

PREMIERE

Darrell Dickson: "People Need to Know Sacrifice"

Paragould/Jonesboro
Relay for Life

Premiere Awards

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July
2016

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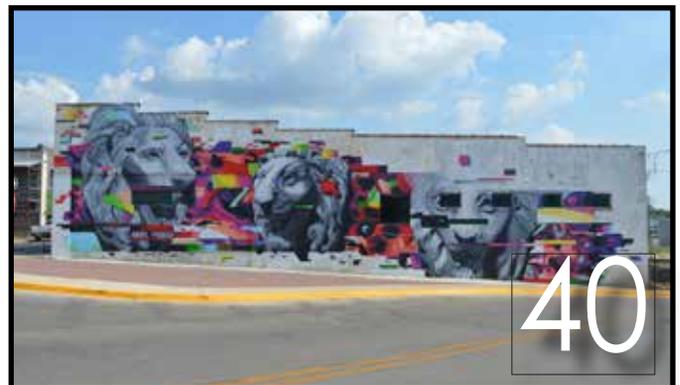
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From The
Managing Editor ...



Richard
 Brummett

It's the Fourth of July – almost, and time for fireworks and cookouts and boats on the water. That's the image brought to mind for many when the annual holiday comes around, but the truth is, not everyone understands what we are celebrating.

July 4 marks our birth as a nation, an official salute to a group of courageous men who represented us in a fight against oppression and decided – at the risk of being charged with treason – to sign their names to a document and declare America free from tyranny. It was in Philadelphia, and the signers of that statement, composed by Thomas Jefferson, knew that this declaration of independence from the dictatorial rule of Great Britain might also be -- literally -- their death sentence. They knew the British army would be sailing across the Atlantic to wage war on the colonies, which had neither the numbers nor arms nor training to stand against them in battle. Still they put their signatures and their destiny on that piece of paper. The true importance, then, of the 4th day of July is that it marks the birth of the United States of America.

July 4, 1776, wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence; they did that on July 2. It wasn't the day the American Revolution started either; that was in April of 1775. It wasn't even the day Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence or when it was delivered to Great Britain. But the Continental Congress officially approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July

4, 1776, and agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the handwritten copy that was signed in August of that year. Our leaders knew we wanted to be free to make our own decisions, to govern ourselves and enjoy the benefits of liberty. That fighting spirit is one reason we at *Premiere* feature members of the military in our July issue. From that moment in 1776 when Americans served notice that we will fight for our freedom, members of the United States military forces have continued the tradition of willingly, selflessly putting their lives on the line to assure we remain a free and independent nation.

The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, symbolizing our beliefs in liberty, equality, and individual rights, including the right of every person to pursue happiness.

We hope you get in the spirit when you read this month's feature stories, and remember the sacrifices made by so many in order for you to be here today, making your holiday plans. A popular saying reminds us that "freedom isn't free." Showing proper respect for the members of our military, however, costs you nothing and we encourage you to take part during this holiday season.

CYCLISTS STOP
 IN PARAGOULD
**RIDE THE
 FAULTLINE**



Local band, The Ozarks, performs on the lawn for visitors.



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PREMIERE is a publication of MOR Media, Incorporated. Editorial, advertising and general business information can be obtained by calling (870) 236-7627, faxing to (870) 239-4583 or e-mailing to dina@kdrs.com. Mailing address: 400 Tower Drive, Paragould, AR 72450.

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The Reunion

An interesting sidebar to Dickson's ordeal transpired in 2003, when he was reunited with Peters. Working on a scrapbook project and looking for military insignias he might use, Peters saw a message related to Company E, 1st Combat Engineering Battalion – his old unit. When he put a post on the board, Dickson soon found his name and before long they were in touch, 34 years after surviving the ambush. The two then set about trying to find the others who were in the boats with them – especially Gibbs, the man who had saved their lives. All of those pieces came together after months of searching and when producers of The History Channel learned about it, all were brought together in San Francisco to tape a reenactment of their battle and to share thoughts and memories of that day and of each other. Now they stage frequent reunions – the men have visited Dickson and his wife Mary in their Paragould home – and they stay in constant contact.

Promoting Patriotism through Stories

-----BY RICHARD BRUMMETT-----

Like many veterans walking the streets of our country today, Darrell Dickson fears the younger generation has lost touch with what patriotism actually means.

Having survived an ambush at close range, the Vietnam War veteran knows the price tag that freedom carries with it. "The grace of God is the only reason I am here," said Dickson, now 67. "I speak at a lot of schools on Veterans Day and I just get the feeling like this current generation forgets what veterans have done. People need to know sacrifice."

Dickson certainly does. In February of 1969, just four months after arriving in Vietnam, the 19-year-old and his company were ferrying troops on the Rach Dong Nhien River in South Vietnam. "I was a combat engineer, a bridge builder," he said. "My company was a small three-boat operation where six of us lived with the infantry, 200-some guys inside a compound. We would go out in the mornings with helicopter support and we'd take the infantry across the river, transport them to their position, and then we'd return. We had air cover any time we traveled a long distance but we had set a pattern. We went up the same little stream three days in a row."

On February 10 of that year, Dickson's daily routine took a sudden and near-fatal detour. "We had worked with an infantry company about 10 miles east of Saigon," he recalled. "We let them out of the boats and headed up the slough toward base camp (night defensive positions). About five minutes after leaving, there were about four or five Viet Cong laying on the riverbank. My boat was the first and the motor got shot up right away. We ran up on the bank and I got shot. I was standing up, firing, but the motor wouldn't run. We hit the deck and kept shooting, then they started firing RPGs and Claymores at us. They were only about 100 feet away, and we couldn't go anywhere."

While Claymores are mines, the Viet Cong had packed them with nails, steel balls, concrete, nuts and bolts – anything that would aid in their desired destruction. They sprayed a deadly pattern when set off.

The American boats were not heavily reinforced fighting crafts, but rather resembled a boat one might take fishing on a lake or river. They did have mounted on the front M-60 machine guns, which Dickson manned as soon as he saw the white puff of smoke rising from the riverbank. During the firefight another Private, Larry Peters, took heavy shrapnel from a Claymore to his shoulder and was knocked from the second boat into the water, doing his best to stay afloat until help could arrive. Dickson was hit with a bullet that entered his left thigh, went through his pelvis and exited his right hip, forcing him to the floor of his boat.

"Whenever they opened up on us, I heard the second boat go by, which was the one (Sgt. Waldon "Lee") Gibbs was in. Once I was wounded, I was unable to continue. The bullet hit a main artery and I began to pass in and out. I thought, 'This is it. I'm not getting out of this one.'"

His first thought, however, was of his mother. "She lost a brother in World War II and it was killing her for me to be there," Dickson said. "I thought of her first, and then of my God. I thought, 'Who am I to even ask for help?' But He sent Gibbs."

The sergeant, realizing the men were in danger, quickly turned his boat around, returning to pull Peters from the water and tending to Dickson as best he could. The sergeant lost two fingers when hit by bullets or shrapnel, but continued helping the wounded soldiers.

"He shot up the area and called in air support," Dickson said. "He

ripped off his shirt and made a tourniquet for my leg ... the whole deal just lasted maybe 20 minutes. I was hit and the choppers were on the way as soon as they heard 'man down.' The attack lasted about a minute. They (the enemy) would hit and run. When the chopper got there, they were gone."

A Medivac helicopter retrieved both wounded soldiers Dickson and Peters and transported them from the area, one on an upper berth and the other on a lower. Dickson remembers the two clutching hands as they both tried to hold on to life as well as each other. He was flown to Saigon for treatment, and then spent two weeks in a hospital in Japan. As for his partner, he had no idea what happened to him.

"Once I was taken out of the ambulance and they opened the door to the hospital, I never saw him again," Dickson said. "He stayed in Vietnam, while I was moving from that hospital to another one. I got a staph infection in Japan and lost 28 pounds in 21 days. I was sent to Fort Leonard Wood for 16 months and I worked at a reception station there. In May of 1970, I ETS'd (Expiration - Tour of Service)."

For his service, Dickson earned a number of honors and medals, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with V for Valor. The latter is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone. The Purple Heart goes to those wounded or killed in action.

"The Bronze Star ... I wanted to stay alive, that's the reason that happened," Dickson said in reflection. "The Purple Heart -- that one means the most to me. I gave blood for that one."

Which is precisely why so many veterans look at today's America with puzzlement. Many, like Dickson, were wounded while fighting to maintain our freedom yet have to sit back and watch news reports where U.S. citizens are spitting on or burning our flag. "I wish they would go to a major airport and wait for a Marine outfit coming back from Afghanistan, and do it in front of them," he said of the protesters. "They are cowards. You play stupid games, you win stupid prizes. I fought for that flag. A lot of men died for that flag."

"The Vietnam veteran was not treated very well when he came home," Dickson continued. "They drug the war on for 10 years and took 58,000 lives, 300,000 were wounded. They have no idea what we did for this country. But I'm over that; it's better now."

Dickson recalls the heartbreak his mother felt when he was drafted into service in May of 1968. He was at home on leave before shipping out and he tried his best to console her. "I said, 'Mom, there have been thousands that went before me. I'm not too good to go. I'm going to raise my right hand and take that oath and do the best job I can.' But she was heartbroken and I knew how she felt when my son, Tony, told me he had joined the Guard. He's been in 8-and-a-half years. He was a combat medic. Whenever he told me he joined I almost couldn't handle it. I had been there. He said, 'Dad, if I can do something to help somebody, I have to.' That was his motto."

It continued a long line of service that makes Dickson proud. His uncle, A.D. Dickson, survived the Bataan Death March. His father was in the military, his uncle gave his life. "I'd say my family ... we fight for this country," he offered.

"People ask me, 'When was the last time you were in Vietnam?' I tell them, 'I was there last night.' When you have scars and when you have memories, it's always with you. All I have to do is look at my left leg." ♦

LIVE HEALTHY GET DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL

Paragould played host to the Get DownTown Festival in June, a weekend full of fun activities for participants who enjoyed food and music from local vendors and musicians.

Pruett Street in Downtown Paragould was closed to traffic so that visitors could partake in food, drinks and entertainment.

Get DownTown featured a professionally timed 5K run for serious runners, a 1-mile kids' fun run,

and Pedal The Ridge -- Paragould's annual Cycling Event.

The Greene County Future Fund, in cooperation with Main Street Paragould, was the driving force behind the weekend activities, staging the festival to help promote recycling, greenspace and biking and hiking trails in the area.

For information on Greene County Future Fund go to www.arcf.org/greencounty or their Facebook. ♦



Courtney Bateman, Teddy Scroggins and Dechlin Jurs

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**MOMMY AND ME
BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT
GROUP**

Monday, July 11
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 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, July 18
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. 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 Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail baby@arkansasmethodist.org for classroom location, pricing and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

**AMMC/AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

Tuesday, July 26
4:00 PM-8:00 PM

Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

Each person who successfully donates blood at Arkansas Methodist will

receive three \$5 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station.

INFANT SAFETY CLASS

Monday, July 25
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. AMMC sponsors an infant safety class that focuses on topics including car seat safety, childproofing your home and crib safely, as well as infant CPR. This class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for the infant. 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 Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail baby@arkansasmethodist.org for classroom location, pricing and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS

Tuesday, July 26
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. AMMC sponsors a healthy pregnancy class that can help 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. This is a one-time class for expectant mothers who are prior to 16 weeks in their pregnancy. If delivering at AMMC, the class is free of charge. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail baby@arkansasmethodist.org for classroom location, pricing and to register. Registration is required for all classes.



Summer has arrived, so Carter Flanrey cooled off at the Paragould Community Center's water park. Carter, 4, is the son of Misty and Jason Payne, and Ryan Flanrey of Paragould.

JULY 2016 Kid Events

FREE

July 5

Family Storytime (all ages)
Children's Library, 11 a.m.
Craighead County
Public Library. For more
information, go to
www.libraryinjonesboro.org

July 6

Movie and Popcorn at the
Library, 10:30 a.m. Greene
County Library.
For more information, go to
greenelibrary.info

July 7

Tweens Movie
Round Room, 3 p.m.
Craighead County
Public Library. For more
information, go to
www.libraryinjonesboro.org

July 7

Legos and games at the
Library, 10:30 a.m. Greene
County Library.
For more information, go to
greenelibrary.info

July 14

Bingo at the Library, 10:30
a.m. Greene County Library.
For more information, go to
greenelibrary.info

July 14

Tweens Wii Tournament
Round Room, 3 p.m.
Craighead County
Public Library. For more
information, go to
www.libraryinjonesboro.org

July 18-21

First United Methodist
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School, from 5:30-7:30
each night. For students
k-6th grade. At 404 West
Main St. in Paragould. Call
870-239-8541 or www.fumcparagould.org for more
information.

July 20

Games and prizes at the
Paragould Community
Center, 10:30 a.m.
Presented by the Greene
County Library. For
more information, go to
greenelibrary.info

AMMC M*A*S*H

Sixteen junior and senior high school students from Greene County attended a Medical Applications of Science for Health (M*A*S*H) camp June 6-17 at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould.

The two-week summer medical enrichment experience is designed to give interested students a glimpse of what a health profession is really like. M*A*S*H students participate in a variety of medical-related activities including observing surgery; learning more about anatomy through dissection of animal organs; learning about reading x-rays; shadowing a doctor making rounds; automobile crash simulations and many others. The program hopes to encourage rural youth interested in medical fields to continue their education and then return to rural areas to work.

Students were sponsored by the M*A*S*H Partnership and Greene County Farm Bureau. The Partnership includes the University of Arkansas for Medical Science's Regional Centers, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Arkansas Farm Bureau and Baptist Health. ♦



(Left to right, standing) Harper Martin of Paragould; Mallory Trip, Paragould; Addie Parris, Paragould; Ashlie Wortham, Paragould; Alicen Dixon, Marmaduke; Tiffany Ramsey, Knobel; Madi Goins, Beech Grove; Landon Brinkley, Paragould; Allison Wortham, Paragould; pre-med student assistant Iad Al-Hallak; and Meagan Upchurch, Lafa. Kneeling (left to right): Briar Morrow, Paragould; Julie Foster, Marmaduke; Makenzie Rone, Pocahontas; Jenny Foster, Paragould; Paige Mitchell, Paragould; and Abbie Stokes, Paragould.

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Paragould Realtor Awards

The Paragould Board of Realtors met recently to hand out awards for the top performers over the past year.

Winners include:

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Whitney Felty Everett, Image Realty
Darrell Taylor, Century 21 Chesser-Taylor Realty
Amanda Hood, Image Realty

Silver Level -- \$2 million to \$3.499 million

Selina Reithmeyer, Image Realty
Pam Lackey, Dickinson and Associates Real Estate
Kim Kellums, Exit Realty
Lori Dowdy, Exit Realty
Delaine Landrum, Image Realty

Gold Level -- \$3.5 million to \$4.999 million

Carolyn Hurley Block, Coldwell Banker

Platinum Level -- \$5 million to \$6.999 million

Amber Gill, Exit Realty
Pat Chesser, Century 21 Chesser-Taylor Realty
Sandra Kelley, Paragould Home Source

Diamond Level -- \$7 million to \$13.999 million

Pete Cancilla, Image Realty
Linda Dickinson, Dickinson and Associates Real Estate

Double Diamond Level -- \$14 million-plus

Brooksie Felty Hartness, Image Realty ♦



PARAGOULD CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY



Members of the Adams Jackson American Legion Post 17 in Paragould held a Memorial Day program at the old Greene County Courthouse.

Master of Ceremonies Jim Largent, the District 4 Commander, opened the program and later introduced Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, who served as the featured speaker. Gaskill's heartfelt message highlighted a day that featured patriotic segments like the posting of the colors, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, music, poetry and a performance of remembrance by a group of Vietnam veterans.

This year, an added attraction was the presentation of Quilts of Valor to four local veterans. The quilts were provided by the local group Tears of Valor, and were draped around the shoulders of the recipients.

The four recipients were Noel Jetton (World War II and Korea), Harold Turman (Korea, Vietnam), Alton Graves (Vietnam) and Robert Moore (Vietnam). ♦

Quilts of Valor recipients were Robert Moore, Harold Turman, Noel Jetton and Alton Graves.



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Top Left: Julie Wray, Joey Miller,
Carrie Fortune, Regina Burkett.
Below: Tina Gibson, Sam & Lori Denton

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MAIN STREET PARAGOULD RED CARPET EVENT



Main Street Paragould held its first Red Carpet Event at The Twisted Peacock. Margot Linda Herren and her daughters, Carrie Herren-Reeves and Cindy Herren Carter, have moved their Antique & Vintage market to the Main Street Paragould area. Find them at 110 W. Court Street.

PARAGOULD CHAMBER FAREWELL KELLI

The Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted a “Business Over Lunch” session recently, and at the same time said “goodbye” to one of its own.

Kelli Brinkley, Membership Director, is leaving to take a job with Crowley’s Ridge Academy and Chamber members got together to extend well wishes and to thank her for a job well done. ♦



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AMMC GLOW RUN for Diabetes

Around 180 runners took to the pavement at the old Greene County Tech campus in June when Arkansas Methodist Medical Center hosted the 4,000 Step Glow Run For Diabetes.

The 2-mile evening run was staged as an opportunity to raise awareness about diabetes, a disease that touches every family. Through a donation, individuals could honor persons currently managing the disease or remember those who succumbed to diabetes-related complications, and 13 sponsors chipped in to help make the night a success. Volunteers from AMMC, the Greene County Sheriff's Department, MASH students, members of the Paragould Fire Department and the Greene County

Rescue Squad, Mayor Mike Gaskill, JILL radio, and KAIT's Ryan Vaughan all played a part in seeing the event run smoothly.

GCT staff members helped with face painting prior to the race and there was also a photo booth, music, glow bracelets and an interactive warm up with crowd participants assisting. The playground path was lined with LED glow lights, the fence was lined with GLOW in the dark balloons and an AMMC tunnel that participants ran through had lights as well. Refreshments were provided by AMMC dietary and SWIRLZ.

Race medals and t-shirts were also glow in the dark. ♦



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Fellow Voters ,

My name is Frankie Gillam and I am running for State Representative District 57. This election season is an important one. We simply don't have the resources to let our state be divided as we have seen at the national level.

We need leaders who can work together to build a stronger state and give our citizens the tools they need to be productive and to build even better lives here at home. That's why my campaign is based on togetherness. It's about voting for the people and the issues that best serve us – the residents of Paragould, Oak Grove, and Greene County.



My background runs deep in the district and in economic development. Working with the Paragould Greene County Chamber of Commerce and the Arkansas State University Delta Center, I helped drive activity that brought important jobs and new investment to the area and have a sound understanding of practices important to future growth.

Paragould and Greene County have always done their part. Let's work together to continue the tradition here at home and be the voice in Little Rock that unites our state.

Working together means I need your help. I need you to tell me how I can best serve you as a state representative. Please let me know your thoughts at frankiegilliam57@yahoo.com.

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RELAY FOR LIFE

GREENE COUNTY

Teams and individuals came together to raise funds for the fight against cancer, taking part in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life in both Greene and Craighead counties.

The inspiring overnight event unites the entire community in celebrating those who have had cancer, remembering loved ones lost, and providing an opportunity to fight back against the disease. Relay For Life supports the Society's mission to save lives by helping people stay well, by helping people get well, by finding cures and by fighting back.

Craighead County participants assembled at the Northeast Arkansas Fairgrounds while Greene County relayers gathered in Paragould at their fairgrounds to take part in scheduled programs that included the Survivors Lap, the Caregivers Lap and Luminaria Ceremony. Mixed in between, walkers and runners kept up the nightlong pace for their teams and there was plenty of entertainment in the form of food, music and games for adults and kids alike. ♦



CRAIGHEAD COUNTY



Homes for HEROES

-----BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE-----



Homes for Heroes, a program created after 9/11, has provided military personnel, law enforcement officers and firefighters across the nation with rebates and discounts during the home-buying process. One local real estate agent now offers up her services to the area's heroes in partnership with the organization.

Kimberly Stem of ERA Doty Real Estate in Jonesboro joined the program in 2012 after Homes for Heroes approached her because of her work as a military relocation specialist.

"Janie (Hay) and I are the Homes for Heroes realtors exclusive to Northeast Arkansas," Stem said.

In 2015, the Homes for Heroes Charitable foundation gave over \$100,000 to more than 115 heroes to prevent eviction or foreclosure, and aid in rent. Those numbers are expected to double in 2016, and with the help of realtors like Stem, those in need of assistance can receive extraordinary savings. Since 2014, Hay and Stem have saved local heroes more than \$15,000 just in NEA.



assisting local heroes.

"Also, Fancy Flour does cupcakes for every closing that have the logo on them, and heroes get more excited about that," Stem added.

Hay said the biggest way the community can help is to spread the word about Homes for Heroes.

"We want any person that can benefit from this program to do so," she said.

For Stem, partnering with Homes for Heroes gives an even better way to enjoy her job.

"I enjoy giving back to our community and this is one way to say thank you for being a community hero," she said. "We make it easier and more affordable for our community heroes to have a home of their own, relocate or upgrade according to their specific situation." ♦



For every sale Stem and Hay make, five percent of their commission is given back to the Homes for Heroes foundation to assist heroes with a variety of things, such as a laptop for college for the daughter of a fallen hero.

Others in the community are also on board to help out. Stem said there is a turnkey process from contract to closing day that makes selling or purchasing a home easier. Homes for Heroes in NEA has enlisted a lender, title company, home inspector, surveyor and termite company all committed to



D.A.R.E. & OUT OF THE DARK RIDING ON THE RIDGE



Even with rain in the forecast, hundreds of riders turned out for The Riding on the Ridge Motorcycle Rally in Jonesboro in June.

The three-day event -- held at Craighead Forest Park -- included a parade to downtown Jonesboro, a bike show, poker run, vendors, music, and more. The bike show featured various classes with awards given to winners, and all proceeds benefitting the Jonesboro DARE and Out of the Dark programs to help pay for scholarships and all of the programs they sponsor.

Opening Night activities featured a bike show and live music at the park, while the second night also had music and games. Saturday morning, bikers could partake of breakfast at the Jonesboro Elks Lodge before heading out on the Poker Run, with the first bikes out at 8 a.m.

Barton Powersports of Jonesboro served as a major event sponsor. ♦

A man in a white polo shirt with text overlays. The text reads: "I'M JAY SCURLOCK OF SCURLOCK LAW FIRM. AND iROCK". Below this, there is a logo for "iROCK 103.7" and "21st CENTURY ROCK". At the bottom, the website "irocknea.com" is displayed. The background shows a building with a sign that says "Scurlock Law Firm".

OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATES HYTROL EXPANSION

Hytrol hosted an Open House in May to celebrate the completion of its \$12 million expansion with a presentation, ribbon cutting, and group tour of the facility. Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, members of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Mike Preston, and other community members were in attendance. In addition to the 62,000 square foot building expansion, the company invested in a new facility cooling system, 100 new parking spaces, a new paint system that more than doubles the company's manufacturing capacity, new company equipment, and dozens of new permanent positions. Hytrol is one of the top five employers in the Jonesboro area with nearly 1,000 employees. ♦



50TH YEAR CELEBRATION MARTIN SPROCKET & GEAR

Paragould's Martin Sprocket & Gear hosted community leaders, employees and company executives in celebration of the plant's 50th year in operation in June. A full day of activities was scheduled for employees and their families, including a keynote address from Tom Melton, factory tours, drawing for door prizes and games for kids. A family owned business serving industrial and manufacturing industries, Martin Sprocket & Gear, Inc. is a leading provider of power transmission components, material handling products, industrial hand tools and heavy-duty conveyor pulleys. It operates 32 North American facilities. ♦



BISTRO ON THE RIDGE

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Some of the area's best restaurants are tucked away off the beaten path, as can be seen with Jonesboro's Bistro On the Ridge. This American-style joint offers wraps, pasta, sandwiches and everything in between.

I kept it simple with a classic Italian grilled cheese and Caesar salad, but even then the meal was impressive. The sandwich alone nearly filled me up thanks to the multiple cheeses that were perfectly melted together. This dish is a perfect blend of mozzarella, American, Parmesan and Gruyere cheeses on sourdough bread.

The bread itself was something to write home about. It was grilled just the right amount, with no unnecessary grease or overly crisp spots. While the cheese overflowed onto the bread, it was nowhere near runny and left no mess.

Dairy can sit heavily on a person's stomach and with the multiple cheeses in this dish, I expected that to happen. I was extremely surprised when I finished eating and felt full, but not stuffed.

Bistro's atmosphere is put-together, yet relaxed and easy with a fairly modern style. The staff is more than helpful and friendly, and provides very quick service.

There is a variety of desserts available from apple cobbler to pound cake, and Bistro's famous mile-high coconut meringue pie. Even if you can't make it to the location on Southwest Drive, you can still enjoy the yummy treats Bistro offers. They cater, and the menu is expansive. Veggie cups, wraps, fruit trays, pies and full entrees are all available. ♦

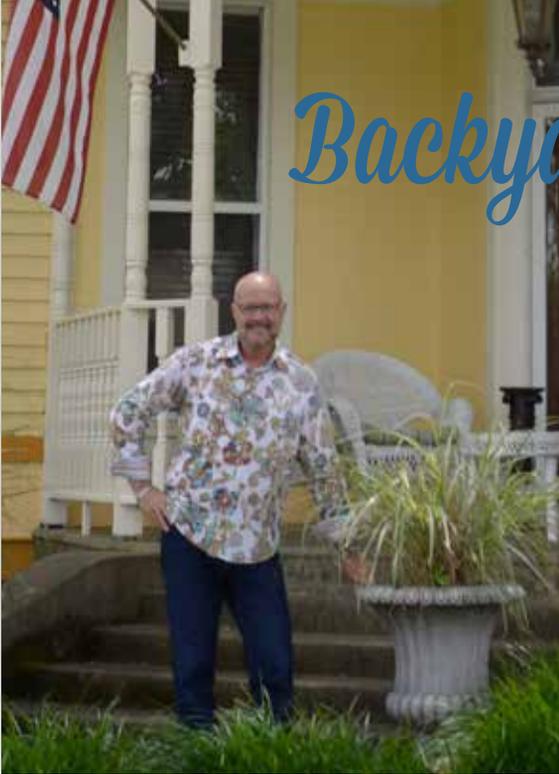
Caitlin LaFarlette

Backyard Staycation

BY MG MEYERING

“Deel ‘Em Out”

By Anthony Childress



To suggest that Mickey Deel’s family loves the outdoors is actually understating the obvious.

Tucked away in the Layman Crest subdivision in south Jonesboro (near Valley View schools), the Deel residence features a rural feel in a city zip code. Their back yard includes a welcoming swimming pool and that keeps the family cool and active during typically hot, humid summer days in Northeast Arkansas.



of those characteristics in their new outdoor oasis and carry the design into the new space,” Meyering explained. “After several meetings and making those key decisions on what was important and key to this new environment, I began the task of designing, making sure all key components worked well with each other and the existing structure.”

Meyering tapped one of his contractors, Bob Chastain of Jonesboro, to collaborate on the endeavor.

“He was going to be key to this project,” Meyering said. “Bob and I work well together and he is able to follow my design eye and work my build plan. He



With their dream home and pool already in place, the Deels caught the outdoor haven bug and decided to call Jonesboro’s MG Meyering of Interiors By Design for his expertise and vision for what they wanted to achieve.

“The Deels loved the style of their country French home, so it was important to me to emphasize some



can follow what it is I need. Not every contractor has this capability."

Constructed with cedar beams, rock work and tongue-and-groove wood ceilings, the structure began to gel. Meyering noted it wasn't a fast project, nor "did we want it to be."

"It was a custom project, a one of a kind, with a top of the line outdoor stainless and granite kitchen, dining area, living area and space we reinforced for a future pool table. This is a space designed for outdoor living, just about every day of the year," the designer stated. He added that the space is ideally laid out to entertain for any special occasion, lending itself to seasonal climates usually experienced in this region.

Meyering said he was thrilled with the finished product. More importantly, the homeowners share his joy.

"Our kids just love going out to the pool and coming back in to the back space," Mickey Deel said. "It's more than we ever dreamed it would be."

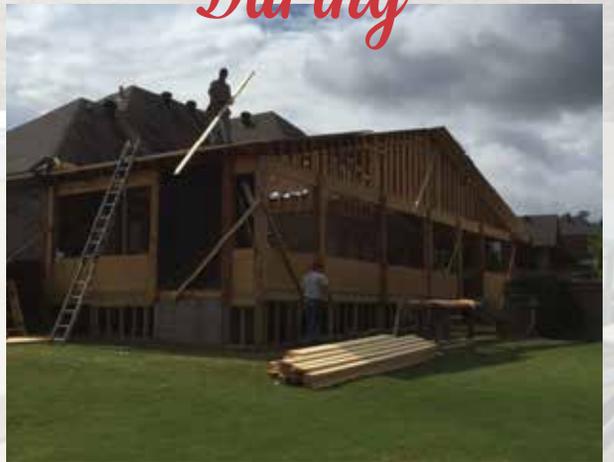
A special thank you to The Everyday Chef for including their products in the photo shoot. ♦



Before



During



After





JOHN DEERE



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Remembering Days on the Water

-----By Chuck Long-----

"It's too hot to fish," were some of the best lyrics Mark Chestnutt ever put down on a record. Being from Texas, Mr. Chestnutt is familiar with the heat of summer as we are here in Arkansas. But does it get too hot to fish? It may get too hot to fish in a big, open body of water as we are accustomed to but there are plenty of opportunities to stay "cool" while fishing.

One option is to head to the river. Rivers often provide shade from the trees along the bank as well as a winding channel to use to avoid the direct rays of the sun. In this area the St. Francis River and Black River provide great options to get on the water and catch a few fish. Catfish, bass, crappie and bream can be targeted in either of these rivers and the moving water keeps the fish active and ready to bite.

Oxbows and bar ditches can also be great places to try, especially early in the day. Weaving the boat in and out of the cypress, tupelos and buckbrush will provide great fishing opportunities and give some relief from the sun. These waters can also be especially good in the afternoon as the shadows creep across the water, encouraging the fish into a feeding mode. Insect hatches late in the day on summer afternoons can also excite the fish into an eating mood. Bream will be found in the shallows much of the summer and bass can provide great action early and late.

Heading west toward the Ozarks, cool water streams and rivers like Current, Eleven Point, Spring and Strawberry River -- as well as the South Fork of Spring River -- provide great opportunities. Small creeks like Myatt, Martin and Big Creek and many unnamed small flowing streams can also be good places to wade, explore and fish during the heat of the day. Each of these waterways offers a wide variety of fish and on most days at least one or two

different species are willing to cooperate. Many of these streams and creeks are bordered by private ground, so be sure and secure permission before trying to fish those waters.

A float trip in a canoe or kayak will also provide an opportunity to fish many of these waters in a way that provides the option of getting out and doing a little wading to stay cool. Please remember there are special rules if using a boat that is likely to turn over like a canoe or kayak. These include using a cooler with a lid that fastens, no glass containers and carrying a bag to dispose of any trash. With these tipsy boats there is also the likelihood of ending up in the water so a life jacket is an essential piece of safety gear.

Many different types of gear and tackle will work on these bodies of water; simply match your choices to the type of transportation you will be using and the kinds of fish that might give a pull on the line. In a boat on the larger bodies of water the tackle choices can be endless but that narrows greatly as you go down to a kayak, canoe or wade fishing. For those trips focus on a few lures that will be attractive to a wide range of species like small spinners and crankbaits, smaller plastics and even a few topwaters.

Safety should always be a consideration. To beat the heat, drink plenty of water, use sunscreen and wear lightweight, light colored clothing. Insect repellent might also come in handy, especially on the more lowland rivers.

Get out and enjoy the great outdoor opportunities we have here in Arkansas and I hope to see you out there. ♦

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HAPPENINGS

1. Special Olympics Torch Run

Members of local law enforcement agencies – led by Greene County Sheriff David Carter – joined with members of the Arkansas State Police to help carry the Special Olympics torch to a designated check-in post at Centennial Bank in Paragould.

Bank employees set up a rest stop for the runners, who began the day's run in Piggott. Employees posed with representatives of each group while presenting a check for more than \$300 in donations to Special Olympics before the runners continued carrying the "Flame of Hope" to the next stop.



Pictured from left: seated, Jo Beth Mitchell and Lily Agee; back row, Alicen Dixon, Zoe Rodrigues, Ashton Rodrigues, Caroline Ward, Allison Rowe and Gareth Yarbrough. Not pictured are Allison Howard, Shea Malone and Ava Pekrul.

2. Piano Recital

Eleven of Lillian White's piano students participated in the National Federation of Music Club's Federation Festival at Arkansas State University in March. Out of three separate events – Piano Solo, Theory and Sight Playing – there were 16 Superior ratings and seven Excellents earned. Piano Solo required two memorized selections judged on accuracy, rhythm, technique and general musicianship. The students also performed in a recital at The Chateau on the Ridge.



3. Razorback Fan

Mason Poe, son of Sammy and Allison Poe of Paragould, grins ear to ear after having a football autographed by University of Arkansas football coach Bret Bielema at the meet and greet during the NEA Razorback Club Meeting.



4. GC Master Gardeners

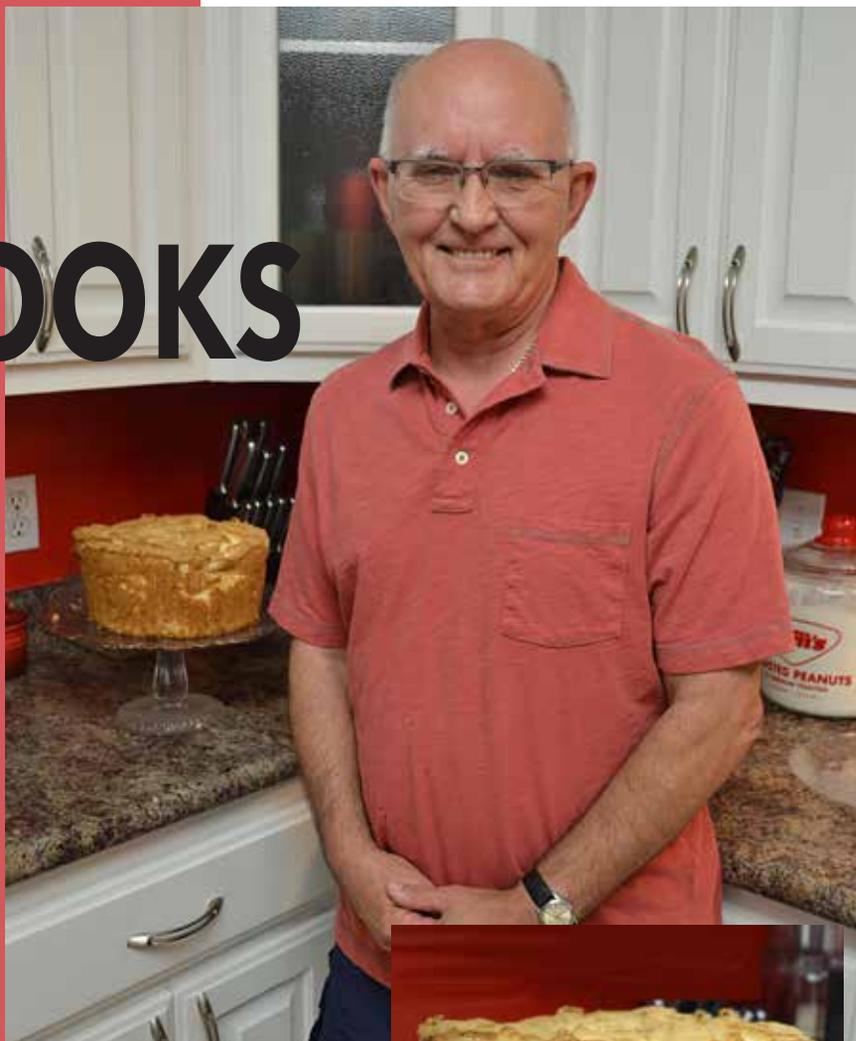
Fifteen Greene County Master Gardeners attended the State Convention held in Eureka Springs in June. ♦

From left, Tabetha McFadden, Carolyn Palmer, Marilyn White, Linda Glickert, Barbara Barr, Holly Fletcher, Ken Fletcher, Connie Whitman, Kathy Graber, Bonnie Hamilton, Cora Flanery, Pauletta Tobey and Patti Roberts.



Mike Rutherford

NEA COOKS



Occupation and family: I'm the retired VP and CIO for First National Bank. Now I just work part-time in the IT department; my wife Betty and sons Kevin and Chad.

How did you learn to cook? My mother. I used to sit on the counter while she did the angel food cake.

What is your favorite dish to cook? Angel food cake. And I like to cook pork tenderloin.

Funniest/worst cooking disaster? My grandkids were here and I was cooking an angel food cake, and we went outside to play and I forgot about it.

What advice do you have for others wanting to learn to cook? Don't get in a hurry and read the instructions twice. Really study how to do it.

Angel Food Cake

- 1 ½ cups sifted powdered sugar
- 1 cup sifted cake flour
- 1 ½ cups egg whites (room temperature)
- 1 ½ teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

- 1) In a bowl, mix powdered sugar and flour together. Then sift three times.
- 2) In a mixing bowl, put egg whites, cream of tartar and vanilla together and whip on medium until soft peaks.
- 3) Turn mixer on high and slowly add sugar. Whip until stiff peaks form.
- 4) Gently fold ¼ of the dry



- ingredients at a time until all dry ingredients are folded into above ingredients.
- 5) Put in an angel food cake pan (do not coat pan) for 42 minutes. Take out of oven and immediately invert cake and cool. Loosen the cake from cake pan with a butter knife. ♦

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

1. & 2. OGMS Engineering Night

Fifth grade Oak Grove Middle School students changed things up a bit this year. Instead of the traditional science fair, that is normally held at the end of the school year, Mrs. Lindsey's and Mrs. Prince's 5th grade science classes hosted an Engineering Night to showcase concepts they have worked on throughout the year. These students went "green" by constructing race cars from recycled materials. Teachers used an Engineering is Elementary model to facilitate the unit. The unit used engineering and technological literacy to guide the students in their construction. Students used everyday household recyclable materials in their building. Common components of racers included tape, straws, plates, washers, plastic bottles, coffee stirrers, skewers, bottle caps, and cups. Students used the Engineering Design Process as they planned, created, and improved their recycled racers. The night of the fair boasted ramps for students to race each other and an area for parents and students, together, to make modifications to their cars.

1



2

3. FCCLA Award

Greene County Tech High School FACS Teacher Katie Grigg was recognized by School Board President Tim Roswell for her selection as the state FCCLA Advisor of the Year. She will also be relocating to Western Arkansas over the summer.

3



4. Master Gardener's Scholarship

Pictured is Merissa Foster, a graduated senior of Paragould High School along with her mother, Lisa Foster, being presented the 2016 Greene County Master Gardeners' Scholarship. Merissa plans to attend Arkansas State University and study wildlife management. ♦

4



GREENE COUNTY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS ACH RADIOTHON

Each year, the Circle of Friends Radiothon for Arkansas Children's Hospital brings community members together to support a worthy cause.

Organizations and individuals join with MOR Media to solicit donations via telephone calls, a 12-hour radio broadcast and walkup contributors, but it is always the final group of the day that generates the most excitement. The Saints & Sinners Riding Club comes through in a big way annually and this time around was no different. Using its Angel Run as a major fundraiser, the club makes a habit of showing up last to add to the suspense, this year presenting organizers with a check for \$11,173.54 to boost the overall total beyond the \$30,000 mark.



First National Bank in Paragould offered its parking lot at the Kingshighway/Reynolds Road branch as the base of operation, and allowed telephone solicitors to use office space while seeking donations and pledges. Chuck's RV Sales provided an air conditioned trailer where MOR Media's Leisa Rae and Brian Osborn conducted interviews with families willing to share their personal stories regarding the treatment and care provided them by Arkansas Children's Hospital, and Turner Dairy set up the Prairie Farms Moo Mobile where visitors could pick up free frozen refreshments or bottles of water.

Just across the intersection from the trailer, the Paragould Fire Department parked its ladder truck and hung a large banner advertising the event, encouraging motorists to drop by and donate money to the cause.

By the end of the 12-hour campaign, the Radiothon had raised \$31,437 for the Children's Hospital. ♦



PREMIERE SCENE 'YA

MOR Media hosted a Business After Hours in June at its Paragould office, located at 400 Tower Drive. Those in attendance enjoyed tours of the facility, networking, free food and the chance to win one of several door prizes.



The Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Membership Appreciation Luncheon on the back parking lot of its Nettleton Avenue location in June. Chamber members were treated to a free cookout and several were lucky winners in the drawing for door prizes.





GET RICH

When I am stuck for some time in the waiting area of a business, I usually wind up reading whatever is there in order to pass the time. It might be signs on the walls or newspapers and magazines stacked on the tables and, unfortunately, I find myself mentally editing each. It's hard to enjoy reading when you're constantly looking for mistakes.

It was during one of these recent episodes that I picked up a magazine and was drawn to the headline, "The words wives really want to hear from their husbands." I was interested because I am one and have the other, and felt if anyone needs a free ride on the road to romance it would be me. I turned to the particular article and read the ten phrases wives most want to hear, and decided the piece was written by a woman who has never been married or, at least, by someone close enough to newlywed status that she still has fairy tale dreams of marital bliss.

According to the author, married women want to hear things like:

- "I cherish you."
- "You look amazing."
- "How can I help?"
- "You make me a better man."
- "Let's go out tonight."

I'm not trying to crash her writing party, but I've been married long enough that I think I am better qualified to know what a wife wants to hear from her man. Of course women want to be flattered and complimented on their looks – regardless of age – but so do men. We aren't so different in the desire to seem appealing to the opposite sex, spouse or no spouse, but I know from experience that if a guy comes home and out of the blue says, "I really love you," or "You look incredible," the response will be

something like, "Okay, what have you done?"

A guy can't just throw out compliments and helpful ideas because it's not our nature. You save those things up for special occasions, like anniversaries or times when you want permission to go do something with the guys. You can't just toss them out randomly and expect a positive result.

After conducting my own scientific study – by staying married to the same woman for more than 40 years and paying attention to her conversations with her married friends -- I consider the following a more accurate list of things a wife wants to hear:

- "Whatever makes you happy." It's not so hard for the guy to say because he knows, bottom line, in the end he's going to do whatever his wife wants or he's not going to be happy either. For a long time. Maybe ever.
- "No." That's it. Just plain old "no." When your wife sighs real big and says, "Do I need to do another load of laundry?" just say, "No." If she asks if you are certain, tell her you have plenty of stuff you can wear tomorrow. If she wonders aloud, "Should I do the dishes?" your answer is, "No." There is nothing wrong with paper plates, especially the sturdy kind. And if she says, "Do these pants make me look fat?" your answer is an emphatic, "No!" No further commentary is necessary or even recommended.
- "Don't vacuum tonight; I won't be able to hear the TV." You can always scoot stuff under the couch if company arrives unannounced.
- "Let's not go anywhere tonight, you've already got your bra off." This seems to be a biggie. Once the bra is off and the comfy clothes are on, trips to the store, dinner invitations, game nights and just general fun with family and friends are not on the ladies' to-do list. Apparently the shedding of the bra is a ritual of some sort and it means, "I'm done, don't call me, don't come over, don't ring the doorbell, don't even visit my neighborhood."

Memorizing these deeply romantic phrases will score the husband almost as many brownie points as saying, "You were right." ♦

Jimmy GAZAWAY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the voters of Paragould, Oak Grove Heights, and District 57 for your overwhelming support in the Republican Primary Election. It is because of you that we were able to run such a strong campaign and ultimately win the Republican Primary. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

HAVE A HAPPY
★ **4TH of JULY** ★

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July

EVENTS CALENDAR

07

What: Main Street Paragould's First Thursday
When: Thursday, July 7, 5:00 p.m.
Where: Downtown Paragould
Info: The event, held on the first Thursday of each month, features extended business hours and provides a family-friendly atmosphere that highlights all of the businesses in Downtown Paragould. For more information contact Main Street Paragould at 870-240-0544.

09

What: Rummage at the Rails
When: Saturday, July 9, 7:00 a.m.
Where: Downtown Paragould
Info: For \$15, anyone can rent 2 parallel parking spaces to set up and sell items. If selling isn't your thing, but you need to clean out the house, you can donate items directly to Main Street Paragould for them to sell. With a donation, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. For more information on how to get a space contact Main Street Paragould at 870-240-0544.

12

What: Miss Lillian's No-Wax Chock Paint Party
When: Tuesday, July 12, 6:00 p.m.
Where: The Twisted Peacock, Downtown Paragould
Info: For more information contact Main Street Paragould at 870-240-0544.

14

What: GCFAC's presentation of "Beauty and the Beast"
When: Thursday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Greene County Tech High School
Info: Tickets are \$15, \$10 for children under 12 and seniors. Tickets available online at www.gcfac.org and at the door.

What: NEA Baptist Farmers' Market
When: Thursday, July 14, 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Where: 4800 E. Johnson, Jonesboro
Info: The third annual NEA Baptist Farmers' Market series is a way to promote healthy lifestyles to the community and NEA Baptist colleagues. Health focus area for this session will be Chronic Disease. For more information about NEA Baptist Farmer's Market, call 870-936-8000 or to see a calendar of the events visit www.neabaptistclinic.com. Vendors are accepted throughout the season. To learn more about the vendor application process, email Kim Provost at kim.provost@neabc.com.

15

What: GCFAC's presentation of "Beauty and the Beast"
When: Friday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Greene County Tech High School
Info: Tickets are \$15, \$10 for children under 12 and seniors. Tickets available online at www.gcfac.org and at the door.

16

What: GCFAC's presentation of "Beauty and the Beast"
When: Saturday, July 16, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Greene County Tech High School
Info: Tickets are \$15, \$10 for children under 12 and seniors. Tickets available online at www.gcfac.org and at the door.

17

What: GCFAC's presentation of "Beauty and the Beast"
When: Sunday, July 17, 2:00 p.m.
Where: Greene County Tech High School
Info: Tickets are \$15, \$10 for children under 12 and seniors. Tickets available online at www.gcfac.org and at the door.

18

What: Vacation Bible School
When: Monday, July 18, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Where: First United Methodist Church, 404 West Main in Paragould
Info: For students k-6th grade. Call 239-8541 or www.fumcparagould.org for more information.

19

What: Vacation Bible School
When: Tuesday, July 19, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Where: First United Methodist Church, 404 West Main in Paragould
Info: For students k-6th grade. Call 239-8541 or www.fumcparagould.org for more information.

20

What: Vacation Bible School
When: Wednesday, July 20, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Where: First United Methodist Church, 404 West Main in Paragould
Info: For students k-6th grade. Call 239-8541 or www.fumcparagould.org for more information.

21

What: Vacation Bible School
When: Thursday, July 21, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Where: First United Methodist Church, 404 West Main in Paragould
Info: For students k-6th grade. Call 239-8541 or www.fumcparagould.org for more information.

What: Alive After Five
When: Thursday, July 21, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Where: Downtown Jonesboro (Huntington Ave.)
Info: Alive After Five is an open air street market happening on the third Thursdays of every month from April until October. The market offers artisan products, locally handmade and produced fares, food trucks, local music, children's activities hosted by the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library, and a downtown movie sponsored by Quickflix USA and

Jonesboro Parks and Recreation.
Other Info: www.downtownjonesboro.com/alive-after-five
Contact: Autumn Wilder
Phone: (870) 919-6176
E-mail: autumn@downtownjonesboro.com

22

What: Ultimate Oldies
When: Friday, July 22, 7:00 p.m.
Where: The Historic Collins Theatre, Paragould
Info: Music of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s presented by the Ultimate Oldies singers and band. General Admission: \$15.00. Tickets to be available at PostNet, Ignited Gifts (in the Paragould Plaza), or by calling 870-215-2253; \$20.00 RESERVED seating available by calling 870-215-2253.

23

What: Ultimate Oldies
When: Saturday, July 23, 7:00 p.m.
Where: The Historic Collins Theatre, Paragould
Info: Music of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s presented by the Ultimate Oldies singers and band. General Admission: \$15.00. Tickets to be available at PostNet, Ignited Gifts (in the Paragould Plaza), or by calling 870-215-2253; \$20.00 RESERVED seating available by calling 870-215-2253.

25

What: KASU's Bluegrass Monday
When: Monday, July 25, 7:00 p.m.
Where: The Historic Collins Theatre, Paragould
Info: The Baker Family will perform.

28

What: NEA Baptist Farmers' Market
When: Thursday, July 28, 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Where: 4800 E. Johnson, Jonesboro
Info: The third annual NEA Baptist Farmers' Market series is a way to promote healthy lifestyles to the community and NEA Baptist colleagues. Health focus area for this session will be Maternal/Baby Health. For more information about NEA Baptist Farmer's Market, call 870-936-8000 or to see a calendar of the events you may visit www.neabaptistclinic.com. Vendors are accepted throughout the season. To learn more about the vendor application process, email Kim Provost at kim.provost@neabc.com.

Recurring EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Thursday of every month: The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 PM. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

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

Second Wednesday of every month: St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 AM-1:00 PM Admission is \$6 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. At St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould.

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

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

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

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ASU & DOWNTOWN JONESBORO MURAL PROJECT



Arkansas State University and the Downtown Mural Callaboration have launched a brand new mural project in Downtown Jonesboro.

Spray painted grid lines could be seen at 209 Union Street, right on the intersection of Burke and Union. The downtown public art project was created by the Arkansas State University Fine Arts department's students. This marks the first time Downtown Jonesboro has collaborated with A-State Fine Arts students for a downtown art project.

"This is a great concept that benefits the entire community and A-State is happy to partner with DJA. The project has engaged our students with Jonesboro, and the mural will add unique beauty to downtown." Melissa Wilkinson represents A-State's desire to bridge the gap between the campus and the city.



The mural project was funded by a grant provided by Wal-Mart Community Foundation, as well as contributions by Beck Children's Clinic and the West End Neighborhood Association. In addition to the grant, DJA volunteers worked with the local Sherwin Williams to secure paint and art supplies for the A-State art students and United Rental for a scissor lift.

After only two days into the project, the entire community had shown tremendous support and encouragement for the artists. "Gearhead has been a part of downtown Jonesboro for almost 15 years. I love seeing the community play a part in keeping it a fun and engaging area. It's great to see Jonesboro utilizing the resources and the talent of the ASU students and faculty to support downtown and bring this type of project to fruition," said Ted Herget, owner of Gearhead Outfitters.

The DJA Design Committee, a volunteer task force that addresses beautification plans, safety, grants, and streetscape projects for downtown Jonesboro, created a location list for potential project sites before finally choosing the 209 Union Street location, owned by Rob Kline.

Part of a public art initiative termed "Fearlessly Brilliant" that aims to beautify public spaces as well as spur innovative and creative ideas, the community hopes to bring more developments like this to Jonesboro. Wilkinson, assistant professor of art at ASU, oversaw the students during the formation of the mural. "All of the students are proud of this, a one-of-a-kind opportunity to both create a fixture in Jonesboro and have such exposure to their work," Wilkinson said. "They all worked together and gave 100%."

The mural was formally released to the public with a ribbon cutting on June 24th. For more information, visit www.downtownjonesboro.com or call the office at (870) 919-6176. ♦





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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

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- 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

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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.

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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.

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Premiere Awards

2016



And the winner is...

Thank You, Premiere readers and Jack, Jill, and iRock Radio Listeners! The votes were overwhelming this year for our annual Premiere Awards and we appreciate your taking the time to participate. Our Awards span both Paragould and Jonesboro so you will see some categories have two winners.

Keep this edition around as your guide to highly recommended businesses in our area! As you can see, most are locally owned or have locals who care enough to give their customers the kind of service that earns them this much-deserved recognition.

Please shop these Award Winning businesses! Let them know that you saw their names in this section and that they have been recommended by our readers.

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Premiere Award Winners Announced

The
results
are in...

Premiere readers have had their say, and the balloting for the 2016 Premiere Awards is over.

Readers were invited -- and encouraged -- to select winners in a variety of categories from both Paragould and Jonesboro, and their choices appear on the following pages. Not all categories contain winners from both cities, and in those instances only one victor is listed. Businesses and

individuals who purchased an ad for this section appear in blue; their advertisements will be contained in the special section pages. The remaining winners are listed in black.

So sit back, take a look at the 2016 winners and then go visit them and offer your congratulations...just as we here at MOR Media do. And now, the winners for 2016, as chosen by you, the Premiere readers. ♦

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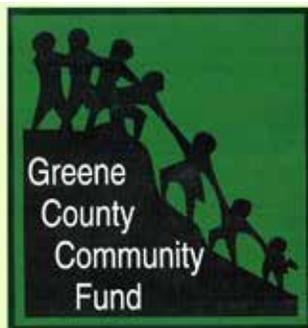
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- Greene Co. 4-H • Greene Co. Boys & Girls Club • Greene Co. Rescue Squad
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- Main Street Paragould • Pilots for Christ • Sight Conservation



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Vanessa Wall
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Tiffany Ryan
(Pathways Pediatric)

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Dr. Joel Epperson
(AMMC)

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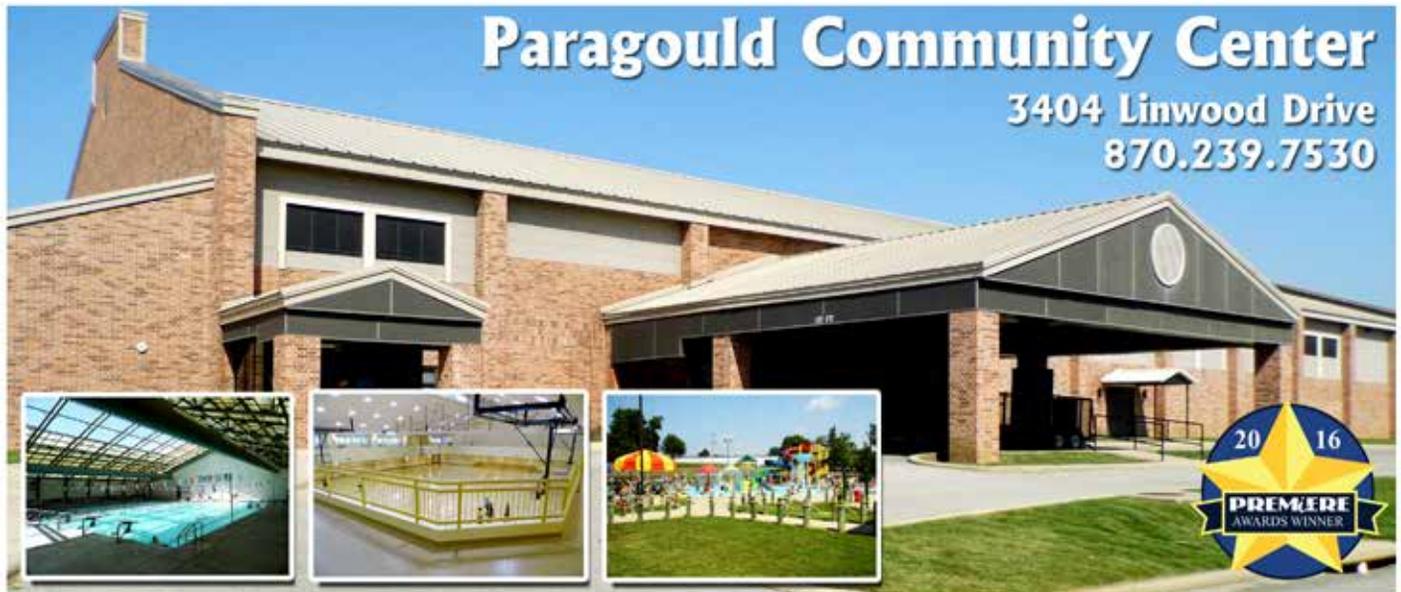
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Medical Clinic Category - NEA Baptist Clinic
Nurse - Darra Smith, RN

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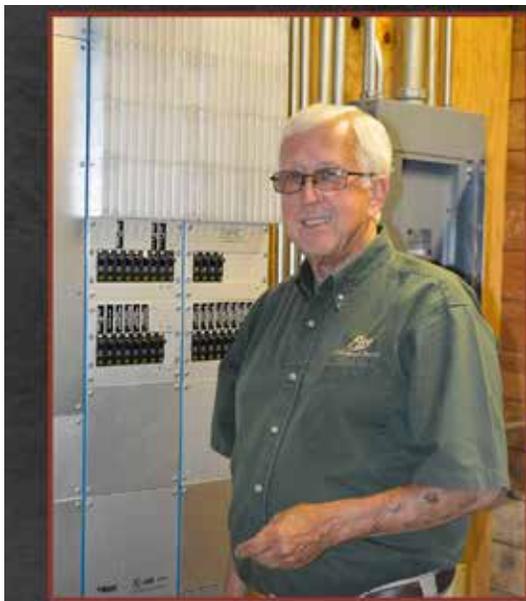
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BIRTHS



Photo by Whitney Vassar Photography

Fletcher

Isha and Casey Fletcher of Paragould announce the birth of a daughter, Gwynn Evahly Fletcher.

Born May 23 at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, the baby weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 18.9 inches long.

Grandparents are Tina and Greg Reese, Derek Cummings, and Lisa and Jack Fletcher.



Spence

Barry and Brittany Spence of Paragould announce the birth of a daughter, Lily Marie Spence.

Born May 10 at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, Lily Marie weighed 6 pounds, 7.3 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are George and Anna Marie Spence, and Steve and Ginger Hyde.



Palmer

Bryce and Shelbe Palmer of Paragould announce the birth of their child, Kreegan Reece Palmer.

Born May 16 at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, the baby weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Siblings include a brother, Konner; and sisters Kiera and Karleigh.

Grandparents are Shelly Templeton, Kim Palmer, and Pete and Kerri Higdon.

Baby Registry

Felicia Brokaw	Tina Bruce
Nikki Gautreaux	Emerald Kemp
Isha Fletcher	Jill Vaughn
Alexandra Murray	Taylor Pierce
Teri Horne	Amber Bowers
Ali Bean	Kori Gill
Sadie Cremeens	
Autumn Lawrence	



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April 16

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May 21

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May 28

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May 29

Julie White and Zack McCoy
June 4

Shana Williams and Ryan Cupp
June 4

Jordon Miller and Skyler Droke
June 25

Taylor Garner and Trase Davis
July 23

Carly Brasher and Kirk Porter
November 19

Katie Lopez and Derek Cude
September 17

Molly Johnson and Blake Glover
September 24

Whitney Copeland and Skylar McFarland
September 24

Mallorye Mosbey and Blake Ring
September 24

BABY Registry:

Felicia Brokaw

Erin Holland

Melissa Carpenter

Isha Fletcher

Emerald Kemp

Ali Bean

Whitney Vangilder

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ENGAGEMENTS



Photo by Stephanie Numley Photography

Johnson & Glover

Molly Johnson and Blake Glover will exchange wedding vows in a September ceremony.

Molly is the daughter of Steve and Angie Johnson of Paragould.

Blake's parents are Greg and Cyndy Glover of Woodlawn. The wedding will take place on Saturday, September 24, at The Silos in Bono.



Owens & McKnight

Jessica D. Owens and Patrick W. McKnight have set a July date for their wedding ceremony.

Jessica is the daughter of Larry and Sandra Keller of Paragould.

Patrick's parents are Clyde and Betty McKnight of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

The wedding is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 9, at 6 p.m. in Finch.



Walls & Brummett

Ashley Walls and Shawn Brummett of Jonesboro have announced their plans for a September wedding.

Ashley is the daughter of Virginia and Alan Walls of Paragould.

Shawn's parents are Diana and Stan Brummett of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place on September 17, 2016, at the Town Center in Fayetteville.



Photo by Dodie Peterson

Money & Niedermeier

Lillian Elane Money and Chase Tyler Niedermeier have announced their plans for a July wedding.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Gary and Kelly Money of Paragould.

The prospective groom, of Knob, is the son of Randy and Donna Niedermeier.

The wedding is scheduled for July 28, 2016, at Cedar Ridge Venue.



Photo by Pitter Patter Photography

Rodgers & Rose

Jamie Dawn Rodgers and Marty Clinton Rose have announced their plans for an August wedding ceremony.

The bride-to-be, of Paragould, is the daughter of Steve Rodgers, and Susan and Tim Simpson.

The prospective groom, also of Paragould, is the son of the late Alan Rose, and Bonnie and Johnny Loftus.

The wedding is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 6, 2016, in Denham Springs, La.

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- (20-24) Dance
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- (11-15) Art Camp
- (18-22) Art Camp 2.0
- (25-29) Summer Vacation

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Stay Tuned

What's In Store Next Month

On the Cover



Be sure to check out next month's issue to find out who Premiere readers have chosen as their Teacher of the Year. The balloting is done and the winner will appear on the cover of the August "Back to School" issue.

A Natural Leader



Marmaduke's Bailey Williams has taken the mantra of FBLA to heart, exhibiting the talents of a leader in just about everything she does. We'll bring you her story, along with much more, in next month's magazine.

Success Story



Erica Swallow, a 2005 Paragould High School graduate, has been lots of places and seen lots of things since leaving town but has now settled into the education field and enjoys challenging students to understand that "education is always good." Read her story in the August issue of Premiere.

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I'M A NORTH DAKOTAN WHO'S
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