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August
2016

PREMIERE'S TOP TEACHER

**WENDY
BLANKENSHIP**

FIRST RESPONDERS LUNCH

**BAILEY WILLIAMS:
MOTIVATED TEEN**

CHAMPIONS GYMNASTICS TURNS 30

JOSIE'S WISH GRANTED

NIDEC: 60 YEARS IN TOWN

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From The Managing Editor ...



The happy face on the cover belongs to Wendy Blankenship, selected by Premiere readers as this year's Outstanding Teacher. As she readily admitted, there were several very worthy candidates on the ballot and we congratulate her for a job well done.

A 20-year veteran of the teaching profession, Wendy instructs students at Oak Grove Elementary in the Paragould School District and has obviously made a positive impression on both young people and adults.

With the start of the school year just days away, this is a good time to consider ways to make it go smoother for both student and teacher. There's plenty of evidence to show that positive communication between parents and teachers helps improve academic performance. Communicating with your child's teacher isn't just about attending parent-teacher conferences; there are lots of other ways to create a positive two-way relationship.

While the classroom teacher may be in charge of your children more hours of the day than you are, it is still vital that you get actively involved in their education instead of expecting the teacher to see every assignment through. Remember, he or she can't focus on your child alone; there is a room full of students demanding attention, so doing your part at home is a key in seeing your child reach its academic potential.

An article by Marie Hartwell-Walker, Ed.D., outlines eight ways to build a healthy parent-teacher relationship. She suggests:

- Introduce yourself to the teacher. Start the year off right. Don't wait for a problem before making contact.
- Introduce your child. Elementary classroom teachers often have 20-40 new children to get to know each year.

(Secondary teachers and specialists like art and gym teachers may have as many as 200.) Help them out a little.

- Go to "open house." Teachers tend to be most interested in the families who show some interest.
- Go to the parent-teacher conference prepared. Respect the teacher's time. Get to your meeting on time and don't overstay your assigned time.
- Remember the Golden Rule. Always assume good will on the teacher's part. People go into this profession because they like kids and they love the process of teaching and learning.
- Communicate regularly. Email is a great way to maintain a connection. Every few weeks, send a comment on what your child has brought home from school.
- Help out. The strained economy is having an impact on schools. Many school systems have increased class size, reduced the number of paraprofessionals, and cut the supply budget. If you have the time, offer to help.

• If there's a problem ... This is where the good relationship you've worked so hard to establish pays off. You know that you and the teacher both want the best for your child. If your child carries home a tale of teacher meanness or unfairness, maintain a neutral stance until you have more information. Don't talk negatively about a teacher in front of your kids. Instead, email or call the teacher and ask politely for the teacher's point of view.

Remember it's a three-way relationship between you, your child and the teacher. Only by working together can you help your child achieve full potential.

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Return of the Rodeo

Caitlin LaFarlette

The rodeo returns to the Greene County Fair this September and one Paragould native spent two years bringing it together.

Garrett Wise and his rodeo partner Cline Hall collaborated to bring a professional rodeo back to the fairgrounds and after two years of organizing, the two succeeded. The rodeo will debut Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. The 24-year-old, who is the assistant manager at MFA Agri Services, is responsible for working with sponsors and promoting the event.

"Cline puts on rodeos and bull riding events full-time year round but this is the first one I've had a hand in producing," Wise said. "It's been a learning curve but I'm excited to be able to help bring rodeo back to the Greene County Fair."

Aside from event promotion, Wise is a bullfighter in rodeos and keeps the riders safe, even if it means putting himself in harm's way. Wise said he gets to know the bulls well and can even tell how each one will buck, what direction they will spin and if they have a temper.

"These bulls are like any other animal. They know their job and love to put on a show," he added.



Wise's love for rodeo was instilled in him as a toddler when he would watch rodeos with his father. His favorite event was the bull riding and he said it was something he always wanted to try. As a child, Wise attended rodeos in Paragould and rode sheep in the Mutton Bustin' event. The day he graduated high school in 2010, Wise met a bullfighter who offered to let him try riding.

"The next week I went with him to a local rodeo and entered the bull riding," Wise said. "I got on a bull and bucked off so quick I can't even remember anything but climbing back up the fence."

After that, Wise was hooked to the adrenaline rush. For a year he continued to ride before realizing bull riding wasn't for him, so he moved on to bullfighting. Now he spends his time doing everything possible to distract bulls from fallen riders so they can get to safety.

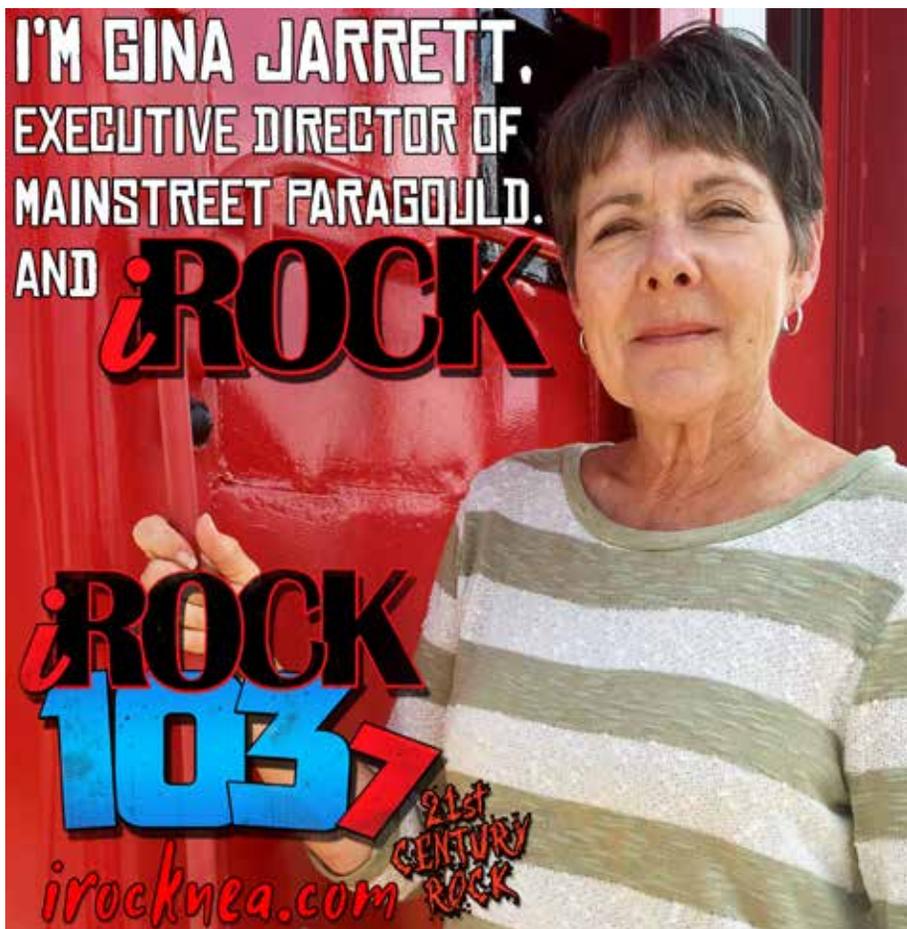
"It came pretty natural to me," he said.

Working rodeos has also led to special bonds between Wise and the other bullfighters in the arena. Together, they work to keep bulls off both the riders and fighters.

"If I get in trouble in the arena I expect my partner to be there," Wise said. "I have a lot of respect for my fellow bullfighters. I literally trust him with my life and safety, and he trusts me with his."

Rodeo isn't all riding and bullfighting, though. Wise said he is part of a goodhearted community that always works together for a common goal. Recently, Wise and Hall worked a local rodeo in Ash Flat to benefit a 3-year-old diagnosed with leukemia. In just two hours, \$3,500 was raised for the boy and his family.

"It was an awesome moment but I expected nothing less, because that's just what rodeo is all about; having fun and helping others," Wise said.





Mission Outreach Garden

Mission Outreach of NEA, Inc., held a formal dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony in Paragould for its new garden in July.

Mission Outreach partnered with Families, Inc. on the project this spring.

The garden is located on-site and provides fresh produce to use in the soup kitchen and to distribute through the food pantry. At the time of the dedication ceremony, more than 70 pounds of food had been produced for use at the Mission.

The partnership with Families, Inc. made the garden project possible. Working in the garden provides a therapeutic outlet to many mutual clients. The project was spearheaded by Jessie Interiano and Audrey Dobbins, two employees of Families, Inc.

Many others contributed to the garden, including Adams Nursery, Greene County Tech and Marmaduke high schools, Lafe First Baptist Church and the Paragould Young Professionals. Several people from those businesses and organizations helped out with donations and construction of the raised beds.



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BREASTFEEDING CLASS

Saturday, August 6

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

Professional Office Building at AMMC. AMMC sponsors a breastfeeding class that discusses the importance of breastfeeding, breast preparation, feeding techniques and positioning options for mother and baby. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail baby@arkansasmethodist.org for classroom location, pricing and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

MOMMY AND ME

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, August 8

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Second floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at AMMC. Arkansas Methodist Medical Center along with the Greene County Health Unit sponsors a monthly breastfeeding support group meeting for new and expectant mothers. This meeting is an opportunity for new and expectant mothers to meet other moms and share experiences. Greene County Health Unit's Leisa Kennedy, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, is available to teach and assist participants. For more information, call 236-7782.

CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION

Monday, August, 8, 15, 22 and 29
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. AMMC sponsors a childbirth preparation class series that provides detailed information about late pregnancy, preparing for labor and birth, comfort measures, Lamaze techniques (relaxation and breathing), importance of early skin-to-skin contact, medications,

anesthesia (including cesarean delivery), newborn characteristics and postpartum care while rooming in with your baby. A tour of labor and delivery and the mother/baby unit is included. This four-week class is offered to anyone who is expecting. Register early to ensure availability. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail baby@arkansasmethodist.org.

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Thursday, August 11

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

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CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION

Saturday August 13 and 20

10:00 a.m.-3:00 a.m.

Professional Office Building at AMMC. Detailed information about late pregnancy, preparing for labor and birth, comfort measures, Lamaze techniques (relaxation and breathing), importance of early skin-to-skin contact, medications, anesthesia (including cesarean delivery), newborn characteristics and postpartum care while rooming in with your baby. This two-week class is offered to anyone who is expecting. It is recommended to take the class when you are 5-8 weeks from your due date. Register early to ensure availability. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016

Save the Date for these upcoming events:

Men's Health Fair: Sept. 1st

Women's Health Fair: Oct. 6th

AMMC Golf Tournament

Sept. 8th

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary Awards Scholarships

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary recently awarded seven \$1,000 scholarships. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in an education program within the medical profession and be in the beginning of their second year of education in the medical field by August 2016. This year's scholarships were awarded to:

- *Sydney Markum* graduated from Greene County Tech High School in 2015. She is a student at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro where her major is Nursing. Her anticipated graduation date is May 2019. Her goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner and return to Paragould to continue her career.

- *Hannah Bryson* graduated from Paragould High School in 2015. She is a student at Arkansas State University- Jonesboro where her major is Biology/Pre-Med.

- *Rachel Tinsley* graduated from Paragould High School in 2013. She is a student at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro where she is majoring in Biology. She plans to graduate from ASU in 2017 and enter Medical School that same year.

- *Brandi Tinsley* graduated from Paragould High School in 2013. She is a student at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro where she is majoring in Biology. She plans to graduate from ASU in 2017 and enter Medical School that same year.

- *Taylor May* graduated from Greene County Tech High School in 2013. He is a student at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro where he is majoring in Nursing. His goal is to become a Registered Nurse (RN).

- *Sarah Freeman* graduated from Greene County Tech High School in 2013. She is a student at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro where she is majoring in

Communications Disorders-Audiology/Speech Language Pathology. Her anticipated graduation date is 2017.

- *Jill Taylor* graduated from Paragould High School in 2015. She is a student at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro where she is majoring in Biology. Her goal is to attend Medical School after graduating in 2019 and becoming a Family Practitioner.

The AMMC Auxiliary has been awarding scholarships to students in the community for more than 40 years. The scholarship is a one-time award to any one recipient with the funds sent directly to the educational institution the applicant attends at the time of registration. For more information on how to contribute to the AMMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, contact 239-7000 and ask to speak to a member of the Auxiliary.



Pictured are four of the seven students who received \$1,000 scholarships from the AMMC Auxiliary this year. Left to right are Sydney Markum, Hannah Bryson, Rachel Tinsley and Brandi Tinsley. Not pictured are Taylor May, Sarah Freeman and Jill Taylor.

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Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Awarded Three-Year Dual CARF Accreditations

CARF International (International Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) announced that Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has been accredited for a period of three years for the hospital's Adult Acute Inpatient Physical Rehabilitation and Stroke Specialty Programs. The latest accreditation is the sixth consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to AMMC.

This accreditation represents the highest level that can be awarded to an organization and shows its substantial conformance to the CARF

standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurability and accountability.

The Stroke Specialty Program is a partnership between the patient, the family/support system and Arkansas Methodist Medical Center that provides services that focus on prevention, minimizing impairment, reducing activity limitations and maximizing the participation and quality of life of persons who have sustained a stroke. This is the

third three-year period for AMMC to receive the Stroke Specialty Program accreditation.

AMMC is a non-profit organization located in Paragould and has been providing inpatient rehabilitation services in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri for 20 years with exceptional proven performance ratings meeting or exceeding national averages.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.



Pictured are some, but not all, of the inpatient rehab therapists and clinical staff that treat patients on the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

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Remembering Days on the Water

Chuck Long



**CHUCK
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Fish Commission

As usual, the Mercury 9.9 was not responsive to the pull cord. It took Granddad Long a few more cranks than he wanted but the motor finally sputtered and began to run. It was rough at first, but finally started providing the power to push our boat down Big Slough. We cruised across the pollen covered waters and made a left into the Lateral which connects Big Slough to the St. Francis River and within a few minutes he idled up to a likely looking limb above a log jam and tied us up and we were ready to fish.

We were after catfish, which was obvious as the smell of Doc's Stinkbait and worms filled the warm air around the boat. When we cast our rods the heavy weights made a loud "sploosh" and the waiting game began for a channel catfish to sniff his way to the stink bait, or for a flathead to inhale one of the large nightcrawlers.

The St. Francis River holds a special place for me as it was one of the key bodies of water of my youth. Catfishing with rod and reel as well as trotlines, bass fishing and crappie fishing all took place on the waters of that precious river. It seems as if we often drift away from those formative places of our youth but that river continues to provide great opportunities for outdoor recreation.

For most St. Francis anglers, catfish tend to rate at the top of the list, followed by spotted (Kentucky) bass. Crappie and bream provide action in some of the calmer sections of the river as well as the bar ditches and sloughs. Rough fish abound in the river and have provided many commercial fishermen a living from the murky waters. The river has an interesting and storied past, which will be covered in a later article, but for now let's talk about fishing.

Pursuing catfish with a rod and reel is one of the most common endeavors on the river. A basic setup consists of a rod and reel spooled with 15-20 pound monofilament. On the terminal end, slide a ½ ounce to one ounce sinker on the line, add a small ball bearing swivel and about 12 inches of leader. Tie on a #1/0 baitholder hook and bait with nightcrawlers, catalpa worms or minnows. If you want to focus on channel catfish, a dip worm or sponge and dip bait will provide great action. Favorites include Doc's and Sonny's but most all of those type baits will attract a hungry channel cat.

Bass fishing can be excellent on the St. Francis as well. Late summer and early fall when the water is low and starts to take a "green" tint is the prime time for bass. Kentuckies are the mainstay in the swift waters and they may not be the largest bass, but they provide lots of fight. Spinnerbaits, crankbaits and jig/pig combos will be good choices to catch these fish. They could be along tupelo banks or feeding in the swifter currents

around the logjams, so try different areas to pinpoint the prime location for the day.

Crappie and bream can also be caught with the usual baits. Look for calm water and eddies around logjams, current breaks and trees or fish in one of the many bar pits or backouts along the river.

Access to the river in or near Greene County can be found at the Big Slough access. Launch and then head south in Big Slough to the Lateral which leads to the river. There is also an access at the Highway 412 bridge, as well as many unimproved ramps along the river. Please be sure to gain permission before using these, as some are on private property. A new landing has been constructed at Dement Landing. To access this ramp turn north onto Highway 139 from Highway 412 just east of Big Slough, travel about ¾ of a mile and then turn onto the St. Francis River levee. Go approximately 2.5 miles north to a road on the right that leads to the access. There are also other access points in Clay and Craighead counties; check www.agfc.com or call the AGFC Regional Office at (870)972-5438 for more information on other access areas.

I hope you will get out and enjoy this great treasure of Greene County. See you on the water!

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Marvin Exum First Responders Lunch

The second annual Marvin Exum First Responders Lunch was held at the Paragould Community Center, presented by M. F. Block Insurance, Strategi and Transportation Insurance Specialists.

Kirk Cupp, a partner at M.F. Block Insurance, Strategi and Transportation Insurance, said the event is named after a supporter of first responders because, "Marvin Exum had a big heart for law enforcement, fire and rescue and all of our first responders. We wanted to continue this in honor of him."

Exum's son, Sergeant Michael Exum, was presented with the first Marvin Exum Memorial First Responders Award during the ceremony, a presentation that will become an annual event, according to organizers.

"This event was very near and dear to my dad's heart," Exum said. "It's important to all of us because it represents and honors all of the first responders that serve our community. Police, fire, rescue, EMS and all of the volunteers are here. And it's very important for this group. They deserve it. They work hard each and every day tirelessly to serve the community. We're all servants here. That's what we're called to do, and it's an honor to be here."

Cupp said the lunch was an opportunity to show appreciation to all first responders and to acknowledge their efforts to keep community members safe and protected.

Sgt. Exum said the men and women making up the audience that day "are not here for the money, we're not here for the fame, but we really sure appreciate the support that our community has given us back."

He also said he is "humbled" to receive the first award named for his late father. "He believed in serving others," Exum said. "I'm proud of his legacy."

John 3:16 Ministries provided the food for the catered luncheon.



First responders applauding as Michael Exum approaches the podium



Award recipient Michael Exum



Christie Matthews-Mink presenting award to Michael Exum.



Members of John 3:16 serving guests.

Bullying

By Amber Ellis

One of the biggest issues our students face both in and outside of the classroom today is bullying. According to www.dosomething.org, over 3 million students are victims of bullying every year. These incidences include verbal, social, physical, and cyber bullying. While the word "bully" has become a common word in everyday language, do students really know what bullying is?

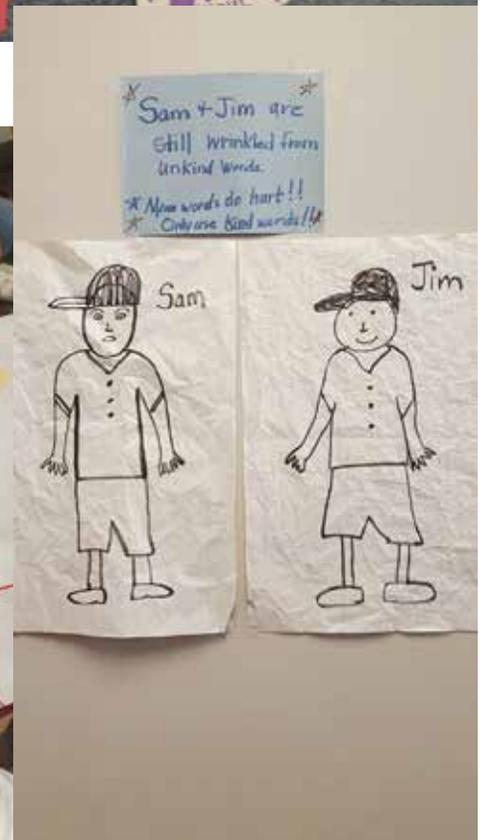
When asked the question, "What is a bully?" students enrolled in the Augusta-based 21st Century Community Learning Centers program at the ARcare Center for Education and Wellness shared the following descriptions about bullies: "Bullies threaten, hit, hurt with their words, and act mean."

After reading the book *Race Against Bullying*, by Matt Kenseth, students were asked to participate in a bullying survey. The majority reported they have either been the victim of bullying or have actually bullied someone else. Students were surprised to find out that even teasing can be considered a form of bullying.

One activity in which students participated involved the make-believe characters of Sam and Jim, two young boys made out of construction paper. Students acted out the role of a bully, saying things that would be hurtful to Sam and Jim. Each time something hurtful was said, the teacher would crumple up Sam and Jim. Students were then asked to fix Sam and Jim; they straightened, flattened, and smoothed as much as they could, but the deep wrinkles from the hurtful words remained.

After spending quite a bit of time this summer participating in activities to promote social wellness, especially as it relates to issues like bullying, Farren Thomas, a sixth-grade student at Augusta Elementary School defined the word bully by stating, "A bully is someone who picks on someone else over and over."

Other anti-bullying activities focused on when, how, and to whom bullying should be reported. The ACEW 21CCLC program will continue to tackle the issue of bullying during the upcoming school year through literacy, technology, social wellness, and mentoring activities.



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Success Story

Erica Swallow

By Richard Brummett

Erica Swallow has taken a rather circuitous route to her current position, but she's convinced the journey has been well worth it. As VP of Product at Noble Impact, an Arkansas-based social enterprise that aims to provide every student with a relevant and purpose-driven education, Erica is provided the opportunity to share her passion with the younger generation.

"The key is convincing them education is the one thing that can make a difference in life," she said of her current efforts. "Education is always good."

A 2005 graduate of Paragould High School, Erica said she was involved in typical teen activities like "band and dance team, but then suddenly I'm off to NYU studying International Business and Marketing. I stayed in New York for seven years, then moved on to Boston for grad school ... got my MBA and now years later here I am back in Arkansas in education. In New York I was in the media industry and marketing, and I'm excited about the journey that has led me here. I'm a first generation college student. I lived in Paragould or Jonesboro or in the woods in Brookland in the middle of nowhere. I had a lot of free time at home in the woods."

To pass the time, Erica did a lot of reading and often checked out the magazine section when in area stores. She was intrigued by the makeup of the magazines, from the theme and construction of ads to the composition of the actual feature items in print.

"I thought, 'Who is writing this stuff?' I wanted to know who. I was getting some good advice on staying healthy or how to ask a boy out, but who was writing this?"

"And I was intrigued by the ads. They made an impression on me. That's what brought me to New York and International Business and Marketing. My first job was in the NYU marketing and research lab." She eventually landed at the New York Times implementing social media strategy but realized, "I was really interested in magazines, the communication aspect. Whether writing or advertising, you were creating a message. You could reach so many people. I liked writing. I had a three-year career that was very fast-paced. I wrote articles for Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, Entrepreneur, The Huffington Post." And there were other stops along the way. Her resume lists varied and

impressive stints such as the director of community for tech startup Contently, where she managed online and offline community building. She also managed the highly successful supported content program for tech news site Mashable and has worked on a number of projects with teams at TechStars, WeHostels, Saatchi & Saatchi, and New York University, and is the co-founder of peer-to-peer delivery app Deliverish.



At Noble Impact, an educational initiative started three years ago, she draws on her experience to help students "define who they are. We're setting them up for the real world after high school. It's project-based learning, solving problems. We're working on problem solving skills, giving them purpose, pairing up with community partners. We toss out a problem and they try to solve it. We don't steer students in any direction. We talk about what they are interested in, then look for apprenticeship opportunities and teach them the necessary skills. Examples are the Discovery Science Museum, a design firm, a photographer, ACH and a pharmacy. Basically, it's go find a position, what are you interested in?"

She said education is the key to opportunity. "We encourage the kids to think about their own personal story for their lives," she said. "Think about civic responsibility. Think about being a community member. We might present a challenge to students or they might come up with their own ... industry-related. They get on-the-job experience and enforce where they want to be."

Erica said her message for the young people of today is to "dream big and once you make it to where you're going, keep going. The thing that comes next is what is coming closer to what you actually want to do. 'I'm just a poor girl from Paragould who got to where I am today, capable of changing the education system. Don't settle for now.'"

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New Exchange Zones Designated for Area Residents

The Leadership Jonesboro class of 2016, in partnership with the City of Jonesboro, Jonesboro Police and the Fire Department, has initiated a new program called the City of Jonesboro Swap Spot. Created in the spring of 2016, this initiative works to address safety and awareness concerns regarding internet-based purchases from websites such as Craigslist, the various local Facebook groups, or simply any other item advertised for sale from an individual, regardless of the source of the advertised sale. These safe zones allow a location for child custody exchanges as well.

Swap Spots provide residents a safe place for prospective buyers and sellers to meet and complete their transaction. Below are the five new designated areas in Jonesboro.

· Police Station – now open)	1001 S. Caraway Rd (24-hour video surveillance)
· Fire Station #1	3215 E. Johnson Ave. (coming soon)
· Fire Station #2	1413 W. Nettleton Ave. (coming soon)
· Fire Station #3	2212 Brazos St. (coming soon)
· Justice Complex	410 W. Washington Ave. (coming soon)

Swap Spots are clearly marked with signage and are available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The zones are well-lit and the police station location at Caraway Road is under video surveillance at all times, providing extra protection to the public. Although there will not be an officer present for the transactions, it is believed the ability to arrange to meet at the police and fire departments in an area designated for this purpose will deter those wanting to engage in theft or fraudulent activity.

“While many websites, including those previously mentioned, are very

credible and are heavily utilized, their popularity makes them an easy target for criminal activity from online predators. The police station is pleased to partner with Leadership Jonesboro, the City of Jonesboro and the fire stations to offer a safer alternative and a secure location available for Jonesboro residents to help enhance safety and minimize the opportunity for an encounter to go wrong,” said Jonesboro Public Police Chief Rick Elliott.

“Many forms of local exchange zones are popping up all over the country in cities similar to Jonesboro as demand grows with these popular online selling websites. We thought bringing these to Jonesboro would be a perfect fit and would enhance the quality of life to Jonesboro residents and those living in nearby towns in Northeast Arkansas that often travel to Jonesboro,” said Leadership Jonesboro member Jennifer Bell.

If you have any questions about the Jonesboro Swap Spot initiative, contact the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce at (870) 932-6691, the Jonesboro Police Department at (870) 933-4600 or visit www.jonesboropolice.org/community-outreach/swapspot.

About Leadership Jonesboro

Leadership Jonesboro is a program from the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce and is designed to identify, educate, and motivate potential leaders to become involved in the future of the Jonesboro community. The nine-month program held each year has full day sessions, which are held twice each month and focus on various sectors of the local economy. Members are strongly encouraged after participating in the program to use their specific abilities to give back to the local economy and to grow more involved in the local professional network. For more information visit, www.jonesborochamber.com or call the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce at (870) 932-6691.



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Mud Volleyball

K13, a full-service technology firm in Jonesboro, will host the 3rd annual K13 Fall Mud Ball Tournament on the fields of Mootown Grill and Corn Maze in Brookland on Saturday, August 27.

Approximately 250 participants are expected to attend and teams hope to raise more than \$5,000 at this year's event, which would more than double the amount raised last year. All proceeds will benefit St. Bernard's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"We (K13) are excited to bring this event back to the community this year," said Shannon Moore, owner of K13. "I personally played in the mud for the 2014 and 2015 tournaments and it was a blast. The fact that it benefits a really awesome organization is what makes this competition so wonderful. Having the state-of-the-art St. Bernard's NICU here in Northeast Arkansas has been incredibly important to so many families. We are proud to be able to help support St. Bernard's and would like to invite everyone to come out and join us."



Last year, the event had over 150 participants on 19 teams and raised \$3,000. This year the goal is to raise twice that much, and engage more of the community.

Dana Lands, Nursing Director at St. Bernard's NICU stated, "We opened the only newborn intensive care unit in Northeast Arkansas in 2012 with just 6 beds ... seeing babies 32 weeks and above. We are now 12 beds with a step down unit available. We are currently seeing babies as early as 27 weeks and about 2 lbs. We have added a second Neonatologist to our team along with several other specially trained staff members. We are advancing our technology and care for these babies every day. Our goal at St. Bernard's is to keep these critically ill newborns and their families close to home and thanks to the outpouring of support from our community and gracious people like those at K13, we have been able to do just that for over 500 babies from all over our region. On behalf of St. Bernard's Medical Center, the NICU team, our precious patients and their families ... thank you!"

The tournament will be held at Mootown Grill and Corn Maze on Hwy. 49 N, County Road 768 in Brookland. Individuals interested in participating can register online at www.fallmudball.com. Registration fee is \$250 per team of 6-8 players. The games start at 9:00 a.m. and there will be a mud pit for kids and other fun activities available. Immediately following the last game there will be an awards ceremony.

Individuals interested in participating can register on line at fallmudball.com.

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City Youth Ministries

When City Youth Ministries' new Executive Director Denise Snider decided the group needed to look at a fundraising event with an opportunity to showcase the youth of the area, the idea of a sports banquet turned into a huge event honoring the "Best Under the Sun Athletes."

Many area athletes, their families and coaches, and community businesses and leaders attended the first-time event at Arkansas State University's Centennial Hall in July. Jonesboro Leadership Class Group C proudly served the committee and helped with seating guests. Athletes received plaques and the crowd was inspired by ASU men's basketball coach, Grant McCasland.

With a mission of, "Developing Christ followers while building strength, wisdom and character in young people," City Youth Ministries has a vision of improving family engagement, enhancing community responsibility, advancing academic achievement to improve college and career access and success, and building positive social support systems for at-risk youth.

For more information see cityyouthmin.com.



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Bailey Williams

Motivated Teen

Richard Brummett

While some teens struggle with figuring out what the future holds, Bailey Williams of Marmaduke seems to have a definite plan in motion.

Bailey, 18, and a 2016 MHS graduate, will enroll at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, beginning work toward a masters degree in Communications Science and Disorders. It is the path she has taken toward that decision that is interesting.

"I have two brothers who have speech problems," she explained. "One of them stutters real badly and I have helped them with that while they are growing up. I decided that's what I wanted to do. I want to help people if there's any way I can."

However, that's only part of the story and a small part of what makes Bailey the person she is. While in high school she jumped full force into the Future Business Leaders of America program, approaching Tina Vangilder, Adviser for the Marmaduke chapter, about the prospects of running for the office of District Secretary. District II, according to information provided by her adviser, encompasses thirteen counties and all of the high schools contained within that broad area. Bailey campaigned in January of 2015 during the district spring conference and won, serving from June of 2015 to May of 2016, her senior year.

Going a step further, she decided to run for a state office position in April 2015 at the State Leadership Conference in Little Rock and won again. That effort involved giving a speech in front of almost 3,000 people at the Little Rock Convention Center and running a campaign booth while also competing on the state level in her FBLA event.

"When I was a sophomore at FBLA nationals, I saw all it had to offer and just went for it," Bailey said. "As far as becoming an officer, at District it's just a speech and making a poster. For Nationals it's a speech in front of 3,000 people and you have to set up a campaign booth for a couple of days. When I first started, I was nervous to get up in front of a bunch of strangers and make a speech but now I'm so used to it that it doesn't bother me. It has definitely helped me as far as speaking in front of groups and it will help me with my job in the future."

But she's still not done. This summer marked the third year that Bailey has attended the FBLA National Leadership Conference (NLC), gaining special permission from the Arkansas FBLA State office to register and attend the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) NLC, the college-level equivalent of FBLA. Why? Because she intends to run for a PBL officer position this fall at UCA. "I went to PBL to make sure I wanted to do that," she explained. "I had to get permission because normally only those who are competing are the only ones allowed to go, and I was too old to compete. I wanted to check out PBL to see if I wanted to run for Nationals next year

and I think I can do that. The PBL adviser and I have 'back-and-forthed' a little bit.

"It's just much bigger ... speaking to about 12,000 people instead of 3,000," she added.

All crafted with future plans in mind, preparing herself to be in front and be a leader. She is quick to credit others for helping shape the plan she sees unfolding.

"My brothers had a lot to do with it," she said, "because working with them is rewarding. And Miss Vangilder has been such a big help. I couldn't have possibly done it without her. She had to sign off on everything and say, 'Okay, go for it.' Any time I was an officer, she had to go, too, so she's put a lot of time into helping me get to where I am."

Bailey is the daughter of Jamie Williams and Chris Williams.



August

2016 Kids' Events

03, 10, 17, 24, 31

Story Time

When: Every Wednesday, 10:30 AM

Where: Greene County Library
120 N 12th Street, Paragould

Cost: Free

Info: www.mylibrarynow.org

5, 12

Family Friday Movies

When: Every Friday, 2 PM

Where: Jonesboro Library
315 W Oak Ave

Cost: Free

Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org

4

Doodle Marathon

When: August 4th

Where: Jonesboro Library
315 W Oak Ave

Cost: Free

Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org



It's almost time for kids to head back to the classroom and Madden Russom looks right at home behind the desk as the first day of school nears. Madden, 10, is the daughter of Kevin and Brandi Newsom, and Brandon and Heather Russom of Paragould.

Back to College in Northeast Arkansas

Anthony Childress

Education is considered the gateway to knowledge and bountiful career options, and Northeast Arkansas offers would-be students a number of higher educational choices.

From Arkansas State University-Jonesboro to Black River Technical College, those seeking better opportunities are sure to find exactly the right fit.

Wolves Up!

Since 1909, Arkansas State has been attracting degree-seekers from various fields of study. Whether you want to become an agricultural consultant, teacher, journalist, engineer or nurse, the home of the Red Wolves stands ready to give you the tools necessary to prepare and be ready for that all-important job search.

“Step onto our globally connected campus, and you can sense the excitement, literally a world of new connections, relationships and endless possibilities unfold right before your eyes,” the school’s website states. “Our students come from almost every state in the United States and from nearly 60 countries. Once they arrive on our campus, they come together to create a vibrant, ever-changing, diverse community where lively conversations lead to enduring friendships.”

Fall 2015 enrollment topped 13,000, marking an increase over the previous year. Courses are also available online and in the classroom at ASU’s Paragould campus.

ASU features 172 degree programs, along with 57 minors and more than 6,500 classes to select from year to year. On top of that, the Jonesboro campus is home to 300-plus organizations and clubs, including fraternities and sororities, student government, honor societies, religious groups and a host of others. And, of course, football weekends at Centennial Bank Stadium are reserved for cheering on the Red Wolves.

For more information regarding tuition and fees, visit www.astate.edu or call the main number at (870) 972-2100.

ASU-Newport

Founded in 1976 as White River Vocational Technical School, more than 2,400 students attend Arkansas State University-Newport and its campuses in Jonesboro and Marked Tree.

ASUN was named one of the ten top growth public two-year colleges by Community College Week magazine in 2005. Its programs range from commercial driver training, hospitality services and diesel

technology to liberal arts. It also offers adult education and economic and workforce development training.

The school’s philosophy can be summed up by Jeremy Shirley, director of marketing.



“You know your destination; you just need a way to get there,” he said. “ASU-Newport is your guide on a life changing journey. With robust course offerings plus three extraordinary campuses in Northeast Arkansas, your education is practically at your doorstep. We take pride in keeping overall costs low and standards very high, because education is a powerful tool, not a status symbol.”

Shirley added that having “talented faculty and a variety of career training options” makes ASUN an ideal higher education destination.

For additional information about tuition and fees, visit www.asun.edu or call the Newport campus at (870) 512-7800, Jonesboro campus at (870) 932-2176 or Marked Tree campus at (870) 358-2117.

Arkansas Northeastern College

For more than six decades, Arkansas Northeastern College (formerly Mississippi County Community College before merging with Cotton Boll Technical Institute in 2003) has reached students through its main campus in Blytheville, along with facilities in Burdette and Paragould.

ANC states that it offers “the lowest tuition cost in the state of Arkansas” on its website. Enrolled students take courses on the flagship site, Burdette, Paragould, Leachville, Osceola and other Mississippi County locales. The school serves another 2,500 students via its non-credit and adult education programs.

For more information about tuition and fees, visit www.anc.edu or contact the Paragould campus at (870) 239-3200.

Black River Technical College

Location is one of the chief factors Black River Technical College has used to draw students from surrounding areas to its main campus in Pocahontas and the second one in Paragould. The school first opened in 1972 as Black River Vocational Technical School and counts 3,000 students on its rolls each year.

Programs offered include agriculture, automotive service, fire science and health professions, medical coding, paramedic and

welding, along with a host of others. In addition, the Pocahontas campus is home to the Law Enforcement Training Academy. BRTC also utilizes articulation agreements (for students to transfer credits, etc.) with Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech University and Southern Arkansas University, among others.

“Our students are the reason we are here,” Ann Savage, director of marketing and public relations, said. “Putting them first is our priority.”

More information, including tuition and fees, is available at www.blackrivertech.org or by calling the Paragould campus at (870) 239-0969 or the Pocahontas campus at (870) 248-4000.

Crowley’s Ridge College

Founded in 1964, Crowley’s Ridge College is a four-year Christian, community-oriented institution sitting on 150 acres of rolling hills, pine trees and a small lake in Paragould. As of this fall, it will offer 13 degrees (10 bachelor and three associate).

Students can attain degrees in fields like biblical studies, ministry, accounting, Christian leadership and management, marketing and business administration, among others.

Outside the classroom, students are able to enjoy activities including drama, intramural sports, choral music, retreats, backpacking, canoeing and ski trips. CRC has competed in athletics as a member of the National Collegiate Christian College Athletic Association in its central region division one, but has been accepted as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) as of July 1 this year. Men’s and women’s teams compete in sports like basketball and golf (men) and volleyball (women), among others.

“CRC’s academic program is designed to integrate spiritual life, service and scholarship,” said Ken Hoppe, school president. “Students benefit from small class sizes and extraordinary amount of personal attention from faculty, staff and administrators. Over 500 students are now counted among CRC’s alumni and have enjoyed the ‘special’ experience available on the CRC campus.”

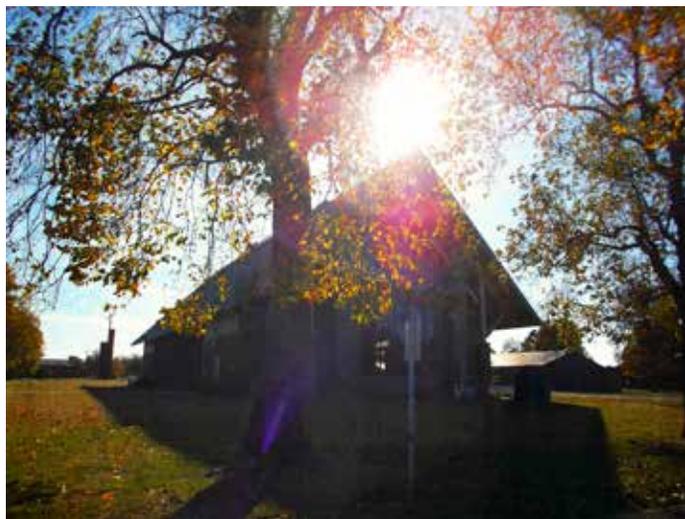
Online courses are part of the broader experience these days, with over 40 now available.

For additional information pertaining to tuition and fees, visit www.crc.edu or call (870) 236-6901.



Three Rivers Community College

Voters from four Missouri bootheel counties – Butler, Carter, Ripley and Wayne – approved creation of then-Three Rivers Junior College District in 1966. Its main campus is in Poplar Bluff and the TRCC system has 3,700 students pursuing career technical, college transfer, developmental and continuing education courses, according to the school’s website.



Areas of study range from social work, mass communication and business education to diversified technology, forensic science and paramedic, among others. In addition to its flagship campus, Three Rivers has in-district centers located in Cape Girardeau, Dexter, Kennett, Malden, Portageville and Sikeston.

For information on tuition and fees, visit www.trcc.edu or call the Poplar Bluff campus at (573) 840-9605, Dexter campus at (573) 614-1081, Kennett campus at (573) 888-6381, Malden campus at (573) 276-3529 or Sikeston campus at (573) 472-5223.

Williams Baptist College

Owned and operated by the Arkansas State Baptist Convention, Williams is a “four-year, Christian, liberal arts college,” according to its website.

The school has about 600 students seeking over 25 major fields of study and pre-professional programs. It boasts a 14-to-1 student-teacher ratio and offers a “warm, Christ-centered environment.”

According to Grace Stolz, WBC’s coordinator of public relations, the school offers not only academic, spiritual and extracurricular activities, but something even more tangible. “A Williams education prepares students for their career and for life,” Stolz stated.

WBC has been ranked in the top tier of Southern colleges and universities by US News and World Report magazine. Southern Baptist College was founded in 1941 by Dr. H.E. Williams, in Pocahontas but relocated six years later to a former military base near Walnut Ridge. It attained four-year status in 1984.

The name changed to Williams Baptist College in 1991.

Additional information, including tuition and fees, can be found at www.wbcoll.edu or by calling (870) 886-6741.

Teacher of the Year

Richard Brummett



Wendy Blankenship said she was surprised when she was named *Premiere Magazine's* Outstanding Teacher for the month of April. "When you told me I was, I thought, 'My goodness, how in the world did that happen?' Now, I'm really caught off guard. I work with some great teachers, myself, and know there are excellent teachers at all the schools, so I feel really blessed."

The last bit of emotion she's discussing is related to learning of her selection as the Outstanding Teacher of the Year by *Premiere* readers.

"I really don't know what to say," she offered. "I think maybe people can tell I'm interested in really teaching a child, in making sure they learn. When that's your approach, you are willing to go the extra mile, and to give a child the benefit of the doubt."

Wendy has been teaching for more than 20 years and is currently the math, science and Social Studies instructor for third- and fourth-graders at Oak Grove Elementary School. She said she can't pinpoint exactly what made students, parents and co-workers vote for her, but hopes her selection is a reflection of her approach to work.

"I guess because I'm loyal, possibly," she said. "I treat the kids with the same respect that I treat adults with. Each year when they first show up in my room, they are my kiddies and I love them. Maybe others see that."

"For me, teaching is not just a job. It's my passion, my calling." One day four years ago a student transferred out of her class and almost immediately she was given another one. That day stands out as a personal, touching experience for her when she recalls seeing the young man for the first time.

"My husband and I been married for several years with no kids," she said of her home life with her spouse, Chris. "We can't have children but that's okay. This was Valentine's Day four years ago and we knew entering foster care was the only way for us to have children of our own. So went through that and now I can tell people that women usually carry a child for nine months but we went through an 18-month process, and now he's my son."

"He" is Gage, the little boy who had walked into her room that day. He's 14 now, and was 10 when he first found his place in Wendy's classroom.

"This little boy who walked into my room to replace the student I had lost ... little did I know then that one day he'd be mine," Wendy said.

"When I was young I had teachers who used to tell us personal stories and that was when I realized they had everyday lives, too," Wendy added. "So now I do it with my students, and my kids are not like little kids to me, they're my equals."

As she prepares to begin another school year, Wendy has taken time to reflect on what winning the recognition from *Premiere* and from voters means to her.

"I certainly appreciate this and I am honored," she said. "I really mean that -- I am honored."

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY



Oak Grove
ELEMENTARY



Living a Better Story

Jared Pickney



One of the scariest things that happens in life is having kids. I will never forget the day Meagan and I brought our firstborn home. It hit me that I was now responsible for keeping this little human alive.

Now that my daughter is ready to start school, I have a whole list of other concerns. Will Nora be able to make friends? Will she be able to learn everything? Will she be safe? Parenting can definitely be scary. But it is also beautiful.

“Therefore, in our quest to raise healthy children we should look to change ourselves before trying to change them.”

In Psalm 127 we read that children are a gift from God and as parents we get to draw out their God-given potential. What an awesome opportunity. With that in mind, let me suggest FOUR practical tips for making the most of the time you have with your children.

1. Start With Leading Yourself. For better or for worse, your children are learning from you. Therefore, in our quest to raise healthy children we should look to change ourselves before trying to change them.

2. Love AND Like Your Kids. One of the most important things you can give your children is yourself. Most kids know their parents love them. Fewer know their parents like them. Eliminate this concern in your kids by getting involved in their world. Ask questions that show interest in their lives. Be a good listener. Play and eat together. Make sure your children know you enjoy them.

3. Be Transparent. We don't want our kids repeating the mistakes we have made. Therefore, we might feel the need to present ourselves to our kids as better than we really are. When this happens the problem is two-fold; not only do we keep kids from wanting to be real with us, but we also crush them with unrealistic expectations.

4. Remember There Are No Perfect Parents. My wife and I pray regularly for our children because we know we need a help that is beyond us. We rest in our mistakes by trusting in a perfect Heavenly Father who loves our kids even more than we do.

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It all adds up to Teacher

Caitlin LaFarlette

Since the sixth grade, Jackie Hale knew she wanted to teach math one day. Every post secondary decision after that was based on her desire to teach and she is now entering her 38th year.

"Teaching is all I ever wanted to do," Hale said.

During sixth grade, Hale said she was allowed to tutor classmates in math and she became certain she wanted her own math classroom someday. Her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Robinson at Bono Elementary, was influential in her decision.

"Two other teachers that have a special place in my heart are Mr. Darr, my eighth grade math teacher, and Mr. Miller, my Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II teacher," she added.

Hale attended college at Arkansas State University and said her

math professors, Drs. Linnstader, Bishop, Gazic and Tangeman, gave priceless encouragement as she worked to complete her degree as a single parent while working full time. She now holds a BSE in mathematics, an MS in mathematics, a minor in Physics and a BS in Computer Science.

In 1979, Hale began her teaching journey as a sixth- and seventh-grade math teacher at Annie Camp Middle School, where she stayed for five years. She moved to ASU in 1984 before transferring to Jonesboro High School in 1986. After a year she moved to MacArthur Junior High to teach science, geometry and eighth grade math. In 1991 she transitioned back to JHS, where she has been for the past 25 years.

"The students I taught my first year are turning 50 years old now," Hale said. "I am currently teaching with Marsha (Light) Isbill who was in the very first class I ever taught."

Hale added several of her recent students are second generation for her, as she taught their parents. And the students are her favorite part of teaching. When asked what she teaches Hale always responds, "Students."

"My intention is not to be ugly but to make the point that I teach students first, then I teach math," she said.

At JHS, Hale said the teachers are committed to helping every student succeed and decisions made by the administration are based on the students' best interests. In addition, the school's diversity helps prepare the students for diversity they will encounter in the workplace.

When Hale isn't teaching she spends her summers with family working to plant, hoe and grow a sorghum crop. She is a fourth generation sorghum cane grower and cooker, and in the fall harvests, squeezes and cooks the sorghum cane. To her, working with her family to keep a tradition alive is "a part of Heaven on Earth."

Hale spends her time in the classroom viewing her job as her ministry. She strives to be kind and fair to each student and tries to have a personal relationship with them. "They may not learn a lot of math but my hope is that they will like math when they leave my classroom," she said. "My ultimate goal is that my students will see a bit of God in my behavior and have a desire to know Him more."

Hale stresses to her students she teaches because it is the only thing she has ever wanted to do. She said she wants them to also understand she chooses to be with them because she values them as individuals.

"I could have chosen another path but I feel that I was called to teach," she said. "My career has been amazing. I surely hope that I have helped my students to achieve their personal and spiritual goals."



Arkansas Broadcasters Association

Awards

MOR Media Radio Stations recently collected three awards during the Arkansas Broadcasters Association Convention in Little Rock.

KDRS-FM, better known as 107.1 JACK FM, claimed the Outstanding Production Award, Medium Market, for advertising copy development and production by MOR Media's Leisa Rae for Nebo Auto Center in Jonesboro.

iRock 103nine (now at 103.7) won the Medium Market award for Best Station Promotion for the Best Liked Bands contest held in conjunction with the Northeast Arkansas District Fair in Jonesboro. KDRS-FM also won the Medium Market Community Service award for promotion and commercial production for the first-ever Charity Stripe event that raised more than \$11,000 for Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas.

This was the fifth year in a row that MOR Media has won awards at ABA: one in 2012, two awards each in 2013 and 2014, and this is the second year in a row for MOR Media to sweep all three categories.

In addition to JACK FM and iROCK, MOR Media also operates JILL @ 99 dot 3 as well as Premiere Magazine and NEA Seniors Magazine. Find complete information online at mormediainc.com.



MOR Media's Brian Osborn and Jeremy Biggs of Mission Outreach.



Leisa Rae shares the winning plaque with members of NEBO crew.



Leisa Rae and MOR Media's Dina Mason display the ABA awards.

Thanks Paragould

for voting

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Brandie Lieblong

Ride for the Cure Honoree

Brandie Lieblong Named Honoree for Arkansas Ride for the Cure

Bikers scheduled to take to the roads for the 2016 Arkansas Ride for the Cure on Saturday, July 30, were to ride in honor of Brandie Lieblong of Jonesboro. Proceeds from the eighth annual Arkansas Ride for the Cure will benefit Susan G. Komen.

Lieblong, a one-year cancer survivor, is a physical therapist who works in the Total Life Healthcare program at St. Bernards. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in August of 2015, and embarked on a journey to wellness with the help of the St. Bernards cancer care team. She has had radiation and chemotherapy treatments as well as surgery and is looking forward to the time when treatments are all behind her.

“Being diagnosed with cancer really opened my eyes to the fact that anyone can have breast cancer, and in an instant, life can change,” Lieblong said. “As a physical therapist I always have been a giver and a pleaser of the most committed kind. So being on the receiving end has been very challenging.

“This journey truly has been a new exercise for me. It has greatly strengthened my faith and has allowed me to inspire others,” she continued. “The unity of the medical staff, family, friends and the Jonesboro community have helped me with each step of this journey.”

The 2016 Arkansas Ride for the Cure is a recreational ride for cyclists and includes three different routes – a 20-mile, a 45-mile and a 62-mile gravel grinder route. Cyclists of all abilities can find a route that works for them. All routes begin and end in downtown Jonesboro.

Ride sponsors include Associated Radiologists, Brickhouse, Gearhead, Ground Crew, St. Bernards, Stearns Racing and Susan G. Komen.



Brandie Lieblong of Jonesboro was named the honoree for the 2016 Arkansas Ride for the Cure.

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Champions Gymnastics Turns 30

2016 marks 30 years since Champions Gymnastics Center in Paragould first opened its doors and the gym shows no signs of slowing down.

"It is honestly hard to believe it has been 30 years," owners Bill and Sharon Grogan said. We started out small and grew with Paragould. In 2010 Champions almost doubled the size of the gym and now have a recreational gym and a team gym.

The couple opened CGC after Bill graduated from Arkansas State University with a physical education degree with the intention to teach P.E. and coach football. He said he did not find a job immediately and was encouraged by his father to open a small gymnastics center until another job opportunity came up. "The gym was initially intended to be part time and then as the years went by, I felt as if this was my calling and never looked back," he said.

Bill started flipping in his backyard as a child after watching gymnasts on television. His hobby evolved into teaching at the community center and during his years at ASU he joined the cheerleading team.

CGC has turned into a family business for the Grogans since opening. Bill and Sharon's sons, Robert and Lee, also coach at the center. They are both the highest level gymnasts in Arkansas and have competed statewide, regionally and nationally. Bill and Sharon said Robert plans to move into management at CGC in the future.

For their 30th year, the Grogan team plans to have a celebration this fall. The family recognizes hard work, dedication and perseverance as the main reasons CGC has remained in business.

"I feel like God has blessed us tremendously and has always provided for our needs in the business," Bill said.

The success of CGC has created countless relationships between staff and those who attend classes. Bill and Sharon said gymnastics is a big



family and their motto is "begin here, go anywhere." The pair believes gymnastics teaches not only fitness, but goal setting, time management and dedication. Many of their students have stayed on as coaches or chosen gymnastics or cheerleading as careers.

For the future, the Grogans simply plan to continue to provide a quality center that meets the needs of the community. They said they not only strive to impact students in a positive way, but their families as well.

"We want to make sure our students see that fitness can be fun and encourage them to make it an important part of their lives," Bill said.



Deals Hotter than Summer!

Glen Sain Ford

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GOD BLESS *our* TROOPS

The advertisement features a bright yellow Ford Mustang driving on a road. The text "Deals Hotter than Summer!" is prominently displayed in the top left. The dealership name "Glen Sain Ford" is written in a stylized font across the bottom right, with the Ford logo. At the bottom, the slogan "GOD BLESS our TROOPS" is written, with "our" in a cursive font. Contact information is provided in the bottom left corner.



Jerry's Steaks

Caitlin LaFarlette

It's a hole-in-the-wall restaurant that is almost easy to miss, but the delicious meals behind the doors of Jerry's Steakhouse in Trumann are worth the drive.

Jerry's has been in business since 1981 and meals are cooked on a grill set back into a former fireplace. Jerry Pillow opened the restaurant and retired in 2000, and his son Tracy and daughter-in-law Kellie took his place. They worked to grow the lunch menu and renovated the building to double the seating capacity.

The atmosphere of Jerry's seems like a standard Southern bar with dim lighting and quirky signs hanging everywhere, but the accommodating staff will put you at ease, making it the perfect place to relax with a beer after a long day.

The ribeye steak is the suggested meal at Jerry's, and for a good reason. I asked for mine to be cooked medium-rare and actually got my food cooked correctly. My knife cut through the meat like butter and the steak was juicy and seasoned to perfection. While I could have easily inhaled the steak there was more food piled on my plate to pay attention to.

The meal comes with a baked potato and some side vegetables, a full plate of food for less than \$20. In addition, I ordered a side of mushrooms and received a heaping bowl of the vegetable. Service was quick and I had plenty to take home with me for lunch the next day.

There is so much to take in at Jerry's, from the funny décor to the cooks searing up steaks in the former fireplace. Don't let the location discourage you from trying it out. Take a Friday night to make the drive and indulge in Jerry's famous steaks!



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Jonesboro Power Breakfast

The July Power Breakfast in Jonesboro, hosted by St. Bernards Health & Wellness, was staged at the Hilton Garden Inn and featured Arkansas State University head football coach Blake Anderson as the guest speaker.

The Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce schedules the Power Breakfast gathering every other month on the first Wednesday. Chamber members found time prior to and after Anderson's presentation to visit and trade ideas at the breakfast meeting.



Downtown Paragould Taste of the Ridge

Downtown Paragould will host what Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, calls "something really, really different" later this month when the "Taste of the Ridge" is held at The Crossing, located at 101 South Pruett Street.

A fundraising event for Main Street Paragould, the "Taste of the Ridge" will feature a variety of tasty treats from local eateries, competing for top honors in categories for Best Appetizer, Best Salad, Best Entrée, and Best Dessert. Judges will be the eating public ... ticketholders who will get up and go from place to place and taste a sampling of the food offered by each entrant.

Jarrett said MSP sent out 74 letters to local restaurants, bakeries and the like, encouraging each to be a part of the public taste test. "Everyone who does food locally," she said. "It could be a franchise pizza chain, or Chow restaurant, Batten's Pastries or Dog & Suds. They will all prepare a sampling for people to move around the room and have a tasting of their products, and the winners will receive a lovely plaque for being named the best of "Taste of the Ridge."

Jarrett said the interesting thing about the event is that instead of businesses buying a sponsorship table and "just sitting there, you have to get up and leave your table. Usually it's like MOR Media sits with MOR Media and the banks sit with the banks and best friends sit with best friends. If you just sit at your table, you're going to starve. You have to get up and visit and get a sample of the different foods. It's not a full serving ... just a taste, about the size of a domino."

"Taste of the Ridge" will be held on Monday, August 29, with tastings beginning at 6 p.m., judging at 7:30 and the announcement of winners at 8:00.

Tickets are \$30 per person if purchased before the event or \$35 at the door. Proceeds from "Taste of the Ridge" will enable MSP to maintain daily operations, continue to improve the esthetics of Downtown, provide Business Improvement Grants, offer training and resource workshops to support the businesses in its service area, make improvements to Centennial Park, and to fund community events such as 1st Thursdays, the Paragould Veterans Day Parade and Program, Rummage at the Rails, Dog Day of Summer, the Annual Christmas Parade, and Holiday Traditions.

Atwill Media is the presenting sponsor while Premiere Magazine and the Paragould Daily Press are media sponsors. For information, or to purchase tickets, call 870-240-0544

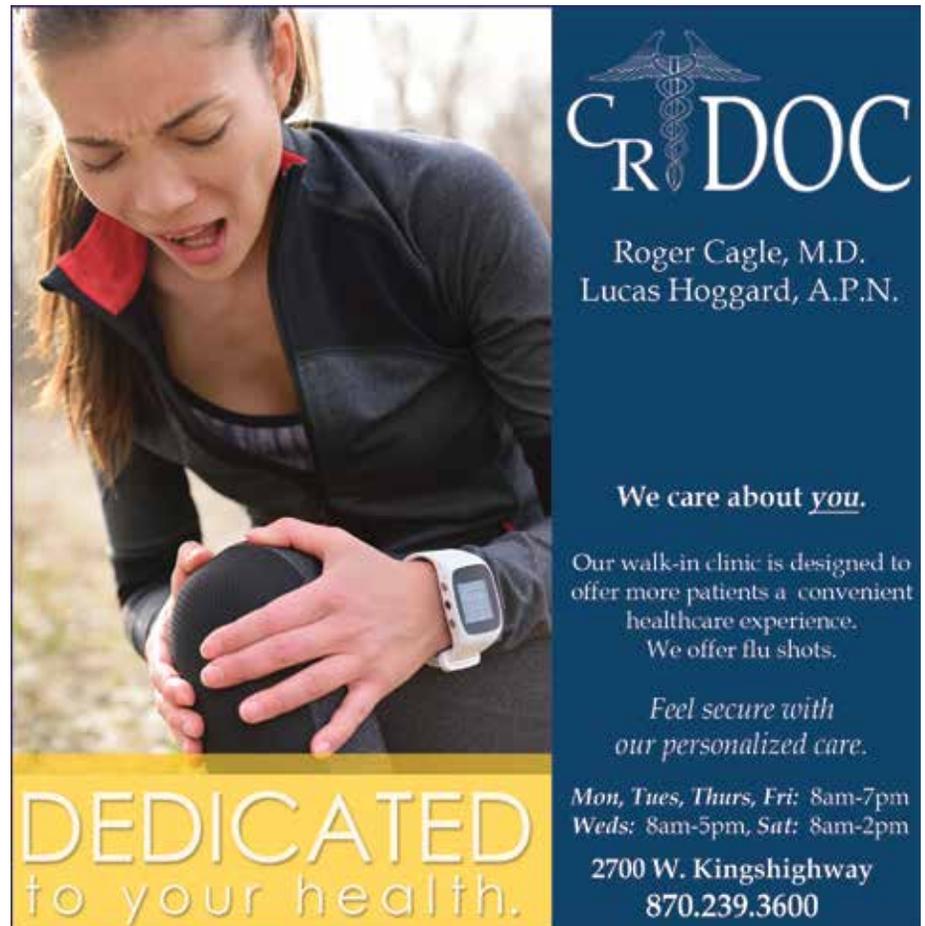


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Arkansas Orthodontist Introduces Unique One-Price Policy for all Braces and Invisalign.

Thanks to the Internet, it's easy to find the best deal for things you want to buy. You can comparison shop multiple retailers from the comfort of your home. Across our economy, the trend is toward price transparency and straightforward pricing. However, the healthcare sector has lagged behind this trend. When you visit an urgent care clinic, hospital emergency room, or a local doctor's office, you probably have no idea what you'll be paying when you leave. No prices are listed anywhere. There is no menu of services.

Arkansas Dentistry & Braces, a practice with multiple locations across the state, is changing the healthcare industry by establishing a super-simple, one-price program for all orthodontics.

"The cost is \$3,995 for braces or Invisalign," says Dr. Benjamin Burris, owner of Arkansas Dentistry & Braces. "That's one fee for every patient. One fee no matter if you choose traditional braces or Invisalign. One affordable fee that allows all Arkansans to get the smile of their dreams."

Burris adds that the \$3,995 fee holds whether a patient has a simple case that can be wrapped up within a year or a more difficult case that requires longer treatment. In the new pricing structure, there are no add-on costs or hidden charges, but there are also no promotions, summer specials, or coupons. The fee is \$3,995 for every patient. Considering that orthodontic treatment typically ranges between \$5,000 to \$7,000 for complex cases, this fee is a good deal for everyone.

"My business partner, Dr. Justin Bethel, and I are firm believers that we need to be a company that offers ever increasing access to dental care

for patients in Arkansas," Burris said. "Braces used to be a privilege but now it is really part of growing up—a rite of passage. We are determined to make it affordable for everyone, not just wealthy people."

In addition, Arkansas Dentistry & Braces has created a simple financing plan for its patients. The financing is \$300 down, and then \$147.80 for 25 months. If you do the math, it adds up to \$3,995. There's no interest charged or extra fees, and insurance is accepted.

When Burris began his practice, it only offered orthodontics, but as it has grown, it has moved to a multi-specialty practice that offers a range of oral healthcare services. The practice now has general dentists, orthodontists, and hygienists working in many of its locations. Burris says this new pricing model is possible because orthodontics is now part of a larger array of services.



With multiple locations, Arkansas Dentistry & Braces also benefits from economies of scale. Burris says that the prices the practice pays for equipment and supplies is lower because it has a stronger negotiating position. The orthodontic process additionally is more efficient and quicker, so it can pass these savings along to patients and their families.

"We hope to see the price of orthodontics decline statewide as a result of our bold step. This drastic change is the culmination of years of work and a dream of increasing access to affordable dental care," said Dr. Burris.



Ben Burris, DDS, MDS • Justin Bethel, DDS

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PREMIERE SCENE 'YA



August EVENTS CALENDAR

Recurring EVENTS

02

What: Hunter Education Course
When: Tuesday, August 2, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Where: Crowley's Ridge State Park
Info: The course will be held in the Group Lodging Area Dining Hall and is free of charge. Bring a sack lunch. Registration is required. For questions on how to register or about the course, contact Elizabeth Whaley at 870-573-6351 or email elizabeth.whaley@arkansas.gov

04

What: First Thursdays
When: Thursday, August 4, 5-8 p.m.
Where: At the Caboose, 108 E. Emerson St., Downtown Paragould

06

What: Volunteer Work Day
When: Saturday, August 6, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Where: Crowley's Ridge State Park
Info: August Volunteer Work. For questions on how to become a volunteer or for the August volunteer tasks, you can contact Elizabeth Whaley at 870-573-6351 or email elizabeth.whaley@arkansas.gov

19

What: 2017 Greene County Community Fund Kickoff Luncheon
When: Friday, August 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: Paragould Community Center, located at 3404 Linwood Drive.
Info: Tickets are \$15 per plate. Dine in or carry out is available. Delivery is also available for anyone or any business purchasing 5 or more meals. Tickets are available by contacting any GCCF Board Member or by calling the GCCF office at 870-239-8435. All proceeds go toward the 2017 Greene County Community Fund Campaign. The Greene County Community Fund currently assists 15 agencies in Greene County and provides scholarships to 4 Greene County High School graduates.

20

What: Raise The Roof 5k
When: Saturday, August 20, 7:00 a.m.
Where: Westview Baptist Church, Paragould
For: Habitat For Humanity
Info: Don't enjoy walking or running? Sign up to be a "spirit runner." You do not have to actually participate in the race and you still get a t-shirt and goody bag! Habitat for Humanity of Paragould, Inc.
<https://www.facebook.com/paragouldhabitat>
Register here -- <https://www.racesonline.com/events/raise-the-roof-5k>

22

What: KASU's Bluegrass Monday
When: Monday, August 22, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Collins Theatre of Paragould, 120 W. Emerson St.
Info: Gold Heart will be the featured band

25

What: Greene County Single Parent Scholarship Fund Fundraiser
When: Thursday, August 25, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Where: Pizza Inn Paragould
Info: To help provide funds for future scholarship recipients. Those seeking more information about the scholarship fund may go to www.aspsf.org

27

What: Cops and Rodders Car Show
When: Saturday, August 27, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Where: Reynolds Park, 3301 Reynolds Park Rd., Paragould
Info: The annual car show benefits the Paragould Police Dept. DARE program. \$300 cash prize for Best of Show and People's Choice. There is a \$20 registration fee. For more information call Cpl. Chris Gray or Cpl. Tron Beesley at 870-239-7564. www.facebook.com/paragouldpolicedare

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

First & Third Wednesday: Perking on Pruett, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM. At Something Sweet. Find out what's happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

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

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 PM at the corner of Court and Hwy. 49. The second Tuesday is a business meeting and the fourth is a Pot Luck Dinner with 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 PM. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

Second Thursday of every month: The Memory Cafe, support group for those having memory, dementia or Alzheimer's at 1:00 PM at the Senior B.E.E.S. Center, North 12th St. in Paragould.

Second Wednesday of every month: St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 AM-1:00 PM 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.

Chow After Hours

Chow at One Eighteen hosted Business After Hours in conjunction with the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Guests gathered in the downtown Paragould location for refreshments and networking opportunities.



Richard and Rebecca Hoskins



Greg Szwabowski
and Gunter Stevenson



Theresa Kirk, Tom Kirk
and Linda Lou Moore



HAPPENINGS

1. AMMC Officers

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary installed new officers for 2016-2017 recently. Pictured from left are Secretary Phyllis Hamblen, Treasurer Linda Hoppe, President-elect Sherry Noble and President Pat Dowdy. The purpose of the auxiliary is to support AMMC through the provision of volunteer services in areas identified by AMMC Administration and to make direct purchases of equipment and supplies as needed by AMMC's departmental staff. For more information on becoming a volunteer, call 870-239-7097.



1

2. CASA Recruiter

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program of the 2nd Judicial District, now the second largest in Arkansas, has brought Jeremy Irvin on board to assist with recruiting volunteers for the growing non-profit agency. Irvin will be responsible for the recruiting, training, and coaching of volunteers in the district's rural counties with an immediate emphasis on Greene County's more than 280 children who are in the foster care system. Irvin attended Black River Technical College and has held positions with local area agriculture, technology, and service companies. He will continue a youth program he developed with Greene County Tech schools in conjunction with Crossfit Cathal as the leader and mentor of the Motivated Futures Program. The program uses fitness and fun to teach core principles of ethics, integrity and positivity. Irvin's wife Tonya has also joined the local CASA organization as a volunteer.



2

3. MG Awards

The Arkansas Conference of Master Gardeners was held in Eureka Springs in June. This year the Greene County Master Gardeners brought back three out of five State awards: Kathy Grabe, Master Gardener of the Year for 2016; Bonnie Hamilton, Rookie of the Year 2016; and the Project of the Year, Greene County Fairgrounds, head chairperson, Connie Whitman.



3

4. Ready Set Read

First United Methodist Church hosted a reading program called Ready Set Read, open to children k-5th grade. The kids were read to, broken up into smaller groups for reading and language skills and then played outside. The program was started by Angela Newby and Danielle Honeycutt, teachers who wanted to make a difference in children's summers. This is the second year for the program.



4



NEA COOKS

Mike Bruetsch



Occupation and family

I am an Environmental Project Manager over American Railcar Industries in the U.S. and soon to be Canada. I have two younger brothers, my wife-to-be Anne Hinely and my cat Mr. Meowgi.

How did you learn to cook?

I learned to cook from my grandmother and from two maids that assisted in raising me in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico. I have traveled to over 40 countries and I always try to eat as much local food as possible to give me ideas and expand my knowledge in the kitchen.

What is your favorite dish to cook?

I love to cook Mexican food and seafood. My favorite dish to make is "Taco Night." I make 4-5 different things and when it's all splayed out on the table, it is a feast to be had, followed by a nap and paired with several Dos Equis. I typically make guacamole, black bean soup or refried beans, fajita style veggies on the grill, grilled corn on the cob, shrimp skewers or fish, homemade salsa and top it all off with some good queso fresco and lime.

Funniest/worst cooking disaster?

There are too many. I have dropped very

expensive tenderloins and fish on the ground before and had to toss them out. I've cut myself several times and I've set off smoke alarms more than once trying to get oil hot enough on a frying pan for scallops.

Advice for others wanting to learn to cook?

Start small and work your way up. Breakfast is always a great meal to try out because most of it is straightforward and easy. Try making a quiche the night before; it's quick and delicious. When breakfast rolls around it is already set up in the fridge and is ready to serve.



Pico de Gallo and Black Bean Soup

- 1) Dice tomatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ an onion, garlic a jalapeno and cilantro. Mix for Guacamole base and bean soup.
- 2) Split pico de gallo in two portions. Mix one portion with fresh avocados and add salt and pepper.
- 3) Place second portion in a pot and pour in black beans. Add chopped garlic to pot and warm.

Grilled Shrimp and Vegetables

- 1) Remove shells from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds shrimp and place in large bowl. Mix with marinade of your choosing, add salt and pepper and place in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Remove shrimp and place on skewers.
- 2) Char two bell peppers, a few poblanos and one large tomato on high heat on grill for approximately 10 minutes.
- 3) Grill shrimp 2-3 minutes per side, then grill corn tortillas one minute per side.

Chop vegetables, top with queso fresco and plate food!

Josie's Wish Granted

Richard Brummett

Deania Vanhoozer has been a wish granter with the Make-A-Wish Foundation for about eight years, but she said a recent one had more of a personal touch for her.

She and a host of others gathered at the Bono Church of Christ on a Sunday afternoon to surprise Josie Melton with a trip to Hawaii.

"This was an interesting one," Vanhoozer said. "She's the first one I've known personally. Usually there are two wish granters per kid; this time, we had tons of church family there and it was really special."

Only 7, Josie has already undergone 20 surgeries and has more scheduled in the future. She suffers from VACTERL syndrome, a rare disorder affecting her vertebrae, heart, renal system and limbs. Though she stands barely over 3 feet tall and weighs a little over 30 pounds, Josie hardly lets her condition slow her down. She bounces around with a smile on her face, and inspires others in her role as an ambassador for Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Josie was also *Premiere Magazine's* cover model for the May issue.

Fellow church-goers at Bono managed to keep the trip a surprise until the moment Josie entered the room for what she thought was a normal youth activity. Instead, she found a luau-themed party targeting her as the guest of honor.

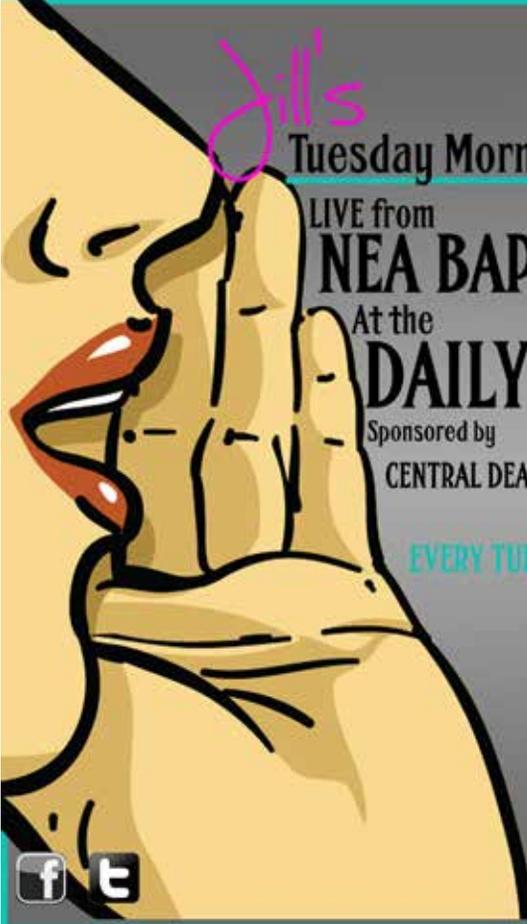
"I called Kara Anderson because she knows the family, as well," Vanhoozer said. "We all go to church together. I have to say I was a little more stressed than normal. About 300-something people knew, where usually only 10-12 know. This time it incorporated the whole church. That's a lot of people to keep a secret. In fact, her mom Dana knew about it and she said, 'I'm about to burst' but I said, 'You can't tell her!' She said, 'How about you?' and I said, 'I feel the same way,' but I'm glad we kept the secret."

Vanhoozer said the granting of wishes "makes you realize how blessed your own life is. They are all neat in their own way, but something hits home when you know them very well personally."

Josie, who said she has always wanted to go to Hawaii and swim with dolphins, will leave this month for her trip. Her mom, Dana Cullen, said the day was an emotional one for her because of all her daughter has been through and because she had to keep the event a secret for so long.

"We are thankful," Cullen said. "It's been tough to hold it together today."



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f t

Nidec 60 Years in Town

Nidec Motor Corporation (NMC), formerly the Emerson Electric Company in Paragould, celebrated 60 years in town with a day of fun activities for employees in July.

According to a press release, NMC is a leading manufacturer of commercial, industrial, and appliance motors and controls. The NMC product line features a full line of high efficiency motors, large and small, which serve industrial, residential and commercial markets in applications ranging from water treatment, mining, oil and gas and power generation to pool and spa motors, air conditioning condensers, rooftop cooling towers and commercial refrigeration.

It also makes motors, controls and switches for automotive and commercial markets.

Paragould Plant Manager Rick Ellis spoke to employees and guests at the ceremony, which included a catered meal, and thanked them for years of dedicated service.

HR Manager Patty Lee entertained the group with trivia questions related to the local plant's history. Lee said she enjoyed sharing with the workers "the history and the impact the plant has had on Paragould."

Emerson Electric started business in Paragould in 1956. On October 1, 2010, Nidec assumed control.





GET RICH

For several years I told family members we needed to have all meaningful conversations before late 2012, because that was the year I turned 60 and I didn't intend to speak to anyone after that.

My plan was to sit in the room and just keep quiet and observe, occasionally nodding my head to let friends and relatives know I was still alive. In no way did I want to engage in conversation any longer but that plan, like most of my plans, fell through although I am again giving serious consideration to the "silence is golden" approach. The Lord willing, I will have another birthday later this month and each coming day convinces me I have lived too long. I don't get life anymore, I don't get America anymore, I don't get much of anything except older.

This is the world in which I live today: A high school cheerleader hopeful in Florida tries out, gives a poor performance, doesn't make the squad and is going to sue the school – and her parents support her. In my day, you gave things like that your best shot and if you failed, you moved on to something else and tried again next year. In fact, your parents told you it was time to get a job.

Today, a celebrity decides he's a man trapped inside a woman's body and you young people not only hail him as some kind of national hero, you give him a trophy and name him Woman of the Year. In my day, all the mommas around the neighborhood would have cautioned us boys that the old guy at the end of street was strange and would have told us to stay away from his house because we might see weird things we didn't need to see. And we would have gone to the ballpark and played ball.

"The unacceptable of my time is the status quo of today."

I can't exactly pinpoint when life passed me by, but it left me at the starting gate and zipped on down the track. The unacceptable of my time is the status quo of today. For instance, my mother told me it was rude to stick my tongue out in public. By today's standards, I could no longer have my picture made because social media is filled with young people sticking their tongues out and making arthritic-looking hand gestures. I'm convinced if the government outlawed putting one hand on your hip and slightly bending one knee, 95 percent of the women in America would have no idea how to have their pictures taken. Outlaw

scrunching up your lips as if you're about to kiss a donkey through a barnyard fence and you'd get the other 5 percent.

When did society become so infatuated with toes? At the beach, at the pool, on the deck ... people sit back and take photographs of their toes in the foreground with all the interesting stuff out of focus in the background. The toes are possibly the most unattractive part of the human body, sort of the sawdust of human construction. I firmly believe when God was finished making mankind, an angel picked up the toes from the ground and said, "Do you want me to throw these away?" and God said, "No, let's teach man not to be wasteful; just stick them down there on the end of his foot and in a few years I'll create socks to cover them up."

Until recently, I didn't know you could no longer get into college unless you have a tattoo, even if it's only some little doo-dad on your foot or some symbol from an ancient society so that you have to explain its meaning to all who see it. I have nothing against tattoos or those who get them, I just didn't know everyone between the ages of 18 and 24 had to have one in order to further their education.

I never imagined that anyone in his right mind would come up with the idea for TV show where the premise was for people to go on dates totally naked and, I would have thought if it did happen, program executives would have listened to his sales pitch and immediately called security instead of making it a weekly series. But here we are.

I realize social mores change with the times; my parents' generation thought Elvis Presley was the devil reincarnate, and consider how tame his act seems today. But I don't get this idea that if something doesn't suit you, you feel you have the right to have it declared illegal. I don't personally care for classical music, but I don't want it taken away from those who do. I have tried to like soccer but just can't get into it, yet don't want the sport banned because it can't hold my interest. I can't sing or dance, but that doesn't mean we should make all singers and dancers follow me to the ballpark to learn how to turn a double play.

That's why, instead of trying to figure the world out today, I might just curl up on the couch and silently watch life pass me by. Or, I might get a tattoo and go back to school.

ENGAGEMENTS



Jetton & Roberts

Photo by Chelsey Smith Photography

Lauren Jetton and Justin Roberts of Paragould have announced their plans for a September wedding.

Lauren is the daughter of Chester and Cathy Jetton.

Justin's parents are Mike and Misty Roberts and Paul and Theresa Nedelman.

The wedding is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church with a reception to follow at Cedar Ridge Venue in Paragould.



Lopez & Cude

Photo by E.C. Weddings+Portraits

Katie Lopez and Garrett Cude will be married in a September wedding ceremony.

Katie, of Paragould, is the daughter of Phillip and Susan Cable, and Eric Lopez. Garrett, of Cardwell, is the son of Larry and Selena Poynor, and Keith Cude.

The wedding is set for Saturday, September 17th, at Cedar Ridge Venue.

BIRTHS

Jared and Vanessa Wall of Brookland announce the birth of twins, Baylee and Ryder Wall. Baylee Faith weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces and was 18 ½ inches long.

Ryder Jared weighed in at 5 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 ¾ inches long.

The babies were born June 9 at St. Bernards Medical Center. Grandparents are Ernest "Bud" and Carol Johns of Paragould, and Kerry and Cindy Hodge of Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Photo by Kathryn Richey, Lilyfield



Paragould Junior Auxiliary Welcomes Incoming Provisional Class

Paragould Junior Auxiliary welcomes its incoming provisional class for the 2016-2017 year. The ladies have shown interest in Junior Auxiliary and will be trained for eight months as well as attending Chapter meetings and projects to determine if they wish to volunteer their time to their community through this organization for the next five years.

Junior Auxiliary is a national non-profit organization that encourages members to render charitable services beneficial to the general public, with particular emphasis on children.

Paragould Junior Auxiliary was chartered by a group of caring, enthusiastic women in 1995 and continues to grow and thrive throughout Paragould and Greene County. Volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year on a variety of projects that focus on local children and families in need of assistance.

The NAJA slogan is "Care Today – Character Tomorrow" and when teamed with the current

focus of the Association, Junior Auxiliary Chapters are working more than ever before to increase awareness of child health and welfare and how it affects their futures.

For more information on Paragould Junior Auxiliary, visit <http://paragouldjunioraux.wix.com/japa> or email paragouldjuniorauxiliary@yahoo.com. For more information on NAJA, visit www.najanet.org.



From back left: Morgan Johnson, Amber Webb, Jessica Gazaway, Amanda Lovins, Lorie Beck, Erica Presson and Megan Gillmore; front: Brooke Lands, Rachel Haynes, Lindsey Kiratzis, Shawnda James and Stefanie Newberry. Not pictured: Mallory Williams, Mandy Hinson and Brooke Pruitt.

Baby Registry

Alexandra Murray	Jill Vaughn
Teri Horne	Taylor Pierce
Ali Bean	Amber Bowers
Amy Charles	Kori Gill
Tamara Bell	



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Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

Senior Living



Premiere writers will again bring you a special magazine section called NEA Seniors, featuring both informative and entertaining articles dedicated to the area's senior citizens. Be sure to see the photos and feature stories in the September Premiere.

The Ultimate Oldies



They play to sellout crowds wherever they go, reviving the hits of the '50s, '60s and '70s, but a visit to a rehearsal session lets you know just how much fun these performers are really having. Premiere Editor Richard Brummett brings you their story in the September issue.

County Fair



It's almost time for both the Greene County Fair in Paragould and the NEA District Fair in Jonesboro. We will take a look at both events and tell you what you need to know in order to be prepared for weeks of family fun.

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