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From The
**MANAGING
EDITOR...**
Richard Brummett

When the calendar page rolls over to December, thoughts naturally turn to the Christmas holiday experience -- especially if you're a child.

Kids dream of getting presents while parents wonder where they're going to find them and how they're going to pay for them, getting the ball rolling in the world of shopping.

We encourage all the grown-ups to seriously consider looking for those gifts at home first. It's a worn out battle cry from those who support hometown businesses and their owners, but it's worth shouting out each and every year.

Before jumping in the vehicle and heading out of town, or before scrolling Internet shopping sites, consider this: When your kids are in the midst of a fundraiser and need someone to purchase everything from Boston butts to candles to cookie dough, it is quite often a local merchant who makes a contribution; when your children hit the streets to sell advertisements for their high school yearbooks, they call on local business

owners for a donation; when your kids take part in sporting events, or concerts or the staging of high school plays, it is local merchants who buy many of the tickets that help fund those activities.

It seems only fair that if your community is making a financial investment in your children, when it comes time to buy gifts for those same youngsters you would give your local business men and women the first opportunity to meet your needs. Shop at home first.

This month's Premiere looks back at some of the Veterans Day programs and events staged in Northeast Arkansas this year, and we hope you will take time to give them a good look. Programs in particular at Greene County Tech High School, Paragould High School and in the Downtown Paragould area proved to be outstanding productions.

The prevailing theme from most of the guest speakers was this: Don't wait for an annual holiday to come around to express your thanks to the men and women who have served -- or are currently serving -- in our country's military.

America is in a period of great upheaval and respect for our flag and our values seems to be disappearing rapidly in certain segments of society. But listening to the stories of the men and women who fought for our freedom and our right to make the choices we make -- regardless of how they may seem to others -- helps bring us back to reality. We are free because of a great price paid by many.

Thank a veteran at any time during the year and indicate your appreciation for all they have done. And, as more than one guest speaker said this year, "Respect my flag."

There are also a number of holiday-related stories, including the cover feature which details Jonesboro's Winter Wonderland and all it has to offer, and there is another version of NEA Seniors, a special section dedicated to senior citizens and events that capture moments related to their lifestyle.

Read and enjoy, and from all of us at MOR Media, "Merry Christmas."

*Thank you to our customers
and clients for a great 2016!*

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The advertisement for Ainley Family Dental features a blue background. At the top, a white banner contains the text 'Our family is conveniently close to yours.' Below this, the name 'AINLEY FAMILY DENTAL' is written in large, bold, white letters. To the right of the text is a photograph of Alan Ainley, DDS, a smiling man with glasses and a blue polo shirt. Below the name, the phone number '239-2285' is displayed in large, bold, white letters. Further down, the text 'Dedicated professional dental care for you and your family. Book and appointment or drop in' is written in white. At the bottom, the address '707 LINWOOD DRIVE' and the website 'FAMILYDENTALLCARE.NET' are listed in white. A dental logo is also present at the bottom.



PARAGOULD VETERANS DAY PARADE



For the second consecutive year, Downtown Paragould played host to a Veterans Day Parade and program.

People lined the sidewalks as parade entries made their way up Pruett Street before interested spectators were then encouraged to assemble at the Collins Theatre for the patriotic program which followed, highlighted by Mayor Mike Gaskill's heartfelt presentation.





VETERANS DAY SALUTE



Two high schools in Paragould honored members of the military with impressive Veterans Day programs.

Greene County Tech staged its annual event, inducting three men into the Veterans Hall of Fame, including the day's featured speaker Todd Harris. Harris is a former Marine and currently an Arkansas State Trooper. Also inducted were Dean MacDonald and Lester Wayne Brightwell.

At Paragould High School, below, Major Jim Largent addressed the crowd and then the veterans in attendance were presented with American Legion buttons by PHS students.





Ted, Pearlle, and Teddy Joe Ford

PEARL HARBOR MEETS PINE KNOT

By Savannah Johns

I am only twenty-one years of age but I grew up very connected to the past. I was raised on the land that has been in my family since the early 1800s. It is a small and close-knit community outside of Paragould, called Pine Knot. One of my favorite stories about my family's past is how my grandmother received her middle name.

In 1945, William Theodore "Ted" and Pearlle Ford had a three-year-old son named Teddy

Joe. They were also expecting another child. Ted, my "Papaw," was stationed in Pearl Harbor during that time. He knew he would not be home for the birth of his new child. This was at a time during the war when the members of the military were not allowed to give their whereabouts to anyone.

Ted wanted Pearlle to know where he was stationed so she wouldn't worry as much. Mamaw Pearlle was raising Teddy Joe herself on the family farm while she was expecting. Ted knew how difficult this was on Pearlle already. He wanted her to know where he was in case anything bad happened anywhere. That way, she would know if anything happened near where he was stationed. He wrote a letter home telling her that if the new baby was a girl, he wanted her to name the baby Janie Pearl. He underlined Pearl enough times that Pearlle figured out that Ted was stationed at Pearl Harbor! I can only imagine how relieved Pearlle must have felt, knowing where Ted was stationed.

On April 30, 1945, a baby girl was born just as Ted had hoped for. Of course, Pearlle followed his wishes and named her Janie Pearl. Many people think that Janie Pearl was simply named after her mother, Pearlle. As you can see, that is not the case.

Papaw Ted passed away the year before I was born. One year, one month, and two days to be exact. Although I was never able to meet him face-to-face, my family always made sure I heard stories about him. Sometimes, it felt like he was living just down the road from me. Both Mamaw Pearlle and my great-uncle Teddy Joe passed away four years ago. I was so blessed to grow up next door to Mamaw Pearlle. We spent a lot of time swinging on her front porch eating "Nutty Buddies" and talking about the past. I now am honored to own some of the letters Papaw sent home to her and the pictures he took while stationed in Japan.

Three of Ted and Pearlle's four sons (Teddy Joe, Andy, and Russell) followed in their father's footsteps and served this great country. Our family has fought in every war the United States has been a part of. I always feel so honored to be able to clean the grave site of Papaw, displaying a plaque presented for his service.

I also am honored to be able to clean around Uncle Teddy's grave site. I only wish the people of "my" generation would be more appreciative of the United States veterans and the servicemen and women of today. They are the true heroes of this great nation!

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ASU ROTC CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY



Veterans Day was the perfect setting and time for Arkansas State University's Department of Military Science to celebrate the 80th anniversary of its ROTC program.

On November 11, five new members were inducted into the Hall of Heroes:

- Col. William Edward Corkill, (posthumously), the school's first professor of military science and tactics, and a veteran of World War I and World War II.
- Brig. Gen. Wendul Glenn Hagler II, a 1988 ASU graduate and Sikeston, Mo., native, special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard (at the National Guard Bureau), and recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal.
- Retired Col. Ronald E. Powell, a Memphis native and 1967 ASU graduate, served as the Mississippi Army National Guard's state surgeon and chief medical officer; he is a doctor of osteopathic medicine and recipient of the Legion of Merit Award.
- Retired Brig. David L. Smalley, a Forrest City native and 1973 ASU graduate, formerly served as U.S. Army Assistant Surgeon General and received the Distinguished Service Medal.
- Retired Col. Timothy R. Williams, a Harrisburg product and 1984 ASU graduate, was an officer in Special Forces and a recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster.



The following day, alumni and current ROTC students gathered for a tailgate cookout before the Red Wolves' football game against New Mexico State. In addition, ASU marked its first Veterans Day as a Purple Heart University. At halftime, Purple Heart veterans received special commendations as part of Heroes Day.



"You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I'm telling you why. Santa Claus is coming to town. He's making a list, checking it twice. He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice, Santa Claus is coming to town. He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake."

Not to rain on anyone's Christmas parade, but this is what we call conditional love. If you're good, Santa will do good things for you. If you're bad, well then it's coal for you!

I am thankful that Christmas is about a love that is much deeper than Santa's love. Christmas is about an unconditional, never stopping, never giving up, always and forever love. It is about the love of a God who rather than giving us what we deserve, gave us himself. Rather than making us work our way to him, he worked his way to us. He took on flesh, dwelt among men and then laid down his very life so that in Him we can find true life.

Christmas is about grace. It is about God giving us His best when we were at our worst. It is about salvation that is a free gift to undeserving sinners like me.

That's what makes Christmas beautiful. Christmas is more than about giving presents. It is about God giving us His presence. It's about Him coming into our messy world and then promising that He is coming again to make all things right. It's about a love that is wider, deeper and fuller than Santa or any other love we have ever known.

Merry Christmas to each of you. I hope you find this unconditional love filling your homes this season and beyond.

LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

I don't mean to sound like the Grinch, but I think Santa is shallow. Now, before you email your complaints to Premiere, let me explain by sharing some lyrics from the song, "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

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**MOMMY AND ME
BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT
GROUP MEETING**

**Monday, December 12, 2016, from
1:00-2:00 PM**

**Second floor conference room in
the Professional Office Building
at Arkansas Methodist Medical
Center**

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
and the Greene County Health Unit
sponsor 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 the Greene County
Health Unit at 236-7782.

**BREASTFEEDING CLASS
Monday, December 12, 2016, from
6:00 PM-8:00 PM Professional
Office Building**

AMMC sponsors a breastfeeding
class that discusses the importance
of breastfeeding, breast preparation,
feeding techniques and positioning
options for mother and baby. Tips
on hand expression, breast pumps,
collecting and storing milk and
breastfeeding after returning to work
are taught. This class is offered
to moms who plan to breastfeed,
dads and other support persons. If
delivering at AMMC, the classes are
free of charge. Otherwise, there is a
small fee. There is a \$10 materials
fee. Call the AMMC Education
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for classroom location, pricing
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required for all classes.

**INFANT SAFETY CLASS
Monday, December 19, 2016, from
6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

Professional Office Building
AMMC sponsors an infant
safety class that focuses on
topics including car seat safety,
childproofing your home and crib
safety, as well as infant CPR. This
class is offered to expectant families
and anyone caring for the infant. If
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**BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE
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blood. Blood transfusions are
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HUNTING AT CHRISTMASTIME

By Chuck Long

Andy Williams sang the song "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" in 1963 on his Christmas album. That phrase is now widely used to express the sentiments many have during the holiday time of the year. It is a great time for family and friends, counting blessings and celebrating the birth of our Savior, but it also provides great opportunities in the outdoors.

As a youngster, Christmas meant school was out for two weeks and it was time to head to the woods or water for uninterrupted days of chasing fowl and fur throughout Northeast Arkansas. Some of my fondest outdoor memories came during that time.

Duck hunting with Papa Blanton and Uncle Ted on the St. Francis River were at the top of the list. I learned the ropes of duck hunting with some very patient hunters as the St. Francis flyway did not always cooperate with large numbers of mallards. Every now and then we had ducks but even then I rarely got to watch as they circled above the blind. Pa always had me keep my face hidden behind layer after layer of wet, stinky willows and vines but he often gave a quiet play by play and I soon learned to tell from the calls what was happening in the air above. If the ducks came in and lit, the shooting commenced on the count of three, if they did not there was always the discussion of what could be done differently to entice the next group.

We would leave the river bottoms about noon and then I would head up Coffman Road and hope to catch up with Granddad Long for an afternoon rabbit hunt. Watching and listening to the beagles chase a rabbit was always a great way to spend an afternoon. It seems there were plenty of rabbits back then and an occasional covey of quail, a squirrel or even a woodcock would keep things exciting.

Outdoor time with friends was also important during the Christmas break. There were several of us that would get together and make every

CHUCK LONG
Regional Education
Coordinator Northeast
Education Division
Arkansas Game and
Fish Commission



effort we could at successful hunting trips though we were often left with more memories than game in the bag. Part of the break was often spent with my cousin Steve at his parents' house in Light in pursuit of ducks and rabbits in the Cache River bottoms. This "new country" was an exciting way to spend a few days of the break.

Family time around the table was also a big part of Christmas as we would gather at Ma and Pa Blanton's home for one meal and at the Long grandparents' home for another. These days were filled with lots of wonderful food. Mama Blanton always had a wide variety of candy prepared for the celebrations as well as the usual Christmas foods of turkey, ham and dressing. A gift exchange, a little visiting and maybe even a nap would fill the day's activities. Then we would head home for a visit from Santa and, following an early Christmas morning, the outdoor pursuits would begin again.

Take some time this year to spend a little while outdoors during the Christmas break. Opportunities abound as we now have a more generous time for hunting white-tailed deer which was not available until just a few years ago. Small game hunting can be a great option and some of the best waterfowl hunting usually happens during the holidays if the weather cooperates. If hunting is not in the plans, there are great opportunities to view wildlife, especially bald eagles, during late December.

Great memories were made at Christmas time as I was growing up and it is still very important to our family as we celebrate all that goes along with it. One of our favorite Christmas movies is the "Grinch" and he sums it up with his revelation, "Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas means a little bit more!" Christmas can mean so much more if we get out and enjoy all the blessings God has for us. Hope to see you out there and may God bless you and your family and "Merry Christmas!"

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40th ANNUAL HARVEST CRAFT SHOW



Paragould's Community Center was the site of the 40th annual Harvest Craft Show and Bake Sale in November.

Vendor booths filled the gymnasium and spilled into the hallways and lobby as crafters presented their wares to holiday shoppers. Items like clothing, jewelry, woodworks, books, wreaths and much more were available for purchase.



Special thanks to these businesses for hosting Holiday Traditions:

- Something Sweet*
- Mosaic Salon and Spa*
- The Chocolate Choo Choo*
- The Hairloom/Shear Glitz*
- Three Sisters and Company*
- Alvin Taylor Flowers and Gifts*
- Champions Gymnastic Center*
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Holiday

TRADITIONS & MARKET

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Shop our Holiday Market starting at 10:00am at the Crossing. Crafters, Bakers, Artisans, Uniques, and *much more!*



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Visit with Santa at Something Sweet 11am-3pm



 To keep up with details find Main Street Paragould on Facebook!



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MARMADUKE TEACHER BRINGS AGRICULTURE TO LIFE

By Richard Brummett



Amy Dawson's love of agriculture has sparked a growing interest in learning for her Marmaduke seventh grade science students, and has earned one of four spots nationwide in a program called "Bringing Biotechnology to Life."

Dawson, along with one more Arkansas teacher and one each from Oklahoma and Michigan, is piloting the new resources program and each received a \$100 credit to the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

"My background is in agriculture," Dawson said. "I was an Extension Agent for several years, then we moved to this area from Forrest City. I couldn't find an extension job, so I went to ASU for a summer to get my teaching certification. I was the Agri teacher at Rector and Valley View, and I just have a passion for agriculture."

The new program is designed to guide learners through the process of understanding DNA, selective breeding, biotechnology and GMOs (genetically modified organisms). It includes seven sequential lesson plans for educators, which address national learning standards for 7th-10th graders.

"The students really get into it and actually learn more when they can feel it and touch it," Dawson said. "Some of the kids had never seen seeds being planted. Now they look at plants with different fungicides and ask, 'Why are they on there?' They learn how corn has adapted and to count the kernels on a cob to estimate the produce at harvest. "When I wrote for the grant, I thought we might only receive the \$100 and maybe we could use it to purchase something the kids could use in the lab. But since we got accepted into the program the students have taken a lot of pride at being included in the top four in the nation. Basically, I wrote about my students and how I felt about them and how this would benefit them. A couple want to be agronomists now. Some of the girls want to be biochemists. They are discovering avenues

they've never thought about. They have really taken off with it. They're learning about careers and salaries connected to agriculture, seeing what they can make someday."

Dawson presents the material to the class, then the students try to figure how they can apply what they're learning to everyday life. "What are GMOs? Why are they necessarily bad for you?" Dawson said, for example. "They have to research those things and find out why, and then ask, 'Is this a good thing?' They understand the words cross pollination. They learned to use the microscope, to write about compare and contrast. They come up with things I never thought about -- things like food allergies. They look at the packages at Walmart now when their parents are grocery shopping."

The program is laid out by the Foundation in a way that it fits into a specific time frame, then teacher feedback is solicited.

"Biotechnology sounds big and scary at first," Dawson said. "Now they're using the words and I'm just, 'Wow, they're getting it.' Hands-on projects are helping a lot of the students who don't usually make A's, make A's. We're doing things like at the high school level. They've been analyzing cells, plant and animal. You can memorize things for a test, but this they can actually see and do. Some have already said they want a microscope for Christmas."

"As a teacher, it makes your job so enjoyable. Arkansas Farm Bureau came a few weeks ago and my kids taught the program for the pre-K through sixth grade students. They talked about cotton and rice and where they are located in Arkansas, and what are the benefits. They brought goats and talked about raising them and the by-products like milk and cheeses. The kids had to learn to be able to discuss it. Even I didn't realize how many students would benefit from this."



MASTER FOR MONARCHS



More than 80 master gardeners from 19 counties were in Paragould recently for the Greene County Master Gardeners' advanced class, "Master for Monarchs."

Topics included monarchs and metamorphosis, monarchs in Mexico, monarch tagging and release, designing a butterfly garden, monarchs and their role in the ecosystem and constraints on monarch populations.

Pictured below is Greene County Master Gardener, Cora Flannery, along with instructors Ruth Andre, and Jack Singleton tagging a monarch butterfly to be released at the end of the seminar for the journey to Mexico.



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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 6TH ANNUAL SHRIMP BOIL



St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Jonesboro served up some 282 meals during its sixth annual Shrimp Boil in October. The crowd enjoyed "low country" shrimp, potatoes, sausages, and corn. On top of that, a silent auction was held and live music entertained those dining in the parish's courtyard.

According to event organizer Gary Latanich, proceeds are given to Helping Neighbors Food Pantry, Jonesboro Church Health Center, and St. Mark's. In past years, the boil has allowed the congregation to contribute more than \$1,300 to recipients.



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McKenna has done hair for a little over 2 years. She enjoys continuing her education. She loves learning and trying out more products when they become available.

McKenna is excited to marry her best friend in May of 2017. Together they have two fun loving fur babies Heidi and Beau.



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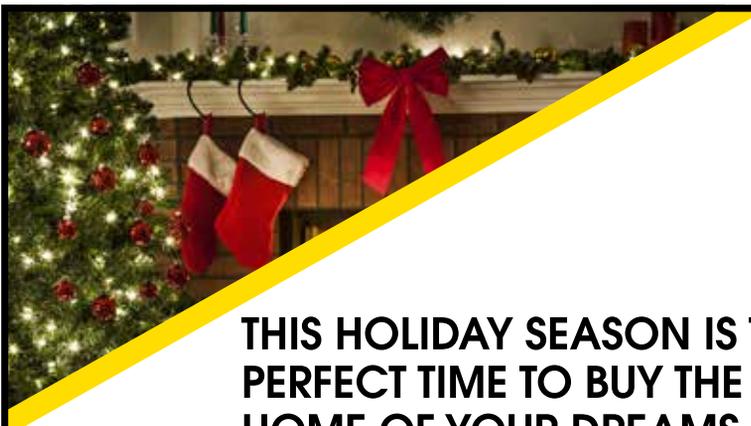


BACKYARD BAYOU CAJUN FEST



Jonesboro couple David and Jennifer Smith hosted the annual Backyard Bayou Cajun Fest at their home in Ridgepointe during October. The event raises funds for the NEA Family Crisis Center and is held in part to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The crowd feasted on a variety of Cajun cuisine and beverages.



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ST. BERNARDS WELCOMES NEW DOCTORS

Dr. Kshitij Gupta has joined physicians at St. Bernards Senior Health Clinic. He and the other geriatricians at the Senior Health Clinic specialize in assessing complex medical problems, managing medications and assisting primary care physicians with geriatric patients who are experiencing declines in health, memory loss, anxiety or depression.



Dr. Kshitij Gupta

The geriatrician earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University College of Medical Sciences at the University of Delhi in New Delhi, India before completing a residency in medical biochemistry there. In addition Gupta completed an internal medicine residency at James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. He comes to Jonesboro after completing a geriatric medicine fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Matthew Hendrich has joined physicians at St. Bernards Heart & Vascular as a vascular and endovascular surgeon. He earned his M.D. from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and completed both a general surgery residency and a vascular and endovascular surgery fellowship at UAMS. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Harding University in Searcy.



Dr. Matthew Hendrich

Hendrich specializes in diagnosis and treatment – both surgical and nonsurgical – of peripheral vascular occlusive disease and aneurysmal disease involving the carotid, upper extremity, lower extremity, intrathoracic and intrabdominal arteries as well as the aorta. He grew up in Vilonia and is married to Lindsey Jones Hendrich.

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WISH GRANTED

By Richard Brummett



Sloan Privett seemed pretty happy with just a carriage ride that ended at the Paragould Community Center lobby but when the 5-year-old stepped out to an escort filled with Disney characters, things continued to get better.

Once she exited the elevator, Sloan entered a room decorated with the Disney theme and then learned the really good news: Life Strategies, Inc., and the Make-A-Wish Foundation teamed up to make her dream vacation – a trip to Disney World in Florida – a reality.

The daughter of Bryan and Kelley Privett, Sloan suffers from Juvenile Dermatomyositis, an autoimmune disease that attacks her skin and muscles and requires a constant regimen of treatments. Her father said the condition may have been triggered by something as simple as a sunburn, but the rare disease has been with his daughter since March of last year.

“T Cells fight the common cold and B Cells fight just about everything else,” he said. “Her B Cells have turned on and won’t turn off.”

Bryan had taken part in granting wishes to other young people through his association with the Jaycees and said this time, “... when the big fundraising day came, people began asking me if I had signed up Sloan. I told them I wasn’t used to being on that end of the Make-A-Wish but they said, ‘She’s the one getting poked and prodded’ and thought she deserved consideration.”

They were accepted and approved and now, thanks to the organizations involved, the Privetts were scheduled to leave on their trip last month, returning on December 4.

“There are so many funds raised in Northeast Arkansas that go for that purpose,” Bryan said. “We feel so lucky and so blessed.”



Musical selections were provided by Jessica Rodrigue.



Aaron Schenk shared his personal story of having a wish granted.



ST. JUDE S'TRAVAGANZA CHARGES FORWARD DESPITE CHALLENGES

What are two of the most crucial aspects of hosting a great event? A great location and strong promotion. These happen to be the two areas in which the planning committee of the 24th Annual St. Jude S'travanza encountered major challenges. "With the sale of the NEA District Fairgrounds location, coupled with a re-allocation of funds by the Advertising and Promotions Commission, we knew we were going to have to buckle down and MAKE this event happen," stated planning committee member T.J. Thompson. "The greatest things we have going for us are the St. Jude message, a determined planning committee, and a wonderful community of St. Jude supporters who are eager to make sure the 24th Annual S'travanza is the biggest and best ever."

Tickets for St. Jude S'travanza – held on Super Bowl Sunday -- would make wonderful Christmas presents and may be purchased at stjudestravanza.org, or by calling 870-932-6440. The ticket price is \$150.00 each and includes an all-you-can-eat-and-drink buffet, access to a live and silent auction with hundreds of items, and a great view of "the big game" on big-screen TVs all over the event venue.

The 24th Annual St. Jude S'travanza will be held Sunday, February 5, 2017, at the former Best Manufacturing facility off East Johnson Avenue in Jonesboro. The gates will open at 3:30 p.m. The money raised might save the life of a child you know.

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Co-chairs Amber Maurizi Warren and Katie Wade are flanked by Mrs. Claus and Santa during the Jonesboro Jaycees' toy drive.

JAYCEES TOY DRIVE

By Richard Brummett



After standing outside for four hours in the cold on a Saturday afternoon, Amber Maurizi Warren still managed to come away with a warm feeling.

"We collected about \$500 and enough toys to fill up the back of my SUV," said Warren, co-chair along with Katie Wade of this year's Jonesboro Jaycees Christmas For Kids Toy Drive.

The Jaycees stage the toy drive annually, trying to make certain area kids can have a Merry Christmas. All the toys and cash donations collected stay right here, helping local families in need.

"In the past we have helped over 2,000 families," Warren said. "We have three toy drives each year and that's for the kids, then we team up with the Goodfellows, which is for the food to provide meals."

The final toy drive of the year is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, in front of the Jonesboro Walmart on Parker Road and Warren said participation is pretty simple.

"We encourage you to either purchase a toy of about \$10 in value, unwrapped, appropriate for boys or girls in the 0-12 age range," she said. "Or, you can make a cash donation."

Once the number of people needing help is determined, the cash donations go toward purchasing more toys or food items. "Some of the people who sign up just need the food part," Warren said, "especially if they're elderly. But when most people sign up their families, it's for both."

Families wishing to be recipients of the food and/or gifts must first enroll at designated stations around Northeast Arkansas. All the information needed for that process can be found by logging on to www.goodfellows.jonesborojaycees.org. That site will provide information regarding all the items families need to bring with them in order to take part. The Jonesboro Jaycees Facebook page also contains similar instructions.

Warren said the Jaycees assumed direction of the program in the 1970s and consider it an honor to become a part of people's lives during the holiday season.

"As a Jaycee, you're not only a member to enrich yourself but so you can give back to the community," she said. "To think that any child would wake up on Christmas morning without anything is heartbreaking. We hope that no child has to go without on Christmas. "Some years, there have been 2,000 families in need the week before Christmas and the contributions have been lagging," she continued, "and then they just start pouring in. This community always comes through."

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- Jimmy

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Winter Wonderland

By Anthony Childress

If the holiday season is about creating memories, a reinvigorated Winter Wonderland seems the perfect destination for kids of all ages. And the best part? It's free. Located on west Monroe Street in Downtown Jonesboro, the home of Christmas and winter visual displays kicked off its new season with a ribbon cutting on November 30. A joint venture of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Jonesboro Class of 2016's Team B members, and MG Meyering, owner and operator of Interiors By Design, has ushered in a spruced up walkway for visitors to enjoy between now and Santa's arrival.

Each of the LJ teams selects a project to tackle during the nine months they proceed through the program and graduate. For Selena Barber of Team B, the choice made perfect sense to her and her teammates.

"Our leadership Jonesboro Team weighed a lot of great options in choosing a service project for the year, but soon settled on revitalizing Winter Wonderland," Barber explained. "This historic Christmas destination in downtown Jonesboro holds so many wonderful memories for children and families in our area. Our leadership team was really excited to play a part in helping make this facility more user friendly and welcoming to guests."

Planning and preparation to make the facility more attractive inside and out led the team to contact Meyering for his design expertise and guidance. One of their top priorities was to revamp the exterior with signage and other improvements, while creating a "new, more inviting entryway" for the public to enjoy, according to Barber.

Meyering said his initial visit with the team made it clear this was going to be a different

challenge than he typically expects with clientele.

"The last unusual project I helped design was the first-ever Dogfest back in May at the ASU Armory," he stated. "Winter Wonderland is a different kind of animal, if you'll pardon the obvious pun. But, when the end of the day comes, it still serves the same purpose. Dogfest's ticket sales benefitted the Learning Center for children with learning disabilities and Winter Wonderland is there to give kids a thrill during the holidays."

A bit of history

In 1995, the chamber established Winter Wonderland as part of its "Lights on the Ridge" project. At that time, the former Central Chevrolet shop at 407 Union Street was chosen to be its first home. Libby Donahue, a local banking executive and community activist, linked up with artist Donna Chetister



to transform it from an extensive pile of debris into a myriad of Christmas lights, displays, and wintry scenes. Chetister was new to Jonesboro then, but wanted to plunge into its culture right away.

“She had always dreamed of such a place (Winter Wonderland) and within two days has sketches drawn up for the original 12 magical scenes that would fill the building,” Donahue wrote in a history of the endeavor. Chetister worked with friends she made in the Jonesboro Newcomer’s Club. Donahue served as the event’s co-chair for some 15 years. Over that period, the location shifted to south Main Street and continued to receive crucial support from the chamber, Jonesboro City Hall, and a host of volunteer contractors, electricians, businesses, and individuals.

The Main site doubled the wonderland’s size, which gave Chetister, Donahue and company an opportunity to introduce new scenes from year to year for the nearly 6,000 visitors logged per holiday season. Tragedy struck, however, when Chetister passed away in 2006. Her legacy, the highly anticipated wonderland, would continue, in part to honor her dedication to making it free to all visitors. “She had created a place that people of all income levels could visit at no expense, a place to trade the commercialism of the season for a good family outing,” Donahue noted in the historical essay.

Another veteran volunteer, Jody Ancona, agreed to co-chair the wonderland with Donahue from 2006-10. They retired from leadership in 2010 when the Main Street location was sold. Since 2011, Winter Wonderland has been housed at its current spot. Chrystal Glisson, administrative assistant to Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, has spearheaded things in recent years.

What’s in store

Guests will be greeted by a new exterior design and coordinated lobby space where they can visit and wait in line “in a pleasant

“First Community Bank has generously offered to sponsor the ice skating rink, allowing us to offer yet another dimension for visitors and hometown residents alike.”

atmosphere before entering the wonderland exhibit and see Santa,” Meyering said. Team B members busied themselves making cosmetic changes to displays and building a more visually appealing flow throughout the facility. Ladawn Fuhr, one of those members, echoed Barber’s enthusiasm and thanked the Walmart Foundation for its \$2,000 grant to benefit the project.

“The best thing is taking part in a project with sustainability and impact for Jonesboro,” Fuhr said. “We were honored to freshen up Winter Wonderland because of the joy it brings to

so many during the holiday season. Along with our partner, MG Meyering of Interiors by Design, we were able to make it a brighter place to visit during this festive season.”

The City of Jonesboro and First Community Bank have teamed to create a new addition to Downtown Jonesboro’s Winter Wonderland. Visitors will have access to a synthetic ice skating rink, located in Downtown Jonesboro on Union Street.

“We are excited to enhance the already spectacular Winter Wonderland,” Mayor Harold Perrin said. “The community has embraced the effort, and many local businesses have offered financial support for the project. First Community Bank has generously offered to sponsor the ice skating rink, allowing us to offer yet another dimension for visitors and hometown residents alike.”

A nominal maintenance fee of \$5 per skater will be charged for a 30-minute session. Skates are included in the price, but visitors are welcome to bring their own ice skates. Discounts are available for schools, churches and other groups of 25 or more. Group accommodation can be scheduled by calling the Parks and Recreation Department at 870-933-4604.

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday (5:30-8:00 p.m.) and Saturday (12:00-8:00 p.m.). It will remain open through December 21.

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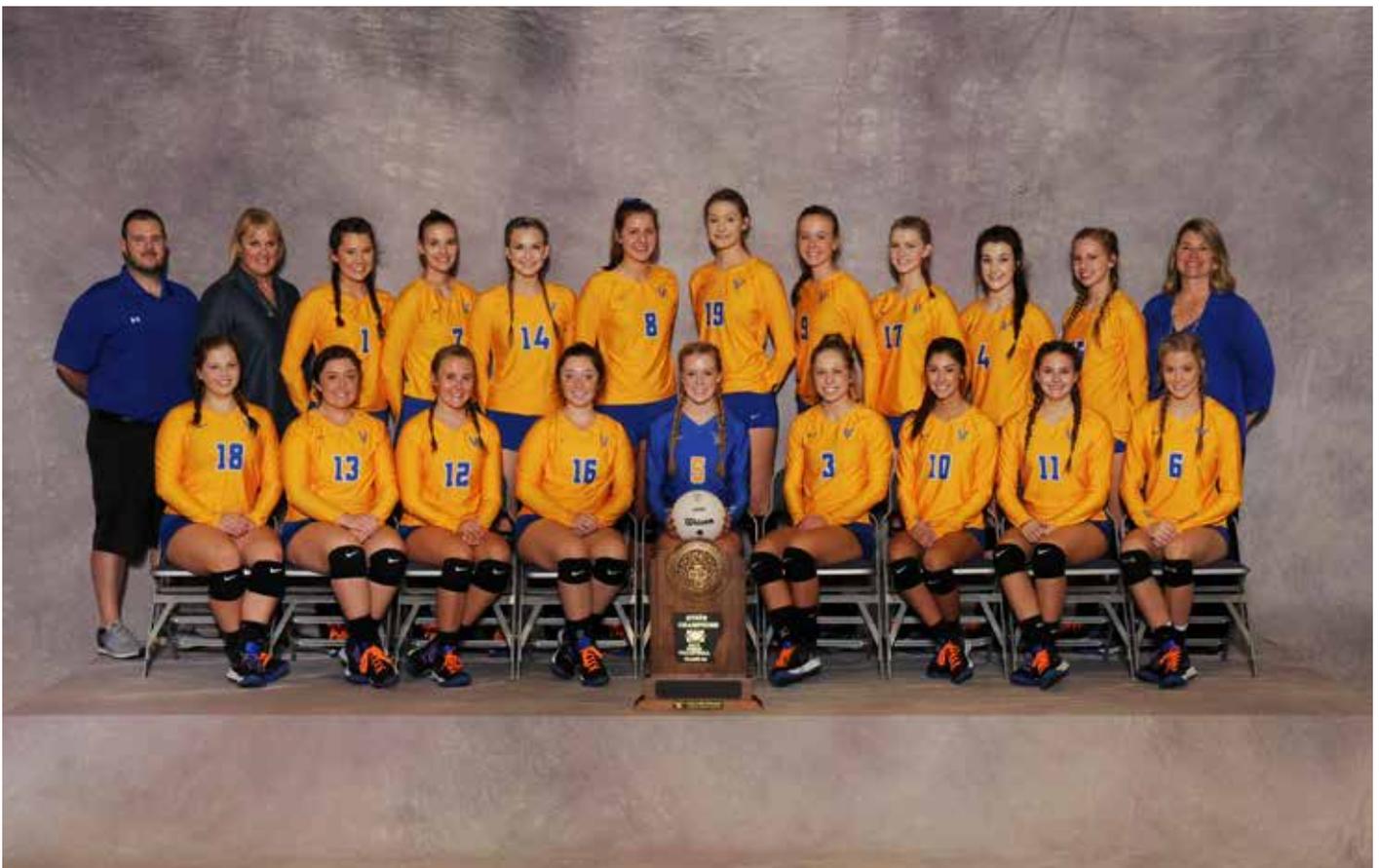
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May your season be *Merry & Bright*

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THE DIET GAL THE HOLIDAY BULGE

By Karan Summitt



In the health education business, we refer to the weeks between Halloween and New Year's Day as National Overeating Season. The average American can gain anywhere from five to 15 pounds in those nine weeks. Unfortunately, despite our best January intentions, the pounds are difficult to re-lose, often becoming a permanent reality on the scales.

Holidays bring additional challenges for managing a healthy diet. The opportunities for celebrations abound, and we give ourselves permission to indulge in foods that are unique to the season. These treats consume our calorie budget faster than you can say Kris Kringle. Leftovers linger, mocking our attempts to take "just one bite" or "do better tomorrow."

If the holiday foods themselves were not enough of a challenge, shopping, travel and multiple events squeeze out exercise time. The formula always holds true -- extra calories plus less activity equals inevitable weight gain — and in record time during the holidays!

Holiday eating does not have to be a choice between abstaining or indulging. With a few strategies, you can save hundreds of calories, maintain weight and protect your health. Here are some to try:

- Plan low calorie days in the weeks leading up to and surrounding the holidays. Calories saved today can be spent tomorrow.
- Be intentional about physical activity. Every calorie burned goes toward weight you won't gain.
- On the day of the big meal, resist the tendency to skip breakfast or lunch. This leads to starving by meal time and a false security in thinking we have plenty of calories to spend.
- As your contribution to the meal, take healthy options and learn how to reduce the calories in favorite recipes. Recognize the calorie pits — for instance, a slice of pecan pie can have twice the calories of pumpkin pie.

Choose white meat turkey over dark meat and go easy on the gravy.

- Stay hydrated on no-calorie beverages to help increase a sense of fullness. Increased fluids will also be important to offset the higher salt in many holiday foods.
- Let portion control work for you. Take bigger portions of low calorie dishes. Leave smaller spaces for richer dishes.
- Eat slowly, enjoying each bite. Give your stomach time to signal your brain that it is getting full.
- Practice smart environmental control. Serve from a buffet line instead of putting food on the table at arm's reach. Give leftovers away. Wear something tight around your middle. When you cook, chew gum to discourage mindless nibbling.
- Get moving after the meal is over. Not only will you burn off calories and get away from the food, but research also indicates that glucose levels are as much as 25 percent lower when we take a slow walk after a big meal.

Celebrating with others is a part of what makes this time of year so enjoyable. As enjoyable as those times may be, there can be serious dangers to holiday eating. Traditional meals left out for hours provide a perfect opportunity for bacteria growth. Sugary confections and carbohydrate dense treats can cause blood sugar levels to soar. The discomfort of overeating can mask the normal signs of heart problems, making patients at risk think chest pain is simply a case of bad indigestion.

Holidays are as much about family and friends as they are about the food. Relax and enjoy the fellowship, sample your favorite foods and remember to protect your health. Eat to live instead of living to eat, even during the holidays!

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BRICK SISTERS

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Barbara Hensley of Jonesboro has experienced many changes in her life, ones that led her to now helping home builders create their dream dwelling one brick at a time.

Hensley owns Natural State Brick and Stone with her younger sister Ruth Caubble, who has been in the business for 16 years. But Hensley was not always in the brick business; she bought her half of the partnership from Caubble's son when she came out of retirement.

"After over 30 years in the dental world, the last 26 years as the office manager for an endodontist in Fort Worth, Texas, I retired to become a business partner with my baby sister," Hensley said. "I knew how to run an office, so that became my new job and my sister is the guru of the brick world."

Hensley said Caubble consults with contractors and home builders, and puts together brick and stone

combinations to create masterpieces for clients.

"She has a passion for the brick, and loves her job so much that she has made me love my new retirement job," Hensley said. "I've been fortunate to watch her do her thing and then I go to our office and do my thing."

Natural State Brick and Stone is dedicated to making customers happy and goes by the motto, "Building relationships one brick at a time." Hensley said when frazzled home builders come to them trying to stay in budget, and the sisters achieve that goal, they feel good when the customer feels good.

"We are two sisters who love one another and love what we do with one another," Hensley said, adding that they give their glory to the Lord. "It's a huge learning curve for me but I get up every day and can't wait to go to work and see what unfolds."



Life is good!



A healthy, happy and active atmosphere is what makes life so good at Chateau on the Ridge Assisted Living in Paragould, Arkansas. The Chateau is more than an assisted living facility, it's a thriving community of entertained and engaged aging adults. From a spirited game of chair volleyball to a relaxing afternoon of wine and cheese, The Chateau puts the "life" in lifestyle. With all the amenities of home with the peace of mind of knowing care and assistance is always close by, Chateau on the Ridge makes life not just good but great.



Assisted Living Retirement Community

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for the ARcare Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Tuesday December 6, 2016 at 5 pm

Annie's Bridal Banquet Room
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Searcy, Arkansas 72413

RSVP to Bethany Batchelor
at 870.347.3457
by December 1.2016





THE POWER OF REVERSE MORTGAGES FOR RETIREMENT PLANNING

With around 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 each day, retirement planning and the stresses of it have become the forefront of many discussions between family and friends, as well as the subject that keeps many people up at night. In the past, social security benefits (and if you are lucky ... workplace pension plans) have been the staple for seniors to depend on when they get to the age of retirement. In today's society, dependence on social security income is no longer a reliable strategy. In this day and age if you have a retirement pension through your work, you are a rare and very blessed individual.

Most retirees now are left to creating their own nest egg through the use of IRAs and 401k plans, which have the benefits of pre-taxing and company matching, but also have the exposure to market risk (we all unfortunately remember what happened in 2008). Add to that the factors of inflation and that people are living longer than ever before. This makes for a frightening combination when trying to

conserve your nest egg. We also find that the 4% rule many financial advisors preach no longer applies as it did in the 1990s. Market downturns can kill what we have all worked so hard to save up. What is a retiree to do?

Let me introduce you to the HECM (Home Equity Conversion Mortgage) ... aka the reverse mortgage. The one asset that most retirees have in place is their home, but many are not aware of the benefits of using it for retirement planning. To qualify for the FHA insured HECM you must be at least 62 years old. Unlike what you may have heard, with this type of reverse mortgage you still own your home and remain on title, which means you must also continue to keep paying your property taxes and homeowners insurance. The FHA HECM is a non-recourse loan, which basically means if the loan balance ever exceeds the home value the borrower AND their heirs are not liable to cover the amount over the home value. The amount you qualify for is based on factors such as the borrower's age, home value and interest rates.

One of the most beneficial features of a HECM is the ability to put the proceeds into **a growing line of credit**. If left untouched, the line of credit grows at a rate above the current interest rate and compounds over time. The borrower also has access to tax-free distributions as long as they reside in the home. These features make the HECM a viable and ever-increasingly popular option for retirement and long term care planning. Even if you do have a nice sized nest egg in place, it's a great idea to set up a line of credit with a HECM just in case you outlive your life savings. It's better to set it up sooner rather than later because of the compounding growth of the credit line. In addition, interest only accrues on the amount borrowed out of the line of credit ... so if you never tap into it, you will never have to pay it back.

Call us at 870-761-2047 to see if the HECM makes sense for your retirement and how it might benefit you!

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AMMC welcomes new doctors Lloydine Jacobs, MD - Orthopaedic Surgery and Charles Steiger, MD - Urology.



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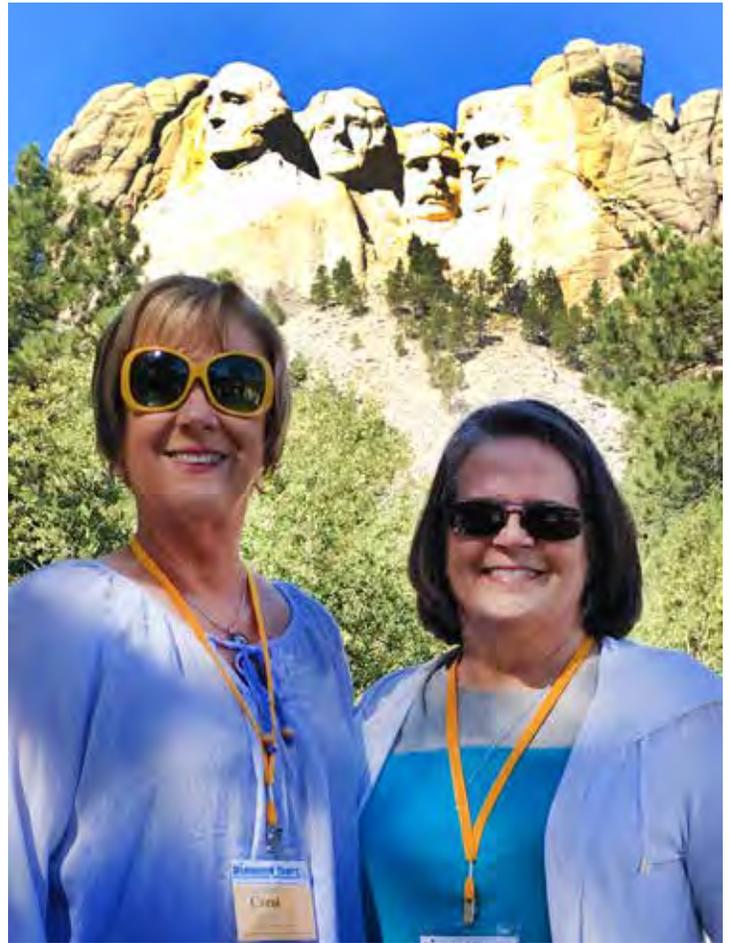

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SENIOR B.E.E.S. TRAVEL TO MT. RUSHMORE

By Carol Fleszar

Over 30 B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens recently traveled to South Dakota. We enjoyed a short tour of the original Corn Palace, where we saw murals created of corn, grain, grasses, wild oats and wheat. We later enjoyed seeing Crazy Horse and witnessing a live explosion of the monument. We also toured Deadwood, where two men in our group, Mike and Rudy, played a part in the reenactment of the killing of Wild Bill Hickok. Luckily, they remained unharmed. And finally we arrived at the historical Mt. Rushmore. We loved our time spent at Wall Drug and our tour of the Badlands National Park. And, last but not least, was our stop at the Pony Express Museum. Those young men risked their lives daily to deliver mail. Our trips are wonderful and informative. We see so much beautiful scenery. Our next trip will be March 6-April 1 to San Antonio. Reservations are being taken now. Call Carol at 870-239-4093 for more information.



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Residents enjoyed an afternoon of refreshments and celebration for the Chateau's anniversary.

CHATEAU ON THE RIDGE CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF SERVING NEA

Chateau on the Ridge in Paragould celebrated five years of serving Northeast Arkansas and staff, board members and residents came together for the anniversary.

The Chateau officially opened its doors on Nov. 15, 2011, and for its fifth birthday, Board of Directors President Bill Fisher recognized three of the first residents from that day. Becky Loyd, Lerlene Treece and Onari McKelvey still call the Chateau home.

The gala also ushered in new features to the residential area. Kathy Graber, sales and marketing director for the Chateau, introduced the Tree of Life donor wall and dedicated the chapel in memory of Bill and Kat Block. Residents and visitors were also treated to the dedication of the newly completed Alvin B. Samuel Walking Path, an area filled with flowers, gazebos and soon-to-come yard games for residents.

The future of Chateau on the Ridge holds a large amount of expansion. Individual homes, a Memory Center for Alzheimer's care and a community center are all in the planning stages to bring even more support to Northeast Arkansas seniors.



Kayla Gramling of Riverside Vocational Technical School and Kathy Graber stand on the new Alvin B. Samuel Walking Path, designed by Gramling.



Kathy Graber introduces the Tree of Life donor wall.



Becky Loyd, Lerlene Treece and Onari McKelvey were recognized as the first residents of the Chateau in 2011.



Chateau Board of Directors President Bill Fisher welcomes staff and residents.

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The Green House Cottages of
BelleMeade

OPENING SOON
The Green House Cottages of Belle Meade

The time is getting closer that we will be moving to 2200 Chateau Blvd into the Green House Cottages of Belle Meade. We will continue to be a Skilled Nursing Facility offering the same excellent care that we do now. The only difference is our "Neighbors" will each have a private bedroom, bathroom and bathing facilities, as well as access to well-planned and comfortable spaces. The centerpiece of their Home is a hearth; which contains a living room, a fireplace, an open kitchen, and dining area with a large table that serves as a place to share both good meals and good times. Their new home is in many ways like your home.

For more information, please stop by our current location at 1800 Linwood Dr. or call 870-236-7104.

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NEA ARcare Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is serving your community by focusing on HEALTHY FUTURES, DISASTER TRAINING, and OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS

Volunteering activities will include partnering with state and local programs to:

- Encourage healthy futures through education, and providing services
- Train volunteers to run volunteer reception stations during disasters
- Work in short term or specific projects to meet other community needs

ABOUT RSVP: AN ORGANIZATION LIKE NO OTHER

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is for people ages 55 and over who are excited about volunteering and giving back to the community. While there are many generous and willing volunteers eager to become involved in community service, often times there's a disconnect between those who need help and those willing to provide it. NEA ARcare RSVP bridges that gap. Our mission is to promote volunteerism throughout a thirteen county area in eastern Arkansas.

RSVP BENEFITS

Our volunteers choose how, where, and how often they want to serve. In return for their work within their community, volunteers will enjoy recognition events, group insurance, and multiple health benefits associated with volunteering.

**www.arcare.net/rsvp
CALL TODAY 870-347-3457**

HOME SAFETY TIPS FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

Here's a summary of useful home safety tips to consider, as appropriate, when caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's.

Ensure all heating pipes and radiators are covered.

Alzheimer's disease can lead to poor judgment, so it's important to appropriately cover all accessible radiators and pipes to avoid serious burns. Also, be certain the hot water heater is set so that the tap water is not hot enough to cause a scald burn.

Remove knobs from the stove, or install automatic shutoff appliances.

Caregivers should consider the dangers of cooking by older adults with Alzheimer's disease. If a person's judgment is impaired, allowing him or her to cook unsupervised may not be safe. Fortunately, automatic shutoff appliances can increase cooking safety for those with Alzheimer's and dementia. These devices come with a timer and motion sensors that may be safer or more convenient for your needs and those of your loved one.

Store hazardous materials in a safe place.

Cleaning supplies, medications and other dangerous materials need to be locked away and out of reach of the individual you're caring for.

Install grab bars in the tub, and use a bath chair or stool in the tub or shower.

Bathrooms can be dangerous for Alzheimer's patients. Older adults with some degree of incontinence, which is common in Alzheimer's patients, often have to rush to get to the bathroom, placing them at greater risk for falls. Use a raised toilet seat with handrails, or install grab bars beside the toilet. In addition, to help avoid bathroom injuries, every household should have a nonskid mat for the bathtub and shower.

Ensure staircases are safe, and make sure areas around the house are not cluttered.

Staircases should be well lit, equipped with handrails and, if necessary, blocked off when there isn't a caregiver in the house with the patient. In addition, make sure there are clear paths in all rooms and good lighting during the day and at night. This can help prevent falls.

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Rich Hillman and Wil Exum



Hillman and Andrew Ellis

PURPLE CIRCLE

Two young men from Greene County were recently inducted into the Purple Circle Club for their efforts at the Arkansas State Fair.

Andrew Ellis of Beech Grove and Wil Exum of Paragould were both inducted on October 29 into the Arkansas Purple Circle Club, an awards program recognizing junior livestock exhibitors who earned championship honors at the Arkansas State Fair. It is sponsored by Arkansas Farm Bureau, a nonprofit, private farm and rural advocacy organization of more than 190,000 families throughout the state working to improve farm and rural life.

Ellis had the Grand Champion Pen of Broilers at the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show. Exum had the Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog.

Arkansas Farm Bureau Vice President Rich Hillman presented the awards to Exum and Ellis.

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PARAGOULD CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

The Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce held its General Membership Luncheon in November, hosted by the Paragould Community Center.

Chamber members were able to showcase their businesses by setting up tables and displays around the gymnasium, and Paragould Fire Chief Kevin Lang presented a program on fire safety for those in attendance.



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NEA COOKS: TERESA VAUGHN



1) Occupation/Family: My husband Mike and I have owned and operated Neasem Business Systems, Inc., here in Paragould for 31 years. We have two sons, Jason, who also works with us (his wife is Casie), and Casey, who works at A.R.I. in Marmaduke. Grandchildren are Hannah, Jordan, Sarah, Tiffany, Karston, Jackson and Lilly.

2) How did you learn to cook? I learned to cook mostly by trial and error but also from my husband's mother, Pat, and his late grandmother Eva America Vaughn. They are both great cooks.

3) What is your favorite dish to cook? My favorite cool weather dish is chili soup. It's fast, delicious and there are always leftovers for another night.

4) Funniest/worst cooking disaster? The funniest or worst cooking disaster would be: Soon after we were married, living in West Memphis, Mike's uncle was in town on business so we invited him to dinner. You could not distinguish between the gravy and the mashed potatoes. Both were very thin.

5) Advice for others wanting to learn to cook? My advice to anyone learning to cook is to try lots of new recipes, gather all the great old recipes from family and friends, but above all, keep it fun with a glass of wine and music in the background. Don't forget the presentation; it makes everything taste better.



RECIPES

Chili Soup

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can corn and liquid (16 oz)
- 1 can kidney beans and liquid (16 oz)
- 1 can black beans and liquid (16 oz)
- 1 can pinto beans and liquid (16 oz)
- 1 can diced tomatoes (16 oz)

Brown meat, add onion and cook until brown. Stir in taco seasoning. Add remaining ingredients. Heat to boiling, then reduce to simmer. Simmer covered 30 minutes. Serve with tortilla scoops, shredded cheddar cheese and sour cream.

Margarita Pie

- 1 ¼ cup crushed pretzels
- 1 stick butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- ½ pint heavy whipping cream
- 1/3 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons triple sec
- 2-3 tablespoons tequila

Crust: Mix melted butter, crushed pretzels and sugar. Press in 9-inch pie plate. Chill.

Filling: Whip whipping cream in cold bowl with cold beaters until stiff. Set aside. Mix sweetened condensed milk, lime juice, triple sec and tequila. Fold whipping cream into mixture. Fill pie crust mixture and chill for at least 2 hours. Garnish with crushed pretzels and lime.

White Chocolate Covered Oreo Cookies

- 1 package Oreo cookies
- 1 package white melting chocolate
- Peppermint sprinkles

Melt white chocolate in double boiler. Dip each Oreo in white chocolate, then lay out on wax paper and sprinkle with peppermint sprinkles. Let cool in fridge 30 minutes.

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GET RICH

with Richard Brummett

There is no way to remember all the Christmas presents I've purchased over the years. All the dolls and games and clothes and jewelry and electronic devices run together as the years pass, leading me to believe that the important part is the people I gave them to, not the things themselves.

I have come to realize that present buying for a husband and dad is a lot different than present buying for a single guy, and the pressure is definitely on when you know you have to live with the gift recipient. If you don't want to sit across the room from someone who knows you put little thought into your purchase, don't come home with an ugly Christmas sweater wrapped in a fancy box.

One year my wife told me not to buy her anything for her birthday, so I didn't. When she didn't have a big old present on the all-important day, my daughters and I reminded her that she said not to purchase anything.

"Well I didn't mean it!" she informed us, so now I try to put a lot of thought into present buying, especially at Christmas time.

For many years I did the majority of my Christmas shopping on December 24. Lots of people questioned that practice, saying all the good stuff would be off the shelves by that time, but I looked at it this way: On Christmas Eve, I was going home with *something*.

If I started the shopping process too early in the month, I would look at something I thought a family member might like but then would say to myself, "What if I buy this today, then next week see something I know they would like more? I'd better just put this back and keep looking."

And then, on Christmas Eve, I still wouldn't have anything because "tomorrow" I might find something better. By Christmas Eve, there is no tomorrow and it's time to write the check, even though one year my grandmother almost got a new baseball glove

and my mom a Dremel tool because I was running out of time and options.

Some of the greatest presents I've ever received cost the least. These days I'm happier just to see the faces of my children and grandchildren than I am in opening a gift of my own. Time is a pretty precious gift, as are love and laughter, things Christmas at our house has an abundance of.

Last year I ripped the paper off a gift and found myself holding a box that indicated there was an Ab Roller inside. My first thought was, "I've opened someone else's gift." My second thought was, "That's a pretty nasty hint."

As I stared at the gift with a mixture of disbelief and disgust, my daughter said, "Open the box!" And I did, discovering a couple of books instead of the unwanted -- but much needed -- exercise apparatus.

My family members laughed for a long time, comparing my expression to that of a kid who can't wait to open a big old box on Christmas Day only to discover it contains clothes instead of something cool.

Rest assured, someone in the family will be getting a gift in an Ab Roller box for years to come.

I asked family members just recently to give me a list to start working from, and one of them asked me, "What do you want?"

In all honesty, what I want is to sit in our living room, surrounded by the people I love most. I want to smile as faces erupt with great surprise when opening an unexpected present, I want to laugh when the time is right, I want to know we are safe and happy and content.

You can't actually wrap that up and put it in an Ab Roller box, but you can give it just the same.

Like I said, some of the best gifts I've ever received cost the least.



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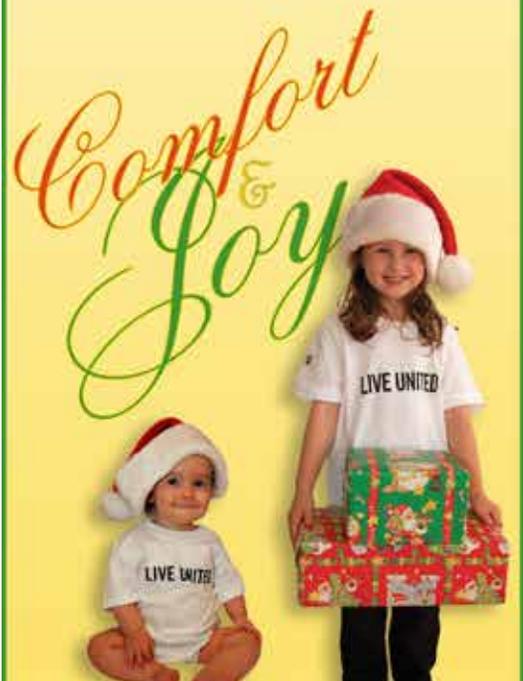
Your gift of \$5 helps feed my family for a week.

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HAPPENINGS



GCT '50s DAY

Greene County Tech Primary School hosted '50s Day during the last week of October, featuring staff members dressed in 1950s' attire. The students and staff had a great time.



CHEERS FOR CHARITY

Junior Auxiliary of Paragould held its annual Cheers for Charity Event on October 29 at The Crossing. The main attraction of the event is the Angel Tree. This year community members and businesses were given the option to adopt a child off of the Angel Tree prior to the event. All children were adopted prior to or at the event! Drop off for these presents is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, from 5-7 p.m at The Crossing. The Christmas Blessing Party will take place Thursday, December 15. This will be a time for the children from the Angel Tree to enjoy food, games, and a visit with Santa Claus. All funds raised from Cheers for Charity will be used to fund various service projects throughout the year. This year's event raised the most money ever in corporate sponsorships and donations.



ROBERT THOMPSON & AMMC

Robert Thompson has been chosen to serve as a member of the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Board of Directors.

Thompson is an attorney at the law firm Branch Thompson Warmath and Dale, P.A. He is also a member and co-owner of Paragould Title Company, a local real estate closing and title insurance firm.



AMMC WINS 8 AWARDS

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has been honored by the Arkansas Hospital Association (AHA) for outstanding hospital advertising, marketing and public relations with eight awards, including one Diamond Award and five Certificates of Excellence.

AMMC took the top Diamond Award in the Annual Report Category for "Changing. Growing. Always Caring." 2015 Report to the Community.

AHA Certificates of Excellence were awarded in the Advertising-Print/Digital Print Category for "Protect Your Selfie" print ad; Advertising-Total Campaign Category for "AMMC Welcomes New Doctors"; Foundation Category for "Foundation Fiesta"; Publication Category for "The Beacon-Good as Gold" and the Writing Category for "Fifty Years of Service."

The awards were presented to Director of The Foundation and Marketing Shay Willis at an awards dinner held at The Little Rock Marriott, in conjunction with the AHA's 86th Annual Meeting and Trade Show in October.

The Arkansas Hospital Association's awards program is held annually to recognize Arkansas healthcare institutions for their exemplary work in the communications field.

He served for ten years (2005-2015) in the Arkansas legislature. As a State Senator, he represented five counties in Northeast Arkansas, including Paragould and Greene County.

He and his wife, Tori, have three children: Cross, Henry and Victoria.

December

2016 Kids' Events

7, 14, 21, 28

Story Time

When: Wednesdays, 10:30 AM
Where: Greene County Library, 120 North 12th Street, Paragould
Info: www.mylibrarynow.org

7

Children's Knitting

When: Wednesday, 4:00 PM
Where: Jonesboro Library, 315 W Oak, Ave., Jonesboro
Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org

14

Storytime with Santa!

When: Wednesday, 10:00 AM
Where: Jonesboro Library, 315 W Oak, Ave., Jonesboro
Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org

Natalia Tippitt got to snuggle up with Santa Claus while stopping by the Jonesboro Jaycees' Toy Drive in November. Natalia, 2, was with her mom, Liliana Gomez of Jonesboro.



December

EVENTS CALENDAR

01

What: 69th Annual Jonesboro Christmas Parade

When: Thursday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Jonesboro

Info: The theme is "A Down Home Country Christmas." Contact: Dakota Isreal, Jonesboro Jaycees, (870) 931-5252; parade@jonesborojaycees.org; www.jonesboroparade.com

01

What: Newsboys

When: Thursday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

Where: ASU Convocation Center

Info: Grammy-nominated group Newsboys have added Jonesboro to this fall's "Love Riot Tour." Newsboys' multi chart-topping 2016 release, Love Riot, was recently nominated for a Gospel Music Association Dove Award for Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year. Ticket Sales: Central Box Office (Lower Red Entrance) 870-972-2781 or 800-745-3000.

01

What: Lights of the Delta

When: December 1-27; Sunday-Thursday, 5:30-9:00 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 5:30-10:00 p.m.

Where: 1405 Airbase Highway or 3089 Louisiana Avenue, Blytheville

Info: The annual "Lights of the Delta" display is the largest not only in the state of Arkansas, but in the Mid-South. With more than 30 motion displays and a total of six million lights on a 40-acre old Air Force base, it's earned national recognition. One of the popular features is to see the display on a hayride. There will also be caroling, concerts, and other family oriented activities being held in historic downtown Blytheville on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information call 870-740-6039 or visit the event's website.

02

What: "The Man Who Came to Dinner"

When: Friday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: A Collins production. Admission: \$8.00. Advance tickets available at the Hays Store in the Paragould Plaza and PostNet in the Town West Shopping Center; 15% food discount at Skinny J's with presentation of ticket through December 11.

02

What: Mingle and Jingle

When: Friday, December 2, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Jonesboro

Info: Check your list twice this holiday season in Downtown Jonesboro! Local merchant specials, retail discounts, giveaways, holiday treats, and more. The 4th Annual Mingle & Jingle will feature many Main Street merchants including Gearhead Outfitters, Adara Boutique, Sarah Howell Gallery, LensMasters, One Love People Coffee, Slate, Something Southern, Amy Long Photography, Art Night Out, Holiday Show of Kim Boyd Vickery, and Great Expectations Bridal & Formal Gown Consignment. Sponsored by MOR Media.

03

What: "The Man Who Came to Dinner"

When: Saturday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: A Collins production. Admission: \$8.00. Advance tickets available at the Hays Store in the Paragould Plaza and PostNet in the Town West Shopping Center; 15% food discount at Skinny J's with presentation of ticket through December 11.

03

What: Holiday Traditions

When: Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Paragould

Info: Santa and horse-drawn carriage rides, along with great shopping and eating experiences.

03

What: Holiday Market

When: Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Paragould

Info: Main Street Paragould is inviting bakers, crafters, artisan goods -- handmade -- home produced -- those who create unique and exceptional goods and gifts. They will also accept one vendor per brand/company of home sales merchandise. The Holiday Market will be inside The Crossing Building at 101 S. Prueett Street.

03

What: "Tales and Trails Nature Stories and Crafts"

When: Saturday, December 3, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, 600 East Lawson Road, Jonesboro

Info: "Tales and Trails Nature Stories and Crafts" is a cooperative program between the Jonesboro Public Library and Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center that is held

the first Saturday of each month. Meet in the Discovery Room for nature stories and crafts on topics native to the area - from leaves to streams to forest critters. Geared for ages 5-8 to listen to some stories and create a take home craft. Free. For more information call 870-933-6787.

04

What: "The Night Before Christmas"

When: Sunday, December 4, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: Studio de la Danse presents "The Night Before Christmas" for your holiday pleasure. General Admission: \$8.00; 12-and-under: \$5.00. Tickets available at the door.

04

What: Children's Christmas Pageant, "For God So Loved"

When: Sunday, December 4, at 5:00 p.m.

Where: First Methodist Church, 404 West Main Street in Paragould.

Info: Featuring the children's choirs at First United Methodist Church. In the church sanctuary. Potluck to follow. Call 870-239-8541 for information.

06

What: Annual Paragould Christmas Parade "A Storybook Christmas"

When: Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Paragould

Info: For more information or to enter, call the Main Street Paragould office at 87-240-0544.

08

What: Duck Classic Banquet

When: Thursday, December 8,

Where: ASU Convocation Center

Info: Annual charity dinner and auction hosted by NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation..

09

What: "The Nutcracker"

When: Friday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: Elite Performing Arts dancers will present and produce the performance. General Admission: \$10.00. Reserve Seating: \$15.00. Contact Sondra at 870-476-1619. Advance tickets available at PostNet, Shear Elegance, and Elite Performing.

10

What: "The Polar Express"

When: Saturday December 10th at 2:00 p.m.

Where: At the Crossing, 101 S. Pruet Street. Thanks to Southern Bank, the movie is free to all children and their families.

10

What: Chad Garrett and Friends

When: Saturday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: Featuring Randy Aden, Dana Johnson, Kevin King, and Randy Loyd. Guest Vocalists: Ryan Fisher and Dana Johnson. General Admission: \$7.00; 10-years-and-under: \$3.00. Tickets available at the door.

11

What: Brookland Christmas Parade

When: Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Brookland

Info: The lineup begins at the Brookland High School parking lot. Judging begins at 1:00 p.m. and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques are awarded in the various divisions. The parade route is approximately 2 miles long. It begins at Brookland High School and travels down Holman (U.S. Hwy. 49-B) to Stevens Street. The route turns west on Stevens to Oak Street and then right on Oak Street to W. School Street and back to the school parking lot. Call (870) 935-0538 for information.

11

What: "The Nutcracker"

When: Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: Elite Performing Arts dancers will present and produce the performance.

11

What: Christmas Cantata, "One Silent Night" as presented by the Chancel Choir and accompanying brass

When: Sunday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Where: In the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church, 404 West Main Street in Paragould.

Info: Learn more at www.fumcparagould.org. Call 870-239-8541 for information. Reception to follow.

17

What: A Time to Dance, 5th Annual Christmas Recital

When: Saturday, December 17, at 7 p.m.

Where: The Collins Theatre in Paragould

Info: Ballet, Jazz, Tap, and Lyrical dances will be

set to beautiful Christmas music. All proceeds will benefit "Save the Storks." Tickets will be \$8 and will be sold at the door. For more information visit www.atime2dancestudio.com.

17

What: "Once Upon A Christmas"

When: Saturday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: A Time To Dance studio presents the performance.

18

What: The Kinders Christmas Show

When: Sunday, December 18, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: Featuring children's entertainers and singers/songwriters Brian and Terri Kinder. Admission: \$3.00. Pictures with Santa and a gift bag: \$10.00. Tickets available at the door.

18

What: A Service of Healing and Hope

When: Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m.

Where: First United Methodist Church sanctuary in Paragould, 404 West Main Street

Info: A special service of remembrance for those who have lost loved ones. Call 870-239-8541 for more.

24

What: Christmas Eve Services

When: Saturday, December 24, at noon, 5, 7 and 11:15 p.m.

Where: First United Methodist Church Sanctuary in Paragould, 404 West Main Street

Info: Candlelight and Communion services. Call 870-239-8541 or go to www.fumcparagould.org for information.

25

What: Christmas Day Services

When: Sunday, December 25

Where: First United Methodist Church, 404 West Main Street in Paragould

Info: Brunch at 10; service at 11 in the church sanctuary. Call 870-239-8541 to gather more information.

30-31

What: Ultimate Oldies Show

When: Friday, December 30 and Saturday, December 31, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

Info: Featuring music of the '50s, '60s, '70s

Recurring EVENTS

Third Friday of every month: Paragould Young Professionals Lunch, noon, at rotating sites

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.

Every Second Thursday: Alzheimer's Support Group with the Alzheimer's Arkansas Association and Home Helpers Senior Care, 1:00 PM at Chateau on the Ridge.

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.

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

To have your calendar items included in Premiere Magazine, email information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com



WEDDED BLISS

Paige Cook and Joshua Tarry were joined in marriage on September 24, 2016, at Cedar Ridge Venue in Paragould. Paige is the daughter of Terri Cook of Bono and Randy Wyatt of Imboden. Josh is the son of Mike and Lisa Tarry of Paragould.

The couple met during their first year of studying at Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould in 2009. While Paige was there playing volleyball and Josh playing baseball, they found each other. What they didn't know at the time was that God's plan was different from theirs. The couple dated only a few short months before going separate ways. After three years, the two would meet again one day, and have their first conversation in years. It only took that one day for them to realize they never wanted to be apart again; and they weren't. On their three-year anniversary Josh proposed at Lake Norfolk surrounded by all of Paige's family. They were playing Ellen DeGeneres' charades game, "Heads Up" when Josh got down on one knee and pulled a ring box out of his pocket. Paige threw her arms in the air and yelled, "I hope this is real!"

The couple was married by Paul (Coach) McFadden. Paul had history with both bride and groom; he was their teacher in their Marriage in the Home class they were in together at CRC, he was Josh's baseball coach and later baptized Paige. The two stood outside under a beautifully decorated cedar arbor surrounded by friends and family for their sand ceremony and vows. The reception took place inside Cedar Ridge Venue.

The couple honeymooned at a Sandals Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica.





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CHRISTMAS PARADES



Those who like a good parade will certainly have the opportunity to get their fill when several Northeast Arkansas communities stage Christmas processions in December, beginning with Jonesboro's on the first day of the month.

Jonesboro

The 69th Annual Jonesboro Christmas Parade will be staged in the Downtown area, starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, the first day of December. This year's theme is "A Down Home Country Christmas." Contact Dakota Isreal with the Jonesboro Jaycees at (870) 931-5252; parade@jonesborojaycees.org; www.jonesboroparade.com for more information.

Lake City

On Saturday, December 3, Lake City will stage its parade. Lineup starts at 5:30 at the Wayne Biscuit Memorial Park on Nash Street with the parade beginning at 6 p.m. The Lake City Fire Department will have refreshments and giveaways after the parade.

Paragould

Paragould's annual Christmas Parade -- this year themed "A Storybook Christmas" -- will be held Tuesday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. in Downtown Paragould. For more information or to enter, call the Main Street Paragould office at 870-240-0544.

Swifton

On Saturday, December 10, Swifton will host its parade, also in the downtown area. Action gets under way at 4:30 p.m. The parade lineup begins at the Swifton Middle School at 3:45.

Brookland

The following day, Sunday, December 11, is the date for the Brookland Christmas Parade. The lineup will begin at the Brookland High School parking lot. Judging begins at 1:00 p.m. and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques will be awarded in the various divisions. The parade route is approximately 2 miles long. It begins at the high school and travels down Holman (U.S. Highway 49-B) to Stevens Street. The route then turns west on Stevens to Oak Street, and then right on Oak to West School Street and back to the school's parking lot. There is no entry fee or entry form required and everyone is encouraged to throw candy to the children along the parade route to enhance the "old-fashioned Christmas parade atmosphere." Call (870) 935-0538 for information.

Merry Christmas!

May your loved ones know the joy of independence,
and may they experience the blessings
of family and friends this holiday season.

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Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

Mingle and Jingle



Premiere staffers will be on hand when Jonesboro hosts its holiday event, and we will bring you a photographic recap in the January issue

Holiday Spirit



Be sure to check out our photo coverage of area Christmas parades. All the glitz and glamour will be caught and presented to you in the next edition of Premiere Magazine.

8 Mile Creek Trail



Walkers, runners and bikers will be thrilled to learn that a fundraising campaign has begun to help establish a trail for their safe usage within the Paragould city limits. See how you can participate in the January Premiere.

Ashley Mason

Media Consultant
ashley@mormediainc.com

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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