month brings their smiling faces to you -- accompanied by congratulatory ads from members of the business community.

Marmaduke has a long tradition of basketball excellence and the Lady Hounds may very well win more state titles in the years to come, but no matter how many they might manage to bring home in the future the 2015 version will always be the *first* -- something no one can ever duplicate.

--

On pages 12-13 of this month's issue readers can find the initial ballot for the Premiere Awards, an opportunity to say "thank you" to their favorite businesses or business people in the Northeast Arkansas area.

Readers are invited to fill out the ballots and send them to us, and it is just one way for us to let our advertisers know how much we appreciate their continued participation with our magazine.

As we are required to do each year, we must

ask that those who choose to vote for their favorites do so in the spirit of the promotion. The awards are designed to be "readers' favorites" and many people take part by sending in a ballot with their preferences.

However, each year we get hundreds and hundreds of emails sent from the same business address with the sole purpose of stuffing the ballot box in that company's favor.

When an employee or business owner sits down at the computer and sends 20 consecutive votes at 8 a.m., 20 more at noon, and 20 more at closing time ... and repeats the action several times a week ... then we are not getting a true picture of readers' favorites. We are getting someone's attempt to make certain they win, which violates the honor system on which the balloting runs.

So we ask that this year, voters adhere to the intended spirit of the competition and send a vote ... not 1,000 votes, as has been the case in recent years.

We want our advertisers and area business owners to get the recognition they deserve, from the people who know them best -- their faithful customers. ♦

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Chili Rodeo brings in more than \$10,000

The 6th annual Chili Rodeo, to benefit the Northeast Arkansas Mission Outreach, was held in Paragould at the B.C. Lloyd Entertainment Building and raised \$10,008 for the organization.

The money goes toward rent, utilities, fuel, medical care and helping the homeless.

Contest winners were:

Chili -- 1st, Details/The Blind Lady; 2nd, Wonder Pools; 3rd, SDM Pawn; People's Choice, Teleflora.

Booths -- 1st, Teleflora; 2nd, Wonder Pools; 3rd, Families, Inc. ♦



Teleflora's booth at the Mission Outreach Chili Rodeo turned back the clock, and also took First Place honors. Diners came in all sizes, below right, greeted by smiling faces like those at the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould booth, bottom left.



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MISSION OUTREACH CHILI RODEO



Featured band Tongue and Groove kept the tunes coming while the women of Details and The Blind Lady, below, took top honors in the chili cooking event. The Wonder Pools booth at bottom was a Second Place winner.



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Current members of the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould.

2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould

The National Association of Junior Auxiliaries (NAJA) is an organization founded on the principles of helping children.

This organization allows women the opportunity to be actively involved in their communities, specifically through serving the needs of children and their families. Projects by the Junior Auxiliary help to provide the basic life necessities of food, clothing, shelter and even emotional support for many community members in need while helping those families work to become self sustaining. The NAJA slogan is, "Care today, character tomorrow."

With 100 women in Arkansas and Mississippi, the very first Junior Auxiliary began in the midst of World War II. NAJA now encompasses 101 chapters across eight southern states and includes over 14,000 members.

2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould. Throughout its existence, Paragould JA has helped countless children and families in our community.

Today, the local chapter continues to work on numerous service projects. One of the most rewarding undertakings of the Paragould JA is its annual Christmas Blessing party. This party is a time for children to enjoy pizza, cookies, crafts and Santa.

Children also have time to carefully choose gifts for their caregivers while their own Christmas wishes are being granted.

Another fun event sponsored by the Paragould JA is the annual Kids Kraze. This is a fun, business expo-type event for children, and admission is free. This year's Kids Kraze event will be Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m.- 12p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Paragould.

National Junior Auxiliary Week will be April 5-11. During that week, the Paragould JA will be collecting items that will be donated to the backpack programs at local schools.

In celebration of twenty years of Junior Auxiliary work in Paragould, the current chapter will host a drop-in reception on April 21 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Paragould Country Club. All former JA of Paragould members are encouraged and invited to attend.

If you are a former JA of Paragould member and would like to attend, please RSVP by contacting chapter President Mimi Jackson at mimi@owattorneys.com.

For more information about the Junior Auxiliary, or if you are interested in becoming a member, visit the Facebook page Junior Auxiliary of Paragould and leave a message. ♦



Children work on various therapeutic skills at The Learning Center.

Meet Barbara Pitcock, Director of Services for The Learning Center

The Learning Center (TLC) is a non-profit organization serving children from birth to five years of age, as well as adults with developmental disabilities.

Physical, occupational, and speech therapy are critical components of the services TLC provides, along with a variety of other support programs. TLC's mission is "to empower and enhance the lives of the developmentally disabled and their families by providing quality services and advocacy."

Cheryl Nichols: Barbara, how did you become involved in working with individuals with developmental disabilities?

Barbara Pitcock: It seems that I've always been involved with special needs people. After receiving my degree in speech therapy from ASU, my first job was working with severely disabled children in Mississippi. It was at that point I began to realize that I had often surrounded myself with people and friends who had some type of disability. But, as a child I did not know what their disability was, I was simply fascinated by their capabilities and potential and I worked to find ways to communicate with them.

CN: It's obvious you are passionate about

your work with children and adults. How have you maintained that passion after more than thirty years in this field?

BP: A person must have a heart for this kind of work. It takes a lot of compassion. In a perfect world we would all be more compassionate with each other, regardless of disability, because we all need some help with something. I feel a particular sense of urgency for our birth to five year olds – everything we do matters in the short period

of time they have before they begin school. Children with autism or other disabilities can improve significantly with intensive early childhood therapeutic

services.

CN: Barbara, I always ask my Barbara Walters inspired question: What is your superhero name and what is your superpower?

BP: (Laughing) Well, my kids call me "Wonder Woman" but I find that amusing! When my daughter was around six years old she handed me a note while I was on the phone discussing a work issue. The note read, "Work is for at work, not at home." They've



always known that I love what I do and will get things done. So, they call me "Wonder Woman." My superpower is determination. Those that know me know when I decide to do something I am determined to get it done. I try to channel that determination in a positive way, of course. I just expect everyone to have the same energy and commitment that I have for things. Of course, that is not always the case, but I can't turn off my determination.

CN: How can people learn more about The Learning Center?

BP: If anyone needs more information about our services or about how they can support our mission, they are welcome to call me at (870) 932-4245 or email me at bpitcock@tlc-nea.com. Also, please visit our website at www.tlcnea.org.

Our Community

By Cheryl Nichols



the PREMIERE awards

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 Other Medical: _____ P J O
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 Counselor: (List Agency): _____ P J O
 Home Health Service: _____ P J O
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And the 2015
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You Choose!

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Disc golf: A mile-and-a-half walk in the park

Brad Pietz says if you're looking for a low impact, good cardio exercise, you should consider taking up disc golf. "It's a mile-and-a-half walk in the park," said Pietz, owner of Disc Side of Heaven in Jonesboro.

Played with the same rules as regular golf but substituting the throwing of a plastic disc instead of hitting a ball with a club, disc golf continues to be a rapidly-growing sport across America. Pietz said he started playing in 1984 in Shreveport, Louisiana, when his father wanted to check it out, and he continued once he got to college. "I've been playing ever since, and now I have this."

"This" is his Disc Side of Heaven layout, two 18-hole courses on 80 acres situated at 3255 Strawfloor Dr. "One is a family-friendly shorter "learn how to play" type of course," he said. "The other is one of the longest courses in the world (10,400-plus feet). It's one of the most challenging you will find."

Pietz accommodates golfers of all ages, but said the rolling terrain is not for everyone. "There's a lot of going up and down hills," he explained, "so I would say someone with a bad knee or hip might not find it receptive. But it is wonderful exercise for almost anyone. Today, for example, we probably have people from ages 18 to 42 or 43 years old. My dad is 70, and he plays two or three times a week."

More importantly, it's an inexpensive hobby. Where a set of golf clubs can set you back hundreds -- even thousands -- of dollars, a brand new disc will run from \$12 to \$20. "Really, all you need to play is one disc," Pietz said, "and you can play all day for \$6. All day. You can go as long as you can stand."

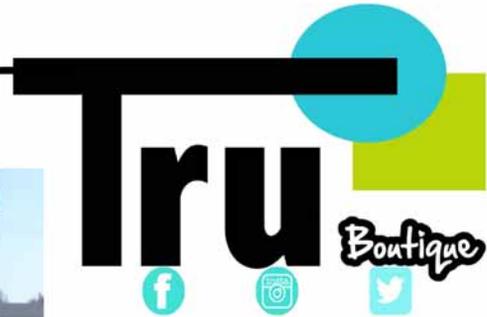
Pietz said disc golf remains "extremely foreign to us here in Northeast Arkansas" but the sport has been one of the fastest growing in the USA for the last nine years. A decade ago there were approximately 12 disc manufacturers; today there are more than 30, each producing 15-50 disc molds.

To visit Disc Side of Heaven, call Pietz at 870-336-0347 or email discsideofheaven@gmail.com for an appointment. ♦

Kiwanis Pancake Day



The Paragould Kiwanis Club held its annual all-you-can-eat Pancake Day fundraiser at St. Mary's Fellowship Hall. Libby Milligan and Alan Ainley, above, seemed to enjoy the efforts of cooks like Ty Sims, Terry Melton and K-Day chairperson Tim Barnum, at right.



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... to the Discovery Park of America



If you've never had a reason to visit Union City, Tennessee, the Discovery Park of America may be the incentive you need.

The park boasts 70,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibits and activities, including a children's exploration gallery complete with whirlpools and geysers. Kids can scoot down the 48-foot tall human slide to explore an abundance of history, art, space, and technology exhibits.

The Enlightenment gallery displays African artifacts, sunken treasure, and a replica of The

Ark of the Covenant. The Military gallery contains many pieces of equipment, including a WWII PT-17 Stearman suspended from the ceiling.

Don't forget to stop by the Automobile gallery where you can enjoy 60 years' worth of the American-made automobile. After dining at The Café at Discovery Park of America, take a stroll outside to visit the 1800s Settlement; be sure to stop in and watch the potter fire his unique creations. Follow the beautifully landscaped path to the 100-year-old church

where you can rest before heading down to the train station to take a tour of the old train cars.

If that isn't enough, you can try to stay calm in the Earthquake Simulator, have a seat in the interactive chairs and prepare to explore the universe in the Starship Theater, or see all 70,000 square feet of the Park from the top of The Tower.

At the Discovery Park of America there is enough fun for everyone!

-- Amber L. Ellis

Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit



The Discovery Park of America offers a glimpse of life past, present and future, providing a bit of fun for everyone.



Realtors announce 2014 award winners

The Arkansas Realtors Association, in celebrating the achievements of area realtors and recognizing outstanding sales accomplishments, announced awards for 2014.

The Realtor Excellence Awards spotlight those who have excelled in sales volume and excellence in service for the residential listings. ♦



Above, Selina Reithmeyer of Image Realty, Sandra Kelley of Paragould Home Source, Pat Chesser of Century 21 Chesser Taylor Realty and Carolyn Hurley Block of Coldwell Banker Real Estate received the Gold Award of Excellence. Below, Lori Dowdy of Exit Realty Paragould, Darrell Taylor of Century 21 Chesser Taylor Realty and Raina Thomas of Image Realty received the Bronze Award of Excellence. Megan Mitchell and Karen Brinkley, both from Paragould Home Source, are not pictured.



Brooksie Hartness of Image Realty received the Double Diamond Award of Excellence



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More award winners

At right above, Delaine Landrum of Image Realty, Jill Whitworth of Century 21 Chesser Taylor Realty, Pam Lackey of Dickinson and Associates and Randy Jumper of Exit Realty Paragould received the Silver Award of Excellence. And below, Amber Gill of Exit Realty Paragould, Pete Cancilla of Image Realty and Linda Dickinson of Dickinson and Associates received the Platinum Award of Excellence.



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Clay and Pam Young, above, were all decked out for the Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball in Jonesboro. The ASU Convocation Center was decorated elaborately, right, for guests like the Youngs and others, including Jenny Keller and Lauren Johnson, at right.

Junior Auxiliary hosts Charity Ball

The Convocation Center at Arkansas State University was the place to be when the Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro hosted its annual Charity Ball.

The night of entertainment serves as the Jonesboro organization's lone fundraiser of the year.

Proceeds from the event, which featured live and silent auctions, help fund projects throughout the year.

Junior Auxiliary also gives scholarships to graduating seniors and adults looking to return to school.

More than 600 tickets were sold to this year's Charity Ball. ♦



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PREMIERE

Young
PEOPLE

Charlton Gibson isn't worried about winning competitions or finishing obstacle courses in record time. He just likes riding.

The 14-year-old Greene County Tech student has recently taken up the sport of rock crawling, helping his dad Duane modify an older Jeep Wrangler so that it will safely climb a hill or bounce over boulders ... whatever gets in the way.

"He's been going with his dad since he was 3 on all his adventures," said his mother, Danita, an experienced mudder, herself. "He played football and baseball, but he loves his motorized sports."

Charlton said he followed in his father's footsteps, participating in mudding and graduating to rock crawling, and while contests

are held in places like Alabama, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky and Arkansas he's in it for "both competition and fun."

He and his dad are in charge of vehicle upkeep and Charlton said as long as they have their machine running and have "a harness, a helmet and a fire suit" they're ready to go.

His favorite part of the whole adventure is "getting to ride after" a meet.

"It's like trail riding on horses," Danita said. "It's the same thing, only you're in a machine. He really likes riding with the others after it's all over."

And how long does he plan to keep the practice up?

"Until I die," he said. ♦

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Artifacts show scheduled at Community Center

The Paragould Community Center will play host to the Northeast Arkansas Indian Artifacts Show on Saturday, April 4.

Event organizer Dan Martin said there will be a wide selection of arrowheads, pottery and other Indian relics, as well as some Civil War-era artifacts.

"This is going to be a bigger show," Martin said. "We've got people coming from Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois ... all over. And reproductions will be allowed at this one."

"It will really be something to see, and real educational for the young ones," he added.

There is no admission charge for the public, Martin said.

The show will run from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Community Center, located at 3404 Linwood Drive, just off of Hwy. 49 in Paragould. For information about the show, contact Martin at 870-215-1627. ♦

AMMC will host Health Fair in Rector

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and Rector United Methodist Church will stage a Health Fair in conjunction with the church's annual rummage sale on Thursday, April 2, 2015, from 8:00-10:00 a.m.

The Health Fair will be held at Rector United Methodist Church's Wesley Hall, located at Main and 3rd streets.

Glucose and cholesterol screenings will be offered at \$5.00 apiece and other healthcare information will be available during the event. Cash and checks are accepted.

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PREMIERE

Young PEOPLE

Jackson Parker, 14, says he has a pretty good memory and “an innate skill for spelling,” and he’s taking that formula all the way to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., in May.

An eighth-grader at Paragould Jr. High School, Jackson won the Greene County Spelling Bee and advanced to the state competition, where he also claimed the championship by correctly spelling the word “Mediterranean.”

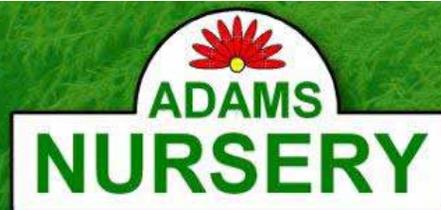
“It’s more of a hobby,” he said of the spelling contests. “I won the county, then the state, and now I’m going to the big leagues with the nationals.”

He credits his mother, Melanie, and his grandmother, Paulette Parker, for helping him hone his skills. “My mother says I get my smarts from my parents,” he said. “She was in the county spelling bee, so I was trying to achieve more than she did. She never made it to state, but she has supported me in getting there.”

As for his grandmother, a longtime school teacher, she has been helping him practice for months and is helping him prepare for the national meet.

“Sometimes it gets tedious, practicing words that I’ve already done twenty times,” Jackson said, “but I know we have to work on words from the National Spelling Bee, too. There is a plethora of new words, so I’m always expanding what we’re working on.”

The Scripps National Spelling Bee will be held the week of May 24. ♦



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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30		

Rosie McCarty, who turns 3 on the 26th of this month, perfected her artwork during Jonesboro's Alive After Five event. Rosie is the daughter of Tyler and Lindsay McCarty of Jonesboro.

AMMC Auxiliary taking applications for scholarships

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary is accepting applications for its annual scholarship program.

The awards are available to any individual in Greene County pursuing a career in the medical profession. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in an education program within the medical profession and must be in at least the beginning of their second year of education by the beginning of the fall semester.

Applications may be picked up at volunteer office or in administration at AMMC and must be returned no later than May 1 with an official copy of the applicant's educational transcript attached.

The number of scholarships awarded this year is based on available funds and the number of qualified applicants. Qualified applicants are determined by a committee after transcripts and financial needs are assessed. The scholarship is a one-time award to any one recipient with the funds sent directly to the educational institution that the applicant attends.

The AMMC Auxiliary has been awarding scholarships to students in the community for more than 40 years.

For more information, contact the volunteer office at (870) 239-7097.

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Additional information about AMMC is available at www.myammc.org.



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Fundraising bass tournament names Pocahontas youth recipient

Braxton Hogland, 5-year-old son of Kerry and Chuck Hogland of Pocahontas, will be the 2015 recipient of the Kalee James Cancer Benefit Bass Tournament fundraiser, hosted by Mike Crump, NEA BASS Nation and FOCAS fishing clubs.

Braxton was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in April 2014. He and his parents have been traveling to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock for treatments and he is currently in the "maintenance phase" and the family is looking forward to July 2017 when the treatments are scheduled to end.

Braxton is a typical, fun-loving little boy. He loves being outside in the dirt, playing with trucks, tractors, and fishing. He likes riding his Big Wheel and watching race cars with his oldest brother, Hunter. He loves super heroes. He and his brother, Ryker, have lots of fun dressing in their super hero costumes ... Batman, Spiderman, and Ironman.

The Kalee James tournament began in 2012 when Kalee was receiving cancer treatments at St Jude's. Kalee's dad, John James, works with Mike Crump at the Craighead County Highway Department. Mike wanted to do something to help Kalee immediately and wanted to be able to continue to assist other children and/or young adults in Northeast Arkansas in the future.

The 2015 tournament will be on Saturday, April 18, at Lake Charles. It



Braxton Hogland is the 2015 honoree of the Kalee James benefit bass tournament.

is \$80 per team, starting at 6:30 a.m. or Safe Light, ending at 2:30 p.m. Numerous local and national sponsors have donated money and prizes for the participants; 41 teams participated in 2014.

Tune in to the NEA Bass Nation Facebook page for details regarding the tournament, but most importantly, join in on April 18 for a fun day of fishing, fellowship, and prizes as we join together to help a wonderful little boy and his family through their journey with cancer. ♦

An advertisement for ArmorSeed.com. On the left, a man wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, glasses, and a dark baseball cap with a logo looks off to the side. To his right, the text "FARMING IS TOUGH. GET A HELMET." is displayed in large, bold, green and blue letters. At the bottom right, there is a logo for ArmorSeed.com, which consists of a stylized helmet icon and the text "ArmorSeed.com".

April 14 designated Equal Pay Day by national organization

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, has been designated Equal Pay Day by the National Committee on Pay Equity.

The date symbolizes how far into 2014 women must work to earn what men earned in 2013.

Equal Pay Day was originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages.

Since Census statistics showing the latest wage figures will not be available until late August or September, NCPE leadership decided years ago to select a Tuesday in April as Equal Pay Day. (Tuesday was selected to represent how far into the work week women must work to earn what men earned the previous week.) The date also is selected to avoid religious holidays and other significant events.

Because women earn less, on average, than men, they must work longer for the same



Members of Jonesboro's Business and Professional Women's group participate in Equal Pay Day activities.

amount of pay. The wage gap is even greater for most women of color. Women are encouraged to wear Red on Equal Pay Day

this year to symbolize how far women and minorities are "in the red" with their pay. For more information, contact the NCPE. ♦

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Shani Barnhill, second from left, went home from the Ag For Autism Bracket Bonanza \$3,000 richer.

Ag for Autism: 2015 Bracket Bonanza breaks record again

The fourth annual Ag for Autism Bracket Bonanza was held March 17 at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center in Jonesboro, and the event broke Bracket Bonanza records for attendance and fundraising.

This year saw more than 360 attendees and over \$60,000 raised for local autism therapies.

A packed house enjoyed an exciting evening which featured a silent auction, live music, a delicious dinner and a number of fun-filled activities. Highlights included:

- \$3000 Drawing. Every ticket purchased served as an entry for the drawing, which culminated in the selection of the "Sweet Sixteen." The winner, Shani Barnhill of Paragould, had to advance through a grueling four rounds of matchup competition to win the "Bracket Bonanza." (See photo above.)

- \$100 Lucky Key Sale. Buyers paid \$100 each for a key to a gun case -- inside which was a Benelli Super Black Eagle II 12-Gauge Shotgun. Laverne Holt was the lucky key holder.

- Golden Puzzle Piece Winner. Farm Credit Midsouth topped this year's Employee Giving Program, which all together raised more than \$7,000 among their respective employees for Ag for Autism. If your

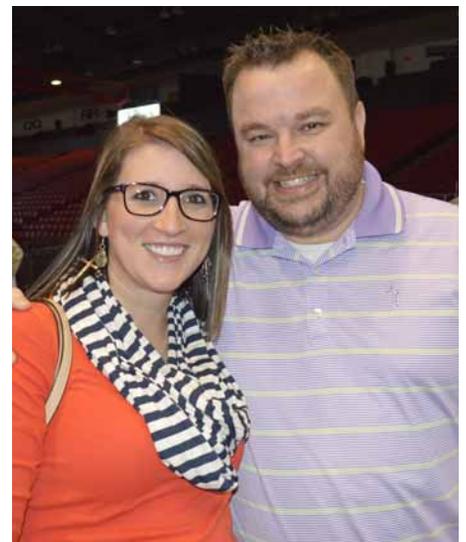


Nathan Waldrip, president of the Ag for Autism Board of Directors, with Melissa Powell.

employees would like to participate in the 2016 Golden Puzzle Piece Employee Giving Program, contact Melissa Powell at 870-336-3866 for details.

- Official Declaration. The Honorable Mayor of Jonesboro Harold Perrin addressed the crowd and officially declared March 17, 2015, "Ag for Autism Day" in the city.

Applications for Ag for Autism grants funded by the proceeds of this event are currently available at www.AgforAutism.org. Deadline for consideration this calendar year is May 29. Both individuals and organizations providing



Paige and Brad Bobo

autism services are eligible to apply.

Last year, 10 grants were funded at the discretion of the Ag for Autism Board of Directors.

Watch for details about the 2016 Bracket Bonanza on the organization's Facebook page and website at www.AgforAutism.org. Ag for Autism is a 501 (c)(3) entity and all donations are tax deductible.

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History: Ag for Autism was born after a number of agriculture-related organizations —Armor Seed, Cache River Valley Seed and

Farm Credit Midsouth — were compelled to band together with other area agriculture companies and organizations in support of a very worthy cause. They are joined by a long and growing list of sponsors, a complete list of which may be found at www.Ag-forAutism.org.

In many cases, autism therapies are not covered by insurance and Medicaid, but are critical to help a child function at his or her highest ability. Research shows many families, especially those in more rural areas, struggle to find and afford the important therapies that can be life changing. It is the organization’s goal to ease this financial burden and help these families access the services they need.

“Like” Ag for Autism on Facebook, follow on Twitter @AgForAutism, and visit on the web at www.AgforAutism.org to stay in the Ag for Autism loop. Donations are accepted year-round through PayPal or credit card on the Ag for Autism website. ♦



Guests viewed items up for bid in the silent auction, above, and enjoyed chances to win prizes, below, and listened to live musical entertainment.



Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, right, declared the day “Ag for Autism Day.”



Laverne Holt was the winner of a Benelli shotgun.



National Autism Awareness Month



Brad and Mary Broadway have plenty to smile about, calling son Jack's life a success story.

Photo by Tim Rand Photography

“Our son is a 22-year-old success story ...”

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

To call it a labor of love would be appropriate. Mary Broadaway is a mom who wants the best for her son.

But this mom is also a State Representative and she doesn't just want the best for *her* son, but for *every* son, daughter and family in the state of Arkansas faced with the many challenges connected to dealing with loved ones diagnosed with autism.

April is designated as National Autism Awareness Month but for families like the Broadaways, every day is autism day.

“Our son Jack was diagnosed with autism two months before his third birthday,” Mary said. “Throughout his life we have been fortunate to have a lot of support, and because of that he’s been able to succeed.

“But when he was in the 7th grade we really started thinking, ‘Okay, what now?’ There was a real absence of opportunities in Northeast Arkansas for a person growing up in his situation.”

When Jack, now 22, was a high school junior the Broadaways discovered Project Launch, based in Fayetteville and operated jointly with Life Styles, Inc., and the University of Arkansas to help provide “a college life experience,” according to Mary.

“We took him to Fayetteville, where he now lives and participates and will complete a three-year program for the intellectually disabled,” she said. “He attends class at the U of A, and has a student mentor who helps him integrate into college life. He has a one-room apartment. He takes care of the apartment and his needs ... not his finances, but almost everything else. He’s learned to cook and learned living

skills. He is a tremendous success story. The program helps the individual, as much as possible, to live his own life.

“Jack has a job,” she added. “He can’t drive, but he gets to work every day because he’s expected.”

The problem is, Jack’s parents are too far away to witness many of his victories first-hand. As happy as his progress makes them, Mary said taking him across the state and leaving him so far away “was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done. But there just weren’t many options anywhere close to home.”

Having lived through that difficult scenario, Mary has introduced a bill to establish the Building Better Futures program, which she said should encourage “higher education institutions to train intellectually challenged students to enable them to be a part of the work force. They would have to modify the curriculum and fulfill certain criteria to gain federal funding. It’s expensive and they can’t afford to go in the hole; this would give them a funding mechanism.”

Her goal is to help families find suitable programs close to their own hometowns instead of being forced to seek entrance into the very limited number now available statewide.

“The goal is that no family has to transport their child more than 30 miles,” she said. “Is it a huge goal? Maybe. If someday in Arkansas we had 15 to 20 programs so you didn’t have to drive hours away, that would be ideal ... absolutely would be fantastic.”

She said the flagship program in Arkansas is at Little Rock’s Pulaski Tech, a school that provides “a culinary experience for intellectually challenged students. Basically, they aren’t ever

What is autism?

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a range of complex neurodevelopment disorders, characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, and restricted, repetitive, stereotyped patterns of behavior.

Autistic disorder, sometimes called autism or classical ASD, is the most severe form of ASD, while other conditions along the spectrum include a milder form known as Asperger syndrome, and childhood disintegrative disorder and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (usually referred to as PDD-NOS). Although ASD varies significantly in character and severity, it occurs in all ethnic and socioeconomic groups and affects every age group. Experts estimate that 1 out of 88 children age 8 will have an ASD. Males are four times more likely to have an ASD than females.

What are some common signs of autism?

The hallmark feature of ASD is impaired social interaction. As early as infancy, a baby with ASD may be unresponsive to people or focus intently on one item to the exclusion of others for long periods of time. A child with ASD may appear to develop normally and then withdraw and become indifferent to social engagement.

Children with an ASD may fail to respond to their names and often avoid eye contact with other people. They have difficulty interpreting what others are thinking or feeling because they can’t understand social cues, such as tone of voice or facial expressions, and don’t watch other people’s faces for clues about appropriate behavior. They may lack empathy.

Many children with an ASD engage in repetitive movements such as rocking and twirling, or in self-abusive behavior such as biting or head-banging. They also tend to start speaking later than other children and may refer to themselves by name instead of “I” or “me.” Children with an ASD don’t know how to play interactively with other children. Some speak in a sing-song voice about a narrow range of favorite topics, with little regard for the interests of the person to whom they are speaking.

What causes autism?

Scientists aren’t certain about what causes ASD, but it’s likely that both genetics and environment play a role. Researchers have identified a number of genes associated with the disorder. Studies of people with ASD have found irregularities in several regions of the brain. Other studies suggest that people with ASD have abnormal levels of serotonin or other neurotransmitters in the brain. These abnormalities suggest that ASD could result from the disruption of normal brain development early in fetal development caused by defects in genes that control brain growth and that regulate how brain cells communicate with each other, possibly due to the influence of environmental factors on gene function. ♦



Despite being diagnosed with autism at an early age, Jack Broadaway has found the tools needed to build a successful lifestyle.

going to become the main chef, but they can learn to work in the kitchen, be the host, set the tables. They are employable and they can earn a living.

"Jack is on SSI," she continued, "but it has gone down because he is somewhat self-supporting now because of the program he's in. They become less dependent on the system. About 122,000 Arkansans are intellectually disabled -- from babies to older people. Not all of those are in the pool of students, obviously. But what we're doing with young people we are helping through this situation is, after high school, we're sending them back home to their parents. That's a terrible disservice to them and a waste of taxpayer money."

She said sometimes it's hard for the "normal" to easily interact with the disabled. Programs such as the one she has proposed would help close the gap between them and the hopes they share, of being employable and accepted.

"They struggle with the disabled, but there is a place for everybody," Mary said. "People who are intellectually disabled are not

demeaned by work. They delight in doing some the work you and I don't want to do. It makes them feel a part of something; they *want* to work ... it gives them purpose.

"My son busses tables. He has communication impediments; he is a slow processor. When he does process it, he gets the perfectly normal response. People with autism are often great at inputting things into computers. I know a young man whose job is to organize and prepare surgical trays and there's never a piece out of place. There are so many niches for people with disabilities. They are a terribly wasted resource."

She said in the Pulaski Tech scheme, fifty percent of the time students are integrated with typical peers. "They learn to appreciate and value them," she said. "Before long, they come to recognize that the disabled peers are of value and are employable. If you know someone, you lose your fear of them."

Her Building Better Futures idea would provide post-secondary school opportunities to the disabled as long as they are "high functioning socially. They can't be dangerous

to others. They would have to function and be able to learn in the classroom. It is aimed at intellectual disability."

She thinks Jack's story of triumph is one that needs to be shared and one that could jumpstart others to get behind Building Better Futures. Every parent wants to see their challenged child prosper, but under the current setup chances are they won't have that opportunity.

"Jack is happy," she said proudly. "He has his own life, and has achieved more than we ever thought he could. He has his own friends, his own job. He is a delightful person. He has atypical autism ... he wants to be socially engaged. He is sweet, gentle and passive. We are so proud of what he has accomplished. He's a 22-year-old success story."

Her wish now is that all families could tell similar stories without having to live apart. "Not many options right now," Mary said, "but this is a beginning ... for all of us."

To learn more about Mary's initiative, call her office at 870-236-9800 or email her at mary@marybroadawayarkansas.com ♦

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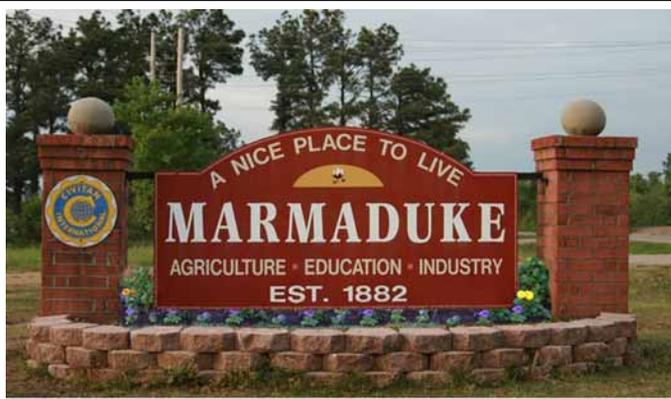
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Dental Month poster contest winners



The Greene County Tech School District and Ridge Kids Dental teamed up to recognize winners in the Dental Month poster contest. Students proudly displayed their work for the camera.

Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon includes Jonesboro in 2015 activities

Each year, MOR Media Inc. teams up with the Greene County Circle of Friends to host the Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon, using the parking area at Southern Bank as the host site.

This year the Craighead County Circle of Friends is joining the fundraising effort, as is Southern Bank's Jonesboro location, for the April 24 event.

Many Arkansas families cannot cover the cost of the type of lifesaving treatments that ACH provides. As a result, Arkansas Children's Hospital relies on donations and events, like the Radiothon, to help generate the funds needed to continue to provide the medical treatment that many Arkansas children would otherwise have to go without, yet no family is ever turned away.

Both Southern Bank addresses will accommodate those who wish to drop by and make donations to the cause. The Paragould bank is located at 1727 W. Kingshighway in the Paragould Plaza. In Jonesboro, those interested can go by 1925 South Main St.

Arkansas Children's Hospital is also home to our state's only Burn Unit. The Radiothon typically raises around \$30,000 for ACH and allows families with connections to the hospital to drop by the Paragould location and tell their stories live via radio broadcasts.

The Radiothon happens for 12 hours beginning at 7 a.m., with the programming on JACK-FM encouraging giving to ACH.

Southern Bank hosts a phone bank staffed by community volunteers, so listeners can call in and make pledges for the event. Businesses and other organizations often challenge one another to see who can raise the most funds.

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

Arkansas RADIOTHON
 April 24th from 7am-7pm

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Super heroes were in abundance at Paragould's Superhero Flash Dash in March.

Circle of Friends hosts Superhero Flash Dash

Runners, walkers and joggers gathered at the Paragould Community Center to participate in the Greene County Circle of Friends' Superhero Flash Dash, a fundraiser for Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Some dressed as their favorite super heroes and some just dressed as moms with their kids, but all who took part raised money for a worthy cause. ♦





Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

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Infant Safely Class

Saturday, April 4 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Professional Office Building

This class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for an infant. Class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 material fee and for more information please call (870) 239-7016.

Breastfeeding Class

Saturday, April 4 10:00am - 12:00pm

Professional Office Building

Class discusses the importance of breastfeeding and offers tips for success. Class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For more information, call (870) 239-7016.

Childbirth Preparation Class

Tuesday, April 7, 14, 21 and 28

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Professional Office Building

This four-week class is for anyone who is expecting. Register early to ensure availability for when you are 5-8 weeks from your due date. Class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials.

Call (870) 239-7016 for more information and to register.

Blood Drive with American Red Cross

Tuesday, April 9 11:00am - 5:30pm

Professional Office Building

If you would like to donate life-saving blood, please call AMMC for details on requirements for donors.

You can also find more information at www.myammc.org.

Mommy and Me Breastfeeding Support Group Meeting

Monday, April 20 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Second Floor Conference Room,

Professional Office Building

Greene County Health Unit's Leisa Kennedy, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor teaches this class for new and expectant mothers. For more information call the Greene County Health Unit at 236-7782.

Healthy Pregnancy Class

Monday, April 27 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Professional Office Building

One-time class for expectant mothers who are prior to 16 weeks into their pregnancy. Class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For more information, call (870) 239-7016.

Call for Scholarship Applications

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary is accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. The awards are available to any individual in Greene County pursuing a career in the medical profession. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in an education program within the medical profession and must be in at least the beginning of their second year of education by the beginning of the fall semester.

Applications may be picked up at volunteer office or in administration at AMMC and must be returned no later than May 1 with an official copy of the applicant's educational transcript attached.

For more information, contact the volunteer office at (870) 239-7097.

Bullying remains part of everyday life for many children

It can be difficult to deal with bullying, or a bully. It is more helpful when a bully's parents and school are involved, working to help diffuse the situation. If you are concerned that your child is the victim of bullying, here are six steps you can take to try and help him or her in dealing with bullying:

Get your child's input: You need to be a safe place your child can turn for help when dealing with bullying. Be open to your child, and make sure that you are accepting. You should let your child know that being bullied is not his or her fault. Also, you should find out what has been tried to stop the bullying, and what has worked (or hasn't worked) so far.

Talk to the school authorities: Discuss the problem with your child's teacher, principal or counselor. A meeting with all three can help everyone know how to help a child who is dealing with bullying. In many cases, bullying takes place in unsupervised areas, such as school buses, bathrooms, playgrounds and other areas that can be hard to monitor. If you know where the bullying is taking place, you can let school authorities know so that they can step up "patrols" in those areas.

Teach your child to avoid the bully: Your child does not need to fight back. Encourage him or her to avoid the bully when possible. Suggest that he or she walk away, and go find a teacher or other trusted adult.

Encourage your child to be assertive: It is not necessary to fight back to defeat a bully. You can teach your child to stand up straight and tell the bully, firmly, to leave him or her alone.

Practice with your child: It might be beneficial to have a little bit of role play with your child. This way he or she can practice what to say to a bully, or how to leave a situation that could turn into bullying.

Teach your child to move in groups: A good support system can be an effective deterrent against bullies. Have your child go to school and other places with trusted and true friends when dealing with bullying. ♦



First Place winner in the Mens Division of the Paragould Civitan Club's annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament was Chris Oakes Auto Repair. Pictured from left are Jeff Hudson, Chris Oakes and Kris Boozer

Civitan Club holds Wheelchair Basketball event

Paragould's Civitan Club held its 4th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in March at the 7th and Mueller Church of Christ gym.

This year 17 men's, women's and youth teams and 24 sponsors took part. Proceeds are used to help the club achieve its goal of

funding handicap accessible playground equipment at Harmon Park. The equipment has been made and is sitting in a warehouse ready for installation. Any funds raised from future events will be used for expansion.

For more information on the event and Paragould Civitan, visit the Paragould Civitan Facebook page. ♦



First place Youth Division: Rolling Divas, above. Mallorie Lovrein, Caitlin McClain and Emily Pate. Above right is the winner of the Ladies Division, the Lady Wheelers. Pictured from left are Michelle Cook, Mary Elder and Brittany McElhaney. At right is Team Grace, a faithful participant since the first tournament in 2011, as well as placing each year. Pictured are Zach Hoggard, Collin Kingston Jacob Whitby-Lange.



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Literacy League hosts Red Apple Gala for teachers

The Literacy League held its first Red Apple Gala in February at the Red Goose Banquet Hall in Paragould, honoring teachers past, present and future.

Teachers and their guests were invited to enjoy the evening, designed "to celebrate teachers and their impact on students" while also raising money for the new Greene County Literacy League Tutoring Center.

Bayird Motors, First National Bank and Focus Bank served as event sponsors.

For more information about the Literacy League, which serves Craighead, Greene and Poinsett counties, contact Director Carla Borden by phone at 870-910-6511; by FAX at 870-910-0552; or via email at theliteracyleague@yahoo.com.



While some danced to the tunes provided by the band Drive South, above, others chose to sit and enjoy the fellowship at the first Red Apple Gala.



Larry and Rita Adams



Kenneth and Carolyn Pugh



Mary and Joe Hester



Sherma Dicus and Joey Austin



Outstanding Teachers



APRIL ROGERS SCHOOL OF THE 21ST CENTURY

SUZETTE KILLOUGH CROWLEY'S RIDGE ACADEMY

Getting to know April Rogers, teacher at Paragould's School of the 21st Century:

How long have you been teaching? "I've only had my own classroom for almost two years, but I've been in the teaching field for 5 years."

What made you decide to become a teacher? My mom was a teacher for a company that allowed her to travel to children's houses and I would always tag along. Seeing her be the reason children learned a new skill or understood a new concept was completely fascinating to me. I knew I wanted to be that reason some day.

Do you have any favorite "teaching memories?" Some of my favorite memories come from merely listening to the kids. They say the funniest things. One girl (a 3-year-old) told me she was allergic to sea horses.

Tell us about your family. My parents, Kimmy Don and Rose Rogers, are the most amazing parents in the world. They have helped me in every step along the way in my teaching career. My brother, Brady, and his wife, Hannah, are two of my very best friends and biggest supporters. ♦



Getting to know Suzette Killough, English teacher at Crowley's Ridge Academy:

How long have you been teaching? I have been teaching for 26 years and have been blessed to have worked for three wonderful school districts. I have been teaching English at CRA for the past 16 years.

What made you decide to become a teacher? Like so many others who decided to teach, I wanted a profession that would allow me the opportunity to hopefully make a difference in the life of a child. I truly believe, though, my students have impacted my life more than I have theirs. I have been blessed with wonderful students through the years.

Do you have any favorite "teaching moments?" I have many fond memories of being a junior and senior class sponsor. It just allowed me to spend more time with my students outside of class and provided more opportunities to bond with them and just have fun.

Tell us about your family. I am married to Topper Killough, a part-time minister and full-time nursing student; we have two wonderful children. Our daughter, Lindsey, is a student at Harding University, and our son, Tyler, works as a youth minister for Southwest Church of Christ. ♦



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We will all have to deal with the boxes of life ... someday

Emptying boxes of life. That's the only way I know to describe my most recent task following the death of my mother.

We all have this habit of putting away things to be addressed "someday," knowing full well that someday will probably never actually arrive. We stick things in drawers and boxes and folders and filing cabinets, figuring we'll get around to doing whatever needs doing to them ... someday.

What generally happens is that our survivors are given the job of going through our leftovers piece by piece to try and determine if something should be saved, donated, sold or thrown away.

I have encouraged my daughters often to take something of mine home with them every time they visit instead of waiting until I'm gone and then trying to figure if a particular item has meaning or value. So far, they've been better at leaving stuff than taking.

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



In my mother's case it's easy to see why some things have stood the test of time. She kept numerous reminders of family life, things related to a time when survival itself was not so simple and having even the smallest of things meant, at least, having *something*.

I've been told by more than one person that people who lived through The Great Depression era have a harder time letting go of things than those of us who have been raised in today's "throw away" society. I think maybe that's true to some extent, having dealt with boxes of life for both my parents and my in-laws.

Mom held on to all my grade school report cards. Why? Did she plan, the next time I said

something incredibly silly, to pull out a card and say, "See? All A's. You used to be smart."

She had arts and crafts projects from my second grade year; she apparently never threw away a photograph, regardless of how poorly composed it was; she had receipts for commonplace bills dating back to the 1990s.

There were things my sister and I examined and said, "Why would she have kept this?" But right beside that mystery keepsake would be something as precious as a songbook crafted by my daughter and hers -- when they were both just little girls with fertile imaginations -- a book complete with titles and lyrics and author credits.

Boxes of life. Things that mattered to a woman who loved her family, and her reasons for keeping them were hers alone. Not knowing what to do with many of them, I simply put them back in the box and sealed it tightly, putting it on the shelf for someone else to deal with ... someday. ♦



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Alive After Five in Jonesboro

Downtown Jonesboro was the place to be for Alive After Five, an event sponsored -- appropriately enough -- by the Downtown Jonesboro Association in March.

Folks were encouraged to stroll the blocked off Huntington Avenue area between Main and Church streets to enjoy food truck delicacies, family friendly fun, an artisan street market and live music from Striding The Blast.

While the cooler temperatures may have kept some people inside, those who showed up were able to enjoy the fellowship provided by an evening of free entertainment -- music, video games and a movie -- along with numerous shopping opportunities provided by vendors. ♦



Subject of the movie "Rudy" to speak at United Way event

Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger, best known for his awe-inspiring story of carving his name into the history books of college football and becoming one of the most famous graduates of the University of Notre Dame, will be the featured speaker for United Way of Northeast Arkansas' "Live United with the Stars" event in May.

The son of an oil refinery worker and third of 14 children, Rudy rose from valleys of discouragement and despair to the pinnacles of success. Today, he is one of the most popular motivational speakers in the United

States.

It took years of fierce determination to overcome obstacles and criticisms, yet Rudy achieved his first dream - to attend Notre Dame and play football for the Fighting Irish. As fans cheered RU-DY, RU-DY, he sacked the quarterback in the last 27 seconds of the only play in the only game of his college football career.

He remains the only player in the school's history to be carried off the field on his teammates' shoulders.

In 1993, TRISTAR Productions immortalized



Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger

his life story with the blockbuster film, RUDY. Written and produced by Angelo Pizzo and David Anspaugh, the award-winning team who brought us HOOSIERS, the critically

acclaimed RUDY continues to inspire millions worldwide.

The "Live United with the Stars" fundraiser will be held on Thursday, May 7, in Jonesboro at Arkansas State University's Cooper Alumni Center. There will be food, beverages, a live auction and entertainment.

At 5:15 organizers will hold a VIP Sneak Preview -- an exclusive reception with Rudy -- prior to the feature presentation scheduled at 6:30 p.m.

Business attire is suggested, and all proceeds will benefit United Way of Northeast Arkansas. For ticket purchase, call United Way at 870-935-3658. ♦

He remains the only player in the school's history to be carried off the field on his teammates' shoulders.

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Megan Million, Paige Gray and Megan Rodgers in downtown Jonesboro at the Alive After Five event.



Kayla Mealer, Ali Bean, Tiffany Felty, Janet Siebert, Whitney Siebert, Sally LeBlanc and Anna Ketcherside representing Families, Inc. at the Mission Outreach Chili Rodeo.



Valerie and Astrid Carroll enjoying Alive After Five activities.



Elizabeth Forehand and Valerie Markum, above, and Jason Inman with grandson J.D. Deken, right, all at the Mission Outreach Chili Rodeo.



Laura Young and son, Richie, at the Chili Rodeo.



Leah James working at Jonesboro's Alive After Five event.

Happenings



1



2



3



4

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Happenings

1. Birthday Celebration

Students in Shelley Brinkley's kindergarten class at Greene County Tech's Primary School celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss with a variety of books, characters and -- more importantly -- a cake. Amber Farmer, Library Media Specialist at the Primary School, provided the photo and information.

2. Living Legend Award

Ellen Hakenewerth was presented the Living Legend Award by the A-State Multicultural Center at the 2015 Living Legends Luncheon on March 12. This award is given during the Women's History Month celebration each year to recognize the outstanding contributions of one woman in the A-State and/or Jonesboro communities. Ellen is the first student to receive this award. Also pictured is Mrs. Candence Brooks, Program Coordinator in the A-State Multicultural Center.

3. State Record Holders

Inner Strength Fitness had some of its fitness center members attend a competition in Jonesboro during February at the WABDL powerlifting meet. All six set new state records in their respective weight or age groups. They are from left to right, Jake Randleman,

Jack Crites, Craig Rice, Suzette Baker, Kristen Bohr and Mariah Garret.

4. Superior Students

Congratulations to the Paragould Junior High School EAST students and the EAST Conference Team for winning Superior at the EAST Conference in Hot Springs March 17-19. The following students were on the team: 7th graders -- Courtney Babcock, McKenna Timmons, and Emma Wyatt; and 8th graders -- Rose Smith, Lindsay Lewis, Jackson Parker, Gabe Waddell and Weston Lancaster. The students presented projects on 3D printing, ArcGIS mapping, Virtual Reality, Final Cut Pro Video Editing and Wounded Warrior Projects. ♦

To have your photos and information included in Premiere Magazine's Happenings section, email information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

no later than the 15th of the month prior to the desired publication. For more information, call the Premiere office at 870-236-7627.



Spring Pops Concert

Featuring "The Remarkable Farkle McBride" narrated by Harry Truman Moore and "What's Up at the Symphony" from Bugs Bunny's Greatest Hits, featuring Trey Stafford as guest conductor.

Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 2pm
Greene County Tech School Auditorium

To order tickets visit the Delta Symphony tickets web page at www.deltasymphony.org/tickets or call 870-761-8254.

The DSO will donate 1/2 of ticket costs to the GCT Band Program if tickets are ordered by selecting GCT Band Students names on the ticket ordering page.

Adult \$20 - Senior Adult \$15 - Student \$10

Business Is Good



Chamber Showcase proves a big success

Mother Nature may have caused a postponement of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce's 9th Annual Chamber Showcase, but it couldn't stop it.

Numerous area businesses sent representatives to the Paragould Community Center to exchange ideas and to have a "meet and greet" with the public, several days after sleet and snow forced the event to be pushed back. ♦



Above, Dave and Lisa Wanner; below from left, Lynn Brandon and Lynne Walters; Lisa and Jeff Simmons; and Christopher Hyman and Amy Heritage.



Business Is Good

Great Clips opens in Paragould

In the quest for a franchise that would bring something new to Northeast Arkansas, Zach and Kristy Beliew began looking for a business opportunity in early 2012.

After extensive research, Kristy found Great Clips, famous for its "haircuts only" approach. Being attracted to this type of establishment, Kristy liked the ability to provide "a quality haircut, with the convenience of online check-in through a Smartphone or computer, as well as having an affordable price."

After almost a year of success in Jonesboro, the Beliews decided to open another Great Clips location. Since Zach is originally from Paragould, that seemed the obvious choice and now both are excited to have two locations serving Northeast Arkansas.

In addition to running both salons, Zach works for ROC Outdoor Advertising, while Kristy is a former elementary teacher. Their two sons, Drew and Jake, attend school in Valley View. Kristy said, "We are completely involved in the community ... we are local people that take pride in every aspect of this business."

It's with that community spirit that the Beliews are involved with the business, local community and charitable events.



Kristy and Zach Beliew have opened Great Clips in Paragould.

The new Paragould Great Clips is located beside Marco's Pizza, in front of Hays Supermarket. To celebrate its Grand Opening, the Beliews are offering haircuts for men, women and children for \$2.99 until April 17th. After that, cuts go up to \$6.99 until May 15th. For more information about Great Clips, Inc. visit www.greatclips.com.

-- Tara Piatt

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Let them eat cake! That very special wedding cake, that is

The only thing that outshines the cake is the bride. So the cake has to be special. And Tracy Mothershed, owner of Something Sweet, specializes in making the cake special.

Something Sweet has been open since 2011 but Tracy has been making custom cakes for a long time before the shop opened. Since all her cakes are fresh baked and custom designed she can only book so many. So call about booking your date as early as possible.

Once you have determined the guest count and you have looked at pictures you can start your cake experience with a consultation appointment. Call for your appointment. You will also be asked what flavors you think you want so they can be prepared for the appointment.

Wedding cake trends come and go but Tracy suggests thinking about the atmosphere you are trying to create and the venue and other décor as well as expressing the personality of the couple.

Remember that the groom has a cake to express his individual personality so the wedding cake usually takes on the bride's personality. Current trends are the natural look, vintage and country chic. There are many examples on their Facebook page and on their website (paragouldsweets.com) but you can also Google and search

other sites to bring to the consultation.

"Many times the consultation starts with them showing us what they like and don't like about several different cakes until we get a feel for what they envision. Then we can direct them to other examples until we feel confident we can create their vision," Tracy said.

After you have determined the look of the cake the taste testing begins!

The Groom's cake can be anything from a chocolate dessert cake to a sports team, or whatever expresses the groom's personality. The photo galleries will give you many ideas but they would be happy to discuss how they can bring his personality to the party!

Something Sweet cakes vary in price based on design and size but they can work with budgets of all sizes. They even have layaway payment plans! Your cake can be delivered and set up as far as a 75-mile radius



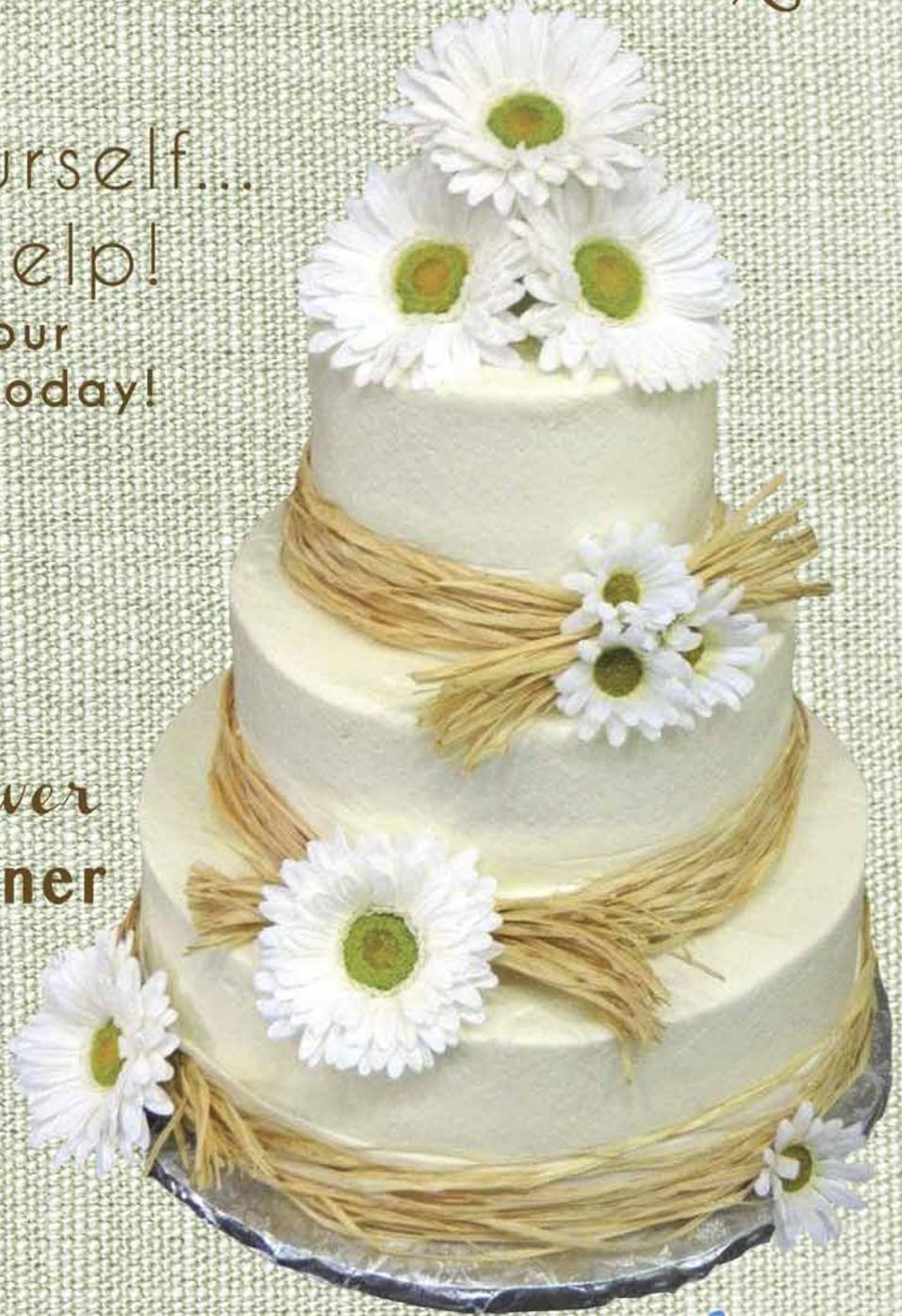
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Beauty from the inside out starts at Hendrix Cosmetic Med Spa. The Med Spa offers so many services our best advice is to browse the website at <http://www.drlishahendrix.com>

Dr. Lisa Hendrix is board certified in Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine, holding advanced fellowship training from the American Academy of Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine Advanced Fellowship (A4M) and has successfully completed both the oral and written board examinations.

She has also been trained by Dr. Charles Runels in all the trademarked Vampire procedures and holds licensing for those procedures and platelet rich plasma therapy. Dr. Hendrix is also a member of the Pan American Allergy Society and offers both allergy testing and treatment.

As the bride, this is your day to shine! If the planning stress has put on a couple of pounds and your dress is not fitting like you want, you can ask about their It Works Body Wraps, excellent for tightening and toning specific areas over a short period of time.

Looking for pouty lips or apple cheeks? Ask about Dermal Fillers! Injectable wrinkle fillers can give you a more youthful look for a fraction of what a traditional facelift costs. Most will fill lines and wrinkles in less than 30 minutes with results that can last from four months up to two years.

Injectable wrinkle fillers, unlike Botox injections that relax the muscle under a wrinkle, fill the line, crease, or area with one of several different substances. As a result, trouble spots nearly disappear.

Wrinkle fillers can also be used as "volumizers," plumping and lifting cheeks, jawlines, and temples; filling out thin lips, and plumping sagging hands. Dr. Hendrix can help you choose the right one for you.

The big day shines a spotlight on the whole wedding party. Other members may want an opportunity to rejuvenate their look, as well. Mothers of the bride or the groom can look for results with Botox or a Vampire Facelift.

Dr. Hendrix has been trained in Botox injection and has special techniques to help bring out the beauty in you. Botox treatments can help take away years of aging and stress

from your face. It is a relatively painless process that can last for a considerable period of time.

Cosmetic surgery can remove excess skin and make the person appear younger, but a surgical facelift can be more than what's needed for some people (especially when loss of shape without extra skin is the main problem).

Hyaluronic acid (HA) fillers lift the skin away from the bone to restore youthful volume and shape. But HA fillers can cause problems near the eye. Also, the injector of HA fillers can cause a wrinkle and create a shape that looks foreign to the person's face or even foreign to this planet.

The HA fillers do little to improve skin tone and texture.

Unlike most procedures, the Vampire Facelift (R) offers a way of both restoring shape, and improving tone and texture, as well as literally rejuvenating new and younger tissue!

Call 870-236-3388 for questions on these procedures and others, or to set up a consultation. ♦



You bring an idea,
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it become a reality

Wedding venues are usually a blank canvas and you will want your personality to shine through. Design consultants can make that happen for you.

Some florists will do more than the bouquets and boutonnieres. Judith Taylor-Wheelis, of Alvin Taylor Flowers & Gifts, is one who enjoys creating your atmosphere.

"I like to talk with the couple, get an idea of their personalities and then discuss the venue and their plan for the event. Then I can make suggestions as to the elements that I can pull together, from flowers to candles or even branches and personal items of their family to make it their own," Judith said.

She suggests the couple browse Pinterest and other sites and find elements they like and through the collection of likes she can get a feel for their style.

"Even if you think there is no way for those elements to go together, just gather what you like and we can go from there," she said.

Judith suggests coming by the shop or setting an appointment early in your planning so she can book your flower choice and be on the lookout for items to suggest to you.

Alvin Taylor Flowers & Gifts is in Downtown Paragould and Judith can be reached at 870.236.8704. ♦

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Got questions? Elegant Party Rentals probably has the answer



Don't know where to turn for help with the overwhelming number of things to address before your wedding or event? Elegant Party Rentals may have all the information you need.

Angelia Herren offers solutions to many of the questions the bride-to-be often has in this question-answer

session:

What are some points that you would like to get across to our readers? "That we are a one-stop shop to help people with their events. Whether it is a corporate party or a wedding, we have things that will enhance any theme and budget. We service events in all of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri.

Do you prefer people to make appointments for consultations? No appointment necessary. We are open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays. We have people in the shop at all times who can help someone with an order and answer questions.

How far in advance does someone need to make an appointment with you? That depends on the person. We have lots of people that book a year out. They get the items they know for sure they want and then we tweak those orders up until the day of the event sometimes. Others come in much closer. One thing to keep in mind: Some items we have lots of and can accommodate last minute requests. Other items we may only have one of ... so when it is booked it is no longer available for that date.

What do you wish clients knew or have decided before they come to you? We help people at all stages of planning. Some, we are the first stop -- we give lots of information and help them know what questions to ask their venue or florist. Others are further along, and we can help pinpoint the details they need. So, nothing has to be decided when people come to us.

What are the current trends you are seeing? Rustic elegance is still very popular. We are seeing some Great Gatsby events with an art deco feel. Gold is definitely trending back in, and we are adding more and more gold to our inventory. Classic glam with crystals to get that splash of light along with sequins are always a hit at any event.

What do you offer that no one else does? I think what we offer, that no one else does, is the extensive decor options for all tastes ... rustic, classic, glam ... we have options for all those. We also have a large in-stock linen selection, lots of sizes and colors for whatever you're trying to plan. Lastly, we offer dinnerware, glassware and flatware that no one else in town has. We can handle small intimate gatherings up to large events of 500-plus. Our top-notch service makes all this possible.

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Math winners

Paragould High School math students competed in the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Competition on March 9 at Arkansas State University.

Six PHS students brought home awards: Matthew Widmer - 3rd place Calculus; Jade White - Top Finisher Algebra II; Jasen Waddell - 1st place Algebra II; Clayton Barrett - 2nd place Pre-Calculus; Garrett Graham - Top

Finisher Calculus and Audra Nailling - Honorable Mention Calculus. Students who received 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will attend the state competition on April 25 at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. PHS math teachers and sponsors are Mrs. Andrea Beaver and Mrs. Angela Duncan.

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Image Is Everything ...

Beverly DePew and Amanda Hood presented their first "Image is Everything Community Outreach Award" to Paragould's Dustin Rumsey. The award recognizes an individual who is going above and beyond in the community. Dustin has been exceptional in his efforts with Pay it Forward. Every month, the public can nominate an individual to be recognized. Deadline for nominations is the 15th of each month. You can nominate in the following ways: Beverly DePew - cell: 565-8084, email: beverlydepew@gmail.com or find her on Facebook. Amanda Hood - cell: 273-5650, email: amandahood72450@gmail.com or find her on Facebook. There will also be a drop off box located at Swirlz.



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Engagement Announcements

Carter-Miles

Jessica Kay Carter and Alexander Stanton Miles have announced plans for an April wedding.

Jessica is the daughter of Ms. Debora Carter of Paragould.

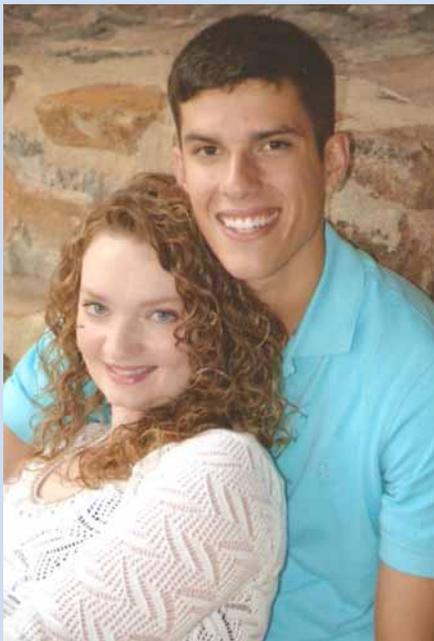
The prospective groom's parents are Ms. Trina Miles and the late Kenneth Miles, also of Paragould.

The wedding ceremony is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m. at Unity Baptist Church. ♦



Photo by Pollard's Print Photography

Alexander Stanton Miles and Jessica Kay Carter



Whitney Leighann Hester and Michael Lewis Morales

Hester-Morales

Whitney Leighann Hester and Michael Lewis Morales announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hester and the late Mrs. Carol Hester of Paragould.

The groom-to-be is the son of Ms. Carmen Sanchez of Lampasas, Texas.

The couple will exchange vows on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould. A reception will follow at the church. ♦



Chad Nelson and Molly Lashley

Lashley-Nelson

Molly Lashley and Chad Nelson are happy to announce their plans to exchange wedding vows in May.

The prospective bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lashley of Paragould.

The groom-to-be is the son of Philip Nelson and Mrs. Mary Jo Granger, both of Paragould.

The couple will exchange vows on Saturday, May 2, 2015, at Lydias Weddings in Mountain Home, Arkansas. ♦

To have your engagement announcement included in Premiere Magazine, email information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

no later than the 15th of the month prior to the desired publication. For more information, call the Premiere office at 870-236-7627.

Birth Announcements



Gavin Scott Field

Field

Alan and Sara Field of Paragould have announced the birth of a son, Gavin Scott Field, on January 29, 2015.

Gavin was born at 5:30 p.m. at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 19.8 inches long.

Grandparents are Rhonda Moore of Paragould, Roger Field of Jonesboro, and Carrie Field of Great Falls, Montana.

Great-grandparents are Bruce and Glenda Stewart of Paragould. ♦



Photo by Melissa Donner Photography

Pitcher Reed White

White

Travis and NaTosha White of Jonesboro announce the birth of their child, Pitcher Reed White.

Born at NEA Baptist, the baby weighed 6

pounds, 13 ounces and was 18 inches long.

Siblings are Bryson and Caroline.

Grandparents are Joey and Anna White of Paragould. ♦

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April

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 4

A.B.A.T.E. DIST. 2 APRIL FOOL'S RIDE 2015 to grant a wish for Make-A-Wish Mid-South Chapter. First bike out at noon, last bike out at 2 p.m. with the last bike in at 4. Leaving from the Association Clubhouse 202 S. Patrick in Jonesboro. \$5 per hand and all donations are accepted. Winning hand is \$100, losing hand is \$50. For more information call (870) 514-5569 or (870) 243-6300.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDIAN ARTIFACTS SHOW at the Paragould Community Center from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See arrowheads, pottery and Civil War-era relics. For more information, call Dan Martin at (870) 215-1627.

CHAD GARRETT AND FRIENDS are gearing up for another show, 7:00 p.m. at the Collins Theatre. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids 10 and under.

Sat.-Sun April 11-12

ST. BERNARDS MEDICAL GROUP HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO, at the ASU Convocation Center. Saturday's events run from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and include the Doc Rock & Run 5K and Half Marathon, celebrity Chef and Cooking Kitchen. Sunday's events run from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and include Pre-participation physical exams for Craighead County Schools. Call (870) 207-7300 for more information.

Thursday, April 16

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT GROUP, with the Alzheimers Arkansas Association and Homestead Senior Care. Held the 3rd Thursday at 2 p.m. at Chateau on the Ridge. Call (870) 565-5033 for more information.

Saturday, April 18

KIDZ KRAZE - JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF PARAGOULD a business expo-type event for children from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Event is fun and free to both vendors and guests!

Thursday, April 23

COLLINS THEATRE 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND RECEPTION at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for a special pre-show get-together. Enjoy punch and hors d'oeuvres with the show beginning at 7:30. Tickets are \$25.00. Season tickets and gold passes cannot be used Thursday night.

Fri. - Sat., April 24-25

COLLINS THEATRE 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at 7:00 p.m. Season tickets and gold passes can be used for the Friday and Saturday night performances. Come, help us open our 2015 season with the 90th celebration event.

Monday, April 27

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY, with David Davis and the Warrior River Boys, 7:00 p.m. at the Collins Theatre.

Thursday, May 7

LIVE UNITED WITH THE STARS, at the Cooper Alumni Center on the ASU Campus. Special VIP Sneak Preview starts at 5:15 with the presentation to be held 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Meet Rudy Ruettiger from the inspiring movie, "Rudy."

Saturday, May 9

AMMC FOUNDATION FIESTA, "nacho average night in Paragould!"

Tues. - Thurs., May 14-16

DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD ARTS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Monday, May 18

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY, with the Darrell Webb Band at the Collins Theatre at 7:00 p.m.

CARING FOR A LOVED ONE? HELP COMBAT THE CHALLENGES OF CAREGIVING, will be held in the Paragould Community Center from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with pre-registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The program is free but registration is required by calling 207-7595 or (800) 745-0557.

Enjoy refreshments, door prizes, panel discussion, vendor booth and guest speakers. Topics include "Organizing Your Life: Under the Strain of Caregiving" and "Tough Conversations: Getting Things in Place." ♦

Recurring EVENTS

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

First & Third Wednesday: Perking on Pruett, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. At Something Sweet. Find out what's 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.

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

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

Second Thursday of every month: The Memory Cafe, support group for those having memory, dementia or Alzheimer's at 1:00 p.m. at Swirlz Yogurt and Coffee.

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

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

Every Third Thursday: Alzheimer's Support Group with the Alzheimer's Arkansas Association and Home Instead Senior Care, 2:00 p.m. at Chateau on the Ridge.

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

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



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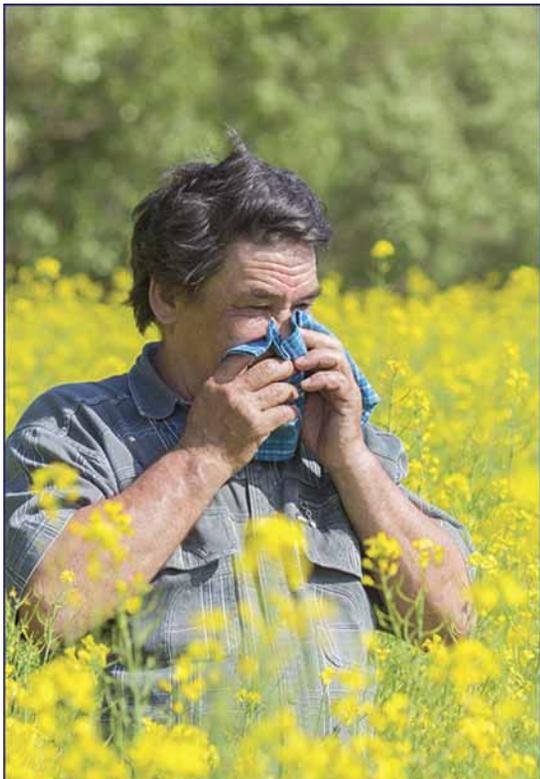
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Panera Bread, NEA Baptist partner up in outreach program

The local Panera Bread bakery-cafe was proud to team with the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation for 2014 as their "Operation Dough-Nation" partner.

Operation Dough-Nation, a broader company outreach program, promotes community involvement and charitable giving by local Panera bakery-cafes. Panera's Community Breadbox™ program focuses on bringing Panera and its customers together to make a difference in the community.

Donation containers are placed near the registers in all Panera bakery-cafes for customers to contribute. The company then matches a portion of the donations and distributes the money to local charities of their choosing.

The NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation is the recipient of the customers of the Jonesboro bakery-café and company contributions from 2014.

The Charitable Foundation has a mission to help change lives through the programs and services it supports in Northeast Arkansas. The Foundation, through the generous gifts of our community, touches every community member and every corner of Northeast Arkansas. The five programs of the foundation are:

- Center for Healthy Children <<http://www.neacfoundation.org/programs/centerforhealthychildren>>
- Medicine Assistance Program <<http://www.neacfoundation.org/programs/medicineassistanceprogram>>
- HopeCircle <<http://www.neacfoundation.org/programs/hopecircle>>
- Wellness Works! <<http://www.neacfoundation.org/programs/wellnessworks%21>>
- ShareHope <<http://www.neacfoundation.org/programs/sharehope>> ♦

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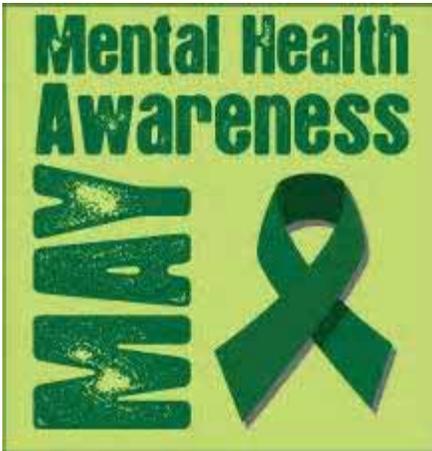
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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Theme



May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we will take a look at several aspects of mental health -- our emotional, psychological, and social well-being, and how it affects the way we think, feel and act. See the May Premiere for educational feature stories.

Features



Be on the lookout for the MOR Media vehicles and booth at events throughout the Northeast Arkansas community. Who knows? You might win a prize. Radio personalities and Premiere Magazine representatives are likely to show up anytime, anywhere, like Jonesboro's Alive After Five event, above. ♦

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Roxanne Wilson

Diane Culver

HOMETOWN EMPLOYMENT

Please call **870-215-0555** or visit us at **1801 West Kingshighway, Suite 11**

A colorful advertisement for Hometown Employment. The background is light green with large, stylized flowers in pink, blue, and green. Two women, Roxanne Wilson and Diane Culver, are smiling and framed by flower cutouts. The Hometown Employment logo, featuring a house icon, is in the bottom right. A black banner at the bottom contains contact information in white and green text.

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Polished Concrete

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An advertisement for Ajax Floor Center. The background is a grey stone wall. The company name "Ajax Floor Center" is written in a large, red, cursive font at the top. Below the name are five Polaroid-style photographs showing different flooring options: Laminate (a dining table), Hardwood (a kitchen island), Carpet (a living room sofa), Tile (a tiled floor with a table), and Polished Concrete (a fireplace area). At the bottom, contact information is provided in white text on a black background.

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