

PREMIERE

JANUARY
2016

John Brengard

NCHA Amateur
Champion

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- COOKING SHOW
- HOLIDAY TRADITIONS
- DUCK CLASSIC
- OUR WEDDING STORY
- BETWEEN THE DASHES

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CONTENTS



John Brengard of Paragould has built a reputation in the cutting horse competition circle, winning Amateur of the Year honors. His story begins on page 26.

9 AMMC Tree Lighting

11 Between The Dashes

16 Cooking Show ⇨⇨

19 Calendar

21 Scene 'Ya

22 Young Dancer ⇨⇨⇨

31 Holiday Traditions

32 Christmas Parade ⇨⇨

40 Outstanding Teachers

46 Our Wedding Story



On The Cover: John Brengard
Cover Photo by Tim Rand Photography



JOHN DEERE



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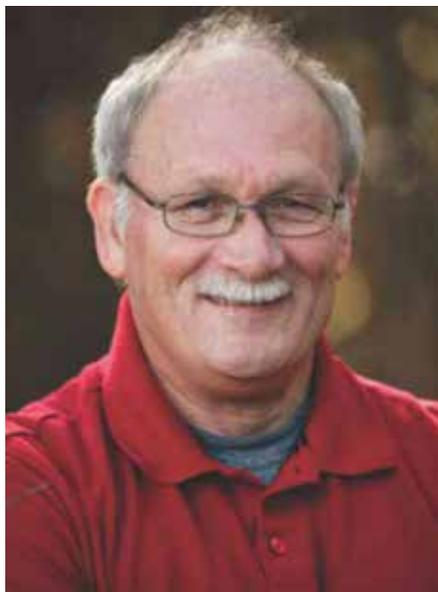
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From *The Managing Editor* ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

Hard to believe it's already the beginning of a new year, but it's here and it's one we approach with high hopes and great enthusiasm at *Premiere Magazine*.

We continue to make new friends as we do our best to bring to our readers feature stories

about the people they know and see every day in their walks along the streets of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri.

That is one of the most appealing things about the job for me, personally ... getting to bring "good news" features about our neighbors, about individuals and families we know and love because they live right here alongside us.

Premiere provides -- for me, anyway -- a much needed break from the news we see distributed by major media outlets, which are forced by the nature of the beast we have created to fill our TV screens and newspaper pages with a lot of bad news, simply because there is so much of it out there demanding attention.

In my almost-40 years in the newspaper business I had to cover more than my share of fires and wrecks and other disasters; but at *Premiere*, we are not saddled by such obligations and are fortunate to be able to pick and choose our subjects each month, and to hopefully bring smiles to the faces of our dedicated readers through those "feel good" stories.

With the onset of a new year, we will try to deliver new ideas to our magazine's pages and hope to improve our design and overall look, thanks to the addition of people with newer, fresher ideas because they are much younger

than I and have a better feel for what today's magazine reader is looking for. My design techniques are somewhat antiquated and fall into the "hard to teach an old dog new tricks" category. I am happily anticipating a more modern look for our pages as the months go by. Mostly, I hope we continue to elicit positive comments from readers who seem to appreciate the product we put out there and constantly tell us how much they look forward to finding each month's issue.

The Paragould community lost a much-loved lady at the end of last year when Mary Esther Herget passed away.

We share heartfelt comments from some of those who knew her best in this month's *Between The Dashes* feature. That story can be found on page 11 of this month's *Premiere*.

Readers can also look for photos of friends and relatives -- or of themselves -- as we recap events like area Christmas parades, the successful Taste of Home Cooking School at ASU's Convocation Center, and Downtown Paragould's Holiday Traditions.

Also, check out *Premiere's* Facebook page for additional photos. ♦

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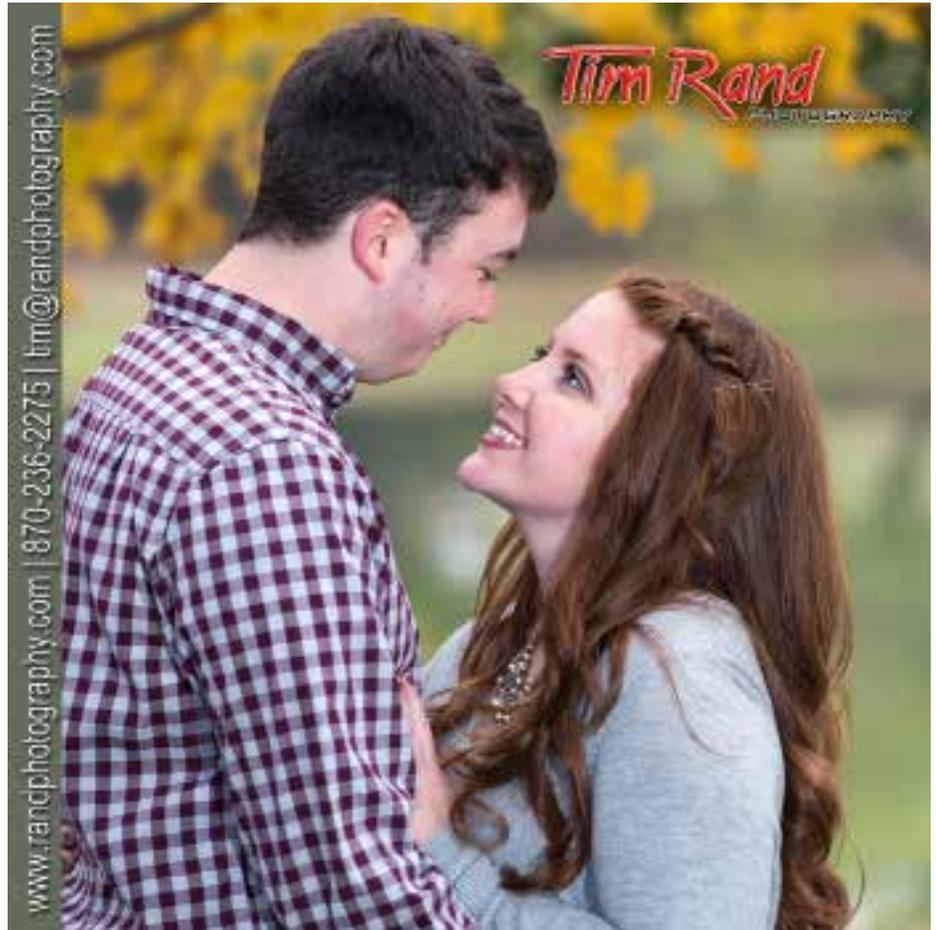
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AMMC holds annual Tree Lighting event

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould held its annual Auxiliary Tree Lighting and Foundation Holiday Auction Thursday, December 3, in The Herget Atrium.

Organizations and individuals throughout the community -- as well as departments within the hospital -- donated a total of 20 items that helped raise \$4,000. All proceeds from the Auction benefit The Foundation's ongoing efforts to serve the hospital and community by providing expanded services, equipment, and facilities at AMMC.



AMMC Auxiliary President Lynda Perry's granddaughter, Ali, lit the hospital's 16-foot Christmas tree.



Auctioneer Colonel Tom Rhoads and Miss AMMC Allison Vaughn, above, display a hand-painted window donated by Twisted Peacock. People of all ages came out and enjoyed looking at the items that were donated and auctioned off for a good cause.

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Stoplifters Program: The new "Stoplifters" Program, with offenders being given the option of wearing the "I am a convicted shoplifter sign" in front of the Courthouse or doing the time in jail has resulted in a decrease of 2/3 of the number of shoplifting cases in it's first year!



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-- Between The Dashes --

Mary Esther Herget

If you lived in Paragould for any length of time, you knew Mary Esther Herget. You had to; she was a part of so much, and so much a part of the city.

When she passed away in November at the age of 95, Mary Esther was a resident of Chateau on the Ridge, a Paragould retirement community she played a major role in establishing. She was a long-time volunteer and civic leader, and when she called you "Sugar" or "Darlin'" you never really knew if it was because she didn't know your name, or if you were just a darling individual to her.

Nevertheless, she was generally full of life and her list of community achievements and accolades was a long one.

To mention just a few:

- President of the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary and member of the center's Foundation;
- An appointee of Gov. Bill Clinton to the Northeast Arkansas Jail Inspection Commission;
- A member of the Greene County Courthouse Restoration Committee;
- Filled a role as Mother Ginger in the Nutcracker Ballet for four seasons;
- She was the First Grand Marshal of the 1989 Paragould Christmas Parade;
- In 2008 was recognized for 8,500 volunteer hours at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center with the national Summit Award by Healthcare Services Excellence Association.

Each year, when Arkansas Methodist Medical Center held its fundraising Christmas Tree auction, Mary Esther would select a tree and outbid everyone for it, then donate it to the Chateau on the Ridge. This year, as a tribute to her, the Chateau purchased one of the trees in December and proudly displayed it in the front lobby in Mary Esther's honor.

It was generosity like hers that prompted these comments from Chateau Administrator Debra

Vassar. "It's hard to put into a few words about what Mary Esther Herget meant to me and the Chateau on the Ridge. Mary Esther was part of our family here at the Chateau, we loved her dearly. She was one of the Chateau's biggest advocates, always telling whomever would listen how proud she was to live here and how she helped to get this facility started, even being on the billboard! She loved everyone she met, al-



A Christmas setting provides an appropriate backdrop for Mary Esther Herget, who purchased a tree each year at the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center auction and donated it to the Chateau on the Ridge, where she resided.

ways calling us Darlin' or Doll Baby. Even when Mrs. Herget was ill she did not want anyone fussing over her, she would ask, 'What can I do for you?' Her kind heart and loving ways will be missed by all of us at the Chateau."

And Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, a true and longtime friend of Mary Esther's, had these observations:

"It didn't matter where you saw her, or when you saw her, she always had a story. And she was always Positive Paragould. That's the way she was.

"Hello, Doll Baby. That's how she'd greet me. It was great the way she said things."

Gaskill said the two of them served on the Paragould Christmas Parade committee for 10 years. He also recalled a time when he worked

in retail and found cause to smile because of Mary Esther.

"Years ago, when I worked in the grocery store, we always had music like you'd hear on an elevator," Gaskill said. "Sometime in the late '80s or early '90s we got different channels, like the kind you would hear on XM Radio, '60s-'70s hits or whatever. One day we had some oldies rock and roll going and I looked down the soap aisle and there she was, just hanging on to that cart and dancing side to side. That was Mary Esther."

Like Mrs. Vassar, the mayor also was in tune with Mary Esther's love for the Chateau on the Ridge. "Doll Baby, I hope I live long enough to be the first one to move in," she said. "She promoted the Chateau before it was even built and promoted it after it started. She was really proud to be a part of bringing it here, and in getting to live there."

Born May 28, 1920, in Helena to Phillips County Sheriff Joseph C. and Donna S. Barlow, Mary Esther eventually attended public schools in Marvel and graduated from Western High School in Washington, D.C.

She first came to Paragould with her husband, the late Col. Richard

Philip Herget, and though they left for a time, the couple returned upon his retirement in the late 1970s and they lived in the historic Jackson-Herget home at 206 South Fourth Street.

Mary Esther is survived by her five children: Dick Herget (Sara) of Shirley, Arkansas; Barlow Herget (wife Millie) of Raleigh, North Carolina; Nancy Herget Wood (husband Don) of Prairie Grove, Arkansas; Harry Herget of Jonesboro (wife Brenda), and Rebecca Herget Bennett of Little Rock (husband Ken). She also had 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren as well as a sister, Ladye Gertrude Copenhaver (Harold) of Jonesboro and brother-in-law Alfred Herget (wife Virginia) of Paragould and sister-in-law Ann Kelly of Gallatin, Tennessee. ♦

Greene County Library seeks input from community

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Staff members at the Greene County Public Library in Paragould love to see people come in to read books, but they want the community to know they offer many more services than reading materials alone.

A new community outreach effort is designed to better address the wants and needs of the people of Northeast Arkansas and to enlighten them to the many opportunities awaiting them at the Paragould library.

"The outreach program is a basic willingness to do what is necessary to serve the unserved," said Diana Brummett, Assistant Director of the library. "We want to make people aware of our many services and we want people to make the library aware of their needs.

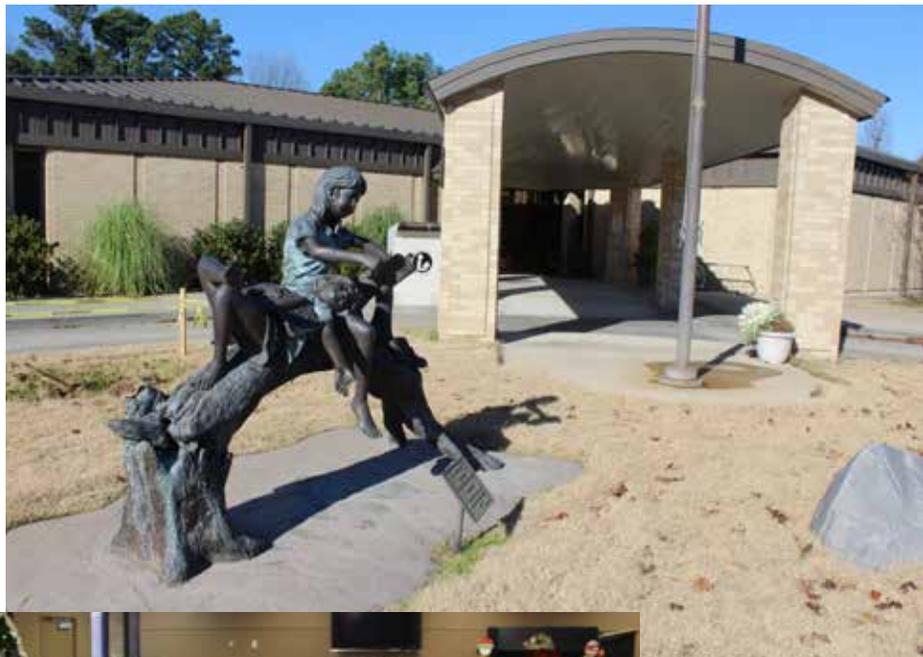
"The ones who come in a lot, we know," she said. "Those who don't come in, we want to know, 'Why not?'"

The staff has come up with a survey, which can be found on the following page. Workers would like *Premiere* readers to fill out the questionnaire, remove it from the magazine and turn it in at the library. A box will be placed near the library entrance for that purpose.

"Our library is not just about reading books," Brummett said. "For instance, we have a wonderful meeting room -- The Legacy Room -- that seats 80. It has tables, chairs, a TV, a kitchen ... it is a great place for non-profit groups to have a meeting or a reunion.

"You need to call in advance because we are always taking bookings. And the really good part about it is ... there is no fee. That makes it real popular. Any service-oriented group is welcome to use it, and we're in a great location in the center of town."

All information regarding the reservation or use of the room may be obtained by calling the library at 870-236-8711 during regular



While the statue in front of the Greene County Public Library promotes reading, above, inside there is plenty more to offer than books alone. A community outreach effort hopes to bring information regarding library services, like a top-notch meeting room, The Legacy Room, at left, to the NEA patrons.

business hours. (Those hours are listed on the survey on page 13.)

Many people aren't aware of the library's current involvement in community projects. The staff has taken part in various activities that support local schools' backpack programs and has in the past erased outstanding fines if those involved would instead make a donation of food to Mission Outreach.

"Like I said, it's not just about coming in and reading books," Brummett reiterated, mentioning services like computer and Internet access, designated study areas, and the availability of ebooks, children's programs, DVDs, magazines, newspapers and more.

"If we're going to be a public facility, we need to be available," she said. "For instance, a church group met here and wrapped boxes to be sent overseas. We need to know what people would like to see us offer, and we need people to know what we already offer.

"That's what the survey is all about," she

continued. "If people will take the time to look at it and fill it out and bring it back to us, we can get a better idea of what they want from us. Do we need to change our hours? Do we need to offer more programs? Do we need to do more for children? The only way we can know what people want us to provide is for them to tell us. And that's what we want to do. We want to be accessible, and we want to be able to give people who come in the things they expect to find here." The library is located at 120 North 12th Street in Paragould, right across the street from the Senior B.E.E.S. Center.

"I really hope people will take part in this survey so we can better meet people's needs," Brummett said. "We have our regulars who come in but we want to make the library a place for everyone. We just feel like there are so many people out there who have no idea of what all we have here, and this would be a good way for us to communicate with them, and for them to communicate with us." ♦

Library Survey (Please fill out and return to the library)

Age Range:

5-18 19-34 35-50 Over 50

How many visits to the library building in the last year?

0 1-5 More than 5

If you haven't visited the library in the last year, which of the following reasons best describes why?

- Don't have time Library hours not convenient
- I buy books and read them at home The library is too far
- The library wouldn't have what I need The library is only for children
- I don't know where the library is I don't feel welcome at the library
- The service at the library isn't very good The library is not handicap accessible

Do you have a library card?

Yes No

The library is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.; Friday hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. If library hours could be added, which of these would be your priority? (Please pick one):

- Current hours meet my needs
- Add Sunday hours
- Add Saturday hours
- Add Friday hours
- Add evening hours
- Add morning hours

Mark all words that describe the library's atmosphere:

- Friendly Noisy Safe Comfortable Fun Orderly
- Helpful staff Quiet Boring Exciting Clean Confusing
- Other: _____

Mark all areas in which you think the library can improve:

- More study room
- More materials (books, DVDs, magazines, CDs, ebooks)
- More computers
- More children's story hours
- Larger building
- Better parking
- More programming
- Services for homebound people
- Other: _____

Which two services offered by the library do you think are most important?

(Choose up to 2):

- Providing materials (books, DVDs, magazines, CDs, ebooks)
- Providing workshops or training on topics such as hobbies, computer use, job skills
- Hosting events and programs
- Offering a community meeting room (Legacy Room)
- Providing Internet and computer access for people who might not have it at home
- Promoting literacy among children and adults
- Offering seating/reading areas for people to comfortably spend time

Which two of the following programming options are most important to you?

(Choose up to 2):

- Activities and events for children and teens
- Literary events (book clubs, book talks, books to movie discussions, etc.)
- Cultural events (music, movies, dance, drama, other arts)
- Consumer health, finance and other how-to topics
- Civic engagement and current event presentations
- Gaming events/tournaments

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Dec 19

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Jan 2

Bobbie Jo Hyde and Blake Williams
February 20

AnnMarie Brogdon and Michael Casey
February 27, 2016

Christina Walls and Peter Burrow
April 16, 2016

Mackenzie Nutt and Clayton Davis
May 29th, 2016

Taylor Garner and Trase Davis
July 23, 2016



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Perfect Touch



Members of the Paragould High School Key Club visited AMMC to share the holiday spirit.

PHS Key Club members deliver cards, presents

Paragould High School Key Club members visited Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and Greene Acres Nursing Home in December to share the holiday spirit. The students donated 12 boxes of coloring books, crayons and

puzzles to the AMMC Pediatric Unit. They delivered Christmas cards and candy canes to the residents at Greene Acres Nursing Home. The students also sang Christmas carols. The PHS Key Club sponsor is Courtney Smith. ♦



To have your local news items considered for publication in *Premiere Magazine*, email information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

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



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HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS

Tuesday, January 26
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 29
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
This class helps ease the transition to parenthood for expectant mothers, their partner, and other family members. Topics include changes in early and mid-pregnancy; healthy lifestyle; coping with the discomforts of pregnancy; work-related issues; warning signs and other information to help you have a safe, healthy and worry-free pregnancy.

BREASTFEEDING CLASS

Monday, January 4
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday, February 29
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
In this class, we will discuss the importance of breastfeeding, breast preparation, feeding techniques, and positioning options for mother and baby. We will provide tips on hand expression, breast pumps, collecting and storing milk, and breastfeeding after you have returned to work. Dads and support persons are encouraged to attend. Registration in this class is done individually.

INFANT SAFETY CLASS

Monday, January 11
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday, March 7
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
This class will include education on safety for your infant. Topics discussed will include car seat safety, childproofing your home and crib safety, as well as infant CPR. Anyone caring for your infant is encouraged to attend. Registration in this class is done individually.

CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS

Saturday, January 16 & 23

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (1 hour for lunch)

Monday, February 1, 8, 15 & 22
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday, March 14, 21 & 28
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
The childbirth class series provides detailed information about late pregnancy, preparing for labor and birth, how to know if you're in labor, the process of labor and birth, comfort measures, Lamaze techniques (relaxation and breathing), importance of early skin-to-skin contact, medications, anesthesia, variations (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. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring two pillows and a blanket to class with you. Plan to attend four to six weeks before your due date. This class is a series held on four weekday evenings or two extended Saturdays. Pre-registration is required. Registration in this class is for the expectant mother and her support person.

Community Diabetes Program

Thursday, January 28

6:00 p.m.

Auditorium of the Professional Office Building
This event is free but please RSVP by 1/27/16 by calling 870-239-7016. Health breakfast foods will be prepared and shared and Occupational Therapist Todd Sanders is the guest speaker.

All classes are held in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10.00 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or email baby@arkansasmethodist.org for more information.



Taste of Home Cooking School

Jamie Dunn guides the audience through one of several recipes demonstrated during the Taste of Home Cooking School at ASU.

Taste of Home Culinary Specialist Jamie Dunn kept the audience smiling while working her special brand of kitchen magic at the Taste of Home Cooking School in Jonesboro.

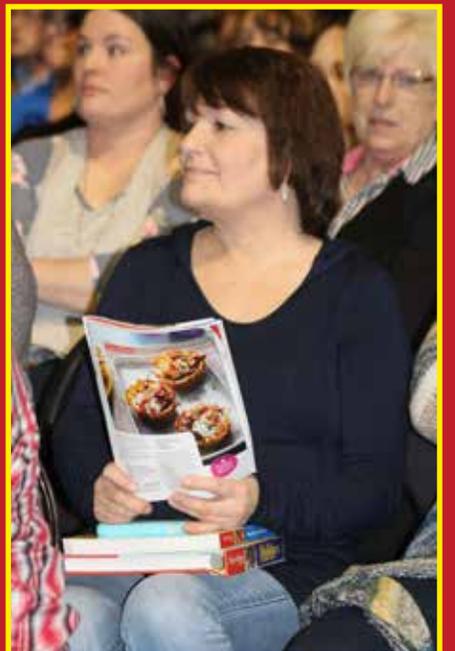
The Convocation Center at Arkansas State University was the site as Dunn entertained a large crowd gathered to learn new recipes and to take their chances at winning one of several door prizes given away by event sponsors. MOR Media and First National Bank served as the primary sponsors for the ever-popular cooking school. ♦



MOR Media's Dina Mason helped get VIP ticket holders set up, left, while Brian Osborn served as emcee for the evening, right.



Long lines outside the Convocation Center, left, translated into audience participation once inside.



Photos by
Katie Swann and Richard Brummett

Around Town



Members of the 875th Engineering Battalion presented a \$500 check for the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School clothing closet. They also donated a large box of toys.

Pictured from left are: Staff Sergeant Ervin, Kayci Blake, Jerry Dickson, Staff Sergeant Myer, Sergeant Stone.



1st Place winner in this year's NEA Baptist Duck Classic was the "White River Beverage" team. Pictured are John Stump (landowner), Dennis Noell (DNW), Robert Barnes, Chip Youngblood, and Brad Parsons (NEA Baptist). Not pictured: Ryan O'Connor and Buddy Griffin. This year's Classic raised a record \$540,000 for the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation.

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31						



Layla Wilkerson, 5, served as her mom's shopping helper. She is the daughter of Angie Wilkerson of Brookland.



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A New Career



Local musician Mike Wellman, pictured with his wife, Linda, is headed to Branson to perform professionally.

Wellman to join gospel group

Mike Wellman's long desire to be a professional musician has taken a giant step in the right direction.

The 1986 Marmaduke High School graduate was recently invited to join Eric Hinson and The Hinson Revival in Branson, Missouri, performing four nights a week at the Doug Gabriel Theatre.

"I believe this is what I'm called to do," Wellman said. "I'm not sure I ever dreamed it would go this far. At 48, it's a little scary, but at my age there are very few opportunities and we decided I need to take it while I can get it."

Hinson is well-known in the Southern/Country Gospel Music industry and is forming another group after a successful solo ministry. Wellman heard of his plans to put

something together, got in touch with his manager, sent videos of his drum-playing and singing skills and after a tense waiting game eventually got the invitation.

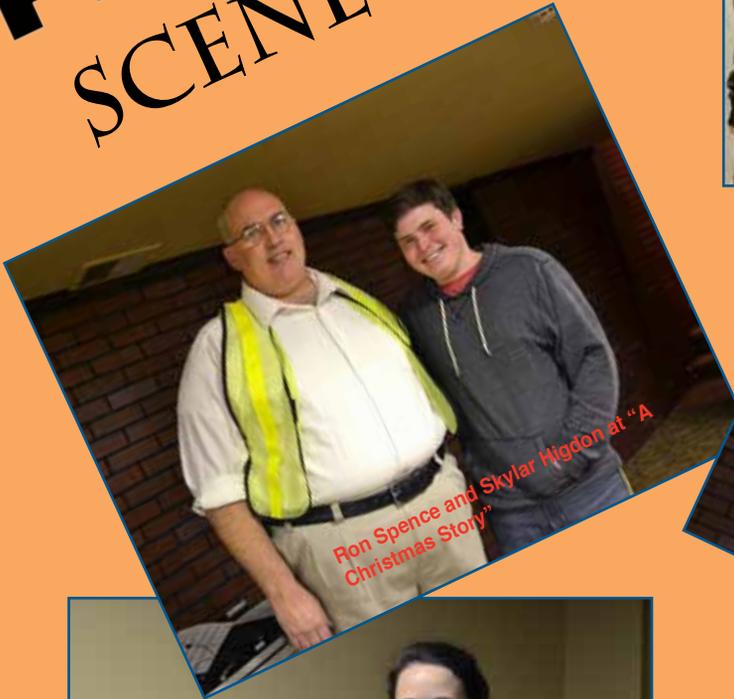
Wellman said he has sung at churches and other events all over the area and remembers singing his first song when he was so young he "couldn't hardly see over the pulpit." His love of gospel music continued to grow and now, with his most recent opportunity, he hopes to continue ministering through playing with the Hinson group beginning in March.

"The hardest part is leaving children, family and friends behind," his wife, Linda, said as they prepare to move to Branson. "But we've prayed about it and know this is what the Lord has in store for us." ♦

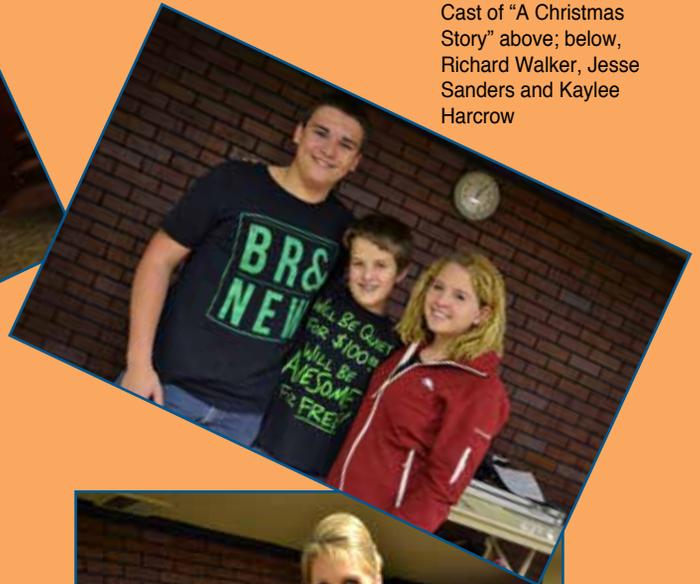
PREMIERE'S SCENE 'YA



Cast of "A Christmas Story" above; below, Richard Walker, Jesse Sanders and Kaylee Harcrow



Ron Spence and Skylar Higdon at "A Christmas Story"



Randy Hembry and Jana Gibbs, above, and Davis Clark, Debi Crews and Daxton Clark, right, all at the Collins Theatre.



At the Paragould Christmas Parade: James Carrier, Brinley and Kinley Edwards, and Fred Wooten; Jennifer, Daniel and Erin Potter, Kris Barham; Ben and Jarrah Kuenzel

Young dancer to surrender championship crown

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

In some ways Dax Claude is your typical teenage boy, in others ... not so much, especially considering he is a dance champion.

Soon he will make a return trip to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where in January of 2015 he was crowned Teen Mr. Dance of Central Tri-State in the Dance Masters of America competition. He will be handing his title over to the next winner as he prepares for future challenges.

"I am always in competition mode," the teenager said, adding that another appealing part of the dance contest world is "meeting a lot of new people. It's not all just dancing. You meet people and make friends."

He has compiled a long and impressive list of accomplishments over the years, having competed at different levels from a very early age.

Dax's mother, Heather, owner of Elite Performing Arts in Paragould, has been the major influence in his career and said they both feel he was born to be in the performance realm.

"I was back at work two weeks after I had him," Heather said, "so, really, he's been around it since he was two weeks old."

In last year's Teen Mr. Dance event, Dax was judged on talent presentations in ballet, tap, jazz and acrobatic phases and survived the mandatory interview process, which

his mother said should be a strong point.

"Let's just say he doesn't have any trouble talking," she said with a smile, and her son had to agree.

"Yeah, I talk a lot," he said.

"He did real well in all categories," Heather said, explaining that champions are

crowned in Petite, Junior, Teen and Miss/Mister divisions. "Forty-plus chapters send representatives to compete, and that covers Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. So it's quite an accomplishment."



Dax Claude of Paragould is the reigning Teen Mr. Dance of Central Tri-State. In January he will travel back to Oklahoma City to hand over the crown to the next winner of the competition.

work harder."

She said the dance competitions have helped her son grow in a number of ways, both



She said in addition to competing, dancers at the Regional event "get a week's worth of classes from master instructors, from world-renowned artists. It's not just about winning; it's the overall experience of competing and dancing in general."

Dax said his preference is musical theatre and he finds it somewhat ironic that tap is not among his favorites, since that is his mom's forte.

"That's hers, not mine," he said as he prepares for the next Mr. Dance trials and the hopes of advancing and perfecting his craft.

The national event -- yet another step up from the Oklahoma City meet -- "takes dance to a whole new level,"

Dax said.

"Next year is going to be his last as a Teen dancer," Heather said. "I think now he knows what his talent level is and he is inspired to

physical and mental.

"Obviously there are strength advantages," Heather explained, "but he has also gotten to travel to so many different places and see a lot of the country."

"And hang out with girls!" Dax added. "They can get a little chatty but I ignore all that. It's fine and dandy with me."

"And not just girls," Heather said, smiling, "but *female dancers*. The ratio of boys to girls has the odds forever in his favor."

Dax's father is Chris Claude of Jonesboro. ♦

"I think now he knows what his talent level is and he is inspired to work harder."
-- Heather Claude



Dancing has always been a part of Dax Claude's life, and success has followed him at every stop.

Photo by Tim Rand

A New Local TV Affiliate

KJBN enters Northeast Arkansas TV market

The new logo for KJBN FOX 39 and CBS 39 in Jonesboro was unveiled in a ceremony at their Highland Street location late in 2015.

KJBN bills itself as “Your Sports and Entertainment Leader” and boasts a wide array of

sporting events in addition to many Prime Time favorites on both networks.

Bill Lane is Group Vice President of Jonesboro TV, LLC, and said they have two towers and two transmitters to duplicate coverage into the Northeast Arkansas area. ♦



Above, Ken Yarbrough, Sally Smith and Jerry Garrett; at far right, KJBN's Kelley Easby-Smith, Bill Lane and Gary Davis; at immediate right, John Campbell and Easby-Smith, who joined groups of well-wishers at the logo unveiling.



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A New Title ...



John Brengard came home from summer cutting horse competition as the top amateur rider in the United States.

Paragould rider is nation's top amateur

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

John Brengard might not be certain where riding a horse will take him in the future, but he certainly knows where it has him today.

Brengard, 16, recently came home from Fort Worth, Texas, having been named the top-ranked amateur in the nation in National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) World Championship Futurity at the Will Rogers Memorial Center.

"I haven't put that much thought into it," the Paragould High School sophomore said when considering a future on horseback. "But this has definitely made me a horse person. I don't know how to do without it now."

Sparked by an admiration for fellow Paragould rider Tyner McCullar, a champion himself just a

few years ago, Brengard got into the sport and stayed on a horse as much as possible.

"Whenever I was younger, I went to every show Ty went to and really got to like it over time," the teenager recalled. "I played basketball until the eighth grade but I quit the team once I got into riding because I had to travel all the time."

As his skills progressed and his desire to compete on a large scale grew, it became a family affair. His parents bought into the act -- literally -- and things took off from there.

"We were just normal people," said John's mother, Tracy. "We had no horses at all. Now we have about 20. His dad (Chris) really got into it. And I have to admit, when he's competing I get into it, too."

Success in cutting horse events is directly related to the connection between horse and rider. Brengard said, "You're only as good as your horse" and praised the work of his fellow champion Missy, a seven-year-old bay mare whose show name is Smooth As A Huntress.

"Over the years, I like her the most," Brengard said. "We bought her toward the beginning. She taught me how to be good at the sport. You would think it would be the other way around, but she has helped me out a lot. I was riding her before I really knew how to ride."

He also is quick to credit his parents for investing so much in expensive, but necessary, equipment and in horses, and lauded his horse trainers "who keep them healthy."

Being a part of the circuit means lots of hours on the road. Arkansas is not the best state in which to find top-grade riders for a number of reasons and most of the events take place far from home, mostly in Texas.

"Some are held in Mississippi and I think we had one in Arkansas -- in Texarkana, maybe -- but the really large majority are in Texas. This year I know we went to Ohio, Las Vegas, Idaho, California ..." all part of what makes the challenge so difficult. The season carries over into the school year and Brengard is one of the few top competitors not being home-schooled. "We definitely spend a lot of time driving," Tracy said, "and I go to all the events I can. I went to California and Las Vegas, but I didn't make it to Idaho. Someone has to stay home and take care of the dog."

In addition to the thrill of competing against other riders his age and skill level, Brengard said the experience has served as sort of a history lesson for him.

"When we can, we drive around and see the sights and try to learn about the history of the area where we are," he said. "A lot of the time the schedule is so tight that it's just riding horses and not much else. But I like to see the history when I can."

"And the NCHA is a throwback. It's like being out West all the time. It's neat. I think it's cool to be somewhat like them."

Tracy said the experience has been nothing but positive for her son.

"He has grown so much, and not just in height," she said. "He is a better person in every way.

When he first showed I thought to myself, 'Wow, that was neat that he cared about it so much.' And then he's in the running for Amateur of



Photo by Hartphotos.us/HART



Photo by Tim Rand Photography

Brengard is shown riding his favorite horse, Missy, above, and was presented a saddle in recognition of his championship performance.

the Year. But then it gets to be like any other sport. You sit and watch and get nervous and worry. You never know what the cows will do." So now, after an almost-every-week schedule of riding contests, is Brengard ready to take some time off and reenergize?

"Not really," he said, pointing out that attending a late-December show in Augusta, Georgia, would have been fine with him. "I've pretty much been going strong ever since I started. I don't know what's in the future, but I know it has a horse in it somewhere." ♦

JUST WHAT IS THE SPORT OF CUTTING?

Cutting is a western-style equestrian competition in which a horse and rider work as a team before a judge or panel of judges to demonstrate the horse's athleticism and ability to handle cattle during a 2 1/2 minute performance, called a "run."

Each contestant is assisted by four helpers: two are designated as turnback help to keep cattle from running off to the back of the arena, and the other two are designated as herd holders to keep the cattle bunched together and prevent potential strays from escaping into the work area. Cutting cattle are typically young steers and heifers that customarily range in size from 400 to 650 pounds. They are of Angus or Hereford lineage or possibly a mix of crossbred beef cattle with Charolais or Brahman lineage.

A contestant is required to make at least two cuts from the herd, one of which must be a cut from deep inside the herd while the other(s) can be peeled from the edges. Once the selected cow has been driven clear of the herd, the contestant commits the horse by dropping the rein hand to feed slack and give the horse its head. At that point, it is almost entirely up to the horse (with the exception of leg cues from the rider) to prevent the cow from returning to the herd; a job the best horses do with relish, savvy, and style. Judges score a run on a scale from 60 to 80, with 70 being an average score.

Cutting is a sport born of necessity and dates back to a time when ranchers in the American West hired cowboys to work and sort through herds of cattle out on the open range, separating those in need of branding or doctoring. From the open range to the indoor arena, cutting has grown into a widely recognized sport with sanctioned events, some of which offer added monies and awards comprising million dollar purses. Cutting horse competition is primarily governed by the rules and regulations established by the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) located in Fort Worth, Texas. There are also NCHA affiliates in Australia and Europe.

Cutting horses that are well-trained and properly conditioned for competition are exceptional athletes with skills that have been honed to the degree the horse is able to respond instantaneously, matching the cow's every move, head to head, in order to contain it. ♦

Group honors veterans with gift presentations

As has become their custom, a number of area veterans paid visits to local nursing homes and retirement communities in December to present former members of the military who now live there with robes, their way of thanking the men and women who served our country over the years. Following friendly discussions with the honored veterans, the members of the Vietnam Veterans/Legacy Veterans Motorcycle Club saluted each individual who received one of the gift robes.

In the photos at right and below, the Legacy Veterans are shown at Chateau on the Ridge. ♦



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Banded headband: *Textbook Brokers*, \$11.99



Northface pullover: *Gearhead Outfitters*, \$60

Nike tight fit leggings: *Textbook Brokers*, \$75

Hoka Ortholite running shoes: *Gearhead Outfitters*, \$130



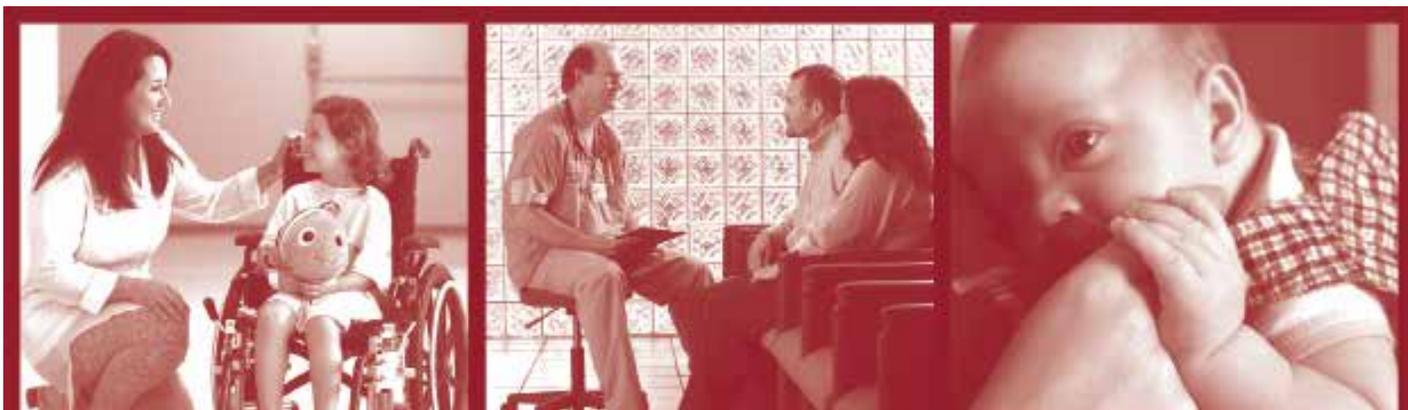
Brookland parade features cars, trucks, tractors

Organizers of the 145th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade took a look at the weather forecast and made the decision to move the proceedings up by one day, and fans cooperated by lining the highway to view the various entries as they passed by. Normally held on the second Sunday afternoon in December, the parade was bumped up a day ahead to Saturday in order to avoid heavy storms predicted for the following day.

Antique cars and trucks, vans, tractors, horse riders and various other entries delighted the crowd as they wound through town on the annual parade route, honking horns and tossing candy to kids along the way. ♦



MOR Media “rocked” the Brookland parade alongside numerous other entries.



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Holiday Traditions



Downtown Paragould played host to horse drawn carriage rides, Santa, shopping and much more during the annual Holiday Traditions celebration.



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The advertisement features a large sign for Stadium Auto Body Inc. with the slogan "Accidents Happen. We Happen Next." and a "Happy New Year" graphic. The background shows the company's building and an American flag.



Grand Marshal Jimmie Lou Fisher waved to the crowd, above, while Batman and Star Wars characters delighted the onlookers as well.

Christmas Parade lights up Downtown Paragould

Sirens blared, lights flashed, horns honked and bands played as Downtown Paragould played host to the annual Christmas Parade in early December.

With Grand Marshal Jimmie Lou Fisher presiding over the action, all sorts of vehicles, floats and local high school marching bands made the walk down Pruet Street as onlookers lined the sidewalks in hopes of seeing friends, relatives and -- most importantly -- Santa Claus. The weather cooperated, providing an evening compatible to standing outside and watching the action as it unfolded.

Winners in the Float Competition included:
Grand Marshal Award -- Blue Cross General Baptist Church

1st Place Winner -- Chateau on the Ridge

2nd Place Winner -- Family Fun Central Skating Rink

3rd Place Winner -- Pay It Forward Paragould ♦





Elaborate floats and a visit from Santa punctuated a night of festivities in Downtown Paragould. Spectators were delighted by the bright lights and unique outfits sported by many of the Christmas Parade entrants.



Photos by
Caitlin LaFarlette

Duck Classic raises funds for NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation

The 13th annual NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation Duck Classic set new records with \$540,000 raised, drawing a crowd of approximately 1,700 from a 10-state area and a larger than ever corporate sponsorship from Under Armour.

This year's banquet, held December 10 at the NEA District Fairgrounds, featured the traditional live auctions, a new online silent auction that went live on Thanksgiving day, raffles, a dinner by John 3:16 Ministries, and more chances than ever for attendees to win cash and prizes.

On the morning of Friday, December 11, pre-registered teams participated in a competitive duck hunt involving strategy and a scoring system. Hunters were paired with local landowners/hosts that showcased Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas as a premier duck hunting destination.

Following the hunt, teams validated their scores at an official duck scoring and awards event held at sponsor location DNW Outdoors Archery Range. The winning team, "White River Beverage," hunted on land owned and guided by John Stump. Team "Focus Bank" came in second with landowner Kendel Atkinson and Team "South" came in third with



Guests like Patti Parton, Mallory Parton, Sam Lemmons and Nick Allmon, at left, were filled in on all the items up for bid as the 13th annual Duck Classic got under way.

landowner Daniel Griffin.

"This year's Duck Classic was the most successful yet and it is because of the support we receive from our sponsors, landowners, hunters, volunteers, and our community," said Brad Parsons, CEO

of NEA Baptist. "It is a blessing to see how this event has grown and continues to bring the community together to support the local programs of our foundation." ♦

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Auctioning of items was handled by Joel King.

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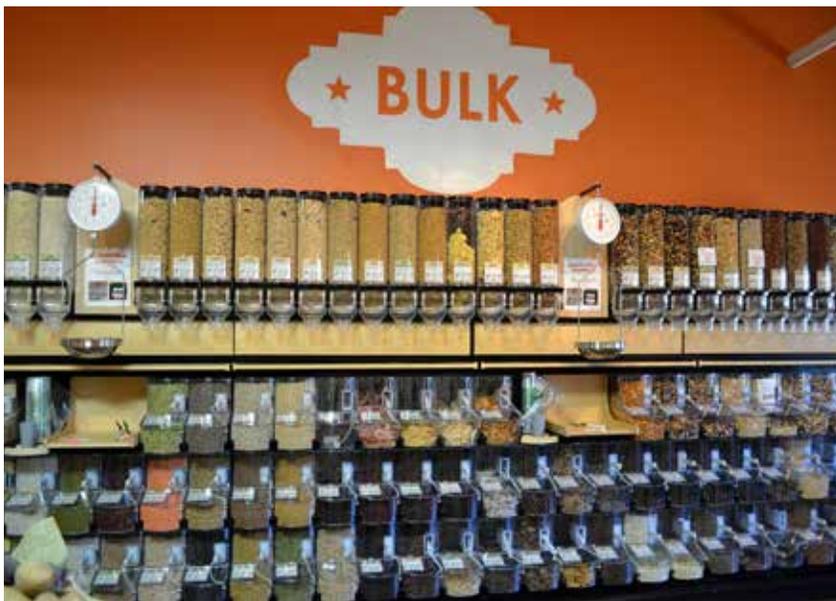
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The goal of The Truck Patch owners is to focus on providing good quality food to the members of the community.



The Truck Patch offers healthy eating alternative

BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

Vegetarians, vegans and health nuts, rejoice. A healthy alternative to shopping and grabbing a quick lunch is now available in Northeast Arkansas.

The Truck Patch Natural Market, located in Jonesboro, is filled from wall to wall with organic produce, gluten free items, natural supplements and local honey and syrup. The market offers a wide variety of products but isn't as overwhelming as larger health food chains, such as Whole Foods, can be.

The market was originally opened in Mountain Home five years ago by Mike and Sarah Adler. Sarah said the two noticed finding and buying good quality food with simple, clean ingredients was a challenge, which led to the creation of their market.

"The idea behind the store was to focus on providing good quality food to the community," Sarah said.

After traveling to Jonesboro for several years and realizing the community had no place similar to the market, the Adlers brought their organic products to town in 2015.

What makes The Truck Patch extra special is its in-store eatery, The Stem and Spoon Cafe. Sarah said the original menu utilizes quality ingredients and sources local bread, and also has antibiotic- and hormone-free meats and cheeses, a must have for any environmentally-aware



Enjoying a sitdown meal is a worthwhile experience.

customer. The cafe also serves gluten-free, vegan and paleo options, smoothies, coffee and a kid-friendly menu.

"Our crews love to cook, and it shows in the food they prepare," Sarah said.

During my visit, I tried the special of the day, a Beyond Be-Leaf panini with provolone cheese, spinach, onion, tomato, roasted bell peppers and garlic-basil mayonnaise. The half sandwich also came with a side of fresh chicken and dumplings. The cleverly named panini was incredibly fresh

and extremely light on the stomach.

The spinach and other vegetables could have come straight from the garden and the sandwich stayed together in my hands, something that has never happened when attempting to hold ingredients between two slices of bread.

The chicken and dumplings were also worth five stars. The dish was creamy and not too salty; in fact, I could actually taste the vegetables and the chicken was so tender and easy to bite in to.

But even if you are in a hurry for lunch and don't have time to wait for food to be cooked, The Truck Patch provides a quick grab-and-go area near the cafe with plenty of drinks, snacks and meals that can be taken anywhere.

Since the cafe is nestled in the corner of the market, after lunch you can stroll through the aisles and pick up your favorite vitamins, bulk foods or health and beauty products.

"Our store has a lot of products that you will not find anywhere else in the surrounding communities," Sarah said. "We really focus on clean and simple ingredients. We don't allow artificial flavors and colors in our food, no MSG, no high fructose corn syrup and no trans fats."

So, you can forget the traditional fast food options when a quick meal is needed. The Truck Patch Natural Market makes shopping healthy even easier and more fun with its fast but high-quality service. ♦

Business Is Good

Paragould resident wins TV in Hays' promotion

Telisha Isom of Paragould won a \$1,000 LED TV through the GAME OF LIFE at Hays Supermarkets.

She entered her online code and won less than two weeks after the program began. It will continue through February 23, 2016.

The GAME OF LIFE is a collect and win contest with more than \$5,500,000 in prizes and money saving offers, including \$100,000 cash, a \$50,000 vehicle of choice, \$20,000 college tuition, Xbox Ones, Grocery Gift Cards, and more.

There are three ways to play: You can collect pieces and place them on your game board, enter online codes, or win instantly.

Hays is a family-owned and operated company established in Blytheville in 1935. Hays owns 12 stores in Blytheville, Helena, Jonesboro, Paragould, Walnut Ridge and Wynne in Arkansas, and in Caruthersville and Hayti in Missouri. ♦



Telisha Isom is recognized as a GAME OF LIFE prize winner by Hays' Store Manager Barry Hestand in Paragould. Isom was presented with a congratulatory cake, as well.

Happy New Year!

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Rustic Rail Eatery to open in Downtown Paragould

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

When searching for that one catchy phrase to describe their new restaurant, co-owner Ken Mock keeps tossing around the word "unique."

"I really think that's what it will be," he said of The Rustic Rail Eatery, a venture he and business partner Terry Williams hope to have up and running by late February.

Big-time renovations to the building at 211 South Pruett Street in Paragould are nearing completion and when the restaurant is ready to welcome customers, the owners say they think it will provide some much-needed variety for local diners.

For starters, it will have a railroad theme which ties in with both Paragould's history as a rail town and with the location, situated right in

front of the tracks. In fact, they plan to have a TV monitor in-house pointed so guests can watch the trains go by as they dine.

"The environment is going to be really cool," Mock said. "With the railroad theme, along with the fact that we will have super-

great food, I think people are really going to like it."

The walls are plastered with railroad memorabilia in an appealing setting, but it is the



Owners Terry Williams and Ken Mock plan to bring a new dining experience to Downtown Paragould with their Rustic Rail restaurant.

main product -- the food -- that the two think will keep people coming back. They plan lunch time and dinner buffets and salad bar, and after-dinner hours finger foods and specialty items like sandwiches, a baked potato bar and Sherry's Gourmet Coffees and Cakes, referred to as "slap your mamma desserts."

"You really don't have that many buffet options

in Paragould," Williams said, "especially not at supper time. We'll have some specialties, some smoked pork steaks and chicken, cooked a little differently with some really good flavor."

Plans are to be open Tuesday-Sunday for lunch, staying open in the middle of the week until 8-9 p.m. and on weekends until 10 p.m. "or as late as we need to," Mock said.

Local musical acts will be featured during the



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The stage area not only has a unique look but has been professionally designed to bring the performers' best sound to the audience.

evening hours Thursday-Saturday and the men have not only constructed a nice stage area for the bands near the restaurant entrance, they have put in rubber sheets above and below it and have planned the room in such a way that "the building will be tuned for good, quality sound," according to Mock. "The absorbing parts will keep the music from bouncing around, so you can hear the band perfectly, but you can also sit and have a conversation while you eat.

"Downtown has changed a lot with the lights and sidewalks," he said, referring to a recent revitalization project in Paragould. "They've put a lot into Downtown and we think what we're doing with the railroad, the food, the entertainment ... there's nothing like this in Paragould."

Mock said musical acts are welcome to call him at 870-476-5683 to schedule dates; anyone needing more information about the restaurant should call the same number. ♦



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Here's to iROCKin' in the New Year!



GT students get CSI instruction

Third and fourth grade Gifted and Talented students at Baldwin and Woodrow Wilson Elementary schools recently participated in a unit of study on CSI - Crime Scene Investigation.

Students learned how to analyze evidence, record data and document evidence as they were exposed to a wide variety of careers in forensic science. To conclude the unit, D.A.R.E. officers Chris Gray and Tron Beesley met with students and reviewed the steps of crime scene investigation as they set up a mock crime scene and instructed students on how to search, analyze and record data at the scene.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in magnetic finger printing. They are instructed by Starla Wood, GT Coordinator for the PSD. ♦



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Happenings



1

1. Leadership Award Winner

Dan Hosman, a row-crop farmer from Jonesboro, is the 2015 recipient of the Stanley E. Reed Leadership Award from the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation. Hosman accepted the award from Farm Bureau President Randy Veach and Charlene Reed, Stanley's widow. The award was presented Dec. 2 during the organization's 81st annual conference at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Little Rock. Hosman, 38, is a fifth-generation farmer. He grows rice, soybeans and sorghum. The Reed award goes to an active member, 36 to 45 years old, for outstanding leadership within their county Farm Bureau and community.

2. AMMC Earns Honors

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has been honored by the Arkansas Hospital Association (AHA) for outstanding hospital advertising, marketing and public relations with fifteen awards including five Diamond Awards and eight Certificates of Excellence. The awards were presented to Director of Marketing and Public Relations Shay Willis, center in photo at left, at an awards dinner held at The Little Rock Marriott, in conjunction with the AHA's 85th 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.



2

3. Guest Speaker

The Greene County Master Gardeners, led by Carolyn Palmer, helped Ms. Harmon's 4th grade class at Oak Grove Elementary School plant tulip bulbs in honor of their collecting the most items during their recent canned goods drive. Pictured are Harmon and Palmer, with Master Gardeners Linda Glickert and Donna Jones in the background with several OGE students. They all got to dig and plant four tulip bulbs. Palmer went over safety rules and identification of tools used before starting the project. The students were presented with small trowels and armbands. ♦



3



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Premiere's Outstanding Teachers

Haley Deck Greene County Tech Primary



Haley teaches kindergarten at the Greene County Tech Primary School and is in her third year of teaching.

"Being a kindergarten teacher, there are PLENTY of funny stories to tell," she said. "This year when we started school, I was about 34 weeks pregnant. The kiddos were very fascinated with my (rather large) baby belly. One day, a student asked me "why it looked like that." I told him that there was a baby in there, to which he responded by staring at me with horror in his eyes and asking, "WHY did you eat your baby?" Best. Response. Ever. Haley and her husband, Blake, welcomed their daughter -- Finley -- into the world on September 25 of 2015. ♦

Kendra Hurt Baldwin Elementary School



Kendra has taught math at Baldwin Elementary School in Paragould since 2014.

"I interned at Baldwin under Mrs. Judy Abbey before I became a teacher there in 2014," she said.

"While I was completing my internship with Mrs. Abbey's class, I busted out into the Krusty Krab Pizza song from Spongebob Squarepants while imitating the way Spongebob had sung it on the show. I later received a note and sketch of Spongebob from one of the students stating that I was the best singer of the Krusty Krab Pizza song ever. We also did a great deal of wonderful activities that the students enjoyed as I was teaching Arkansas History. We discussed the Flood of 1927 and the New Madrid Earthquakes. In order to bring these stories to life, we jumped up on top of the desks when we discussed the flood and we ducked under the desks when discussing the earthquakes. The students thoroughly enjoyed the activities and they loved the learning that came along with it. I loved watching their interactions with each other when working in groups to discuss the events. "I have three older brothers. I have been with my amazing and wonderful partner Zach Kent for the last eleven and a half years. I also have a beautiful and funny 15-year-old niece named Lacie that I love dearly, and I have two cats and one dog. ♦



Hiking/Biking awareness signs have been placed, thanks to Future Fund.

Future Fund lets professionals give back to their communities

A Future Fund is a way for professionals to give back to their communities. It doesn't take great wealth, and it doesn't require a huge time commitment. It's a group of individuals who want to put their money where their mouth is, to contribute to projects that invest in the future of a healthier lifestyle.

Simply put, you and your peers contribute to a special charitable fund at Arkansas Community Foundation of Greene County, and together, you come to a decision about which local charities you want to support with your pooled dollars. Future Fund chose to grant its funds for the purchasing of 5 hiking/biking awareness signs to assist the runners and bikers and tell all of the cars to keep an eye out for them.

They have been located on:

Hoepfl Arena Hills

7th and Mueller Location

Pine Log and 707 Road Walcott Intersection

725 Road off of Campground

628 Hill

If a business, entity, or not for profit organization would like to contribute to the purchase of signs, they can be purchased for \$100 each.

If you would like to be a member of the Future Fund, there are different levels of giving, with a minimum of \$1,000 commitment that can be paid in installments.

For more information, contact Kimberly Dale at kdale@paragouldlawyer.com. ♦

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January

CALENDAR

Friday, January 1

ULTIMATE OLDIES SHOW. at Paragould's historic Collins Theatre, music from the '30s, '60s, and '70s. Singers include Chandler Gill, Craig Morris, Donna Rhodes, Richie Williams, Ryan Fisher, Sam Morris, Savannah Morris, Lori Dial, Shannon Freeman, and Suzie Freleigh Stacey. The house band is made up of members: Joey Pruett, Josh Mobley, Josh Poff, Michael Newson, Mark Owen, Ken Wadley, and Teddy Hoke. General admission tickets are \$15.00, reserved seating is \$20.00. Tickets can be pre-purchased at PostNet or Ignited Gifts. To hold tickets or for reserved seating, please call 870-215-2233.

FIRST DAY HIKES. Arkansas State Parks will host free, guided hikes in our state parks on New Year's Day as part of America's State Parks First Day Hikes initiative in all 50 states. America's State Parks First Day Hikes offer individuals and families an opportunity to begin the New Year connecting with the outdoors by taking a healthy hike on January 1, 2016, at a state park close to home.

Saturday, January 2

ULTIMATE OLDIES SHOW. at Paragould's historic Collins Theatre, music from the '30s, '60s, and '70s. Singers include Chandler Gill, Craig Morris, Donna Rhodes, Richie Williams, Ryan Fisher, Sam Morris, Savannah Morris, Lori Dial, Shannon Freeman, and Suzie Freleigh Stacey. The house band is made up of members: Joey Pruett, Josh Mobley, Josh Poff, Michael Newson, Mark Owen, Ken Wadley, and Teddy Hoke. General admission tickets are \$15.00, reserved seating is \$20.00. Tickets can be pre-purchased at PostNet or Ignited Gifts. To hold tickets or for reserved seating, please call 870-215-2233.

Monday January 4

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce building, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Mission of the Transportation Committee is to obtain, share and act upon issues and needs in all matters related to city, state and federal funding for streets, highways, public transportation and aviation.

Wednesday January 6

POWER BREAKFAST. Hilton Garden Inn, Jonesboro, 6:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for Jonesboro Chamber members to network.

Mon.-Tue., Jan. 11-12

TRYOUTS FOR SNOW WHITE, the Greene County Fine Arts Council's production, will be held January 11 and 12. Specific times and location to be determined. To find out nearer to audition time, "like" us on Facebook.

Thursday, January 28

2016 DELTA NATIONAL SMALL PRINTS EXHIBITION, at the Bradbury Gallery on the campus of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. The Exhibition runs through February 28.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

SOCIAL MEDIA SEMINAR, for Small Businesses at the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce. Hosted by Main Street Paragould, 7:00 a.m.

Social media seminar for small businesses, presented by The Arkansas State University Small Business and Technology Development Center. How to make Facebook and Instagram work for you and your small business.

Thursday, February 11

ASU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, the U.S. Army. Pershing's own Trumpet Ensemble, at the Fowler Center on the ASU campus, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 13

CROSS MY HEART SOIREE. The American Red Cross-sponsored event will be held at The Silos in Bono at 6:30 p.m. The semi-formal evening includes dinner and dancing and much more. Tickets are \$50 each; a reserved table for 8 is \$400. Call 870-032-3212 for information.

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 19-20

SNOW WHITE. The Greene County Fine Arts Council's production of Snow White at 7:30 p.m. at the Collins Theatre in downtown Paragould. Tickets available at the door and online at www.gcfac.org.

Sunday, February 21

SNOW WHITE. The Greene County Fine Arts Council's production of Snow White at 2:00 p.m. at the Collins Theatre in downtown Paragould. Tickets available at the door and online at www.gcfac.org. at 7:00 p.m. in the Collins Theatre. Admission is \$10 and kids 12 and under \$5.

Recurring EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Second & Fourth Tuesday of every month: The Paragould American Legion Post 17 meets at 7:00 p.m. at the corner of Court and Hwy. 49. The second Tuesday is a business meeting and the fourth is a Pot Luck Dinner 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 p.m. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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Dustin & Tiffany Henson

Nov. 7, 2015



Our love story

Tiffany Kirklin and Dustin Henson were joined in marriage in an evening ceremony on Nov. 7, 2015, at the First Baptist Church in Rector, Ark. Pastor John Fleming officiated the double ring ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Cherie Kirklin of Rector and is the Recruitment/Communications manager at the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce. The groom is the son of Alfred and Debbie Henson of Paragould and is a self-employed farmer. The couple met while studying at Arkansas State University and both hold bachelor degrees in Agriculture Business. After six years of dating, Dustin proposed Dec. 25, 2014, by hiding a ring in his Christmas tree. He led Tiffany to the tree and told her to find her Christmas present hidden somewhere inside. Tears of happiness immediately flowed when she saw the beautiful ring box buried between the branches and ornaments. Decorations for the classic vintage themed wedding included ivory satin and lace, deep burgundy flowers, and greenery. The

bride wore an ivory lace gown with cap sleeves and pearl and crystal detail. The groom and his groomsmen wore charcoal gray tuxedos while the bridesmaids wore chiffon floor length gowns with crystal detail. Over 450 friends and family attended the ceremony, which included a bit of entertainment when the couple couldn't get the unity candle to light! Dustin saved the day with a lighter in his pocket. After a few sparks, the candle was lit and all was well. Vocalists Laramie LeQuieu and Lori Dial provided beautiful music for the ceremony. Guests attended a reception at the Rector Community Center in a room covered in burgundy and ivory draping, chandeliers and dazzling centerpieces, complete with an ivory five-tier wedding cake with brooch details. The groom had his own special cake—a combine! Entertainment for the night was provided by a live band, Everyday Life. The couple honeymooned at Chateau Lake Louise in Banff, Canada. They have made their home in Paragould.



Births

Carter

Bradley and Erin Carter of Jonesboro announce the birth of a daughter, Hazel Beth Carter.

The newborn weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long.

She was delivered at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro.

Hazel Beth has one sibling, Jacob.

Grandparents are Frank Lawrence and Cheryl Reedy, and she has an aunt, Jenni Harvey. ♦



Hazel Beth Carter

McClelland

Mike and Jamie McClelland of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Erica Leigh McClelland.

Delivered at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, she weighed 8.4 pounds and was 21 inches long. She has a brother, Wyatt McClelland. Grandparents are Phillip and Michi McClelland, and James and Rhonda Thomas. Great-grandparents are Eva and the late Harold McClelland, Patricia and the late Jimmy Thomas, J.M. and Belma Cossey, and the late H.N. and Lela Holden. ♦



Erica Leigh McClelland

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

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Proverbs 22:6

48 | Premiere January 2016

Not resolutions, just good ideas for the coming year

A number of my friends make New Year's resolutions, which I generally refer to as the annual list of things used to gauge one's level of disappointment.

Late in December of each year, when we've just finished stuffing ourselves with all types of Christmas candy and baked sugary goodies, most people say they're going to eat better, lose weight, get more exercise ... things I, too, would consider doing if all the pizza places in town would agree to go out of business. Until they close up shop, I don't see myself looking all that healthy.

I made what I considered significant progress toward getting back into shape when I actually located my weights and exercise equipment instead of just thinking about it. Up to that time, I used the excuse of not knowing where all that stuff was located as a legitimate reason for not working out.

Now that I've found it, and moved it into our spare room, I walk by it daily and think, "One of these days I'm going to have to pick that up," unless I choose keep the door to that room

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



closed, which again serves as plenty of reason not to exercise.

So, while I don't elect to join my friends in making resolutions I can systematically break during the coming year, I do have what I consider some pretty good ideas for myself.

My ideas are not to be confused with those of my older grandson, who thinks I should enroll in the Hairclub For Men.

For starters, I think I might finish that book I first considered writing sometime in 1975. I think 41 years is plenty long for an incubation period, and maybe at some point during 2016 I will actually have a published product so that when people say, "When are you going to write a book?," I can say, "I already did. Sometime in the next 41 years I plan to publicize it."

I also plan to empty my garage to the point that my wife and I can actually park vehicles in it. Right now we both park on the driveway because the garage is somewhat of a used furniture store and flea market.

Currently it houses a couch, a futon, a chaise lounge, two living room chairs, a pair of dinette/breakfast tables -- complete with accompanying chairs -- a dresser, an antique bed and a chair of similar age, book cases, TV tables and a sewing machine.

That's in addition to books, movies, filing cabinets and their contents and items too numerous to mention before getting down to things that actually belong in a garage. Better yet, things that actually belong to me; most of this stuff is the leftovers from moving my parents and in-laws out of their houses and helping them downsize years ago. In doing so, I upsize.

I also might get rid of those clothes I'm "going to get back into someday," and I could possibly venture into a new hobby like woodworking or painting.

More than likely, though, I will eat pizza. ♦



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Cole Case

Occupation/Family: Full-time student majoring in English at ASU; Hobby Lobby Framing Department. Family: Jan and Tony Case, mom and dad, Megan and Neeley Gillmore, sister and niece, and Ace, my Boston Terrier.

How did you learn to cook? I learned to cook pretty early on. Both my grandmothers were excellent cooks and my parents learned from them, and they in turn taught me a lot of what I know. Getting the Food Network on TV and going to culinary school didn't hurt, either!

What is your favorite dish to cook? Definitely a chocolate cake with cream cheese frosting. It takes the simplest ingredients and turns them into something so decadent and delicious. Plus, it's a lot of fun to make with a helper, so my mom and I always make it together.

Funniest/Worst cooking disaster? Recently I was making some roasted garlic mashed potatoes for a party and I needed to melt some butter. I put the butter in the microwave, turned it on one minute and walked away, singing up a storm (I always play music when I cook). All of a sudden, mid-song, I hear a giant "pop" from the microwave. Not only had the butter melted, it had exploded and covered the microwave with buttery goodness. It was a mess!

Advice for others wanting to learn to cook? Find really fresh ingredients, keep it simple and cook with those you love. ♦

NEA COOKS



Bumblebee Stew

- 4 Tbs. Vegetable Oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 Tbs. dried oregano
- 2 Tbs. Cajun seasoning
- 1 Tbs. dried thyme
- 2 15 oz. cans diced tomatoes
- 1 quart vegetable or chicken stock
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 10 oz. bags frozen corn
- 2 16 oz. cans black beans
- 2 tsp. honey
- Prepared white rice

Directions

In a heavy-bottomed soup pot, heat vegetable oil over medium heat. Add onions, bell pepper and celery and season well with salt. Sauté, stirring frequently, for about 15 minutes, or until the vegetables start to brown and stick to the bottom of the pot. Add garlic, oregano, Cajun seasoning and thyme and sauté for two more minutes, stirring constantly as to not let the garlic burn. Add tomatoes, stock, bay leaves, corn and black beans. Bring to a boil, reduce to simmer and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove the bay leaves, salt and pepper as needed and serve over prepared white rice. ♦

Do you have a friend or acquaintance you would like to see featured in our NEA Cooks section? Or, would you like to share some of your own cooking experiences with Premiere readers? All you have to do is email information to editor@premiere-magazine.com and we'll take it under consideration.

Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

Features



February always brings to mind thoughts of Valentine's Day and chocolate and candy ... and we'll consider all of those when we feature Downtown Paragould's Chocolate Choo Choo Candy Store on the cover.

Be Prepared



Premiere photographers and writers will be out in force, looking for interesting topics. You never know where we might show up, or what events we will cover. Be sure to see the February Premiere and find out if you -- or someone you know -- was captured by the camera. ♦

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