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DECEMBER
2015

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- CHRISTMAS HOUSE
- CHEERS FOR CHARITY
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On The Cover: Sierah Armstrong, the Sugar Plum Fairy
Cover Photo by Tim Rand Photography

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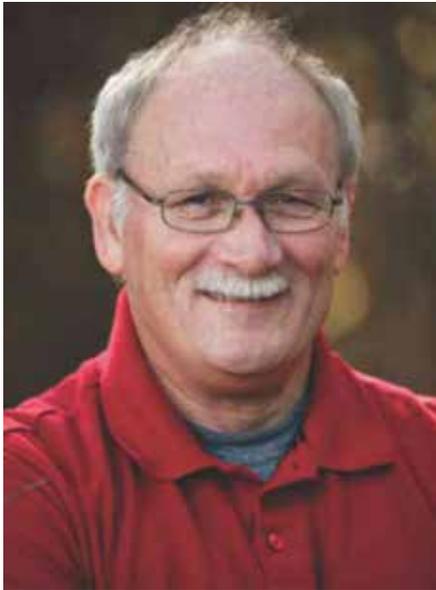
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From *The Managing Editor* ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

We've all been there: Your child comes home from school or some sort of team practice session and says he or she has to sell something as their part of a fundraiser, and you know you're going to be the one to help drum up financial support. Where do you turn?

Family members, friends, neighbors, local business owners ... anyone who might pitch in a few dollars to help your child's school, team or organization get over the financial hump will be targeted.

However, here's what we often forget: Those local business owners who buy cookie dough and pizzas and wrapping paper and whatnots usually don't need that stuff any more than you or I do. Thumb through most high school yearbooks or look on school calendars and what do you see? Advertisements purchased by business people from Northeast Arkansas.

They do it because they support our children, schools and community and hope that when the time comes, we will all return the favor in kind. Now, as the Christmas shopping season hits full stride, that time has arrived and it's an opportunity for area moms, dads and kids to repay the generosity of business owners.

There is a simple way: Shop at home first.

Obviously, there will be some unique items one can't find on the streets of Paragould or Jonesboro. But for the most part, whatever it is you're looking for can be found right here and our merchants deserve first shot at filling out your Christmas list needs.

They support you, you should support them.

Just because you don't see it, or haven't seen it, doesn't mean local merchants don't have it or have access to it.

Ask them. Give them the courtesy of offering them a chance to help you out and keep your dollars in our community.

Another way to be supportive of community efforts is to take part in the annual Christmas parade.

We provide the details on some in the Northeast Arkansas area on page 30 of this month's issue, and if you can find the time to stop by and view one or more of them we know organizers will appreciate your attendance.

It takes lots of time, money and effort to pull off a successful parade, and we thank all who have provided the events for us here in NEA.

The staff of MOR Media -- especially those here at Premiere Magazine -- would like to thank everyone for helping us make this past year a successful one, and hope to continue our business and professional relationships in the coming year.

Most importantly, we hope each reader has a very merry and safe Christmas holiday celebration with family and loved ones. ♦

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PREMIERE MAGAZINE

publisher/advertising sales
Dina Mason • dina@mormediainc.com

managing editor
Richard Brummett •
editor@premiere-magazine.com

prepress
Brian Powell • brianpowell@centurylink.net

contributing writers
Cheryl Nichols •
nicholsdevelopment@gmail.com

Tara Piatt •
tara@mormediainc.com

Adam Sweeney •
adam.sweeney@childrenshomes.org

Caitlin LaFarlette •
caitlin_lafarlette@hotmail.com

graphic designers — advertising
Leisa Rae • leisa@mormediainc.com
Tara Piatt • tara@mormediainc.com

advertising sales team
Dina Mason • dina@mormediainc.com
Ashley Mason • ashley@mormediainc.com
Brian Osborn • brian@mormediainc.com
Mike Dickerson • mike@mormediainc.com

contributing photographers
Tim Rand Photography



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Community Center hosts annual Harvest Craft Festival

Shoppers looking for bargains on holiday items and some just looking showed up at the Paragould Community Center in November for the annual Harvest Craft Festival.

Vendors' booths spilled out of the gymnasium into neighboring rooms and featured items ranging from Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations to home baked goods and school mascot promotions. Many of the featured items were hand crafted and the large crowd found plenty to consider. ♦



A large crowd of shoppers filed through the aisles set up at the Paragould Community Center.



Holiday themed goods, jewelry and school items were big sellers.





Shoppers were free to walk the aisles and look at a variety of gift items at the annual Harvest Craft Festival. This year there was even a special area set up to entertain the kids while the adults made their way around the many booths set up in the gymnasium and in rooms around the center.



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Jonesboro's Jaycees are involved in numerous community projects, including providing food and toys for families during the Christmas season.



Meet Amber Maurizi, President of Jonesboro Jaycees

The Jonesboro Jaycees is a non-profit leadership and management training organization for people between the ages of 21 and 40. Through community service projects and leadership training, members of the Jaycees develop the tools and skills needed to be the local, regional, national and international leaders of tomorrow.

Meet Amber Maurizi, President of the Jonesboro Jaycees.



Amber Maurizi

Cheryl Nichols: How long have you been involved with the Jonesboro Jaycees and why did you choose to volunteer for this organization?

Amber Maurizi: I joined the Jaycees four years ago. I re-

Our Community

By Cheryl Nichols



member seeing the Jaycees at the old concession stand at the fair and it always looked like they were having so much fun! Once I learned more about what they actually did for our community I knew I had to join this amazing group. I have served as Secretary, Management Development Vice President, Community Vice President, and now President. I chose to volunteer for this organization because I wanted to give of my time to a greater good. It's the best decision I've ever made!

CN: I know the Jonesboro Jaycees does a lot of great things for our community, but since it's Christmas-time, tell me about two projects in particular: Goodfellows and Christmas for Kids.

AM: Goodfellows is a joint project we host with

the Jonesboro Sun. The project started in 1950 and the Jaycees began helping two years later. The Jonesboro Sun does the fundraising and we do the leg work. This program provides a family with one week of food for Christmas. About 24 years ago, we started Christmas for Kids. The Jonesboro Jaycees saw a need to provide toys at Christmas to the less fortunate children in Northeast Arkansas. About a week before Christmas, toys and food are distributed to registered families. (Families must sign up for the program during the month of November).

CN: Amber, here is my Barbara Walters inspired question: What is your superhero name and what is your superpower?

AM: If I could be a superhero I would probably be Cupcake Crusader (given my love of cupcakes) and my superpower would be to turn back time!

CN: Amber, tell our readers how they can get more information about the Jonesboro Jaycees.

AM: All information can be found on our website www.jonesborojaycees.org ♦

Around Town ...



More than \$7,500 was raised for missions in just one day through the annual Joy of Giving Market at First United Methodist Church in Paragould on November 14. The market hosts booths where people sell crafts, plants, food, jewelry and other wares and give to a specific local, national, or international mission. Organizations that benefited include Sole Hope, Agape House, the Greene County Rescue Squad, Disaster Relief, Mission Thailand, and local schools' backback programs, among others.



GT students in the 5th at 6th grades at Oak Grove Middle School recently attended the Mindbender Mansion exhibit at the Arkansas State University Museum to promote critical thinking skills, creative thinking skills and problem solving skills. Students were invited to enter the perplexing world of a quirky place full of puzzles, brainteasers, and interactive challenges that test brain power and problem solving skills of even the most experienced puzzlers. The exhibit definitely offered a challenge to the gifted learners.

Send your local news items for consideration to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication,
or call 870-236-7627 for information.

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PREMIERE'S SCENE 'YA



The Greene County Tech Future Teachers of America club



Paul and Stephanie Rawls, and Haylee Jo Flores



The annual Greene County Tech-Paragould High School football game was the place to be, and Premiere found lots of fans there. Clockwise from left above: Brian Osborn interviews Paragould High School Athletic Director Dale Schenk; Craig, Renee, Kobi and Nick Rosten, Cameron Gray; Jaran Monreal paints Katelyn Phillips' face before the game; April, Ashton and Chris Oakes; Marco's Pizza manager David Miller and Chef Marco hand out free cheesy bread coupons before the game; and Tony and Teresa Hill prepare to enjoy the contest.



Photos by
Caitlin LaFarlette



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Childbirth Preparation Class

Tuesday, December 1, 8, 15, 22

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Bldg. Auditorium
This two-week class is for anyone who is expecting. Register early to ensure availability for when you are 5-8 weeks from your due date. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring two pillows and a blanket to class with you. This class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For classroom location, more information or to register, call 239-7016 or email baby@arkansasmethodist.org.

Auxiliary Christmas Tree Lighting and The Foundation's Christmas Auction

Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

Herget Atrium
Please join us as we kick-off the holiday season with an evening full of fun. Beautifully decorated Christmas trees, swags, wreaths, poinsettias and centerpieces donated by local individuals and organizations will be auctioned off with the proceeds benefiting The Foundation at AMMC.

For more information, please call The Foundation at (870) 239-7077.

Breastfeeding Class

Saturday, December 5

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building
This class discusses the importance of breastfeeding and offers tips for success. This class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For classroom location, more information or to register, please call 239-7016 or email baby@arkansasmethodist.org.

Infant Safely Class

Saturday, December 5

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building
This class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for an infant. This class is free for those delivering at AMMC with

a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For classroom location, more information or to register, call 239-7016 or email baby@arkansasmethodist.org.

The AMMC Auxiliary

Thursday, December 10

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Friday, December 11

7:00 AM-3:00 PM

In The Herget Atrium at the hospital. Sherpa, Sherpa Throws, Quilt Sets, Blankets and Sheet Sets will all be for sale. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, December 17

11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Professional Office Bldg. Auditorium
If you would like to donate life-saving blood, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS for details on requirements. You can also find more information at www.redcrossblood.org.

Mommy and Me Breastfeeding Support Group Meeting

Monday, December 21

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building
Second Floor Conference Room
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, December 21

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building
This is a 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 classroom location, more information or to register, call 239-7016 or email baby@arkansasmethodist.org.



A letter to Greene County Voters...

I'm Lorie Whitby and I want to serve as your

Greene County District Court Judge.

While you may not think District Court touches your life personally, I ask you to help me make it more "user friendly" for those that it does touch. I want to run the Greene County District Court in a manner that working citizens can take care of their legal matters without missing work or waiting unnecessarily.

My plan includes making the office open and available two extra days per week to allow better flexibility in the schedules of the people of Greene County.

My experience as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and in solo practice since 1997 has prepared me to serve and give Greene County Citizens a more efficient court. I've had the opportunity to serve as special Greene County District Court Judge on numerous occasions. I also serve as a volunteer member of the Equal Access to Justice Panel of Arkansas Legal Service, helping low-income clients who don't always have access to the court system.

I ask for your vote on March 1st for Greene County District Judge.

Early voting begins February 15, 2016.

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New TV station establishes scholarship

A new television station in Jonesboro has created an academic scholarship endowment with the Arkansas State University Foundation, Inc. The KJNB-TV Scholarship Endowment Fund will help deserving students finance and fulfill education priorities at Arkansas State.

"The ownership of KJNB has a history of being very actively involved in the community and takes its mission to serve the public as part of a greater goal in 'paying it forward' which has become the company's mantra," said station owner Michael Reed.

"Providing this scholarship is one of the best ways we know to pay it forward to others in perpetuity, and is our way of preparing the next generation to share our experience of a rewarding career in broadcasting."

Qualifications for receiving the \$1,000 scholarship, which is awarded each year to a student pursuing a career in broadcast television, include being a full-time student who has completed at least 30 hours, a minimum 2.5 grade point average, demonstrates a need and applicants must submit a portfolio of work with an application. The current recipient is eligible to receive the award again after reapplying each year.

"We are grateful to KJNB for establishing this scholarship and showing its support of the broadcasting program at Arkansas State University," said Dr. Brad Rawlins, dean of the College of Media and Communication. "This will greatly benefit a qualified student each year and helps us meet one of our goals in the college, which is to help students lower their costs of getting a world-class education."

Five finalists are chosen by the College of Media and Communication Scholarship Committee and then forwarded to KJNB executives for final selection.

The station, a FOX and CBS television affiliate, first signed on the air locally June 1, 2015. The station is owned by Jonesboro TV, LLC, and is represented by Reed and Bill Christian along with Lane.

Studio facilities are located at 2400 E. Highland Drive in Jonesboro and the stations' two transmitters are licensed and located in Walnut Ridge on Channel 39 and on the KASU FM's tower in Jonesboro on Channel 42. ♦

From our family to yours... Merry Christmas!

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December 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Colby Hayes knows Christmas is right around the corner. Colby, 4, is the son of Brad and Tedie Hayes of Paragould.

Hyde proves “positively” entertaining at luncheon

Brad Hyde of Delta Medical Center of Memphis was the featured speaker for this year’s Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce “Shop Paragould First” luncheon at the Red Goose Restaurant.

Hyde encouraged chamber members to practice positive thinking and entertained them with a humorous and helpful presentation, sharing anecdotes from his family life that helped illustrate points he was trying to make.

About 80 local and area businesses will take part in the annual Chamber holiday campaign which allows customers to sign up and hope to win \$1,000 in “Chamber Bucks.”

The luncheon also served as an opportunity to welcome new Chamber members, and to visit with fellow businesspeople. ♦



Brad Hyde delivered the message to Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce members, who took advantage of a lunch break to meet and greet new businesses and old friends.



*Honoring
Our
Veterans ...
Patriotic
people came
in all sizes at
Paragould's
Veterans
Day Parade*





Members of Paragould's Adams-Jackson American Legion post greeted the crowd assembled along Pruett Street.

Paragould's first Veterans Day Parade a big hit

Hundreds of spectators lined Pruett Street in Downtown Paragould for the city's first Veterans Day Parade, and most of them hung around for an excellent program afterward at The Red Goose as the community shared its thanks and remembrances with members of the military, past and present.

"If today is not an emotional day for you," said Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, "well ... it should be."

Gaskill's touching presentation and performances by local school children, dancers, musicians, veterans and the Paragould High School band combined to make the first-ever attempt a huge success. PHS band director Richie Williams' somber rendition of "Taps" served as a fitting end to a day of ceremony dedicated to honoring area veterans and their families. ♦



MOR Media's Brian Osborn emceed the event and Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill was the featured speaker, but the guests of honor were veterans who recognized the crowd while walking in the parade.





The Vietnam/Legacy Veterans acted out the Missing Man Table Ceremony, just one of several performances designed to honor veterans from all branches of the military.



Jonesboro recognizes veterans with parade

Vintage cars and trucks, Boy Scout groups, Greene County Tech High School's AFJROTC members and even Arkansas State University mascot Howl teamed with others to make up the field as Jonesboro hosted a Veterans Day Parade.

The parade saw many different groups show their support, including the Jonesboro High School Band, Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, and members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who handed out flags to many of the wellwishers.

A large American flag was suspended over the parade route by the Jonesboro Fire Department, and guests were treated to a Veterans Day Program shortly after the parade. ♦



Greene County Tech students joined others of all ages, honoring veterans in Jonesboro's parade.



Family, friends help in celebrating Shewmaker's 90th

Paragould resident Harrel Shewmaker was caught completely off guard when family and friends honored him with a surprise birthday.

Shewmaker turned 90 years old on November 3 and was expertly lured to the Paragould Community Center, where a room full of family and friends awaited to help him celebrate the milestone birthday.

Included in the crowd of supporters was his sister, Mary, a sibling Shewmaker said he had not seen in 15 years. ♦



Shewmaker got a giant hug from his sister, Mary.



A large crowd greeted Shewmaker, seated at far right, surprising him as he entered the Community Center, below left, and presenting him with a unique cake.





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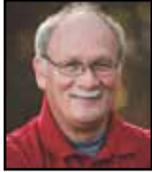
This Christmas will mark my first without any living parents or grandparents, a pretty rare accomplishment for a guy over 60. My mother, the last one standing, passed away in February and left me as the official old person in the room beginning with this holiday season.

It will make this Christmas a more melancholy experience for me, although every year at this time I take pause to think back to the year when I learned a lot about the spirit of giving.

When I was 13 my father made the decision to quit his job that provided a guaranteed weekly paycheck and chose instead to go out on his own as a manufacturer's representative. He worked on a commission-only basis, meaning if he sold a lot in a week's time he made a lot, but if he sold nothing he brought home just that -- nothing.

The decision to forfeit the guaranteed income was not an easy one and it took a lot of praying and calculating and wavering before Dad finally took the plunge. While all of this was going on we had built a new house, so I'm sure there was a lot of pressure on him to make his new venture

Get Rich
By Richard Brummett



work to the degree that he could help provide for his family.

I'm guessing it was the stress of that move -- coupled with the fact that he smoked two packs of unfiltered Camel cigarettes a day -- that led to his having a heart attack around holiday time.

While he needed to be on the road making money he was, instead, flat on his back in a new house, unable to travel and work. Prospects were pretty glum around the Brummett household as Christmas neared and bills mounted.

Then one day the doorbell rang and outside was one of Dad's very best friends, Jack Poling, a fellow traveling salesman. He was welcomed in as always and entered the house carrying a huge jar stuffed full of money. Knowing our family's situation, Jack had taken it upon

himself to travel Dad's territory and explain our plight, and customer after customer contributed what they could so that Jack could bring the much-needed gift to our home.

Thanks to his incredible thoughtfulness, Mom could pay some bills and my sister and I could have presents under the tree ... not the most important thing I took away from that Christmas. In Jack's gesture, I learned what the love of a true friend could mean. I realized the truth of the old adage about giving being more important -- and more fulfilling -- than receiving.

Since that time, the number of my gifts under the tree or the dollar amount attached to them has never been important. I have derived much more pleasure in the role of giver than in that of receiver. I delight in seeing someone else's face light up at getting a present more than I relish opening my own, all because the good-hearted actions of a true friend meant so much to my dad and my family. I learned that year what the love of a true friend really looks like, and it's a very attractive picture still. ♦

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Hansons offer expert ballet instruction

For those wanting to learn ballet from true professionals, Ashley and Kason Hanson can provide just what they need.

The two operate Studio 402 in Downtown Jonesboro, and each has a long and impressive resume.

Ashley is from Tucson and began dancing at age 10. She attended the University of Arizona's School of Dance, where she studied under the direction of Melissa Lowe, Jory Hancock and Susan Quinn. During her years there, Ashley attended multiple dance workshops hosted by the university that featured guest instructors and choreographers such as Mia Michaels. In 2006 she moved to Jackson, MS, to begin her professional training with Ballet Magnificat. Two years later she was promoted to Company Apprentice and in 2009 to Company Artist. During her time at Ballet Magnificat, she taught and performed across the United States, as well as 17 countries throughout Europe, Asia, South America and the Caribbean.

In April 2015 Ashley retired from Ballet Magnificat and moved to Jonesboro to begin teaching dance with her new husband, Kason.

Kason is from Minot, ND, and began his dance training under the direction of Mr.



Rinat Mouzafarov, a graduate of the Vaganova school and dancer with the Bolshoi Theatre in Russia. In August of 2011 Kason also moved to Jackson and began dancing with Ballet Magnificat's professional training program. In 2013 he was given a soloist role and the opportunity to partner with Ballet Magnificat's Artistic Director and IBC (International Ballet Competition) silver medalist, Kathy Thibodeaux.

In February of 2014 he was invited to be a guest instructor at local dance schools. After a year of traveling between Jackson and Jonesboro, he moved here to continue teaching.

At Studio 402 they provide expert ballet technique, conditioning, lyrical/contemporary training and cross training. In addition, Kason said the studio facility can be used by the public for a variety of events. "The studio is great for small specialty groups, not over 200 people," he said. "It's a nice space for business events, showers, office parties, small receptions (100 people or so), a small wedding and reception ... it's been used for a number of things."

For more information about dance instruction or renting the building, call 870-243-6784 or contact the Hansons at celebratestudio402@gmail.com. ♦

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Holiday classic returns to stage

Local dance group to present "The Nutcracker"

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Heather Claude has a simple explanation for her desire to bring "The Nutcracker" back to a Paragould audience.

"I felt the town needed it back ... everyone missed it," said Claude, owner of Elite Performing Arts studio. "When people found out we were bringing it back, we had overwhelming numbers as far as community interest. I felt really good about this; people said, 'We're so glad you're bringing it back.' Because of the enthusiasm, this year there will be more community parts than in the last three combined."

Along with teachers Kristen Hailey and Kelsey Garnett, Claude has set out on the task of bringing the production together in time for the December 20 presentation.

"They've both performed in 'The Nutcracker' in Paragould since they were little, preschool age," Claude said of her two fellow instructors. "So they have interest in bringing it back, and know what has to be done."

She said local audiences have not been able to see the holiday classic for some time, adding to the anticipation.

"It probably hasn't been done here in at least seven years," she said, noting that her mother (at the time, Raylynn Green, owner of Paragould Dance Academy) helped turn

the production into a holiday tradition. When her mother moved out of town, "she kind of took it with her – we were left without it," Claude explained.

It is her own love of dance that fuels the desire



Heather Claude is the driving force behind the return of "The Nutcracker."

to share with young people the thrills gained by performing.

"I am a seventh generation dancer," Claude said. "I come from a long line. I've been taking classes since I was 2."

Certified through Dance Masters of America,

she said she has been teaching "for ... I hate to admit it ... this is my 23rd year. That doesn't seem right.

"It's crazy; my main style of performing has always been tap," she said. "To bring 'The Nutcracker' back is kind of a challenge to me. Rewarding, but a lot of work. I have gained a lot of respect

for those who take on this production." The story is based on a book by E.T.A. Hoffman called, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." It's the story of a girl (Clara) who receives a nutcracker doll for Christmas. She then dreams

that after the nutcracker saves her from some militant mice, he turns into a prince and carries her off to the Land of Sweets where she meets some interesting characters.

There have been many versions and variations over time, and Claude said the local troupe will also bring some new things to this year's presentation.

"We've added some things that are going to be a surprise," she said. "In the past, it was strictly ballet; I've added some dance styles that are going to make you say, 'Wow' or 'That's unique.' But it's not all me. I have two fantastic teachers who helped choreograph it all and a lot of dance mothers who do fundraisers to help sponsor it. "For instance, on December 5th we have a breakfast at the Red Goose called Pancakes and Pointe' Shoes, a breakfast with 'The Nutcracker.' It's \$5 for all you can eat ... from 7:30 to 10."

Claude emphasized that this year all parts in the show will be dancing parts.

"Everyone on stage will be dancing this year, even the very little ones," she said. "That is really difficult to do. I think the audience will be surprised. We've put together a total of 10-to-12 practices – compared to usually about three – before they enter the stage.

"And the dancers range in age from 16 months to 14 or 15 years. Actually, there are some adults dancing some of the community parts this year. But all roles are dancing roles. That's different."

Featured roles this year include:

Haley Sanders, the Queen Arabian
Sierah Armstrong, the Sugar Plum Fairy
Sophie Simmons, the Snow Queen
Dax Claude, the Cavalier

Annalyn Toombs, Clara

"People need to come see it," Claude encouraged.

"I think it will be a real pleasing experience." ♦

What: The Nutcracker

**When: Sunday, December 20
3 p.m.**

**Where: The Collins Theatre
Paragould**

Tickets: All tickets are \$10 general admission. They may be purchased at the door, at Elite Performing Arts, at Shear Elegance, or at the "Pancake and Pointe' Shoes" breakfast on Dec. 5



Haley Sanders, Sierah Armstrong, Sophie Simmons, Dax Claude and Annalyn Toombs have feature roles in the performance of "The Nutcracker."

Treece home ready for Christmas

The Christmas spirit arrived early at the Treece household this year.

Hundreds of Christmas themed items adorn each room of Linda Treece's home, a tradition she carries on each year for her family.

"Christmas is my favorite holiday," she said.

And the strings of lights, snowmen, Santas and wreaths properly placed in the entryway, living room and even a guest bathroom prove her statement. Treece said

she has collected many of the items over the years, yet some have been gifts. Each year she mixes things up and decorates differently, a testimony to her dedication.

Treece said it always takes her plenty of time after the holidays to break everything down but to get it all set up in time this year, she began decorating October 1.

"I completely skipped over Halloween," she added. ♦





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'Tis the season for community Christmas parades

Several Christmas parades are scheduled in the Northeast Arkansas area for early December, providing ample opportunities to take part. Families are invited to attend one or all and enjoy entering into the holiday spirit.

**Jonesboro Parade, 7 p.m.,
Thursday, December 3**

Downtown Jonesboro is ready to celebrate its annual holiday tradition by welcoming Santa Claus to Main Street. The theme of the 68th Annual Jonesboro Christmas Parade is "A North Pole Christmas." From the Toy Workshop to the reindeer barns to the elves' own Christmas Party, your family will be sure to enjoy this year's holiday fun. Call 870-931-5252 for information.

**Paragould Parade, 7 p.m.,
Tuesday, December 8**

The theme for the Paragould parade is "The Spirit of Christmas." As always the local parade will feature floats, walking and riding groups, vehicles, marching bands and more as friends and family line Pruett Street to take in the action. Call 870-240-0544 for information.

**Swifton Parade, 5 p.m.,
Saturday, December 12**

Santa Claus will be headed to Swifton for its 23rd Annual Downtown Parade, with the theme of "Christmas Around The Town." Parade participants -- including tractor clubs, law enforcement agencies, school groups and more -- will line up at 4:15 and winning entries will be announced 30 minutes after the event. Call 870-273-4660 for information.

**Brookland Parade, 2 p.m.,
Sunday, December 13**

"Toyland Christmas" is the theme for Brookland's 145th Annual Christmas Parade, held on the 2nd Sunday in December each year. Lineup starts at the Brookland High School parking lot. Judging begins at 1 p.m. and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques are awarded in various divisions. The parade route is approximately 2 miles long and features antique cars, floats, tractors, horse riders and much more. Call 870-935-0538 for information. ♦



Burlington Coat Factory staffers helped fill the Children's Homes truck with donated items at the Jonesboro store's ribbon cutting ceremony.

Burlington, Children's Homes become partners

BY ADAM SWEENEY

Burlington Coat Factory celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting for its Jonesboro store in October. The retailer selected Children's Homes, Inc. of Paragould as its community partner, inviting representatives from the childcare facility to participate in the ribbon cutting and receive a large donation of items.

The store's employees helped load more than six pallets of items into Children's Home's truck. The donated items included home décor, clothing, luggage sets, kitchenware and much more. The items will mostly be distributed to families participating in the home's foster care program,

with other items going to Children's Homes' residential care facility in Paragould.

Children's Homes, Inc. Director of Development Gary Cupp was on hand to thank Burlington Regional Vice President Paul Mallett and Jonesboro store manager Logan Henley for the donation, and to assist in the ribbon cutting.

"It's truly an honor for Children's Homes to be the chosen charity at the Burlington Coat Factory grand opening in Jonesboro," Cupp said. "Northeast Arkansas not only has new products, jobs and a boost to the local economy, we have a new friend. We want to thank Burlington Coat Factory! Their donations are already at work

helping our kids at Children's Homes and making our community a better place."

Children's Homes, which is celebrating 60 years of service to children in need, cares for approximately 45 young people in ten homes on the Residential Education campus located in Paragould. Children's Homes also provides foster and adoptive care to another 70 children in Arkansas.

Children's Homes is privately supported; donations from individuals, churches, groups and other organizations provide the funding for its operating budget. ♦

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Patten champions cause of children in need of care

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Every day, Robin Patten addresses family issues in her role as Director of Social Services at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

As a Licensed Master Social Worker she sees families come together and she sees families torn apart, but what she sees mostly is a need for community members and leaders to step up and help solve an ever-growing problem.

"Greene County has a tremendous lack in foster families," said Patten, who recently was named a Congressional "Angel in Adoption" for her efforts in that area. "We have more than 200 kids in foster care right now. The majority, DCFS (Department of Child and Family Services) has removed custody from the parents and then we have to send the kids out of the county somewhere for them to be in a safe environment, in a safe foster home.

"When kids are removed it's traumatic," she explained. "They leave their schools, they leave their friends, they leave whatever kinfolks they



Senator John Boozman and Robin Patten at the ceremony recognizing her as an Angel in Adoption.

might have. Every aspect of their life is changed. It's difficult."

Patten is busy formulating a plan whereby she can meet with local community leaders and explain the need for quality foster care in Greene County. "We always say someone needs to step up, that

someone else needs to do it," she said, referring to one's actually getting involved instead of just talking about it. "Well, no one else has done it." She said the first step in making an impact on the problem is for people to be willing to become foster parents.

"I plan in January to speak with all our local civic clubs," Patten said, "and I have in mind to do a community ecumenical meeting, to have all the ministers of our churches come to the meeting and see what we can accomplish together."

Patten is passionate about finding help for children who have seen their family lives ripped apart. Seeing young people moved from county to county underscores, for her, the need to find a way to keep them here, closer to familiar surroundings.

It is that desire, and her advocacy for choosing adoption procedures, that led Senator John Boozman to nominate her for the Angel in Adoption honor. Boozman and Patten met on Capitol Hill in Washington at a ceremony to recognize award recipients from across the



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country, and Boozman had remarks of Patten's dedication and advocacy entered into the Congressional Record.

"I heard so many stories while I was in Washington," Patten said. "One that sticks out to me was about a brave single mom, called to serve in the military in Afghanistan. Her parents took in her biological children while she was gone and when she got home she learned she had one or two siblings who had gotten into some trouble and she took their kids, seven kids -- she took them all and became a single mom to nine kids, just because she didn't want those children to be separated from family. If she can do that, we in our community can do that, too." She said one way to help is to be considerate to foster families, offering to become "foster grandparents so they can have a night out. They need help with things like buying school pictures and buying coats. What they need from us is help and support. And action."

Nothing about the foster parent situation is easy. Adults find it hard to take children, especially teens, into their homes without some sense of caution and children have a myriad of emotions swirling about.

"A lot of these kids are angry and don't trust anyone," Patten said. "Who can blame them? You tell me you love me, then you're shoving me out the door and on to the next family.

"A lot of those precious little souls grow up to perpetuate that cycle. If we could get them into a safe foster home, maybe we could break that cycle."

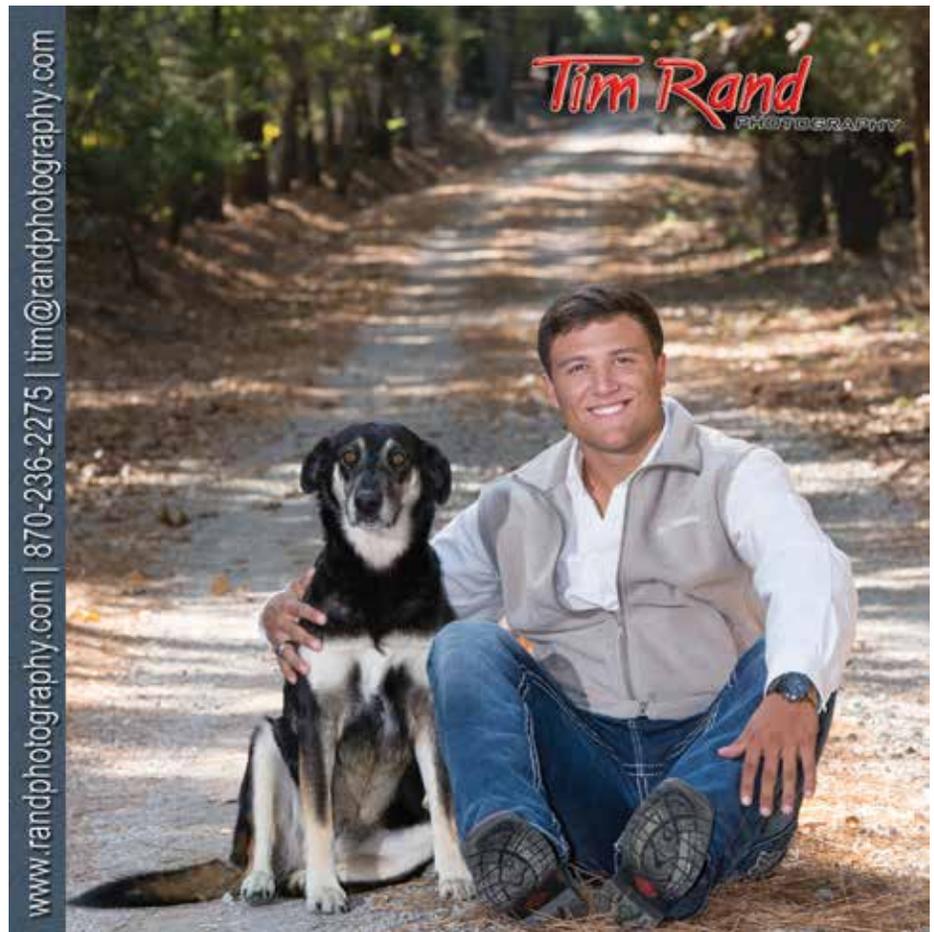
She said our county has more reports of child abuse than all the neighboring counties, not necessarily because we have more instances but because our officials are more dedicated to reporting them.

"DCFS is overwhelmed, overworked and underpaid," she said. "They are trying to get kids out of a bad situation."

So, how do we make progress?

"Anyone who wants to get involved should probably start with me," Patten advised. "I represent the hospital on the Child Abuse Task Force. I guess the best way to get started would be to call me at AMMC at 870-239-7153.

"If someone calls, I'll get them started and direct them to DCFS, the Greene County Department of Human Services. Their number is 870-236-8723. But let's not talk about it, let's do it. Let's get this ball going." ♦



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Greene County Tech's mascot has a new name, thanks to Christian Walls.

“Blitz the Eagle” is new name of Tech mascot

Christian Walls, a 12-year-old student at Greene County Tech Middle School, beat out 319 other students in the K-12 district-wide contest to name the eagle mascot. His entry of “Blitz the Eagle”

was chosen as the mascot's new name. The mascot costume was donated by the GCT Quarterback Club which, along with the middle school staff, presented Christian with a stuffed eagle and recognized him with a gift during halftime

at the Tech/Paragould Battle for the Bell game. Pictured are GCT Superintendent Gene Weeks, Blitz, Christian, Virginia and Allen Walls, and David Richey, President of the GCT Quarterback Club. ♦

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Owner Michael Tolson and his staff at Chow make interaction with diners a common occurrence. Great food and wine selections add to the dining experience.

Chow offers great food, quaint atmosphere

BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

If you're looking for a full three-course meal to end your Saturday night, Chow at 118 is the place to be.

"Why leave town to experience great food paired with the perfect wines when you can have it right here in Paragould?" owner Michael Tolson said. Chow fulfills that need in various ways. Aside from the delicious menu offering everything from seafood to macaroni and cheese, to tamales, Chow will also begin scheduling wine and food tasting dinners in 2016.

My own meal at Chow began with the freshest spinach dip I've ever had and New Orleans barbecue shrimp that was reminiscent of Bourbon Street's famous seafood restaurants. Pork

tenderloin with roasted potatoes was served next. Your fork will cleanly cut through this meat, no knife needed. The potatoes on top were amazingly light and not loaded down with any unnecessary seasonings.

Topping everything off was a chocolate tres leches cake. The frosting was just sweet enough and the cake completely melts in the mouth. Having had a true Mexican tres leches cake in the past, I can say Chow's version definitely passes the test on deliciousness.

The atmosphere inside Chow made the meal even more enjoyable. I felt like I had walked into a New York restaurant. In fact, that is just the effect Tolson was aiming for when he established Chow.

"I've wanted to create an atmosphere reminiscent of a New York bistro: small, quaint and with great local food and wine," he said.

The quarters also offer an intimate enough setting for date night, yet open areas for bigger groups. Most impressive was Tolson's interaction with guests. While it may be common for managers to sweep through a business and briefly check on the customers, Tolson stayed actively engaged with those coming to dine. It's a simple gesture proving his dedication to his craft.

"Food and creativity have always been important to me," he said. "The combination of the two brings exciting results for me as well as our guests." ♦

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Business Is Good

Ignited Gifts promotes Christian theme

When William and Janice Allen considered opening a Christian-themed book and gift store, they did the most sensible thing they could think of: They prayed about it.

He was employed by Gazaway Lumber for more than 18 years and she had been with The Treasure House when they decided they needed a change. "The concrete was taking a toll on my feet and legs," he said, "and with The Lantern Bookstore going out of business, we thought and prayed about something like this. We began looking into it and now we think this is the door the Lord has opened for us.

"Gazaway's was great to me. You don't stay somewhere 18 years if they aren't," William said. "Basically, this is just something we wanted to do. We thought about it, and tried to work a situation out where we could do it and come up with the capital. And now the Lord has really blessed us. We've had very good response from the community and from people who have come in the store."

The store racks are filled with everything from books and Bibles to candles and jewelry.

"On the sign it says we are 'Your premiere gift store,' and that's what we want to be," William said. "We are a church and Bible book and gift store. We have Christian themes, but also probably the best selection of Lamp Berger



Janice and William Allen welcome holiday gift shoppers to their store, Ignited Gifts in Paragould.

in the area. We have Wood Wick candles and refills. We have postcards, and they are all about Arkansas" and from there he points out items like cookbooks, Cottage Garden musical jewelry boxes, hot jellies, knives, dips, soups mixes, drink mixes ...

"We have gifts for firefighters, for nurses, for teachers," Janice said. "We've got jewelry and scarves. A little of everything."

She said they gift wrap bereavement items,

making their own bows, and deliver free to local funeral homes, and they have sections dedicated to events like weddings, anniversaries and births.

Ignited Gifts is located at 1731 W. Kingshighway, Suite 3, in Paragould and is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Wednesdays when they close at 5 p.m. in order for the Allens to get to Buck Donic Church, where they serve as pastors.

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Cindy Gibson gives moms and babies a chance to bond early in life with HD ultrasound technology.

Sneak A Peek provides spectacular look at life

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Sneak A Peek Ultrasound in Jonesboro offers families and friends a real-life look at ... a real life.

Owner Cindy Gibson said her business provides high quality, specialized prenatal ultrasound imaging, allowing those interested to get a unique look at the little person waiting inside.

Most ultrasounds are routinely performed using conventional 2 dimensional (2D) scanning, where the ultrasound beam scans through a thin slice of the woman's body or the baby and shows the image on a screen in two dimensions only. The image usually appears grey on the ultrasound screen. This type of ultrasound provides most of the clinically relevant information to the doctor.

In recent years, 3 dimensional (3D) and 4 dimensional (4D) ultrasounds have become increasingly popular. With 3D ultrasound, a series of thin 2D slices is digitally reconstructed to give more life-like images. With 4D ultrasound, the added dimension is time, so that the 3D images appear to be moving in real time. The 3D/4D image usually appears a golden color on the ultrasound screen, making it easy for patients to look at as it highlights features on the baby. And, 3D/4D is just as safe as conventional 2D scanning.

Gibson emphasized that her services are purely elective and do not serve as a replacement for

prenatal care by a physician.

"We want women under prenatal care," she said. "I want to emphasize, this *in no way* replaces prenatal care. This is simply a supplement to help with bonding between mother and child." Gibson said her job "sort of found me. I was doing independent work for doctors' offices and a couple of clinics I covered. The machine was mine to use for that purpose and others. Then there was a woman from church who wanted to know if I could tell her the gender of her baby. She said, 'I'm at 16 weeks, and they won't tell me until I'm at 20. Can you tell me the gender?' So it started with my doing it for friends from church and so forth, and it sprang from there.

"Then it was, 'My friend told me,' or 'Your friend told me' ... suddenly I was doing it for strangers and said, 'Well, I'm going to have to charge something.' It grew from there. People heard about me, and four years later we're still here."

She said when women schedule appointments she encourages them to bring family and friends along to view the images. "We have a more family-centered environment," Gibson said. "They bring children and grandparents with them. They can look on the screen and see the baby, see its actions, see the heartbeat, find out the gender together. People like to see babies."

She said Sneak A Peek's HD technology is "a step beyond 4D, even more realistic and lifelike.

"It's like you're able to insert a camera into the womb and look at the baby," she explained. "When we get all the factors in place and get started, it's spectacular. It makes it more real. It's not for everyone; some want to be surprised by the gender, and I get that. But some want to know before to get to know, to bond ... to see the personality as well. The baby will make faces, sometimes it looks like it's saying, 'Leave me alone;' it will pose, smile, yawn, sometimes it's blowing kisses -- all kinds of fun things. It shows the personality and personhood of the baby."

Most questions about Sneak A Peek's services can be answered by visiting its website at www.sneakapeek3d4dultrasound.com, but Gibson welcomes phone calls, too. "Some people have questions beyond what is on our page or in the brochure; they want to speak to a human and I understand that. I'm that way," she said.

Those falling into that category may call 870-253-4689 for consultation regarding the best times and stages of pregnancy to schedule ultrasounds, or may correspond via email at sneakapeekultrasound@gmail.com.

Sneak A Peek, which performs ultrasounds like thyroid scans and carotid artery work as well, is located at 2704 South Culberhouse, Suite 1, in Jonesboro. ♦

Taste of Home Cooking School tickets available

The Taste of Home Cooking School, featuring Culinary Specialist Jamie Dunn, will be staged at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center in Jonesboro on Tuesday, Dec. 8, thanks to major sponsors MOR Media and First National Bank.

All attendees receive a gift bag filled with money-saving coupons, product samples and a Taste of Home Cooking School magazine. Joining FNB and MOR Media as event sponsors are: Gilmore's Custom Kitchens and Baths; The Everyday Chef; Hays Grocer; Gamble Home Furnishings; Arkansas Methodist Medical Center; Families, Inc., Counseling Services; The Foundation, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

Tickets are on sale at the ASU box office for \$15. Visit their website at www.astate.edu/tickets and click on "Cooking School" for complete information and show highlights. You can also get tickets and/or information by logging on to Premiere Magazine's site at premiere-magazine.com. ♦



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Guests "dressed to impress" in evening cocktail attire. Pictured above are Richard and Brooksie Hartness, Ashley and Jon Mays, Wes and Briana Bohr, and Brandy and Steve Cook.



Donna Singleton and Virginia Walls, above, and Kevin and Kim Mann, Jami and Jason Veal, below



Cheers For Charity raises money for area kids

“We felt that a new event would be a great way to celebrate 20 years for Junior Auxiliary of Paragould,” said organization president Stacie Reddick.

“Replacing our annual Blue Jeans and BBQ, Cheers for Charity started as an idea for a change, and blossomed into what we feel was a very successful event that will hopefully continue to grow with even more support in the future. We had a great deal of positive feedback. It seems that people enjoy a chance to get dressed up, and what better reason than to help raise money for the children of Greene County.”

Reddick wishes to thank all who



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Cheers For Charity



Stacie Reddick, President of Paragould Junior Auxiliary, resorted to desperate measures to get organization members to donate to the worthy cause represented at the first Cheers for Charity event held locally.

donated "in so many generous ways to the success of Cheers for Charity. Because of them, we were able to raise almost \$10,000. This money will be used to fund the programs discussed below and any more that arise throughout the year.

"With the term junior meaning 'youth' and auxiliary meaning 'to help,' Junior Auxiliary literally means to help the youth, and that is just what we do. We do anything from helping provide basic life needs to just spending time with a child. Some of the things we do include hosting food drives and making donations for the Backpack Programs at local schools, working at local shelters with children who have been separated from parents, and working with the local schools to help provide student needs as they arise."

She said JA also serves as Partners in Education with the Marmaduke School District and works with them on a monthly basis.

"This year, our organization also participated in the Downtown Trick-or-Treat," Reddick added, "where we passed out Halloween safety goodie

bags to over 300 children!

"One annual event hosted by the Junior Auxiliary is our annual Kids Kraze," she continued. "This is a fun business expo type event, showcasing local business with kid appeal, and is free to vendors and attendees."

She said one of the most rewarding Junior Auxiliary programs, however, is its annual Christmas Blessing Party.

Reddick said one of the most rewarding Junior Auxiliary programs is its annual Christmas Blessing Party.

"Our Christmas Blessing Tree was set up at Cheers for Charity, and was filled with Christmas wishes of children from all public schools in Greene County," Reddick explained. "Event attendees took ornaments from the tree and will fill the requests. Junior Auxiliary will take care of any ornaments that were left. We will then host a Christmas party for all of these children and their families. Parents will pick up the gifts while the children enjoy supper, movies, crafts, Santa and Christmas shopping for their parents. Any member will tell you, it is a blessing to be a part of this evening!"

For more information about the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould, check out their Facebook page or email Reddick at staciereddick@sbcglobal.net. ♦

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Births



Photo by Ashley Wilkerson

Raiden Kai Ullrey



Photo by Ashley Burk

Hadley Grace McCracken

Ashley Wilkerson and Charlie Ullrey of Paragould announce the birth of a son, Raiden Kai Ullrey.

The newborn weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19.6 inches long.

He was delivered at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould.

Grandparents are Vernon and Brandy Ullrey, Tracy Feltner, and David Wilkerson. ♦

Joel and Kristen McCracken of Paragould have announced the birth of their daughter, Hadley Grace McCracken.

The baby weighed 5 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 inches long. She was born at St. Bernards in Jonesboro.

Grandparents are Keith and Carla Adams, and Lloyd and Rebecca McCracken. ♦



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Happenings



1

1. Community Fund Donation

Members of the Greene County Tech faculty and staff contributed more than \$11,000 to the Community Fund campaign. Accepting the check at left is Greene County Community Fund Executive Director Kera Crafton, along with GCT administrators Gene Weeks and Amy Lucius.

2. Master Gardeners Presentation

In November, the Greene County Master Gardeners presented Patti Roberts, a life-time member, with a demonstration and discussion of Forcing Bulbs. Forcing Bulbs allows you to bring spring blooms into your home weeks earlier than normal. Patti also discussed Amaryllis and how to get the most out of your Amaryllis' blooms.



2



3

3. Guest Speaker

Gifted and Talented students in 3rd and 4th grades from OGE, Baldwin, and Woodrow Wilson elementary schools participated in a presentation by Yolanda Young-Merrell from UAMS. The presentation was entitled "Guess Who?" and promoted medical careers of various kinds. The students had to guess the name of the medical professional given certain facts and pictures provided for them.



4



5

4. Ghoulish Group

Jonesboro hosted a Stay Alive After Five Zombie Run in October, running through a haunted house, cemetery and Zombie Zones, all aimed at Halloween fun.

5. Field Trip

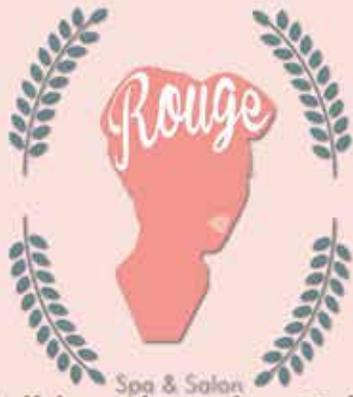
Pre-AP English II students at Paragould High School took a field trip to Memphis to ride on a riverboat down the Mississippi River and tour Mud Island/Mississippi River Museum. From left are: Courtney Smith, teacher; Megan Holmes, Holly Blair Benson, Madi Wood, Kenna McCormick, Nikki Jeffers and Ivanna Cuadra.



6

6. Battling Breast Cancer

Gamble's Home Furnishings & Design Center donated a portion of all its October sales to the NEA Breast Cancer Support Group. ♦



Holiday Shopping Guide

Jane Iredale Smokey Eye Kit - Create your favorite smokey eye with these eight blendable shades of highly pigmented PurePressed Eye Shadow. They will give you the perfect long-lasting, crease-resistant finish!



Eminence Body Duo - Exfoliate, heal and hydrate with the Tropical Body Bliss Gift Set. This sugar scrub and firming body lotion duo is the perfect combo for that silky smooth skin you've always wanted!



Sexy Hair - Buy three Sexy Hair products, receive one FREE! With the holidays coming up, this special lets you buy for different people who might not use the same Sexy Hair line!

Don't forget about gift cards!! It's easy to give a gift card with money, so the recipient can choose what they like.

Other times, it's nice to receive a gift card for a specific spa service! That way, there isn't anything to do but go to Rouge and get pampered!

Holiday parties are about to start filling up your schedule! Let Rouge Spa & Salon get you party ready with eyelash extensions or a fresh blowout!

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Premiere's Outstanding Teachers

April Ramer MicroSociety Elementary Jonesboro

April teaches 4th grade Math at MicroSociety Elementary School and is in her third year of teaching.

"I love how excited my kids get about math," she said. "They often like to pretend that they are me when they answer problems on the board."

Her husband is the high school art teacher at Westside. "I have four beautiful children: Jocelynn, Ethan, Evan, and Kara," she said. "I enjoy baking, sewing, and spending time with my family when I'm not at school." ♦



Kelly Reddick Paragould High School

Kelly teaches Geometry at Paragould High School. She has been teaching high school math for 4 years. The last 3 years have been at Paragould High School.

"There are too many amazing memories to name," she said, when asked about favorite teaching episodes. "However, I am a junior class sponsor this year and one thing that does stick out in my mind is when I danced with my juniors during our homecoming skit this year."

She is married to Aaron Reddick. "We have been married for two years," Kelly said. "We are expecting our first child, a baby girl, in January. My parents are Danny and Robin Drury, and my brother is Jake Drury." ♦



Would you like to see your teacher, or your child's teacher, featured in Premiere Magazine's Outstanding Teachers section? All you have to do is send your nomination to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication. All entries will be considered. Voting begins on the first day of each month.

Good Partners

Sonic Drive-In in Paragould is filling the role of Partners in Education for the Greene County Tech Preschool and generously allowed preschool students to sell Sonic discount cards as a fundraiser.

Sonic agreed to let the Tech students keep all the proceeds from the card sales. The money will be used for improvements to the playgrounds at GCT.



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December

CALENDAR

Thursday, December 3

JONESBORO'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE, to be held in the Downtown Jonesboro area at 7:00 p.m. The theme of the 68th Annual Jonesboro Christmas Parade is "A North Pole Christmas."

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Fri.-Sun., December 4, 5, 6

A CHRISTMAS STORY, at 7:30 p.m., staged by the Greene County Fine Arts Council. Go to gcfac.org for tickets and further information. Dec. 6 presentation starts at 3:00 p.m.

.....

Saturday, December 5

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, to be held in Downtown Paragould, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

MEN'S GYMNASTICS MEET, at Champions Gymnastics, Downtown Paragould, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

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Tuesday, December 8

PARAGOULD CHRISTMAS PARADE, "the Spirit of Christmas", downtown Paragould beginning at 7:00 p.m.

TASTE OF HOME COOKING SHOW, presented by First National Bank and Premiere Magazine/MOR Media. Tickets for the event in the ASU Convocation Center are \$15 and on sale now at www.premiere-magazine.com. VIP Tickets are \$25 and include early entrance at 5:00 p.m., reserved seats up front and reception to meet the culinary artist. General admission tickets are \$15 and allow entrance at 6:00 p.m. The cooking show will begin at 7:00 p.m. Each participant receives

a gift bag full of valuable coupons and Taste of Home Magazines. For more information call 870-236-7627 or log on to www.premiere-magazine.com.

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Friday, December 11

TABITHA'S DANCE COMPANY CHRISTMAS RECITAL, at the Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould, starting at 7:00 p.m.

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Saturday, December 12

CHRISTMAS WITH CHAD GARRETT AND FRIENDS, at the Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould, 7:00 p.m. Chad's friends include Randy Aden, Kevin King, Brad Owen and Ken Wadley. Tickets are General Admission, \$7 for adults; \$3 for those 10 years old and younger.

SWIFTON CHRISTMAS PARADE, at 5:00 p.m. Santa Claus will be headed to Swifton for its 23rd Annual Downtown Parade, with the theme of "Christmas Around The Town." Call 870-273-4660 for information.

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Sunday, December 13

BROOKLAND CHRISTMAS PARADE, at 2:00 p.m. "Toyland Christmas" is the theme for Brookland's 145th Annual Christmas Parade, held on the 2nd Sunday in December each year. The parade route is approximately 2 miles long and features antique cars, floats, tractors, horse riders and much more. Call 870-935-0538 for further information or details.

Sunday - Monday, December 13-14

CHRISTMAS CANTATA, "Night of the Father's Love," as presented by the Chancel Choir and accompanying brass at 7:00 p.m. Reception planned to follow each night. In the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church in Paragould.

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Thursday, December 17

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT, with children from preschool through 6th grade participating. The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The public is invited to attend.

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Sunday, December 20

THE NUTCRACKER, presented by the Elite Team and under the direction of Heather Claude, will be performed at 3:00 p.m. in the historic Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould. Tickets for this holiday classic are \$10.00 per person, General Admission. For more information regarding tickets, contact Elite Performing Arts by calling either (870) 476-6302 or (870) 476-9908.

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Thursday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, First United Methodist Church Sanctuary. Candlelight and Communion services at noon, 5, 7 and 11:15 p.m.

Recurring EVENTS

First Monday of every month: Paragould Long Professionals First Monday Lunch, 11:30 a.m. at the Paragould Community Center.

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 Paragould. Your input is welcome.

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

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

Second & Fourth Tuesday of every month: The Paragould American Legion Post 17 meets at 7:00 p.m. at the corner of Court and Hwy. 49. The second Tuesday is a business meeting and the fourth is a Pot Luck Dinner for all spouses and friends.

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. johnnortheastarkansas@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 Oak 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.

O.P.S. (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) Wednesday mornings at the Paragould Community Center in Room E. Private Weigh in at 10 a.m.; support meeting at 8:30 a.m. May attend one meeting as a guest.

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Our Wedding Story ... Jordan and Russell

Surrounded by their families, Russell Jetton and Jordan Crook were married on a beautiful fall afternoon at the Jetton Farm in Paragould. The scenery and perfect weather helped set the tone for a simple rustic wedding. The marriage was officiated by Jared Pickney of the couple's church, Fellowship Paragould.

A reception followed where guests enjoyed pork steaks, games, and a surprise presentation. A drone was on site to capture the special day from every angle.

Russell is a 2012 graduate of the University of Central Arkansas with a bachelors degree in Management Information Systems. He is currently employed by Redgie Jetton Electric, Inc., as a sales manager.

Jordan is a 2013 graduate of Arkansas State University and works as a nurse at Diffine Family Practice, PLLC.

The two reside in Paragould, where they enjoy their animals, the outdoors, and spending time with their families. Russell is the son of Redgie and Marilyn Jetton. Jordan is the daughter of Keith and Gina Crook. ♦



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*Train up a child in the way
he should go, and when he is old
he will not depart from it
-Proverbs 22:6*

Baby Registry
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Meg Davis
Courtney King
Chandra McGowan
Morgan Johnson
Kelsey Garnett
Hanna Hickman
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Tiffani Newsom

Occupation/Family: I'm a chemist at PLWC. I'm married to Eli Newsom and we have two cats, Artemis and Khaleesi.

How did you learn to cook? When I was a kid, my mom got me this children's cookbook that had a bunch of small recipes that would be easy to learn. I was obsessed with it. I wanted to bake all the time.

What is your favorite dish to cook? Probably cookies or cupcakes. Any dessert, really. Dessert is the best.

Funniest/Worst cooking disaster? Once I was cooking dinner for my (now) husband. The skillet got heated, but I'd forgotten the olive oil. I just poured it right in and I guess the pan was too hot because it caught fire. It wasn't the first time I'd caught something on fire in the kitchen. I froze just knowing the whole kitchen was going down. The fire is growing and all I can think to do is yell for Eli to fix it. He did, the kitchen was fine, but I think he's always a little scared when I'm cooking dinner. I'm a much better baker.

Advice for others wanting to learn to cook? "Learn how to cook – try new recipes, learn from your mistakes, be fearless and above all have fun." – *Julia Child* ♦

NEA COOKS



Grandma Mac's Divinity

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ c sugar
- ½ c water
- ½ c clear corn syrup
- 2 egg whites

- 1 tsp vanilla
- ½ c chopped nuts or ½ c candied cherries
- Food coloring of choice (optional)

Directions:

Mix sugar, water and corn syrup in a 2 quart heavy pan over medium high heat until mixture boils. Reduce heat to medium, clip on a candy thermometer and do not stir mixture until it reaches the "hard ball stage" (260°F). (apprx. 10-15 minutes of steady boil.) Remove from heat and take out thermometer.

In a large bowl beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Slowly pour hot mixture over the egg whites in a thin stream while beating on high for 3 minutes. Be sure to scrape sides of the bowl. Add vanilla and food coloring. Continue

beating on high for 5-6 minutes until the candy loses its gloss. Drop one spoonful of mixture on wax paper to see if it holds – if it does, the mixture is ready.

Quickly add nuts or cherries (if adding) and drop the remaining mixture on wax paper. If mixture flattens out, beat for an addition minute and test again. If mixture is too thick to drop, add hot water by the drop until correct consistency is reached. Store in a container with an air tight lid for 7-10 days and don't attempt this recipe on a humid or rainy day. ♦

Would you like to nominate someone as our NEA Cook?
Or would you like to appear in Premiere Magazine yourself?
All you have to do is send a name and contact information for consideration.
Email us at editor@premiere-magazine.com to get your candidate on the list today.

Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

Features



For January, we will share some features related to the celebration of the start of a new year, and lay out some of our plans for the upcoming campaign.

Looking Back



Premiere will take a photographic look back at some of the area Christmas parades staged in early December. Be sure to see the January Premiere and find out if you -- or someone you know -- was captured by the camera. ♦

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