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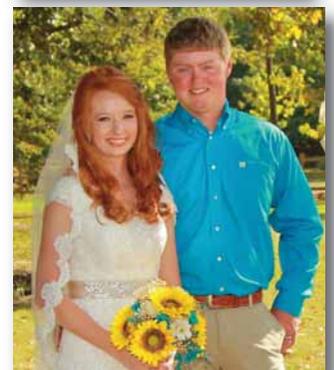
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Sara Wood and Skylar Rowe



On the Cover: Bob Young, photographed by Tim Rand Photography



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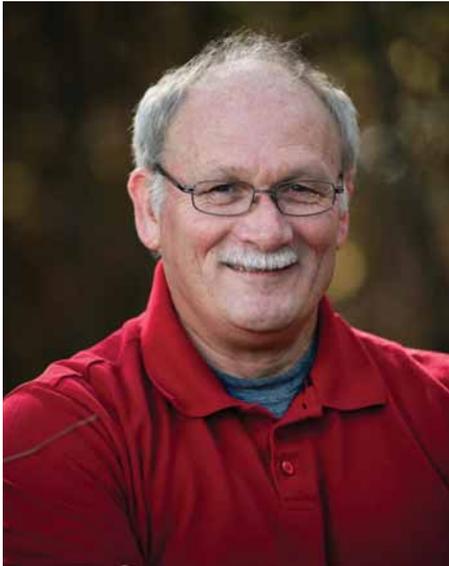


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## From the Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

One thing is certain about Mother Nature -- she cares absolutely nothing about our magazine deadlines.

Repeated doses of snow, sleet and ice made travel dangerous on our area roadways and because it wasn't safe to get out -- either for us or for people who were supposed to be

interviewed and photographed for feature stories -- some of those features scheduled to appear simply could not be completed for this month's issue.

Postponement of events like the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Showcase and a number of school events left us with blank pages to fill, but being unable to get out and do much made that yet another almost-impossible assignment.

However, we still feel confident of two things: Dedicated magazine followers will understand if a feature or two is missing, and there is still plenty of quality reading matter in this month's Premiere.

Something that makes us proud to live in the Northeast Arkansas area is the way our community members come together when it's time to support a worthwhile cause. On the inside pages you can find smiling faces attached to volunteers and workers who showed up by the hundreds to raise money for both the Special Olympics and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on two separate occasions.

Crowley's Ridge State Park in Walcott played host to the 2015 Polar Plunge, where teams and individuals dress up, show up and take a

plunge into the ice-cold lake in the culmination of their fundraising efforts.

Look for those folks on pages 10--11, then thumb on through to page 23 and take a peek at the St. Jude crowd from Jonesboro's S'travaganza on Super Bowl Sunday. It is the largest St. Jude fundraiser in the state, and plenty of food and fun always abound at the event held at the Northeast Arkansas Fairgrounds in Jonesboro.

Each event brought in thousands of dollars for the respective causes.

Cheryl Nichols' *Our Community* feature this month spotlights another local gem in Lynda Stuart, who heads up the food pantry at Griffin Memorial United Methodist Church in Paragould. Lynda is respected as one who has been putting kindness and love into action for many, many years and now is in charge of a program that feeds hundreds of needy individuals and families each month. That feature can be found on page 14.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate more in the coming days and we can retrace our steps a bit. We're always disappointed when circumstances dictate that we leave planned stories or photo pages out of an issue. ♦

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# Here for the life of your pet

*Dr. Emily Carter is very excited to announce that her clinic and it's staff are continuing to grow!*

Dr. Angela Free joins Paragould Animal Clinic as an Associate Veterinarian in March 2015 following her time in Texas working as an associate at Becker Animal Hospital. Originally from Mississippi, she is anxious to begin her career in Northeast Arkansas. Growing up with lots of pets, she always knew she wanted to help animals. Dr. Free earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Delta State University, graduating as an Honors Fellow. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree from Mississippi State University in 2014. Her professional interests include preventative wellness care, soft tissue surgery, dermatology, and the human-animal bond. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association. She and her husband share their home with their laid-back Weimaraner, George Bush, and their long-haired cat, Mo.



Dr. Free is eager to meet you and your family. Whether you have been a long time client of PAC or are looking for a caring, knowledgeable, and fun loving veterinarian, Dr. Free would be honored to have the opportunity to care for you and your four legged family. We are certain that you and your pets will love her as much as we do!



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Senator Blake Johnson has opened an office in Paragould inside the Greene County Courthouse.

## Johnson opens office locally to better serve constituents

**B**lake Johnson, Senator-20th District, has set up shop in the Greene County Courthouse in order to better serve residents of the Northeast Arkansas area.

"I want to make myself accessible to any needed service or concern that I can help with," Johnson said.

"I have been trying to schedule meetings with individuals and businesses who need to talk to me personally on Friday, when I am out of session."

Johnson's office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and is located in Room 120 of the Greene County Courthouse.

The office phone number is 870-323-1766. ♦

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# POLAR PLUNGE 2015



The Cat in the Hat team of Tausha Brown, Devon Rodgers and Chelsie Gill splashed it up after entering the lake.



MOR Media's Brian Osborn, above, emceed the event while entrants, left, and spectators, right, looked on.

Those wondering if the water was cold needed only to look at the faces of those who jumped in during the 2015 Polar Plunge at Crowley's Ridge State Park.

As our magazine went to press, participants had raised just under \$40,000 to be donated to the Special Olympics. ♦





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## Paragould Primary School slates Open Registration

**P**aragould Primary School is holding Open Registration for the Fall of 2015 on March 3 and March 4.

Children may be registered for the free Pre-K Program -- the child must be 4 years old by August 1, 2015 -- and for PSD Kindergarten -- the child must be 5 years old by August 1.

Registration sessions will be held Tuesday, March 3, from noon to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, March 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Primary School, located at 1600 Country Club Road.

Bring EPSDT Screening-Well Child Visit; immunization record; birth certificate; Social Security card; proof of address and health insurance card.

Parents of Pre-K students must also provide some type of income verification (tax return or one month's check stubs).

Call 870-236-5811 for more information. ♦

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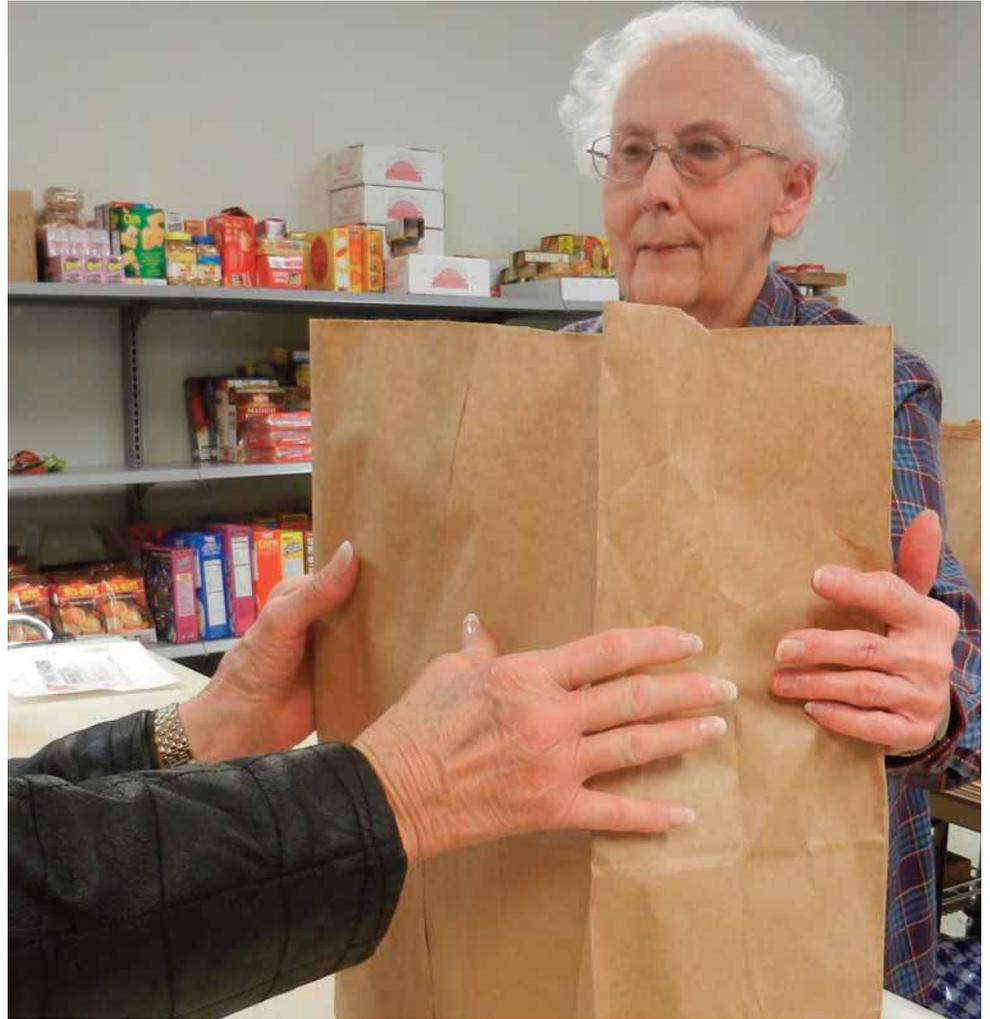
Confetti Mixing Bowls, \$45  
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Lynda Stuart, Volunteer Director of the Griffin Memorial UMC Food Pantry, hands a food sack to a client at right. More than 400 sacks of food and 500 meals are provided for local residents each month from the shelves of the pantry, above.



## Meet Lynda Stuart, Volunteer Director at Griffin Memorial Methodist Church food pantry

One in five Arkansans struggles with hunger. This shocking fact is reported in the Hunger Alliance publication, *Hunger in America 2010*. To meet the needs in our region, nearly one hundred food pantries exist to gather and distribute food.

In 2002, the Griffin Memorial United Methodist Church Food Pantry, located in Paragould, was created. In 2005, Lynda Stuart took on the responsibility of the food pantry and manages a staff of fifteen committed volunteers. Each month, more than 400 sacks of food and 500 meals are provided for local residents.

**Cheryl Nichols:** Lynda, tell our readers about the Griffin Memorial UMC food pantry. How did this food pantry start?

**Lynda Stuart:** I took on the responsibility of this food pantry in 2005, following the death

**Our  
Community**

By Cheryl Nichols



of the church member who started the pantry. Our church members saw the need to provide food for our community members, so the pantry was started. We expanded our services nearly two years ago and began providing a weekly free lunch.

**CN:** This looks like a lot of work. How do you keep this so organized?

**LS:** Yes, running a food pantry is a lot of work – most people have no idea how much work goes into it. There are great volunteers who help. We have volunteers who drive to the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro to load our food allotment. We then have to unload and organize the food here in

our pantry space. So, all of that requires a lot of manual labor ... and most of our volunteers are in their 80s! Then we sack the food for our Tuesday and Thursday distributions. We keep records of everything and I have to complete and submit reports each month. Running the pantry is rewarding, all consuming and sometimes disappointing.

**CN:** Are there other organizations that contribute food or funds to the pantry?

**LS:** Yes, in addition to the food we receive from the Food Bank, we receive private donations of food and money. The Independent Bikers Club has collected and donated food to our pantry for the last few years. Their most recent donation was 5,691 pounds – that's a lot of food! We are thankful for their contributions and support as well as other area churches such as St. Mary's Catholic Church and Ramer's Chapel. We always welcome more donations, of course.

## Our Community

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

LS: My superpower would be to rid the world of hunger. My superhero name ... that's more difficult to think of ... maybe "The Hungernator" like "The Terminator" ... and I would terminate hunger.

CN: How can our readers help the Griffin Memorial UMC Food Pantry?

LS: We can always use more volunteers, food donations, as well as cash donations so that we can purchase extra food when needed. Email our church at

[griffinmemorialumc@yahoo.com](mailto:griffinmemorialumc@yahoo.com)

or call 870-236-2060. Our pantry is open each Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Thursday from Noon to 6 p.m. We serve a free lunch each Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We are located at 524 E. Court Street in Paragould. ♦



Above is more of the stored food at the church's pantry. At right are Jack Haley and Lynda. She calls him her "right hand."



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**Arkansas State designated a 'Top School' in Military Advanced Education's 2015 guide**

**M**ilitary Advanced Education (MAE) has awarded Arkansas State University the designation of a "Top School" in its 2015 Guide to Colleges & Universities, measuring best practices in military and veteran education.

The Guide presents results of a survey of military-supportive policies enacted at more than 600 institutions including private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year, and two-year colleges. It provides information about institutions that go out of their way to give back to men and women in uniform.

This is Arkansas State's fifth consecutive year to be listed in the MAE guide. This year, institutions were evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services.

"Because of dedicated faculty and staff all across campus, military members and veterans can count on quality educational opportunities at Arkansas State," said Lynda Nash, director of the Beck PRIDE Center in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. "We appreciate this recognition by Military Advanced Education and we appreciate the excellent ongoing community support that makes this possible."

Each school's performance rating by category is represented by an easy-to-recognize dashboard. This will enable prospective students to quickly target schools that follow best practices in military education, and then put these in context with other academic or career considerations.

"We believe the Guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education services officers and transition officers when advising service members about their educational opportunities," said Kelly Fodel, MAE's editor. "We used strict criteria to individually evaluate the submissions of respondents, and we had a record number of schools participating this year."

The 2015 guide was printed in the December issue of Military Advanced Education and is available online at [www.mae-kmi.com](http://www.mae-kmi.com). ♦

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Lee Anne Wilder Sisk and son Jordan braved the cold to support the annual Polar Plunge at Crowley's Ridge State Park.

*Get Up and Go...*



*...to the Wings  
of Honor  
Museum*

**H**istory buffs should enjoy the short drive to Walnut Ridge for a look at the Wings of Honor Museum.

The museum was established in 1999 for the purpose of preserving the rich history of the Walnut Ridge Army Flying School, the Marine Corps Air Facility at Walnut Ridge,

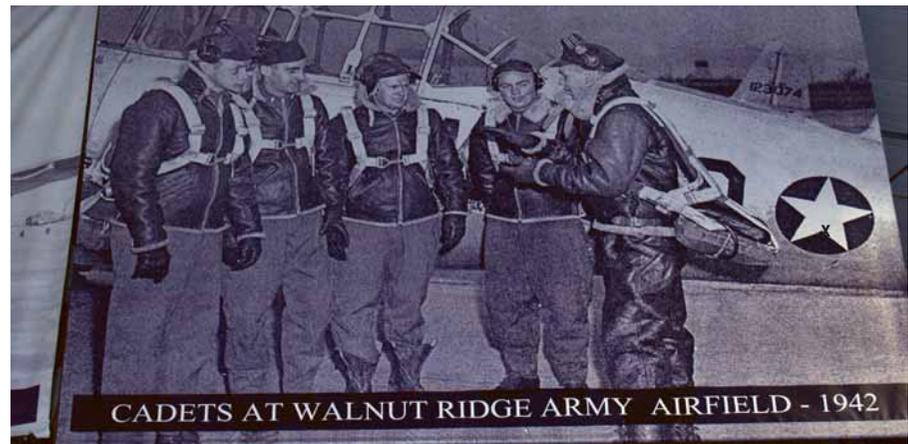
**How to get there:** From the Premiere office at 400 Tower Dr. in Paragould, take US-412 west 26.7 miles to the Walnut Ridge area; merge onto US-67; turn right on Lawrence Rd 429, then left on Lawrence Rd 428; take another right back onto 429 Rd, a right onto Frit Rd and you're there.

the War Assets Administration's Warbird Storage, Sales and Scrapping Facility, and the USAF 725th Radar Squadron; and to remember and honor those civilian and military personnel who served to

maintain our freedom.

The Walnut Ridge Airport was home to the flying school and the museum contains many examples of the equipment needed to train pilots for the war effort.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sundays from 2 - 5 p.m. except holidays, and contains a gift shop. ♦



# Compassionate Friends help bereaved find a “new normal”

The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas, based in Paragould, helps bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings find a “new normal.”

According to information provided by Chapter Leader Toni Baker, “This is a group we did not choose to belong to and one we hope you will never need to join. We are a self-support, non-profit organization walking the grief journey together -- it helps to have others walking with you who understand your feelings and emotions. The deaths may not be the same but they are our children and that’s what matters. No matter what age -- miscarriage to adult -- we are here for you.”

Group members offer hope, encouragement, love and friendship, and gather monthly to share stories, feelings and experiences, things that are working or not working for them -- crying and laughing together and to grow in their grief journeys.

They meet the second Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at Southside Community Church’s conference room, located at 2211 Jones Road in Paragould. They do not espouse any religion and there are no dues to belong.

April 2nd is designated as “Arkansas Gives” and The Compassionate Friends of NEA is listed as an organization to be able to donate

to. They work off donations and fundraisers in order to send out monthly newsletters, hold meetings, balloon releases, their Walk to Remember and Family Picnic and the Candle Light Service to help bereaved parents.

Those interested may give on April 2nd to TCF OF NEA or may send a tax deductible donation to TCF of NEA, 2703 Stonegate Drive, Paragould, AR 72450. The link to donate on April 2nd is: [arkansasgives.org](http://arkansasgives.org)

For more information on TCF of NEA call Toni Baker at 870-476-6025; email [tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com) or check out their website at: [www.tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com](http://www.tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com). ♦

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# PREMIERE

## Young PEOPLE

**W**hen Cassidy Gage parted company with the sporting world as a participant, she wasn't certain what the future held.

"Since I was little I've always loved performing, even if it was putting on a show for my family," said Cassidy, 15, and a sophomore at Brookland High School. "I didn't realize I wanted to make it my life until I didn't have sports to play any more. I didn't make the volleyball team in the eighth grade and I wondered what I was going to do."

Now you can find her all over the school scene as a member of the BETA Club, the School Select Choir, the Drama Club and Class Treasurer/Secretary for the Student Council, all while carrying a 3.9 GPA.

She credits her school's music teacher, Dana Green Johnson, as being the one who "got me out of my comfort zone and convinced me to sing in front of people. Now, here I am."

"Here" is right out in front as she continues to make the most of her opportunities in performing arts, becoming one of only a few who make the Select Choir. "You have to try out. Only like 13 make it. We sing mostly at school functions and then have the All-Region Choir competition.

"And I've been in three plays and I'm working on a fourth," Cassidy said. "I love to be on stage. As soon as I'm on stage I realize 'I can do this ... I'm going to do it.'"

She said she could possibly see herself as a music teacher in the future. "I'd like to spread my love of music to other people." ♦



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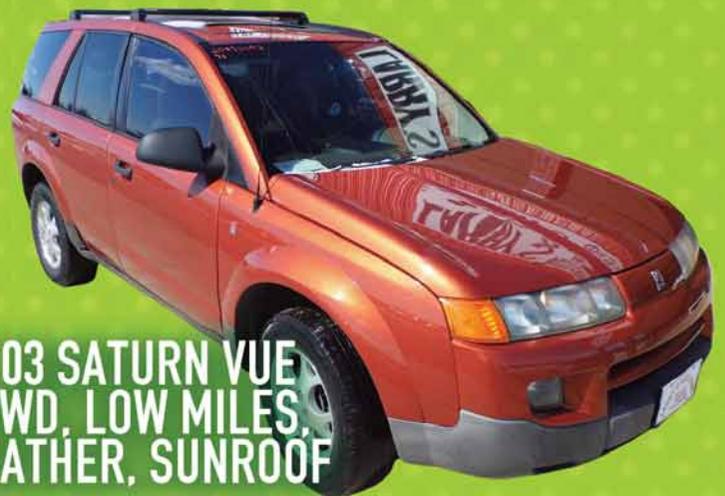
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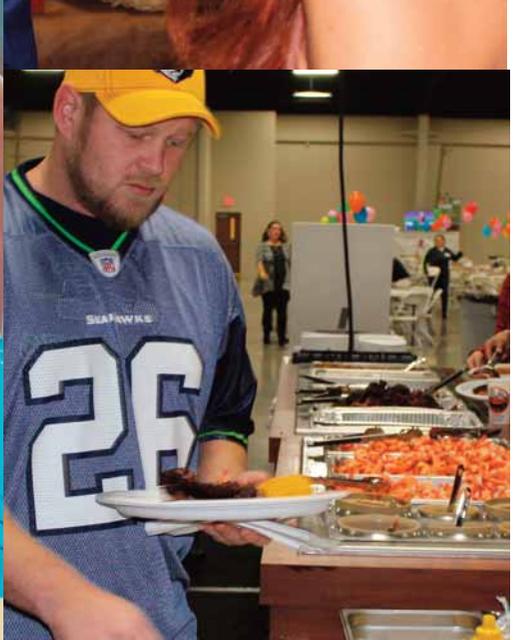
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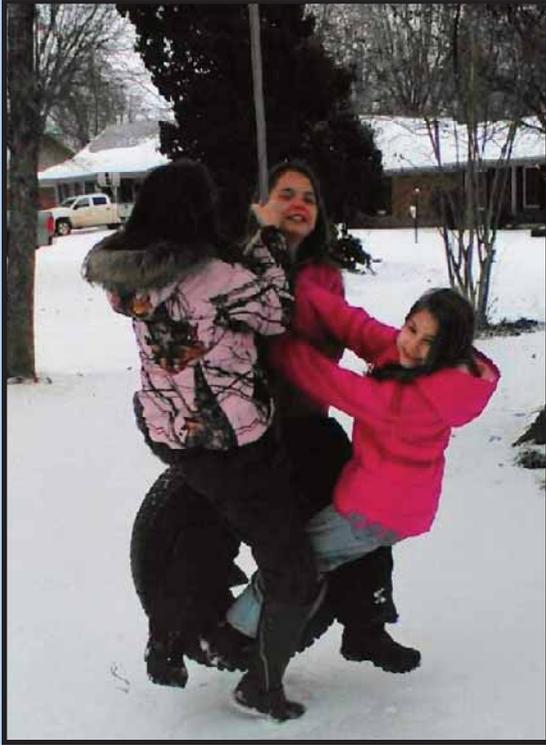
Food, Fun and raising money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Oh, and a little football! Super Bowl Sunday celebrated the 2015 St. Jude S'Travaganza.



# Let It Snow

Some bundled up and some braved the cold in other ways as children and adults alike hit the local slopes with sleds to take advantage of a wintry blast in February.





While the kids had hours of fun in the snow and ice, motorists on the way to work found the icy NEA streets less than entertaining.



# Going to market



Bob Young will serve as the ASU Farmers' Market manager when it opens on May 2.

GOLD



Mr. Thom Beasley



Landscape by:  
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# Farmers' Markets: An old idea with a totally modern twist

**F**armers' Markets are certainly not new but a new enthusiasm for fresh, locally grown produce and food items has fueled an old fashioned concept into a new thriving one -- the Farmers' Market at Arkansas State University and the new Paragould Farmers' Market to name a few.

Bob Young will serve as the ASU Farmers' Market manager when it opens on May 2nd. He is a founding member of the organization East Arkansas Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (David Lange serves as the Board President). Young recently retired from the USDA as the Natural Resource Conservationist for a ten county region.

The Jonesboro market was established out of an initiative of his position to find projects that would benefit the communities in his assigned region. Young grew up in the St. Louis area and remembered fondly the Farmers' Markets he went to as a kid. The Historic Souland Farmers' Market was always his favorite.

In 2006 he started talking about the lack of a Farmers' Market in the Jonesboro area and soon gathered names of interested parties. The first direction he was given was toward the ASU College of Agriculture and Technology, where he collaborated with the Dean, Dr. Greg Phillips, and the Associate Dean, Dr. Kim Pittcock. With the approval of Dr. Les Wyatt the location for a market was secured.

"The continued cooperation of the College of Agriculture and current Dean, Dr. Tim Burcham, has contributed to the continued success of the ASU Market," Young said.

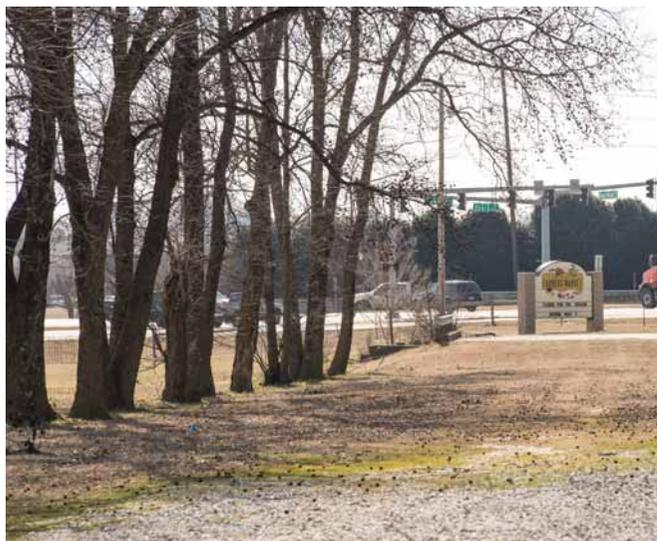
Young established a Board of Advisors for the market with Tom Beasley, Craighead County Farm Bureau; Bill Shannon; Eric Grant, Cooperative Extension office (since retired and now a vendor at the market); and developed the set of rules and how the organization would operate.

The first season in the spring of 2006 saw three to six vendors set up under the trees of the current site. Young said, "There were no buildings, just a field and they set up under the tree line. But there were lots of customers! We advertised. Everyone sold out fast."

The board set out during the off season to recruit vendors and it has grown ever since. The structure was secured with a \$75,000 grant and donations from the community in 2010. The record for the most

customers was set in 2013 and this past year set the most vendors listed as 120.

"They are not all there at one time. We averaged 54 vendors this past year and Saturday customers average 1,200 to 1,400 -- and Tuesdays we will have an average of 600 to 800," Young noted.



Now that he has retired, Young has taken the role as the Market Manager for the upcoming season. His involvement from the beginning and his experience as the Board Chairman places him in the perfect position to manage.

"I have developed relationships with our vendors and the community volunteers that make this a good transition," he said. "Every Saturday feels like a mini-festival with the atmosphere of our location being across from the College

of Agriculture's fields and animals and the communities' participation of educational activities and our features of local bands. I am passionate about the market and enjoy every minute of it."

The Paragould Farmers' Market was assisted by the EA Resource Conservation and Development Corporation last year. David Lange serves as the council's President and when a Farmers' Market was identified as an initiative from a Greene County strategic assessment he was contacted for advice. The ASU Farmers' Market Council assisted Paragould with their rules and organizational framework.

Paragould's first year was very successful with many vendors serving both the Jonesboro and Paragould markets. The Paragould market set up in the Greene County Courthouse parking lot and will do the same this year. As with Jonesboro's beginning, customers overwhelmed the vendors and many sold out early. The vendors hope Mother Nature cooperates and allows them to grow more products this year and that the customers keep coming.

Both markets have Facebook pages and the ASU Farmer's Market has a website at [asuregionalfarmersmarket.org](http://asuregionalfarmersmarket.org).

Young can be reached at [rtyoung5455@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rtyoung5455@sbcglobal.net) or 870-926-0250. The Paragould market is in the process of hiring a market manager. Contact Tiffany Kirklin at 870-236-7684 or [tkirklin@paragould.org](mailto:tkirklin@paragould.org). ♦

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*A bit of history ...*

*... Historic Collins Theatre celebrates 90 years*

**D**uring the year 2015 the historic Collins Theatre in Paragould will celebrate its 90th birthday.

About 35 years ago the theatre narrowly missed being torn down and turned into a parking lot. Thanks to a group of concerned individuals, the Collins was rescued, restored and renovated.

Now it stands proudly at the corner of 2nd and Emerson streets, the jewel of Downtown Paragould and a tribute to dedicated community support.

Constructed in 1925, the Collins Theatre has stood as a monument of historical significance for the Paragould area. During its years as the Capitol Theater, this classic building held a variety of events including Broadway shows, vaudeville performances, and first-rate movies.

Now, it proudly extends its services to the

community as the Collins Theatre, where residents come and enjoy one-of-a-kind productions, from musicals to dramatic plays.

Numerous celebrations are scheduled to take place during the coming year, including a Broadway show. Musicians, singers and dancers will bring a variety of Broadway numbers to life on stage at the Collins sometime later in the year.

“A Night On Broadway” will feature a group of exceptionally talented performers waiting to entertain the public on those special nights. Scrapbooks and mementos will be displayed



in the lobby and a special program booklet will be available.

Be sure to follow the Collins

*at [www.collinstheatre.com](http://www.collinstheatre.com)*

to learn the dates for the Broadway presentation and the many other fine performances slated throughout the coming season. ♦

# Happenings!



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# Happenings!

## 1. Little Old People

Students at Greene County Tech Primary School celebrated the 100th Day of School in January by dressing up like 100-year-old little people.

Amber Farmer, Library Media Specialist at the Greene County Tech Primary School, provided the photo.

## 2. Science Fair Winners

Oak Grove Middle School held a Science Fair for sixth grade students in January. The winners are - front row: 1st Place Kaylee Long and Makayla Fletcher.

Pictured on the back row are (L-R): Tied for 2nd Place Colton Steele, Sarah Sellen and Lily Broadway; tied for 3rd Place Paige Glenn and Jaley Oldham (not pictured), and Blythe Benefield and Madison Holmes.

## 3. Featured Speaker

The Greene County Master Gardeners hosted Branon Thiesse, Craighead County Extension Agent/Staff Chair, at their monthly brown bag lunch in February in the Legacy Room of the Greene County Library.

Thiesse covered planting, pruning, fertilizing and propagation of roses.

## 4. Coach Of The Year

Greene County Tech cheer coach Cassie DeSpain has been named the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) 2014 Coach of the Year. DeSpain serves as the junior high cheerleading sponsor and is co-sponsor of the high school team, focusing on the competition squad.

Got an event or a personal accomplishment that you think deserves attention? Send photographs and information to

[editor@premiere-magazine.com](mailto:editor@premiere-magazine.com)

for consideration on our Happenings pages.



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Fireman Austin Holsapple

## Westside grad serves aboard USS Fitzgerald

A 2011 Westside High School graduate and Jonesboro native is serving aboard the U.S. Navy destroyer *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62), living and working at the Navy's forward-deployed base south of Tokyo.

Fireman Austin Holsapple is a damage controlman aboard the destroyer operating out of Yokosuka, which is located approximately 35 miles south of Tokyo and accommodates the United States' furthest forward-deployed naval forces.

An Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, *Fitzgerald* is 505 feet long or more than 1 1/2 football fields. The ship is 66 feet wide, weighs more than 9,200 tons, and its four gas turbine engines can push the ship through the ocean at nearly 35 miles per hour.

The ship is named in honor of Lt. William Charles Fitzgerald, who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for ex-

traordinary heroism on August 7, 1967, in Vietnam.

As a sailor with numerous responsibilities, Holsapple said he is proud to serve his country aboard a destroyer in Japan.

"I am responsible for firefighting and installed equipment and damage control readiness of the ship," said Holsapple.

Holsapple also said he is proud of the work he is doing as part of the *Fitzgerald's* 300-member crew, living thousands of miles from home, and protecting America on the world's oceans.

"This ship has given me the opportunity to go to diverse places and see a lot of things," said Holsapple.

"*Fitzgerald* sailors represent every state in the union as well as a diversity of ethnicities. It is an honor to lead and serve with the finest sailors the nation has to offer," said Cmdr. Chris England,

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the ship's Commanding Officer.

"These sailors should be justifiably proud of their accomplishments – a direct reflection of their dedication to mission accomplishment, motivation, and commitment to the Navy."

Approximately 40 officers and 260 enlisted men make up the ship's company. Their jobs are highly specialized and keep each part of the two billion dollar destroyer running smoothly — everything from washing dishes and preparing meals to maintaining engines and handling weaponry.

Assigned to U.S. Seventh Fleet, Fitzgerald sailors are continuously on watch throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, acting as America's first responders in that part of the world.

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most versatile combat ships, Holsapple and other Fitzgerald sailors understand they are part of a forward-deployed team that is heavily relied upon to help protect and defend America across the world's oceans.

"The Navy has trained me to be an expert in my job field that I couldn't have learned anywhere else," said Holsapple. ♦

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**THE  
CONVO**

# Saving money and resources through LEED building plan

BY TERRY AUSTIN

Form. Function. Beauty. Utility.

Perhaps the simplest description of good building design is making those four pieces fit without compromise. And if that's accurate, the LEED program both complicates and enriches the whole process.

LEED -- Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design -- is a creation of the U.S. Green Building Council that encourages design and construction of buildings that "save money and resources and have a positive impact on the health of occupants, while promoting renewable, clean energy," according to the organization's website ([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)).

Jeff Herren, AIA, is a partner at Brackett-Krennerich Architects in Jonesboro. A LEED "accredited professional," the Paragould native put those credentials to work on the design and construction of Ritter Communications' new headquarters in Jonesboro.

The Ritter building, located at 2400 Ritter Drive achieved Silver LEED certification upon its completion in 2013, and as a result enjoys a high profile in the design community. That, Herren said, is a result of the vision of the leadership of Ritter.

"The client wanted to do LEED but didn't want to spend extra money just to say they did," Herren said. "LEED was important, but within the framework of making good business decisions."

The Ritter building's Silver LEED score -- earning 56 of a possible 110 points -- reflected that pragmatic approach. Herren noted that several LEED-inspired ideas were presented to Ritter leadership. Many were implemented in the building's design, but not all.



Jeff Herren, AIA, is a LEED Accredited Professional and a partner with Brackett-Krennerich Architects in Jonesboro. Herren designed the Ritter Communications building in Jonesboro, which received a LEED Silver certification in 2013.

For example, Herren looked into a system that would deploy two 10,000-gallon tanks to collect and distribute rainwater for non-potable applications. But the cost of the project ultimately outweighed its practicality, and it was scrapped.

"I think they did an excellent job of looking at the business end of it," Herren said. "They considered the upfront expense versus the potential savings of operation."

Herren noted the building's climate is controlled by a geothermal heat/air unit, which, he said, is an elite system in terms of efficiency. While it costs nearly 25% more than a traditional climate system, the savings it produces in reduced energy use will more than offset the initial outlay. The building also includes a lighting system that monitors

available natural light and adjusts artificial lighting accordingly.

"LEED is verification for good design," Herren said. "A lot of the principles they promote just make good design sense. Our office tries to incorporate that on every project."

Driving that point home is the fact that, according to Herren, the Ritter building was completed for about what it would have cost without LEED-inspired considerations.

Herren said one goal of the Ritter design and construction was to find local sources for materials. When possible, materials came from within a 500-mile radius of Jonesboro. Items that could not be sourced locally, like bamboo, were chosen for their low environmental impact and rapid renewability.

Clean construction is another aspect of the LEED process. Herren said that the Ritter project was able to divert 75% of its waste materials from the landfill. Excess wood was chipped and implemented on the site, and a local recycling office handled most of the remaining waste.

Everything -- how the building will sit on its lot, what paints and sealants will be used, even the types of plants used in the landscaping -- receives extra scrutiny because of LEED, and perhaps as a result, everything else is beginning to change as well.

"Our local and state building codes are catching up," Herren said. "That gap is shrinking."

----

See the Ritter building's LEED scorecard here: <http://www.usgbc.org/projects/ritter-communications?view=overview> ♦



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# Business Is Good



Jeremy Biggs, center, shares conversation with wellwishers at the Chamber After Hours, above left. At right is Jamie Collins, who is retiring from the Mission.

## Chamber After Hours for Mission Outreach

Guests dropped by the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce late in January to celebrate the retirement and the many years of outstanding service Jamie Collins has given to Mission Outreach.

Visitors were also there to congratulate Jeremy Biggs on taking over his new position as Executive Director of Mission Outreach. ♦



The meet and greet session allowed Chamber members and others to interact and to partake of the refreshments provided by the Chamber staff.



# Business Is Good

## Main Street Paragould's Jarrett earns Delta Byways award

**"T**hey pulled a fast one over on me," said Main Street Paragould Director Gina Jarrett after she was named the Arkansas Delta Byways Outstanding Member. "They got me pretty good."

Jarrett said she was definitely surprised by the honor, expressing appreciation for having her work with the Main Street organization recognized.

Presenters comments on the day of the award included, "Our Arkansas Delta Byways Outstanding Member is Gina Jarrett, director of Main Street Paragould. Gina has helped put Paragould and the Arkansas Delta Byways region on the map with her many innovative ideas and promotional strategies. Under her leadership, Paragould's downtown area has flourished, and the town has welcomed numerous visitors for special events.

Whether it's zombies, art enthusiasts, or music lovers strolling along Paragould's streets - or antique car buffs, bikers, or cyclists making Paragould a stop on their routes - Gina Jarrett has been behind the scenes making it all happen. Thanks to her efforts, the One and Only Downtown Paragould is a vibrant place to be on any occasion. We are proud to name Gina Jarrett our Outstanding Member of the Year."

Kirkley Thomas, vice president for governmental affairs at the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, was selected as the Tourism Person of the Year. ♦



Gina Jarrett, right, won the Outstanding Member Award for promotion of tourism in the Arkansas Delta.

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# Business Is Good

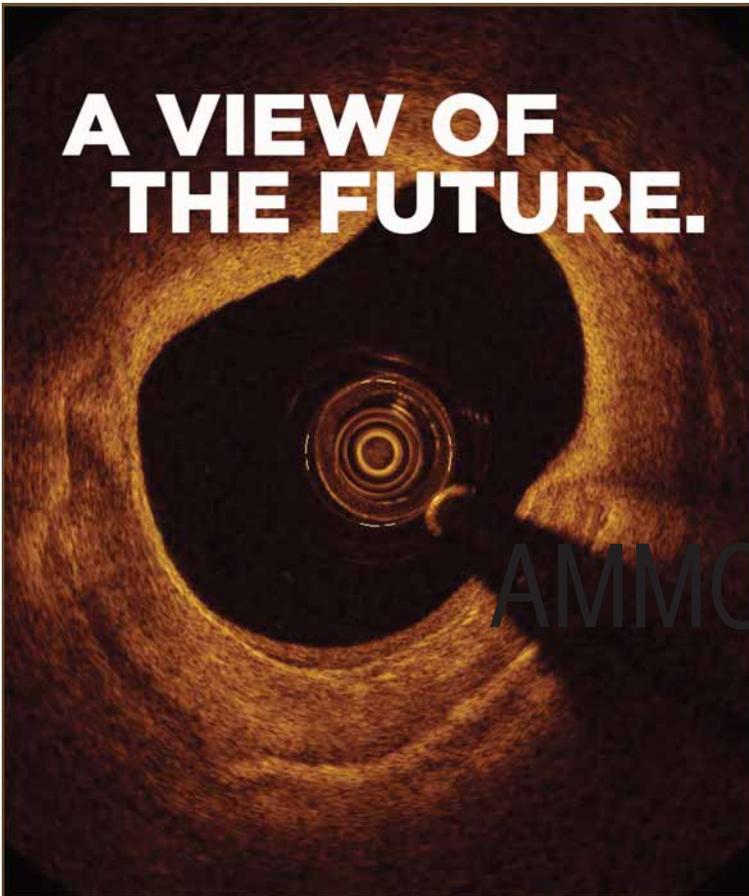


**B**ows and Blessings Boutique! Pictured are owner, Stephanie Ricker and employee, Brandy Lyles; along with many friends and Ambassadors for the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce. They are located at 2210 W. Kingshighway, Ste 11. Hours of operation are Monday: 4 pm – 7 pm; Tuesday-Friday: 11 am – 7 pm; and Saturday: 11 am – 5 pm. You may reach them by calling 870-476-9006.



**A**vanzare owners Tony Roma and John Carlos along with many employees, friends and Ambassadors for the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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Cardiologists Doctor Allen Duplantis, Ammar Hallak and Abe Martinez are now able to better treat coronary artery disease (CAD), the most common type of heart disease with the assistance of the ILUMIEN OPTIS System now available at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. CAD is caused by a narrowing or blocking of the arteries which ultimately can lead to a heart attack. The ILUMIEN OPTIS is the only integrated diagnostic technology that combines optical coherence tomography (OCT) and fractional flow reserve (FFR) together to improve the visualization, diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease. Offering the latest technology is just another way AMMC is making healthcare all about you.



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## NEA Baptist Clinic opens new late night urgent care in Jonesboro

**A**s part of a long term plan to increase access to care in Northeast Arkansas, NEA Baptist Clinic recently opened a second Late Night Urgent Care location at their Hilltop Family Practice and Urgent Care Clinic located at 4901 E. Johnson Ave.

In addition to the normal operating hours, Late Night Urgent Care at Hilltop will see patients between 6-9 p.m. Monday through Friday. The existing Late Night Urgent Care location at Windover (1111 Windover Rd.) will continue to see patients from 6 - 9p.m. Monday through Friday as well.

Late Night Urgent  
Care at Hilltop may  
be reached  
by calling  
870-934-3539.

“We are excited to offer an additional Late Night Urgent Care Location. This service will provide additional access for patients needing to see a physician after regular business hours,” said Darrell King, chief executive officer of NEA Baptist Clinic, “It provides yet another avenue for the people of Northeast Arkansas to access our growing health system.”

Both Late Night Urgent Care locations are accepting new, walk-in patients and treat a variety of acute care needs requiring immediate treatment. Late Night Urgent Care at Hilltop may be reached by calling 870-934-3539, while Late Night Urgent Care at Windover may be reached by calling 870-910-6040.

There are currently 5 NEA Baptist Clinic Urgent Care locations in Jonesboro and Paragould, offering treatment 7 days a week with hours varying per location. Visit [www.neabaptistclinic.com](http://www.neabaptistclinic.com) to view a complete list of Urgent Care and Late Night Urgent Care locations and hours of operation. ♦



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# Paragould Pride band members earn recognition

**M**ore than 40 Paragould Pride Sr. High Band members auditioned and qualified for the Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association's Region V All-Region Honor Band.

The amount of qualifying students set a new Paragould Band record. Students participated in a honor band clinic at ASU-Jonesboro on Friday and Saturday, January 23-4.

Pictured at right are:

Row 1 (Left to right): Victoria Estrada (Second Band, 6th chair percussion), Katelyn Hampton (Second Band, 5th chair french horn), Mallory Straub (First Band, 7th chair clarinet), Katie Hays (Second Band, 2nd chair trombone),



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Brittany Adams (First Band, third chair clarinet), Brooke Haddix (Second Band, 19th chair clarinet), Shay Cline (Second Band, 2nd chair clarinet).

Row 2 (Left to right): Ryan Landreth (Alternate, Euphonium), Lauren Owen (First Band, 6th chair percussion), Jessica Huffmaster (Second Band, 8th chair percussion), Ashley McNinch (First Band, 1st chair trombone), Lexie Wilson (Second Band, 1st chair clarinet), Heather Warren (First Band, 4th chair trumpet), Alyssa Litwiller (Second Band, 6th chair flute), Jada White (Alternate, Euphonium)

Row 3 (Left to right): Brett Mangrum (Alternate, french horn), Monica Tobar (First Band, 4th chair percussion), Nathan Barker (Second Band, 9th chair percussion), Kason Irvin (First Band, 2nd chair euphonium), Venita McQuay (Second Band, 12th chair trumpet), Monica Perez (Second band, 2nd chair bass clarinet), Gabby Guedea (Second Band, 8th chair clarinet), Connor Curtis (Second Band 12th chair trumpet), Drew Gazaway (First band, 1st chair clarinet), Rachael Rose (Second Band 10th chair flute)

Row 4 (Left to right): Matt Anderson (First Band, 5th chair tuba), Alex Poschman (First band, 4th chair tuba), Tyler Huffstutler (Second Band, 2nd chair percussion), Clayton Barrett (First Band, 8th chair tuba), Whitney Jeter (Second Band, 9th chair flute), Dominique Carter (First band, 6th chair euphonium), Hannah Smithee (First Band, 3rd chair trombone), Andrew Perry (Second Band, 4th chair clarinet), Bren Garred (Alternate, Percussion), Jared Barham (First Band, 3rd chair tuba)

Row 5 (Left to right): Trevor Bateman (Alternate, trombone), Garrett Graham (First Band, 9th chair percussion), Joey Jones (Second Band, 6th chair trombone), Kyle Runsick (Second Band, 3rd chair tenor saxophone), CJ Slatton (First Band, 1st chair Baritone Saxophone), Brandan Bakkala (First Band, 8th chair trumpet), Colton Carner (First Band, 7th chair trumpet), Andrew Rippy (First Band, 9th chair trumpet), Rona Smith (First Band, 6th chair french horn), Gavin Wagster (Second Band, 8th chair trumpet)

Not Pictured: Sara Hickson (Second Band, 3rd chair flute), Rhealeigh Jaques (Second Band, 10th chair clarinet) ♦

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## GCT to play host to USAF Band of Mid-America

The USAF Band of Mid-America's Concert Band is set to perform a free concert and give music clinics to the high school band students at Greene County Tech High School in Paragould on Thursday, March 19.

The free concert starts at 7 p.m. and the doors open 45 minutes prior to the start.

The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America Concert Band represents the professionalism and excellence found every day throughout the Air Force. This diverse, 45-piece ensemble's repertoire ranges from symphonic band masterworks, to traditional marches, to modern compositions, to pops and jazz. During a concert, you are likely to hear stirring works from contemporary composers as well as the familiar sounds of John Philip Sousa or Major Glenn Miller. The band also features talented vocal soloists, performing a wide variety of popular, classical, and patriotic selections.

This ensemble primarily performs free civic outreach and recruiting concerts for audiences throughout the Midwest, playing more than 100 engagements each year. In its broader travels, the band has performed in New York City, Philadelphia, Seattle, the Gulf Coast, Germany, the Netherlands, Costa Rica, Barbados, Grenada, Guatemala, Venezuela, Bolivia, and the Azores. Each year, band members perform live before hundreds of thousands of people, and for millions more on television and radio.

The Commander of the USAF Band of Mid-America, Captain Jason Plosch, enlisted in the United States Air Force in July 2001 and began his first assignment as a trumpeter with the USAF Band of Flight, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, in September 2001. As an enlisted member of the USAF Band of Flight, he performed in seven different ensembles and was versatile in all styles of music. He was a member of the first USAF brass ensemble, Hot Brass, to deploy to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. ♦



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## Wedding Story: Wood-Rowe

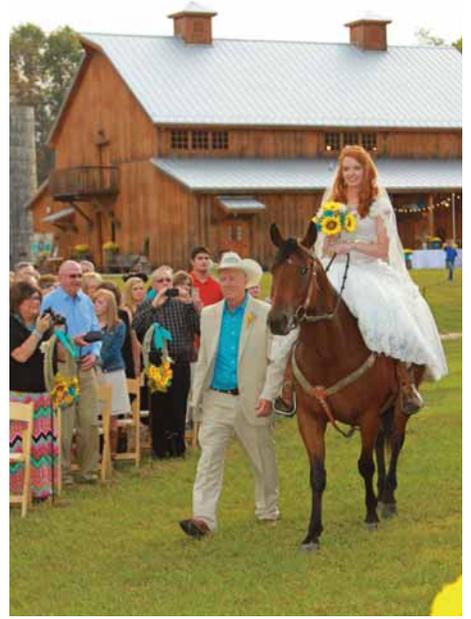
**O**n September 27, 2014, Sara Wood and Skylar Rowe were united in marriage at The Silos in Bono, Arkansas. The western style wedding took place in a beautiful pasture next to the secluded venue. The aisles were adorned with sunflowers, hay bales, ropes, and horseshoes. The bride was led down the aisle by her father, Harlon Wood, while riding her horse, Cisco. Guests were treated to smoked chicken and barbeque that was complimented with a trip to the candy bar and wedding cake. The couple honeymooned at Flying R Ranch in West Plains, Mo.

Sara and Skylar were introduced by a mutual friend while the two were still in high school. Sara was a Greene County Tech cheerleader and Skylar was a Paragould football player. Although they were from rival schools the two became inseparable. The couple shares a love for horses, hunting and the outdoors. They spent many days riding and hunting together before he proposed on March 20, 2012.

Sara is a 2010 graduate of Greene County Tech and a 2014 graduate of Arkansas State University. She works as an RN at NEA Baptist in Jonesboro. Skylar is a 2011 graduate of Paragould School District. He will graduate in May of 2015 with a degree in Ag Business from Arkansas State University.

The bride is the daughter of Harlon and Susan Wood. The groom is the son of Burt and Pam Walker, and Brandon Rowe. The couple resides in Paragould.

*Photography by: Joey Glaub Portrait Art, Bono, Arkansas*



# Birth Announcements



Avery Leigh Wineland

## Wineland

**B**rett and Destiny Wineland of Paragould announce the birth of their second child, Avery Leigh Wineland.

Born at NEA Hospital in December, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

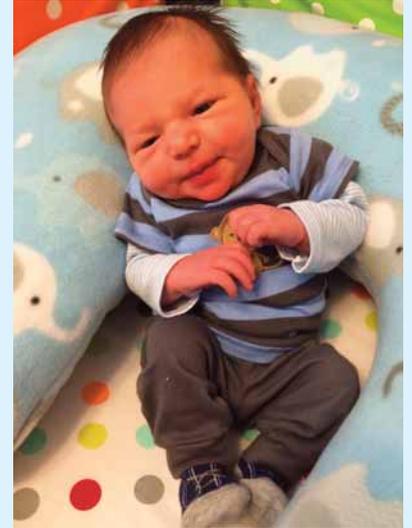
Big sister is Ella Wineland while grandparents are Tom and Tonya Wray, Vernon and Kim Lyles, and Joe and Jana Wineland. Great-grandparents are Bill and Carolyn Pillow and Norma Wineland; great-great grandmother is Gertie Cox. ♦

## Field

**A**lvin 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.



Gavin Scott Field

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

## Spencer

**A**mber Spencer and Aeron Lovins, both of Paragould, have announced the recent birth of their daughter, Harlow Jeslyn Saige Spencer.

Born at Twin Rivers Regional Medical Center, the baby weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Older sister is Raelyn Adamson.

Grandparents are Tina and Floyd Adams, Kerry Spencer, and Tena and Jeff Harlan. ♦

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# Engagement Announcements

## Waybright-McMillan

**K**elsey Deanne Waybright and John Martin McMillan have announced plans to be married this summer.

Kelsey Deanne is the daughter of Connie and Ron Waybright of Ripley, West Virginia.

The prospective groom's parents are Vicki and Walter McMillan of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place Saturday, June 27, 2015, at The Frederick in Huntington, West Virginia. ♦



Photo by Colbert Photography

Kelsey Deanne Waybright and John Martin McMillan

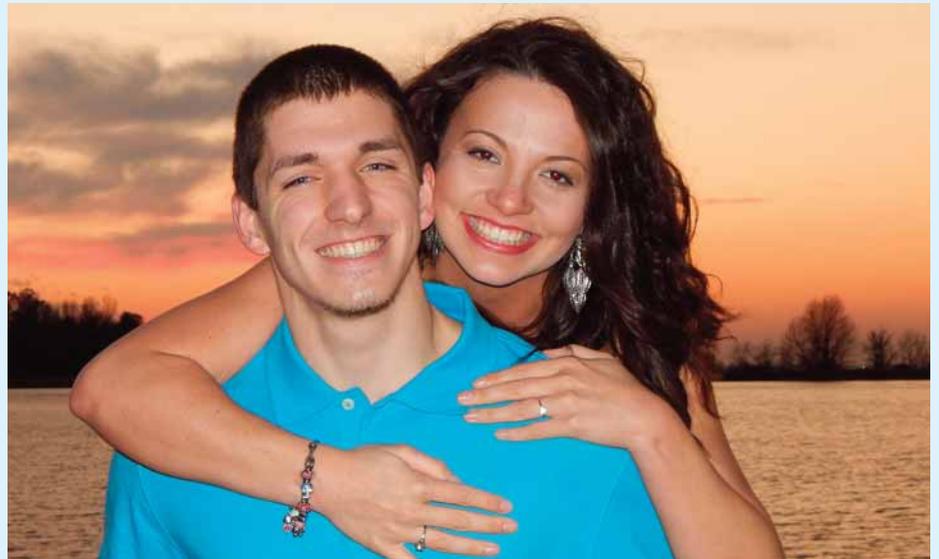
## Esquivel-Tripod

**J**essica Esquivel and Ryan Tripod, both of Paragould, have announced their plans for a May wedding.

Jessica is the daughter of Dino and Christy Esquivel of Paragould.

Ryan's parents are Jon and Holly Tripod, also of Paragould.

The wedding will take place Saturday, May 16, 2015, in Destin, Florida. ♦



Ryan Tripod and Jessica Esquivel

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# March

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, March 3**

**AMMC HOSTS BREASTFEEDING CLASS**, held in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Covering the importance of breastfeeding, breast preparation, feeding techniques and positioning options for mother and baby. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

**Saturday, March 7**

**AGAPE HOUSE 7th ANNUAL ROAD TO RENEWAL**, at the Paragould Community Center. Registration at 7:00 am outside by the concession stand with the race starting at 8:00 am. Pre-register online at [agape-house.me](http://agape-house.me) or [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com). Contact Sonny Curtis at (870) 586-0314 for more information.

**Tuesday, March 10**

**AMMC HOSTS INFANT SAFETY CLASS**, focusing on topics including car safety, childproofing your home, crib safety and infant CPR, held in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

**Thursday, March 12**

**AMMC AUXILIARY HOSTS JEWELRY**

**SALE**, in the auditorium of the Professional Office Building from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm with jewelry and accessories from Masquerade \$5.00 Jewelry.

**Other Event Dates:** Friday, March 13th, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Saturday, March 14**

**BASIC ORIENTEERING CLASS AT LAKE CHARLES STATE PARK**, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Lake Charles State Park in Powhatan, Arkansas. Learn how to use a map and compass through hands-on training and activities. No experience necessary! Dress for the weather and for terrain. Reservations are required to attend. Call (870) 878-6595 for more information and to register.

**Monday, March 16**

**MOMMY AND ME BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**, for new and expectant mothers, brought to you by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and the Greene County Health Unit. Held in the Professional Office Building at AMMC from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. For more information, call the Greene County Health Unit at (870) 236-7782.

**Saturday, March 21**

**AMMC HOSTS CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS**, held in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist

Medical Center, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, with one hour for lunch. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

**Other class dates:** Saturday, March 28th

**Thursday, March 26**

**"SWING INTO SPRING WITH TASTY, FRESH SANDWICHES AND SALADS" COMMUNITY DIABETES PROGRAM**, brought to you by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and Wal-Mart. Held in the Professional Office Building auditorium at AMMC from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm with guest speaker Sarah Newberry, Pharmacist at AMMC Pharmacy. Please RSVP by March 25, 2015 by calling (870) 239-7016.

**Monday, March 30**

**AMMC HOSTS HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS**, held in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call the AMMC Education Department at (870) 239-7016 for pricing and to register.

**Tuesday, March 31**

**AMMC HOSTS STROKE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**, held in the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Rehab Gym on the Fourth Floor, at 6:00 pm. This meeting is open to stroke survivors, their families, friends and/or caregivers. For more information, call (870) 239-7289.

# Recurring EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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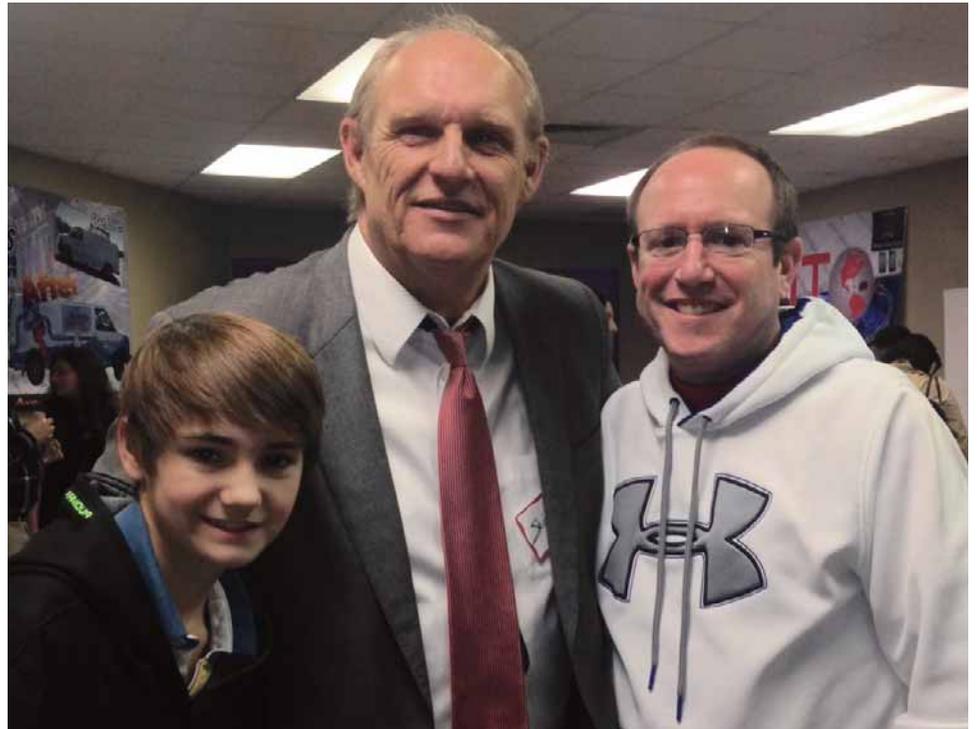


# Out of The Dark opens in Jonesboro

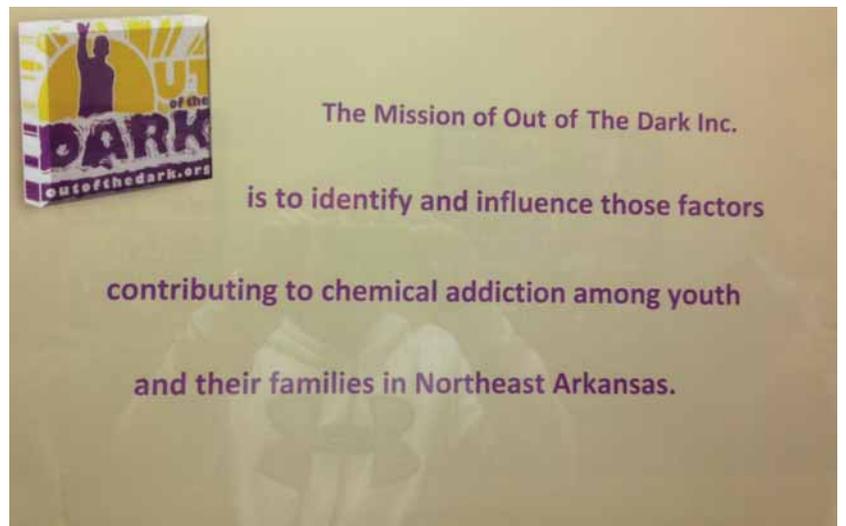
**O**ut of The Dark, an organization dedicated to helping young people and their families cope with the issues surrounding drug addiction, has opened a new Jonesboro office.

The group held a Grand Opening for its building on Matthews, with musical entertainment and other activities provided.

Call 870-592-8460 for information. ♦



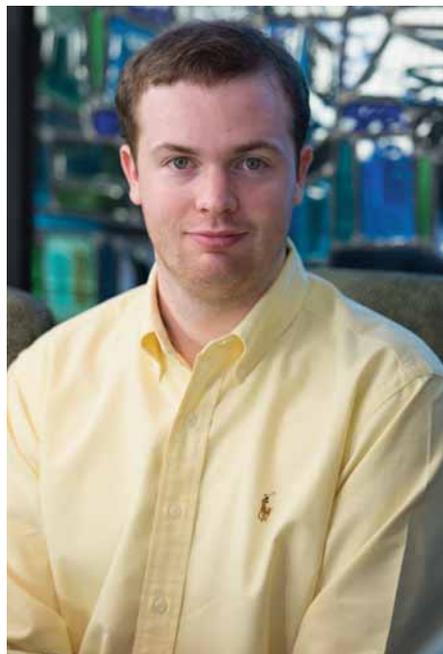
At right, Ozzy Allen, Skip Mooney Jr. (Founder) and Bill Pressly; below, Michael Sprinkle and others perform; below right, Out of The Dark's Mission Statement.



# STAY TUNED

## What's in Store For Next Month

Cover



In April we'll concentrate on a lot of young people in the area while also focusing on Autism Awareness. Jack Broadaway has a very interesting story, and we'll bring it to you in the April Premiere.

Also ...



Premiere staffers will be out and about covering community events, and you never know when you might find yourself in front of the camera. Be sure to check out the April issue. ♦



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

An advertisement for the JACK fm app. It features a woman in blue jeans with a smartphone in her pocket. The text 'IS THAT A JACK IN YOUR POCKET?' is written in large, stylized letters. Below the image, there are two QR codes for downloading the app from Google Play and the App Store. The text 'Scan with your smartphone.' is above the QR codes. The JACK fm logo is at the bottom right, along with the website '107.1 neajackfm.com' and the tagline 'playing what we want'. Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are also present.

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