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From The Managing Editor ...



That's Sadie on the cover, the winner of the Most Photogenic category at the Paragould Rotary Club's annual PAWS for a Cause Dog Show. The dog earning that title each year gets to be the cover model for the next issue of *Premiere*, and the "dog" issue is always a favorite among our readers.

Sadie is a one-year-old bloodhound and the background information provided by owner Athena Condray says she "loves walks in the park, sleeping, and howling at neighbors." Sounds like me. I knew I liked that dog for some reason. I got to pet her at the dog show and she seemed to like attention a great deal, willingly letting all comers give her a pat on the head or a scratch here and there. Besides being a fundraising event, the Rotary Club's dog show is a great chance for those who love dogs to come out and pet a wide variety of canines, then sit back and enjoy the afternoon as the entrants compete in fun categories like Best Tail Wagger and Best Kisser.

Thanks to the Rotarians and all who volunteer and participate in the show. It's all about having fun while raising money for the many good causes the Rotary Club supports and it is always a success. A complete list of winners appears on page 42.

A subject that on the surface seems to be not quite as smile-worthy as the dog stories is one where we feature cancer survivors in conjunction with the Relay For

Life activities in the area. Just the mention of cancer often strikes fear or sadness in the hearts of those who have confronted the disease first-hand, but when you think about it, talking with *survivors* is a pleasant thing. They have overcome and continued to thrive and we are happy to bring their stories to you. Be sure and thumb through the pages until you arrive at the Relay For Life information, along with the accompanying features.

This month's magazine is packed full with local people taking part in things like the Area I Special Olympics, Oak Grove Elementary School's Fishing Rodeo, afternoon teas at both the Greene County Library and Chateau on the Ridge to help celebrate Mother's Day, groups doing things, individuals doing things ... you get the picture, and we have a lot of the pictures for your viewing pleasure. Most of those events succeed thanks to efforts of volunteers who deserve recognition. It is also time to start considering who you would like to see on the cover of the August Back To School issue, a space reserved for *Premiere* readers' Teacher of the Year.

This year's candidates are listed on page 46 and voting begins as soon as you arrive there. You can mention your favorite teacher on the *Premiere* Facebook page or email your nominations to editor@premiere-magazine.com to have them counted.

♦

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Fighting the Good Fight

By Caitlin LaFarlette



A breast cancer diagnosis for one Arkansas State University employee in December 2015 came as shocking news, but was not the first run in with cancer for Terry Thomas.

Thomas' father Charles has battled stage four colon cancer for five years and her mother was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma before passing away at 38 years old. "My dad was really devastated when he got the news I had cancer," she said, adding she also has an uncle battling lung cancer.

When Thomas was diagnosed last year she said her first reaction was one of disbelief.

"After everything we had been through with my family, my mom and dad, it never occurred to me that I could get cancer," Thomas said. "I had been so busy for the last few years helping my dad get over his cancer and being there for him. It just never occurred to me."

Thomas underwent surgery in January to remove the lump doctors found during her yearly mammogram, as well as surrounding lymph nodes to prevent the cancer from spreading. With her mother dying from cancer at such a young age, Thomas attempted to not focus on that outcome as she began her struggle.

"My father's battle gave me strength to know that it could be okay," she added. "No matter how bad it was, it could still be okay."

In February, the 50-year-old began the first of 35 radiation treatments at St. Bernards Medical Center that lasted five days a week for seven weeks. In the beginning, Thomas saw the treatment as easy and quick with no side effects. After a few weeks, however, her skin began to burn and she developed fatigue she had never felt before.

"By the end of the 35 treatments, you're so exhausted and feeling sick, and you're skin is so burned," she added. "You're just so ready to get it over with."

A large extended family made of 14 aunts and uncles meant Thomas always had somebody to drive her to treatments and visit her at home. With her family alone she has an immense network of support but her coworkers and employer also provided plenty of encouragement.

"The human resource department at ASU was vital to my survival," Thomas said, adding the university offers a benefit called Catastrophic Leave that she took part of while she was off work for treatments.

Thomas returned to work at the ASU Dean B. Ellis Library, where she has served as the Fiscal Support Specialist for 15 years, in April. Nearly eight weeks away from work after surgery and radiation left Thomas itching to get back to her office and upon her return, she felt a shift back to normalcy.

"I'm just ready to get on with my life and leave all this behind," she said.

Thomas added there has been a silver lining to her experience as she has learned to not focus on negativity and look at things in a different light. She also encourages women to receive their yearly mammograms in order to avoid a battle like hers, but for those who do have breast cancer, she looks to Disney's Finding Nemo to offer advice.

"Just keep swimming," Thomas said. "Just keep fighting, just keep going and ask for help when you need it." ♦

Chamber's Clean Sweep Paragould

Clean Sweep Paragould 2016, organized by the Economic Development Corporation of Paragould, encouraged businesses and individuals to clean up around their properties during the designated week in April.

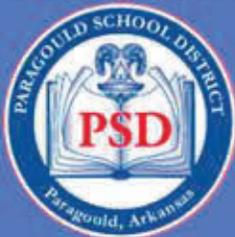
The major clean up day was Saturday, April 16. Volunteers met at Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce office at 9:00 a.m., where civic and service organizations, churches and youth groups, and school groups were handed out assignments for helping make the city look better, and then joined in the clean up process.

Projects were to be completed by noon so participants could enjoy a free meal, sponsored by the folks at Focus Bank. ♦



Congratulations Amy Castleberry!

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Paragould School District**



June

2016 Kid's Events

01, 8, 15, 22, 29

Story Time

When: Every Wednesday 10:30 AM

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

Cost: Free

Info: www.mylibrarynow.org

07. 14, 21, 28

Concert on the Lawn

When: Every Tuesday night in June

Where: Jonesboro Library

315 W Oak Ave., Jonesboro, AR

Cost: Free

Info: libraryinjonesboro.org

18

Tinkerfest

When: Sat. June 18, 10 AM-2 PM

Where: ASU Museum

320 University Loop, Jonesboro, AR

Cost: Free

Info: astate.edu/a/museum/



Giselle Ellis, 3, attended the afternoon tea at the Chateau on the Ridge, helping her great-grandmother, Clevagene Smith, observe Mother's Day. Giselle is the daughter of Lauren Fraine and Brandon Ellis.



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Friday, June 3
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 The 4,000 Steps GLOW RUN for Diabetes, held at the Greene County Tech Old High School Campus ("Eagle Mile" course), .Register online at <http://www.racesonline.com>. Pre-registration closes at midnight Thursday, June 2, 2016. Cost is \$20 for both walkers and runners. Race-day registration is \$25 and begins at Greene County Tech Middle School at 7:30 PM. For more information, call 870-239-7467 or email allison.hitt@arkansasmethodist.org.

BREASTFEEDING CLASS

Monday, June 6
 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
 Professional Office Building at AMMC. This class 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.

BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Thursday, June 9
 11:00 AM-6:00 PM
 Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at AMMC.
 To give blood for transfusion to another person, you must be healthy, be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law (includes Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee). You must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks (56 days) or double red cells in the last 16 weeks (112 days). 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.

MOMMY AND ME BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, June 12
 1:00-2:00 PM
 Second floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at AMMC. The Greene County Health Unit sponsors a monthly breastfeeding support group meeting for new and expectant mothers, along with AMMC. This meeting is an opportunity for new and expectant mothers to meet other moms and share experiences. Greene County Health Unit's Leisa Kennedy, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, is available to teach and assist participants. For more information, call the Greene County Health Unit at 236-7782.

INFANT SAFETY CLASS

Monday, June 13
 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
 Professional Office Building at AMMC. The infant safety class 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.

CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS

Monday, June 20, 27 and July 11
 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
 Professional Office Building at AMMC. Class offers detailed information about late pregnancy, preparing for labor and birth, comfort measures, Lamaze techniques (relaxation and breathing), importance of early skin-to-skin contact, medications, anesthesia (including cesarean delivery), newborn characteristics and postpartum care while rooming in with your baby. This 3 week class is offered to anyone who is expecting. It is recommended to take the class when you are 5-8 weeks from your due date. Register early to ensure availability. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. 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.

Oak Grove Fishing Rodeo

Students from Oak Grove Elementary School enjoyed the 18th annual Fishing Rodeo at the pond located behind the main buildings on the campus.

Around 200 volunteers made up of parents, the Greene County Sheriff's Department, the Paragould Police Department and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission – along with OGE personnel – made sure the kids had a fun day while reeling in fish from the recently stocked pond. ♦



ASU AIGA Awards

The A-State American Institute of Graphic Artists held the 2016 Southern Student Graphic Design Show. Keynote speaker was Matt Stewart, an ASU Alumnus and Senior Art Director with Disney's Yellow Shows Creative Group in Orlando.

The AIGA organized and publized the event and awards were presented by Kim Vickrey, Nikki Arnell and Joe Ford, ASU professors.

AIGA is the oldest and largest professional membership organization for design—with 70 chapters and more than 25,000 members—advancing design as a professional craft, strategic advantage, and vital cultural force. From content that defines the global practice to events that connect and catalyze, they work to enhance the value and deepen the impact of design across all disciplines on business, society, and their collective future.



For more information www.aiga.org ♦

Remembering Days on the Water

By Chuck Long

CHUCK
LONG

Regional Education
Coordinator
Northeast Education Division
Arkansas Game and Fish
Commission



The bright yellow floater had just barely come to rest on the surface of the farm pond when it dipped below the water to signal a fish had taken the bait. The fight was on and the young man was up to the task as he reeled the fish to the bank. It was going good until the fish broke the surface of the water near the edge of the pond, then the boy let out a shriek and the rod ended up lying on the bank beside me and in a flash he was in the back of the truck trying to get away from the fish.

That is the way it sometimes goes when fishing with kids, but more often than not the first experience will lead to another, then another and from there an angler is born. One thing I see from our kids today is that they will take up new things if given the opportunity and fishing is one of the things many of our youth want to experience.

It does take a special effort to take these youth on a new adventure and here are some tips to make the trip successful. A big step toward success is to make sure the trip is about them. If they want to fish five minutes, an hour or all day, try to insure they have an enjoyable time based on what they want to do. Snacks, drinks, and protection from the weather will help keep the interest from waning, as will choosing a time of day that is comfortable for an outdoor activity.

Keep the outing simple by only taking a few basics like hooks, sinkers, floaters and pliers and maybe a towel to wipe dirty hands. Bait should be simple as well, with worms, crickets and minnows being some good choices. A pole with a line and hook attached will put the fisherman in business but a simple rod and reel can generate a little more interest.

Local lakes and rivers offer great opportunities for fishing, but one of the best places to start a youngster is in a farm pond. These are often well-stocked and are somewhat manicured to allow easy access. This area is dotted with these little fishing holes and with a little conversation one can garner permission to fish, especially if you let the owner know a child will be taking part in the trip.

One of the most important things to remember in the introduction is to have patience with the young fisherman. Accept that there will be tangles, knots, and an errant cast or two but make the best of each situation and have a little patience as their desire to be out there grows.

I am somewhat biased but I believe a fishing trip or two instills things in our youth that are difficult to teach otherwise. Patience, perseverance, appreciation for the outdoors and the general life and death cycle can be taught in a just a few hours on a riverbank.

It is also one of those things in life that often ends up being more rewarding for the person providing the introduction than for the person being introduced. Make an effort to get out and get the kids involved; they are our future. Anyone assisting these young fishermen must possess a fishing license. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission does provide an opportunity to fish without a license during Free Fishing Weekend. From noon on Friday, June 10, until midnight on Sunday, June 12, anglers can pursue fish in the waters of Arkansas without purchasing a license. On Saturday, June 11, the five hatcheries of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including the Donham Hatchery at Corning, will host a Kid's Fishing Day from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Fishermen must be 12 and under and the limit will be three fish. There are also many other derby opportunities around the state on that day as well as throughout the summer. A list of derbies can be found on the Commission website at agfc.com.

Good luck, God bless and hope to see you out on the water! ♦

And the Winner is...



Published in the July edition of **PREMIERE**



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Area 1 Special Olympics

Competitors from Clay, Lawrence, Greene, Randolph and Sharp counties gathered at Paragould High School for the Area 1 Arkansas Special Olympics Track and Field meet in May.

Athletes took part in various events like wheelchair races, sprints, long jump and the softball throw as volunteers and family members cheered them on.

Arkansas Special Olympics had several other events scheduled during the month, ending with the summer games at Harding University on May 26-28. ♦



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Marmaduke Award Winning Teacher



Cara Herren, a math teacher at Marmaduke High School, was awarded the 2015-2016 Outstanding Concurrent Instructor Award at the Convocation of Scholars University College Reception at Arkansas State University.

Herren was chosen by the Director of the K-20 Initiative at ASU, Mrs. Barbara Doyle, to receive the award for diligent efforts to coordinate the concurrent courses at Marmaduke High School. Marmaduke has offered concurrent credit through ASU for three years and has implemented concurrent courses in the math, English, history and Fine Arts departments.

Herren has taught concurrent credit College Algebra for those three years, as well as high school math courses for the last ten years at Marmaduke High School and has started teaching night courses at ASU-Paragould in the last year.

“Offering concurrent credit has really enabled our students to graduate high school with their foot in the door at ASU, and we are so grateful to be recognized for our efforts in the efficiency of our program,” said Herren. ♦

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AMMC Eye Guide Focus



Arkansas Methodist Medical Center hosted representatives from Eye Guide Focus, a concussion detection equipment company, in May.

Eye Guide Focus is a new, 10-second test for impaired brain function. Athletes are asked to look at a small white circle moving against a black background on an iPad screen. The EyeGuide headset records their eye movements during the test. Before the season begins, the athlete takes one test, called the baseline. Then, if injury is suspected, he or she takes the same test again.

The system compares the athlete's score with his or her baseline as well as the scores of thousands of other, similar athletes in the system. If the score is abnormally low, it indicates a drop in neurocognitive ability associated with brain injury.

AMMC and the Greene County Tech and Paragould School districts are the first in the state and the third and fourth in the country to have this technology available to student athletes. ♦

PHS soccer coach Jason Inman went through the concussion detection scan during EyeGuide Focus' demonstration.

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Haylee Keating Softball Star



Haylee Keating, a 2016 graduate of Paragould High School, has been selected to play in an international softball competition in July.

Haylee, 18, will compete in the Apeldoorn Series, an international sporting competition, in the Netherlands July 11-20. According to information provided by Student Athlete World, sponsor of the program, players are chosen from a national pool based on athletics, leadership ability and character. The staff is made up of former college coaches with decades of experience recruiting athletes, coaching athletes, and taking teams on international tours.

Based in the host city, Apeldoorn, Netherlands, the trip includes visits to Holland, Germany and France for games and sightseeing opportunities and visits to several historic sites.

"You have to be recommended by somebody," Haylee said, adding that she willingly accepted her invitation. "They asked me if I'd like to go and I said, 'Yeah, I'd love to.' It's such an opportunity, there's no way I would say no."

Haylee said she will be one of 11 girls representing Team USA. "They're from all over the country ... from California, West Virginia, Wisconsin. I don't know any of them. We'll meet up at the airport in New York City and then head out," she said.

Her Paragould High School team recently completed its season with another state tournament appearance, with Haylee manning the center field position. As for her spot on the USA team, she said, "I'll just show up and play wherever they want me."

Haylee is the daughter of Corey and Amy Keating of Paragould. ♦

THE EYES DON'T LIE.

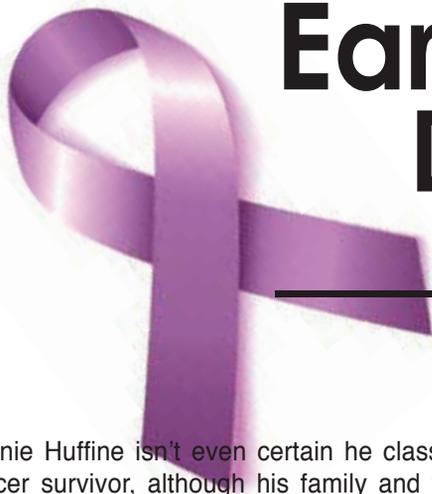
EyeGuide® Focus 10-second concussion detection

By some estimates, there are 3.8 million sports-related concussions every year in the United States. The Foundation at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and the Greene County Tech and Paragould School Districts are teaming up to tackle this startling statistic by arming our certified athletic trainers on the court and on the field with the latest in concussion detection technology. A simple 10-second test of the eyes following a white dot on a black screen can determine if an athlete has sustained a head injury. Working together, we're making sports in our area safer and returning student athletes safely back to play.

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Early Detection Pays

By RICHARD BRUMMETT

Donnie Huffine isn't even certain he classifies himself as a cancer survivor, although his family and friends see things differently.

"I know lots of people who have fought cancer for a long time," said Huffine, 64, "and I haven't done anything like that. I had a problem and they found it and we addressed it. But I guess, technically, I am a survivor." What Huffine's story boils down to is the importance of having regular medical checkups and being diligent in following a prescribed path instead of "acting like a guy," as he puts it and simply ignoring symptoms.

Huffine said at some point about two years ago he began to have severe cramps in the area of his liver, but he had a vacation trip to Ireland planned with friends and postponed addressing it until their return. An ultrasound performed after another doctor's visit "looked fine," he said, "but there was one little sentence that mentioned blockage of the bile duct. Lots of times it's nothing but I paid attention to it."

Further examination revealed a small cyst on his pancreas but ample treatment was again delayed while Huffine completed an elk hunting trip, so adequate attention to the issue did not begin until September, four months after his initial complaint. When attempts to biopsy the cyst were unsuccessful, doctors had Huffine's attention. "It was so thick, they couldn't get a sample," he recalled, "and by then I was going into full-blown panic because, now, it could be cancer."

Among common cancers, pancreatic cancer has one of the poorest prognoses. Because pancreatic cancer often grows and spreads long before it causes any symptoms, only about 6% of patients are still alive five years after diagnosis.

For some pancreatic patients, however, a complex surgery known as the Whipple procedure may extend life and could be a potential cure. It involves removal of the "head" of the pancreas next to the first part of the small intestine. It also involves removal of the duodenum, a portion of the common bile duct, gallbladder, and sometimes part of the stomach. Afterward, surgeons reconnect the remaining intestine, bile duct, and pancreas.



"I went home and researched Whipple on the computer," Huffine said, "and I could not believe the horror stories about it. That really made me nervous, but it was one of the few choices I had."

Having heard excellent reports from a friend about the medical attention provided by Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, that is where he chose to go to address his situation. By the time surgery was actually scheduled it was January of 2015 and at first his doctor there didn't think he had any form of cancer. "He thought it was a matter of a blocked bile duct that he could snip and drain," Huffine said. "I expected to wake up afterward with a panic attack, but I woke up and felt really good." But complications followed and he felt "like the rug had been jerked out from under me."

It wasn't just the cyst, but the location of it that was a problem. It was blocking the pancreas and the liver. I was trying to cheat fate and get around this thing, but the doctor said, 'You can live without a pancreas; you can't live without a liver.' It was causing both to deteriorate."

So, more serious surgery was in store down the road. Falling back on his instincts as an outdoorsman, Huffine got to work on his home gym about a month before the procedure to be as physically strong as possible. "I knew I was in for the fight

of my life," the Paragould resident said. "Twenty percent of people who have the Whipple die. I didn't want to be a statistic. I wanted to get my mind in order and my body in shape. I went in ready to survive this surgery."

The procedure was considered successful but for days after Huffine couldn't eat without getting sick and throwing up and the situation became so serious that he was told he was headed to ICU. "They asked me if I had anything I wanted to take with me," he said, "and I wanted my St. Louis Cardinals hat and my sunglasses. If I was going to die, I wanted to look cool."

More surgery and more complications related to infection followed but physicians finally pinpointed the problems and the road to recovery began. By the

time he was able to stay at home Huffine had lost 34 pounds and was still dealing with a draining tube but slowly he started piecing his life back together. "By May first I was hitting the gym again," he said, "but it was tough because my muscles were gone. I started out very light, but I had to be on a mountain in Utah in September (hunting) and I knew the only way to get there was to get better. I kept pushing, pushing, pushing and I made it through it."

"I still have some eating disorders," he said, "but I made it to the mountain. And we killed an elk."

Huffine's cyst was only 2 centimeters and the accompanying tumor a millimeter but the experience was huge. "I monitor it now, because that's what I've been told to do," he said. "I follow doctor's orders now and do everything they tell me to do. And, who knows? I never went into

it thinking I was going to die, but things could have gotten that serious if I hadn't had things checked out. I was on several prayer lists and received well wishes daily from family, friends and classmates. Lots of calls, texts, cards and letters. It's really overwhelming at the number of people that care about you when you are really sick."

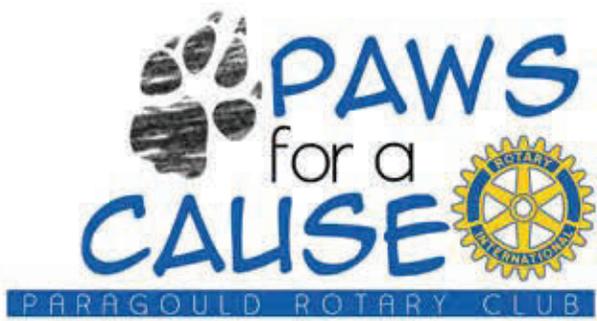
He said he can't think of enough ways to praise family members -- especially his wife, Glenda, for her support throughout the ordeal. "She was always there," he said, "always ready to help do something. There are just some things you cannot do with IVs in both arms."

Huffine again looks forward to vacations and continued hunting adventures but with a more critical approach. "Life is different now," he said, "but life is still really good." ♦

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Most Photogenic Cover Dog

By Richard Brummett

Athena Condray says her dog, Sadie, is “a pretty good companion. She’s a real good pet,” adding those compliments to the fact that her favorite bloodhound won the right to appear on this month’s cover by taking home the Most Photogenic title from the Paragould Rotary Club’s PAWS for a Cause Dog Show.

Each year, the Rotary Club stages the dog show as a fundraising activity and provides an afternoon of fun for dog lovers, bringing them together in the B.C. Loyd Entertainment Building at the Greene County Fairgrounds. One-year-old Sadie earned the most votes from attendees and from the Rotary Club Facebook page campaign and not only thrilled, but also surprised her owner. “I was kind of shocked,” said Athena, 15. “I didn’t really expect it, but I was very excited for her.”

In information provided to contest organizers, Athena described Sadie as a pet enjoying “walks at the park, sleeping, and howling at neighbors.” “She likes to play with kids at the park,” Athena said, “and she would swim for hours if she wanted to. She loves to hunt and track scents. She’s a lot of fun, and she’s plenty of company.”

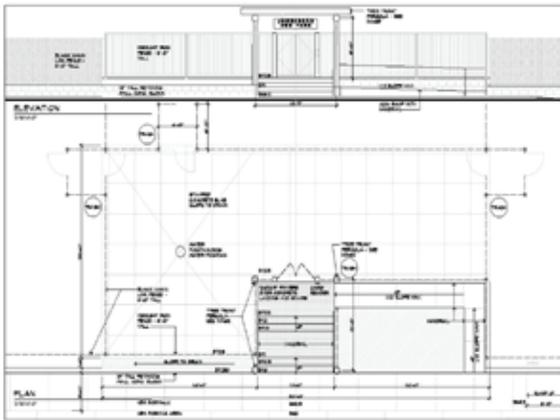


Athena said she entered Sadie in last year’s contest and she came away as the Cutest Puppy winner. The family has three other dogs and Sadie gets along well with them all, according to her owner. “She’s a lot of fun,” the Paragould resident said, but added that her mother, Cathy Stormes, might not find all of Sadie’s habits amusing.

“She is the one who has to listen to her howl at night,” she added, laughing. “But I don’t think she minds that much.”

See page 42 for a list of all the PAWS for a Cause winners.

Jonesboro Dog Park



With the needed help of community members, a new attraction for dog owners could be making its way to Jonesboro as soon as this year.

Jonesboro citizens have expressed the need for a dog park and the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department has listened. Director Wixson Huffstetler said funds for the project will come from sponsorships and donations.

"The goal is to raise \$200,000 for something we didn't think about or left out of the project," he said.

Huffstetler added if the funds are raised in time, the park could be built this year. The proposed site would be across Fort Rotary at access six at the Craighead Forest Park. Plans include an area of just over two acres divided into areas for small, medium and large dogs.

"It will add another feature to our park system to make it even better than what we have," Huffstetler added. "People will be able to socialize together and make new friends."

Dog owner Desi LoBuono of Paragould said a dog park would provide those with furry friends a safe, worry-free area to bring their pets to socialize.

"Between leash laws, traffic and other people, there are not many areas where you can let your dog loose to romp and play," LoBuono said. "I would definitely be excited to have a safe zone for my dog to play. Louie is very social but not very street smart. I am always worried about other people being fearful of him or that he will run in front of a moving vehicle."

For LoBuono, a dog park would reduce the chances of encountering such issues. She added she would love to see a park with water and waste stations, shady areas or even a pool for dogs to cool off in during warmer weather.

According to Parks and Recreation notes, plans for the park do include waste and water stations, benches stamped with paw prints and even obstacle courses for the dogs. The future of the park remains in the hands of Jonesboro community members and will move forward once funds are raised, offering the perfect place for pets to stretch their legs. ♦



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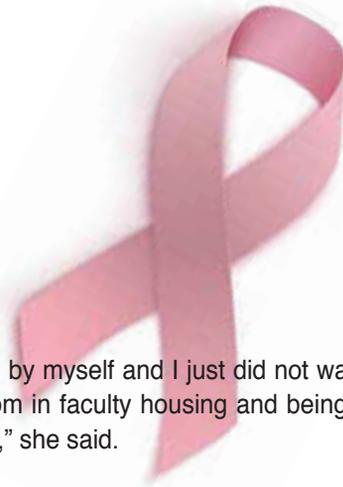
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Sandra Combs

Surviving with Support

By Caitlin LaFarlette



Sixty-year-old Sandra Combs was told to never question “why me?” but the timing of her breast cancer diagnosis left her asking “why now?”

It was Nov. 14, 2008, when Combs was diagnosed, three months to the day of her arrival at Arkansas State University from Rochester Hills, Michigan. Now an associate professor in the Department of Media, Combs has her group of friends and coworkers that stepped up to the table in 2008 to support her through treatments.

Combs said she wasn’t alarmed when doctors called after her yearly mammogram but a lump in her left breast led to surgery and the removal of six lymph nodes. This was the beginning of 12 rounds of chemotherapy and 35 rounds of radiation. Friends in Michigan who had gone through their own diagnoses gave her advice on how to handle the treatments, such as always eating before the chemotherapy and never using metal silverware, which can change the taste of food.

“I had great support in people telling me what to do,” she said. “And I usually don’t like when people tell me what to do, but there are times when you just need to do what people tell you to do.”

While the 750-mile move to Arkansas left Combs without family or friends nearby, her coworkers at ASU immediately did what they could to help. Dr. Joel Gambill, the department chair at the time, even took Combs to the appointment for her lumpectomy, and the department secretary was in the recovery room after the surgery.

“She said she didn’t want me to wake up by myself,” Combs said.

Similar to many who go through chemotherapy, Combs lost all her hair after treatments began. She returned to teaching class wearing a wig and many never even knew. Combs had sported a short afro cut in 2000 but said this experience was different. After her chemotherapy began and doctors explained she would begin to lose hair, she chose to make an appointment with a barber while visiting friends in Alabama.

“I was here by myself and I just did not want to be standing in my bathroom in faculty housing and being faced with my hair coming out,” she said.

The day before her appointment in Alabama, Combs said she realized she couldn’t go through with it. This haircut would be different: it wasn’t to feel free or to try a new style, but because in a few weeks time, she would lose the hair she had.

“So, they decided to cut my hair in the kitchen while we drank mojitos,” Combs said of her friends.

The summer of 2009 Combs decided to go without a wig at a family reunion.

“After that I thought, ‘I can do this,’” she said.

The Northeast Arkansas Breast Cancer Support Group also reached out to Combs, taking her to dinner and even treatments. This led to Combs applying for Casting for Recovery in 2011, a national group that takes cancer survivors fly fishing on the White River as a weekend getaway.

“You’ve got to have that support,” Combs said.

Despite being the only one in her family to be diagnosed with breast cancer, Combs had someone with her every step of the way and encourages other women to find that same type of network.

“Get diagnosed and get a support group because it doesn’t have to be fatal,” she said.

Her own journey with breast cancer may have been difficult in a new town with a new job, but it was an experience that has left Combs with a sunny outlook for the last eight years since her diagnosis.

“I probably know more people now than I would have known,” Combs said. “I probably wouldn’t be as strong as I am now.” ♦

Paragould Civitan Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

The Paragould Civitan Club held its Fourth Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in March to raise money for Greene County's lone handicap accessible playground.

Held at the 7th and Mueller Church of Christ, the event collected funds designated for future expansion of existing playground equipment at Paragould's Harmon Park. The current equipment was funded by the previous three wheelchair tournaments.

This year's tournament raised approximately \$1,800, thanks in part to primary sponsor Whitby Law Firm, secondary sponsor Focus Bank and all other participating firms and individuals.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of Paragould Civitan for the wheelchair tourney or any of its other events should contact Mary Crawford at Caps Plus, Inc., 870-236-9292, or visit the Civitan Facebook page. ♦



1st place womens: (in black) Rose Taylor, Sydney Walker, and Emily Clardy
2nd place womens: (in orange) Stephanie Wineland, Michelle Cook, and Brittany McElhaney

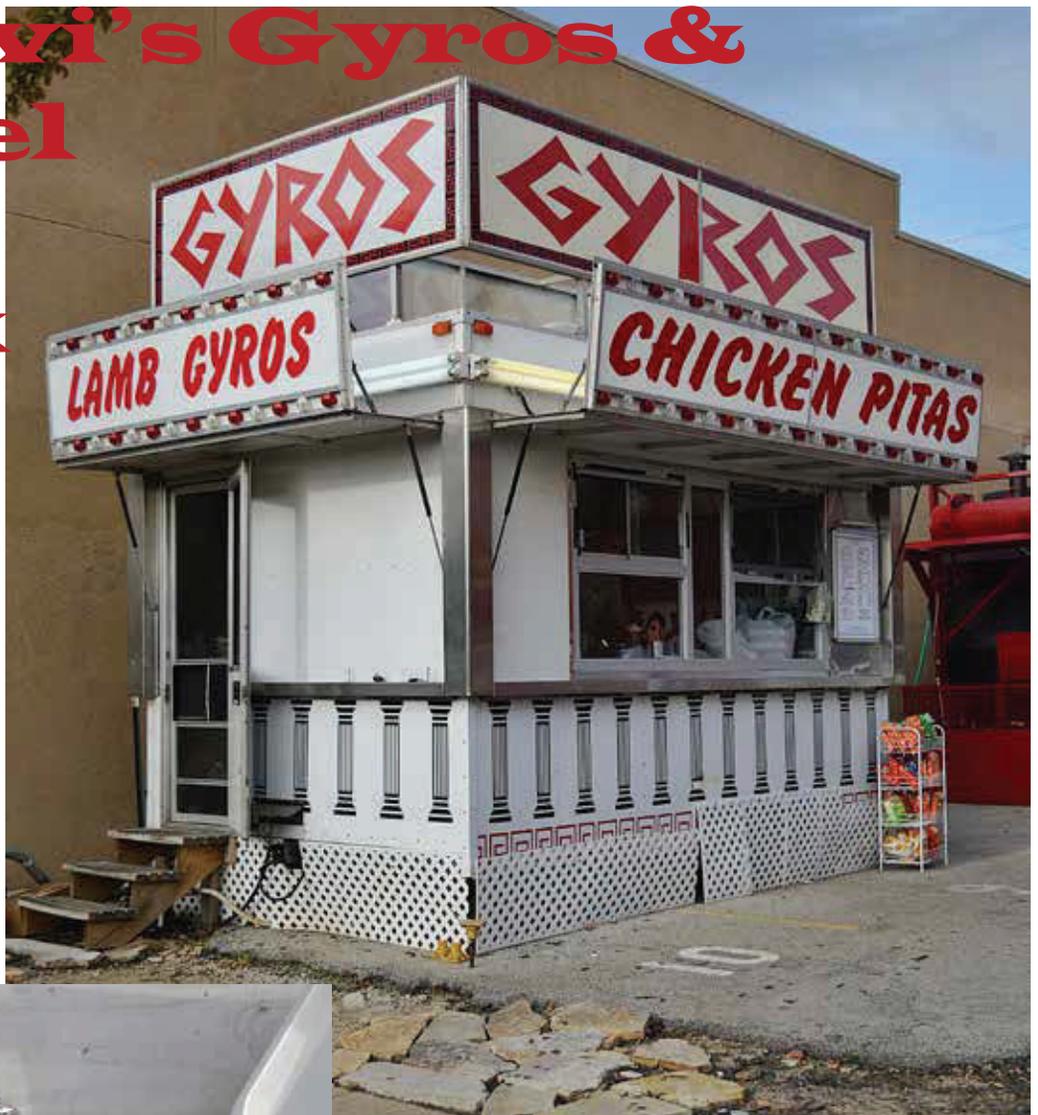
3rd place womens: Caitlin McClain, Emily Pate, and Mallorie Lovrien
1st place youth: Destrie Wineland, Berkley Benefield, and Samantha Wood
2nd place youth: Raelyn Jones, Madison Symons, and Megan Kelly

1st place mens: Wes Livingston, Kirk Porter, Zach Mitchell, and Jordan Mitchell (little boy)
2nd place mens: Collin Kingston, Jacob Whitby-Lange, Mrs. Grace, and Zach Hoggard "Team Grace"
3rd place mens: Samuel Winn, Cody Holland, Zach Wilson

Partovi's Gyros & Fatafel Food Truck

Take a break from the traditional American restaurants in Northeast Arkansas and, instead, head to Downtown Jonesboro for some authentic Greek food that is sure to impress.

Partovi's Gyros and Falafel food truck is tucked just off South Main Street next to Brickhouse Grill within perfect distance of public parking. On a Friday night, the



gyros can be smelled down the road as they are quickly served up to customers. There are various options for every set of taste buds, from chicken and lamb gyros to a vegetarian option.

For my own first taste of Jonesboro Greek food I dove in with a traditional lamb gyro. After a short wait of five minutes I had my

for dessert. Baklava is a pastry of chopped nuts with syrup or honey, and the pieces from Partovi's will hit the sweet spot. It's a dish with just the right amount of crunch, flaky crust and sweetness to top off your meal.

With summer arriving shortly, Partovi's location makes it the perfect spot to

meal. The lamb was cooked to perfection and wasn't greasy or too heavy. The lettuce, tomatoes and onions were fresh and light, and the pita bread just melted in my mouth.

No Greek meal is complete without baklava

gather with friends on the weekend. Outside tables give you a place to kick back with a gyro and once you're done, head across the street to Creegan's Irish Pub, Therapy or Brickhouse Grill to finish off the evening. Forget about traveling out of the city for new styles of food — take a trip to the heart of Jonesboro at Partovi's for a different experience!

— Caitlin LaFarlette

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Thanks to all those who serve.



Dan Ring

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Karan Summitt

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Celebrity Waiters

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Celebrity Waiters

Hospice News: Expansion of 8 Beds

Kara Spencer



Dierksen Hospice has received a certificate from the state of Arkansas for 8 inpatient beds in Craighead County to better serve the community.

The staff of Dierksen Hospice is grateful to the people of Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas for the opportunity to serve.

Dierksen's Kara Spencer said, "Working hospice is a rewarding and needed service. As soon as I started working for Dierksen Hospice almost three years ago, I knew I had made the right decision. I immediately felt the love and compassion this company has for people. Patient care is the top priority at Dierksen. Our goal is to help people feel like the kings and queens they are and help them live their life the way they want to live. I worked as the social worker for two years, visiting patients and families, seeing first-hand the good that was being done here. This is such a sensitive and important time in people's lives. Helping them cope and grieve all while holding their hands through it all was such a blessing. When I took the Program Director position eight months ago, I did it so I could help spread the word about our amazing company. Patients and families deserve to know that Dierksen Hospice is here, serving this community and dedicated to the best patient care possible. We not only take care of our patients, we take care of their families and friends as well by providing them with education, love, and support. They become part of our family here at Dierksen. They are just as much a blessing to us as we are to them, maybe even more. We are so thrilled that we are now going to be able to help serve our patients and families in an inpatient hospice setting. We are so grateful to the community here in Jonesboro and Craighead County, as well as the state of Arkansas, for entrusting us to care for these wonderful people in an inpatient unit that will be coming to Jonesboro in the near future."

Kara Spencer
Program Director

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Dan Ring Celebrating 60 with 60 Miles

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Serious runners often participate in marathons totaling 26 miles, but one Northeast Arkansas resident celebrated his past birthday by running nearly triple that.

Dan Ring of Brookland hit the pavement on Dec. 29, 2015, at 4 a.m. to run 60 miles for his 60th birthday. He began at the Jordan's Kwik Stop on Highway 49 and spent the day running with frequent breaks at his car to refuel with snacks and drinks.

"Up until about mile 54 it had been a solo endeavor with an occasional honk and cheer of encouragement of friends as they drove by," Ring said, adding after that he was joined by Kim Webb, Terry McNatt and Angie and Wesley Tibbs. "These four friends drug me, carried me and pushed me the last five miles."

Ring didn't talk much but recognized how special it was having those supporters with him as he finished the 60-mile trek over 14 hours. The following days were spent recovering, although Ring admitted he probably didn't take off as much time as he should have.

His route along Highway 49 started eight years ago when he decided to enter his first race and needed to increase his mileage. Living in Carriage Hills at the time, Ring ran to Brookland on short days and the current site of the NEA Baptist Hospital on long days before returning home. His journeys have led to drivers waving and shouting words of encouragement as Ring takes each step down the road.

"I love my Highway 49 friends," he said.

Ring's jump into running began after he got married in 1976 despite never participating in track in school, or even having an interest in the sport. He didn't even run his first race until eight years ago because for him, it wasn't about competition.

"It was just me and the road with the wind in my face, and the sun at my back," he said. "I didn't own a Garmin. I had no idea what cadence was. I didn't have a clue as to what my resting heart rate was or how it compared to my heart rate when I ran. I never knew how fast I ran. I just ran."

His first race was a marathon, a year after his wife passed away, and Ring noted it may not have been the smartest thing he has done. After being inspired by a 77-year-old Ironman competitor who swam 2.4 miles, biked 112 miles and then ran a marathon, Ring decided he, too, could run that far. He entered the Lewis and Clark Marathon in St. Louis in 2008.

"I finished. It wasn't pretty, but I didn't give up. I didn't quit. I crossed the finish line," Ring said.

Before that race, the independent financial adviser asked Paragould running icon Ethan Busby for advice.

"I waited patiently for him to share some deep, dark secret that only elite runners could possibly know. Maybe something guarded and shared only on



rare occasions with novice runners like myself,” Ring said. “He said, ‘Have fun.’”

Ring said whether someone is running a big race or just living life, it was the best advice he could have received. Ring also acknowledges that there are runners more talented than he and his ability to run is a gift.

“I’m grateful for the ability to run up and down the highway, sometimes slow and sometimes real slow, but grateful just the same,” he said. “If I can just figure out how to honor God in some way for the gift, that might be my greatest accomplishment.” ♦

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The Diet Gal



Karan Summitt 5 Tips for a Healthy Summer

Although June 21 marks the official date, any respectable

Southerner knows summer season spans the time from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. In our part of the country, that means fresh garden produce, lemonade stands and the smell of backyard barbecues.

With a little bit of planning and some wise precautions, summer can be one of the most enjoyable times of the year. Ignore these precautions and the outcome often becomes a miserable health crisis. Here are five tips for a healthy summer.

Wear Sunscreen. Although sunscreen should be a part of every day's routine, it is especially important when the sun's rays are strongest. Choose a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 30 that protects from both UVB and UVA rays. Apply it every morning, even if you don't plan to be outside. Reapply every 80 minutes that you are outside, and choose a sunscreen option that is made for the activity you plan to do (example, a water-resistant formula for swimming). Don't forget to pay attention to lips, feet, ears, nose and under-arms.

Get Active. With great weather and longer days, increase the time you spend in physical activity. Take the grandkids on a state park vacation and enjoy the many hiking and/or bike trails in Arkansas. Swim, walk, golf or enjoy long walks in the cool of the day. Spruce up the back yard or plant a vegetable garden. Travel to a place that allows you to do walking tours or enjoy water activities. Be sure to remember the sunscreen.

Eat Fresh. Even if gardening is not your cup of iced tea, local farmers' markets and neighbors with an abundance of produce can make it easy to enjoy the taste of vine-ripened produce. Enjoy fresh fruits with a minimal amount of added sugar and limit the salt on vegetables. Try seasoning with herbs or spices and see how creative you can be with "in season" produce. Fruit salsas and cold veggie salads partner great with traditional hot dishes.

roasted outdoors.

De-stress with Nature. As much as I like fall foliage, spring and summer are an ongoing display of Mother Nature's color palette. From the jonquils in February to the last marigold of September, summer offers the perfect chance for nature to melt away the stress of everyday life. The options are endless. Grab someone and stroll in a park or well-manicured neighborhood. Spend the evenings watching fireflies and listening to frogs croak and crickets sing. Take a seat on a front porch swing and read a good book. Daylight comes early and sunset late, so quiet times in nature can be squeezed into a workday. Citronella torches and insect propellants make outside time bearable.

Stay Hydrated. Heat stroke and dehydration are common maladies of summer. With soaring temperatures, staying well-hydrated can be one of the biggest challenges of summer. Remember that the best antidote is water — not soft drinks, sports drinks, sugary, fruit-flavored drinks or alcohol. Keep an eye on urine color and understand that dehydration can be cumulative. Several days of mild dehydration can lead to more serious issues. Example — kidney stones are more common during hot weather. Be just as careful with yourself as with very young children and the elderly. The two extremes of age are not as aware of dehydration as the middle years.

For me, summer brings back memories of sandlot baseball games, Vacation Bible School, family reunions, catching fireflies in Ball canning jars and watermelon spitting contests. With some practical adult precautions, the season is an opportunity for the child inside to resurface for a few weeks each year. Being young at heart is a good thing! ♦

Don't forget the grill — many fruits and vegetables take on a whole new taste when

Celebrate Survivors

ARCARE Banquet

The ARcare Cancer Care Program, in conjunction with the Arkansas Cancer Coalition, hosted the 2016 Woodruff County Cancer Survivor Seminar on April 28 in Augusta. Dr. Koyia Figures, Founder of Alliance Health Care, was the featured speaker. Volunteers from ARcare, Woodruff County Health Department, American Cancer Society, and the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care provided information on survivorship resources and age-appropriate screenings to survivors and their caregivers/family members. Survivors also received self-care goodie bags as well as door prizes donated by local businesses in Woodruff County. ♦



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Celebrity Waiters

For Chateau on the Ridge

Paragould's Chateau on the Ridge Assisted Living center hosted a Celebrity Waiter event in April at the Paragould Community Center. The evening began with a cocktail party and silent auction, followed by the dinner.

More than 200 guests enjoyed a catered meal from Kiss the Cook while being served by their celebrity waiters.

The goal was to raise \$20,000 to help fund unbudgeted projects and activities for residents of Chateau on the Ridge, and organizers indicated they surpassed their goal.

Twenty-five "waiters" had tables decorated to fit the theme, "Cities Around

the World", and 240 tickets were sold to some very giving individuals. Shannon Freeman, Brian Osborn and Keith Legrid kept the night going as the Master of Ceremonies, Head Waiter and Silent Auction Leader.

More than \$21,500 was raised and will go toward the purchase of a van for transportation to appointments and other destinations for the residents of Chateau on the Ridge.

For more information about Chateau on the Ridge, call 870-215-6300. ♦



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- ♥ Restraint-Free for 2 years



Senior B.E.E.S.

At the Beach



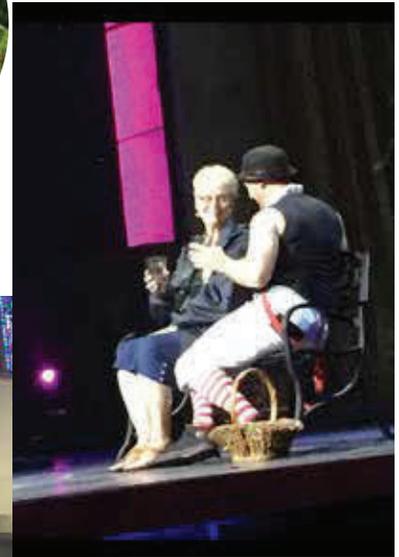
Class Ring at Citadel entrance in Charleston, SC.

Forty B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens recently traveled to Myrtle Beach and Charleston, South Carolina.

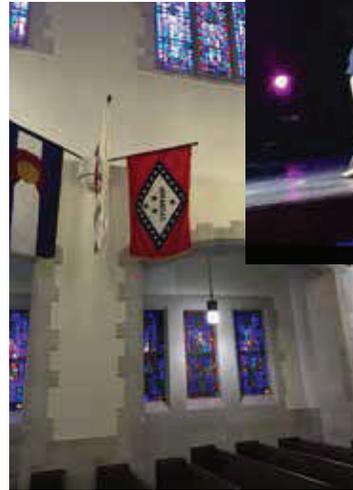
They enjoyed a tour of Charleston, where they visited the Citadel and toured the historical city of Charleston. Some of the highlights were Rainbow Row, Fort Sumner and shopping at the Charleston City Market. While in Myrtle Beach, they attended several music/comedy performances and the Cirque Extreme show. They also ate lots and lots of seafood. They visited Broadway at the Beach, where they ate and shopped.

The trip ended with an amazing day at the Brookgreen Gardens and Myrtle Beach Boardwalk. Some of the group were brave enough to ride the SkyWheel and dipped their toes in the Atlantic Ocean. The seniors had a wonderful trip and the weather was perfect.

A fall trip is planned for September 3-11 to Mt. Rushmore, the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota. Reservations are being taken now! Call Carol at 870-239-4093 for more information. ♦



Teresa Reed representing the BEES at the Cirque Extreme show



Arkansas flag in the chapel at the Citadel.

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- Exercise Classes

Seats are still available for the Fall trip to
Mt. Rushmore, the Badlands & Black Hills of South Dakota
 September 3-11

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Chateau on the Ridge

Mother's Day Tea

Mothers, daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters were treated to "An Afternoon in Paris" tea party to celebrate Mother's Day at Paragould's Chateau on the Ridge.

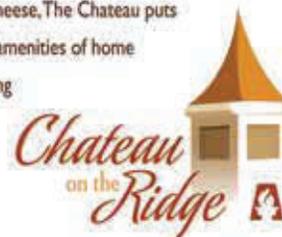
The staff provided skits that elicited plenty of laughter and residents and their guests enjoyed food, drink and conversation during the event. ♦



Life is good!



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



Assisted Living Retirement Community

LARRY'S AUTO SALES



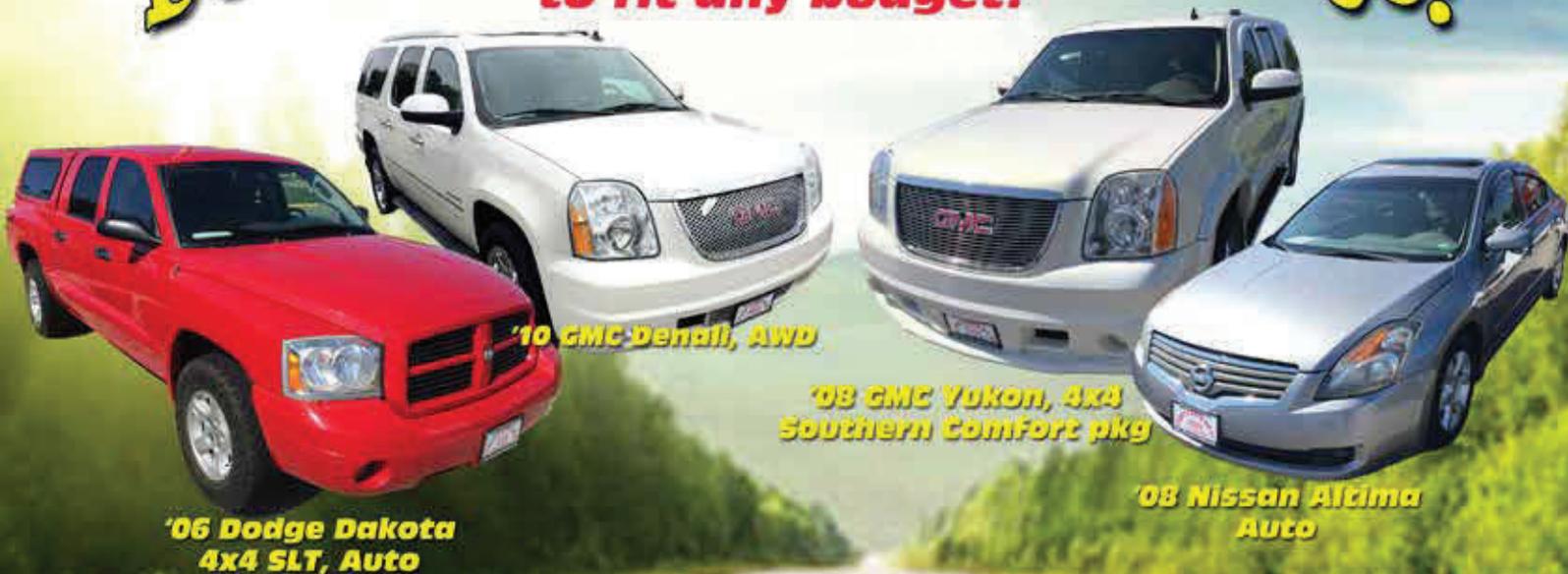
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Paragould Rotary PAWS for a Cause

There were hugs and kisses all around at the B.C. Loyd Entertainment building when the Paragould Rotary Club hosted its fourth annual PAWS for a Cause Dog Show.

Entrants were led onto the stage and introduced to the audience then rated by a panel of judges to see who would take home the top prize in various categories. Each year, the winner of the Most Photogenic division – decided by votes garnered on the club's Facebook page and by monetary donations made at the dog show – earns the right to appear on the cover of Premiere Magazine.

This year's cover model is Sadie, a 1-year-old bloodhound owned by Athena Condray.

Winners in all divisions were:

Best Tail Wagger

1st – Lucy, a 7-year-old Golden Retriever, owned by Samantha Hazlewood;
2nd – Teemo, a 4-year-old Pomeranian, owned by Shena and Mary Dickson;
3rd – Echo, a 4-year-old Labrador Retriever, owned by Jake and Brittany Murray.

Cutest Puppy

1st – Prince Bernard, a 9-week-old Corgi/Chihuahua/Dachshund blend, owned by Quincy and Griffin Osborn;
2nd – Jersey, a 4-month-old Bassett Hound, owned by Joe Ness;
3rd – Judge, a 7-month-old Labrador Retriever, owned by Meredith McMillon.

Looks Most Like Owner

1st – Teemo, the Pomeranian owned by Shena and Mary Dickson.

Most Macho

1st – Cobalt, a 23-month-old Great Dane, owned by Scott and Jennifer Hall;
2nd – Gandolf, a 6-year-old Great Dane, owned by Brenda Garner.

Most Beautiful

1st – Rey, a 3-year-old Siberian Husky, owned by Shena Dickson;
2nd – Pepper, a 2-year-old Alaskan Malamute mix, also owned by Shena Dickson;
3rd – Sadie, 1-year-old Bloodhound, owned by Athena Condray.



Most Talented

1st – Bullit, 4 1/2-year-old Siberian Husky/Timberwolf mix, owned by Jack Peterson;
2nd – Delta, a 5-year-old Vizsla, owned by Avis Adams.

Best Kisser

1st – Captain Jack, 6-year-old Bichon Frise, owned by Christina Berner;
2nd – Prince Bernard, the Corgi/Chihuahua/Dachshund Blend owned by Quincy and Griffin Osborn;
3rd – Dewey, a 2-year-old Japanese Chin, owned by Christina Berner.

Most Handsome

1st – Gandolf, owned by Brenda Garner;
2nd – Judge, owned by Meredith McMillon;
3rd – Cobalt, owned by Scott and Jennifer Hall.

Best Costume

1st – Fancy, owned by Courtney McWayne.

Top Dog

1st – Bullit
2nd – Prince Bernard
3rd – Cobalt

Most Photogenic

1st – Sadie, owned by Athena Condray;
2nd – Minnie, 2 year-old Shi Chi, owned by Courtney McWayne;
3rd – Harry, 6-year-old Bichon Frise, owned by Christina Berner. ♦

Northeast AR United Way Fund Awards

United Way of Northeast Arkansas recently held its 2016 Awards Luncheon at Centennial Hall at Arkansas State University. The local United Way celebrated its 60th year of existence by surpassing the 2016 campaign goal of \$660,000. Funds from the campaign will be used to support programs in education, income and health that also focus on fighting poverty.

Local business industries and organizations were recognized during the event, as well as several individuals for their volunteer and fundraising efforts. Meredith Cook of St. Bernards Healthcare and Medical Group and Michael Nunnally of City Water & Light were presented with Loaned Executive of the Year Awards and Deania Vanhoozer of First Community Bank was named Volunteer of the Year. ♦



Ryan Blackburn, Jennifer Young Harding, Meredith Cook, Deania Vanhoozer, Michael Nunnally



Rodney and Deania Vanhoozer



Ruth Baker, Amanda Saliba, Nanette Heard, Jenny Keller, Paula Robertson, Shaila Creekmore



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PHOTOGRAPHY

Paragould Jr Auxiliary Kids Kraze

Every spring, the entire Greene County community is invited to attend Paragould Junior Auxiliary's Kids Kraze and for the first time ever this year, a 1-mile Superhero Fun Run was added.

The event took place in April at First Baptist Church of Paragould. Kids Kraze is a fun business expo type event, showcasing local businesses with kid appeal, and is free to vendors and attendees. This year's started off with the Superhero Fun Run with more than 100 entrants who were encouraged to dress up as superheroes and received a free shirt and goody bag for participating.

The race had two surprise guests, Spiderman and Captain America. They interacted with the kids, were available for pictures, and rallied on the runners at the end of the race.

Families were invited to visit with the Kids Kraze vendors inside the First Baptist multipurpose building. The event also boasted the Greene County Rescue Squad, fire trucks and the DARE unit that kids were allowed to climb in and out of. Paragould High School's Cheer and Dance teams made appearances at the event. ♦



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Paragould Award Winning Realtors



Bronze: Amanda Hood, Whitney Felty Everett, Beverly Depew, Darrell Taylor

Gold: Carolyn Hurley Block



Silver: Pam Lackey, Selina Reithemeyer, Lori Dowdy, Delaine Landrum. Not pictured: Kim Kellums

Platinum: Sandra Kelley, Pat Chesser, Amber Gill



Diamond: Pete Cancilla, Linda Dickinson
Double Diamond: Brooksie Hartness



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In addition to appearing on the August cover, the winner will receive gift certificates and a cash award provided by MOR Media, Inc.

Votes may be submitted on the Premiere Magazine Facebook page or via email at editor@premiere-magazine.com through the end of June.

Readers are encouraged to vote for their favorites from the following list of eligible candidates:

- Wendy Blankenship, Oak Grove Elementary
- Haley Deck, Greene County Tech Primary
- Magan Hardin, Paragould Primary
- Kendra Hurt, Baldwin Elementary
- Shirley Jercinovic, Paragould Primary
- Teddi Mabry Martin, Paragould Jr. High
- Teresa McKay, St. Mary's
- Melissa McPherson, Paragould Jr. High
- Suzi Parnell, Greene County Tech Elementary
- April Ramer, MicroSociety Elementary
- Kelly Reddick, Paragould High School
- Dawna Schatzley, Marmaduke High School

Premiere readers have the opportunity to choose the cover model for the August Back to School issue by voting for their favorite teachers.

Twelve monthly Outstanding Teacher winners are eligible for the title of Teacher of the Year, earning the right to appear on the cover of Premiere Magazine. Monthly winners were nominated by students, parents and co-workers and made their way into the final balloting.

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PREMIERE SCENE 'YA



Jim and Robin Porterfield —
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Katelyn Healy, Caleigh Langford,
Breeana Taylor, Cori Hamilton and
Josiah Langford — Art and Stroll,
Paragould.



Shannon Freeman
performs live music
at Art and Stroll,
Paragould

Rebecca, Madeleine,
Gabriella and Jon Carner



Crystal and Christopher Crenshaw



Mothers and children gathered at
the Greene County Public Library
on Mother's Day for story time and
a tea party.



June

EVENTS CALENDAR

02

What: First Thursdays

When: Thursday, June 2

Where: Downtown Paragould

Info: Downtown Paragould is open LATE on 1st Thursdays! In June, the "Just for Kids" activity will be a Popcorn Bar hosted at Mosaic Salon and Spa, all thanks to the folks from The Crossing. There will be a Main Street Mayhem history walk (wear comfortable shoes). Exceptional dining. Bakers, crafters, artisan goods are in the street market on W. Emerson. Music, sidewalk chalk and libations will be in Centennial Park.

What: Ridin' on the Ridge

When: June 2-4

Where: Craighead Forest Park

For: Jonesboro D.A.R.E. and Out of the Dark

Info: Vendors, bands, bike games and bike shows. Take a chance on winning a 2017 Victory Octane or a 2016 Honda Pioneer 500 side by side. A poker run is set for Saturday morning, leaving from the Elks Lodge, first bike out at 8; there will also be a pancake breakfast at the Elks Lodge, 2113 W. Washington Ave., Jonesboro. Call 870-933-3767 for more.

03-04

What: The Get Downtown Festival

When: Friday, June 3, 7 p.m.

Where: Centennial Park in Downtown Paragould

Info: Enjoy a kid-friendly movie in Downtown Paragould's Centennial Park. Each child will receive a goody bag of treats. Music, Food Trucks and more. For info see <http://www.getdowntownfestival.com>

What: The Get Downtown Festival - Biking

When: Saturday, June 4, 8 a.m.

Where: Pruet Street in Downtown Paragould

Info: Pedal The Ridge is Paragould's Cycling Event, featuring 27-, 62-, and 100-mile courses. Registration starts at 7 a.m. at Cues and Blues, 2702 E. Lake Street with the ride starting at 8 a.m. For more info or to register: www.pedaltheridge.com

What: The Get Downtown Festival - Running

When: Saturday, June 4

Where: Pruet Street in Downtown Paragould

Info: Enjoy a 5K or a 1-mile kids' fun run. Awards will be given for the kids' run and the 5K will be professionally timed. The 5K event will begin in the parking lot at N. Pruet and Poplar streets at 5 p.m., with the 1-mile following at 6 p.m. Registration begins at 4 p.m.. Or pre-register at www.getdowntownfestival.com/run

What: The Get Downtown Festival - Music

When: Saturday, June 4

Where: Pruet Street in Downtown Paragould

Info: Hear music on two stages from local stars Everyday Life on the south end of Pruet and Phillip Jackson and Terry Carter at Skinny J's. Bands will play from 7-9 p.m. Saturday night.

What: Rocking in the Park

When: Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Reynolds Park, Paragould

Info: Focus Inc. presents "Rocking in the Park", a fundraiser for Summer Camp. All proceeds will go to fund the Summer Camp program at Focus, Inc. Featuring Ryan Fisher and the Hometown Singers and The Steel Billy's. For more info call 870-236-1400. Admission is free but we will have a donation jar.

What: Annual Spring Bodacious Bazaar, Arts and Crafts Sale

When: Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Rain date is Saturday, June 11)

Where: First United Methodist Church, 404 W. Main St. in Paragould

For: The Greene County Fine Arts Council and Youth Mission Trip

Info: Contact Lauria Baker at 870-215-3869

05

What: Celebration for Cancer Survivors

When: Sunday, June 5 2016, 1-3 p.m.

Where: NEA Baptist Fowler Family Center for Cancer Care (4808 E. Johnson Ave., Jonesboro)

For: Honoring local cancer survivors as part of National Cancer Survivors Day, open to all cancer survivors and their loved ones.

Info: 870-936-1000 or 870-936-8000 or visit www.neabaptistclinic.com.

08

What: Boating Education Course- registration is required.

When: Wednesday, June 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Lake Frierson State Park

For: Celebrating National Fishing and Boating Week

Info: Free of charge; 870-573-6351 or email crowleysridge@arkansas.com

10

What: Greene County Relay for Life

When: Friday, June 10, 6 p.m.

Where: Greene County Fairgrounds

11

What: Gearhead Sprint Triathlon, Duathlon

When: Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m.

Where: Craighead Forest Park in Jonesboro

For: Children's Shelter in Walnut Ridge

Info: Registration for the Triathlon and Duathlon is open through June 10. For more information, visit <https://raceroster.com/events/2016/6441/gearhead-sprint-triathlon-duathlon>.

What: 5th Annual Antique Car Show

When: Saturday, June 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Greene County Museum, 130 South 14th Street in Paragould

Info: Car registration begins at 10 a.m. There is no entry fee. Only antique vehicles that are at least 25 years old or older will be considered for the Best of Show trophy. Call 870-239-8697.

What: Martin Sprocket & Gear celebrates 50 years

When: Saturday, June 11

Where: MS&G plant, 1205 South 3rd in Paragould

Info: Hosting a picnic for employees and families at the plant with bouncy house for kids, food and fun.

What: Shepherds Fold Banquet 2016

When: Saturday, June 11, 6-8 p.m.

Where: Westview Baptist Church, Paragould

Info: Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from any Shepherds Fold Board member or at PostNet in Paragould. Ticket includes entry into the Grand Prize Drawing, Banquet admittance, and Fish Dinner. You do not have to be present to win. Shepherds Fold is an official 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. For more info, call 879-215-9037.

13-24

What: NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation Center for Healthy Children and Center for Healthy Teens' My Summer Success Summer Camp

When: June 13-24

Where: Center for Healthy Children, NEA Baptist Clinic Wellness Center, 2617 Phillips Drive in Jonesboro

Info: Children and Teens will be introduced to various team sports and indoor and outdoor physical activities. They will also have the opportunity to swim twice per week and to participate in outdoor water games. For more information about NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation Center for Healthy Children or to download a My Summer Success application; visit www.neabaptistfoundation.org or contact Erica Huffstetler at 870-336-1760.

What: Ride the Fault Line bike riders in Paragould

When: Monday, June 13, 6-8 p.m.

Where: Skinny J's, Downtown Paragould

Info: A special night for music at Skinny J's as they and Drive South welcome the Ride the Fault Line bike riders to the "One and Only."

18

What: Home "Tweet" Home gourd birdhouse workshop

When: Saturday, June 18. There will be two sessions, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. - \$15 fee; registration is required.

Where: Crowley's Ridge State Park

Info: Cost is \$15 a person. Call 870-573-6751 for more.

What: Variety Show 2016

When: Saturday, June 18, 7 p.m.

Where: Collins Theatre, Paragould

Info: A night full of fun entertainment! Comedy, skits, dancing, singing, and much more! All proceeds will go to The Collins Theatre to work toward their goal of purchasing new sound equipment. There will also be a silent auction held on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GCFACsicketauction/> in June.

19

What: Father's Day Bird house activity

When: Sunday, June 19, 2 p.m.

Where: Crowley's Ridge State Park, Pavilion 3

Info: Join park interpreter Elizabeth Whaley in this hands-on kids' activity for Father's Day. Participants will be building a bluebird box with the help of an adult. There will be a fee and registration is required for this activity. Call 870-573-6751 for more, or email elizabeth.whaley@arkansas.gov

25

What: Volunteer Work Day

When: Saturday, June 25, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Where: Crowley's Ridge State Park

Info: Trail maintenance and litter pickup. Meet at the Visitor Center. Email Elizabeth.whaley@arkansas.gov for more information.

July

14-16

What: Beauty and the Beast

When: July 14-16 at 7:30 p.m.; July 17 at 2 p.m.

Where: Greene County Tech High School, 4601 Linwood Drive, Paragould

Info: Presented by the Greene County Fine Arts Council. Tickets are \$15; \$10 for children under 12 and seniors. Tickets available online at www.gcfac.org and at the door.

Recurring EVENTS

Adopt A Greyhound

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.



Mid-South Greyhound Adoption Option set up shop at the opening day of the Jonesboro Farmer's Market in

May, inviting visitors to get to know some of the greyhounds that have been retired from racing.

Also known as MSGAO, the group is located on-site at Southland Gaming and Racing in West Memphis, and they take in the retired dogs and place them in homes. They stage "meet and greets" at Memphis pet stores on a monthly basis and do many other events like festivals, especially in the spring and fall. Greys at the events are personal pets and not up for adoption; they are there so people can experience them "up close and personal" and see how calm they are. One of the biggest myths about greyhounds, according to information provided by

MSGAO, is that they need a lot of exercise and are hyper. They are extremely laid back and really "just want to hang out on your couch!"

The group sets up at Jonesboro Farmer's Market twice a year, and will be there again on October 15. For more information regarding greyhound adoption, go to www.msgao.org. ♦



HAPPENINGS

1. Volunteer Award

Dr. William R. Hurst of Jonesboro was recognized recently as the recipient of the 2016 Dr. Willie Young Serving the Mission Volunteer Award. The award, named after the late Dr. Willie Young, honors Hurst for many years of volunteer work. Hurst is a family practice physician with St. Bernards First Care and has provided exceptional care for patients in the community for nearly 30 years. His professional life is a genuine reflection of the formal mission of St. Bernards – providing Christ-like healing to the community. Hurst has worked closely with the Jonesboro Church Health Center to help ensure that working individuals who have no health insurance can access medical assistance. He also volunteers alongside other St. Bernards Medical Group physicians to provide free pre-participation evaluations for Craighead County students who participate in school athletics. In addition, he and his wife, Honey, mentor a number of area youngsters through a non-profit organization they have developed called Kids at the Cross. Through that program, Honey picks up students after school tutors them and helps get them to after-school activities when their families either don't or can't. They also take the young people to church and have a special Sunday afternoon class for them.



1

2. Kids Fest

Jesse Hancock of Light enjoyed Kids Fest before the Arkansas Razorbacks' Spring Game in Fayetteville. The Hogs held the annual scrimmage in April before a large crowd of Razorback supporters.



2

3. Master Gardeners

Patti Roberts, Donna Jones and Holly Fletcher were awarded Greene County Master Gardener gardening trowels recognizing their achievement as a "Lifetime" member of the Master Gardener's program. To receive this designation one must be in the Master Gardener program for at least 15 years.



3

4. WORM FARM

Elisha (Pillow) Daughtery from Coldstream Worm Farm gave a very informative and entertaining program on worm castings at the regular meeting of the Greene County Master Gardeners. Worm castings are used in organic gardening and considered one of the best fertilizers for home gardening. Organic gardening is beginning to get more popular in Greene County and people are seeking options for fertilizers and pest control. ♦



4



NEA COOKS

Rachel Simpson



Family/occupation:

I am a web content/client services specialist at Atwill Media in Paragould. I live in Jonesboro with my husband, Ryan, and our dog, Ralph.

How did you learn to cook?

With a recipe book in hand and my mom and/or dad over my shoulder, I started cooking and baking in my teens. When I wanted to bring something to a school potluck or when I had friends over for game nights, I found a recipe for something I like and went from there.

What is your favorite dish to cook?

Chicken and pesto pasta. It's a household staple at the Simpson house, especially with extra sundried tomatoes and goat cheese.

Funniest/worst cooking disaster?

My first experience cooking instant mashed potatoes was amusing, to say the least. I didn't read the part where you have to measure the milk/water, so I just filled up the pot with water like I would for boiling pasta. So when I asked my husband when the potatoes were supposed to be

"mashed,"

I realized my error. Needless to say, those "mashed potatoes" ended up down the drain.

What advice do you have for other cooks?

Start off by making a few dishes you love really well. That gave me the confidence to try new things and utilize different techniques! Then try some different types of dishes. Don't be afraid to Google if you don't know something. I'm a fan of recreating copycat dishes from my favorite restaurants. When you find the perfect recreation, it's a magical feeling when you finish your plate. ♦

Mississippi Mud Cookies

This was the first recipe that I memorized. It was in a community cookbook my parents had, and it's a good cookie to bring to a potluck.

Ingredients:

- 2 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. milk (can substitute almond milk)
- 1 stick of butter/margarine
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 c. cocoa powder
- 1/2 c. peanut butter (creamy or crunchy)
- 2 c. quick oats
- Wax paper or parchment paper

Directions

Set out wax/parchment paper on counter or cookie sheet. Combine sugar, butter and milk in sauce pan. Turn on medium heat and stir until boiling. When it starts boiling all over, stir constantly for 3 minutes. When time's up, take pan off of heat. Add vanilla. Slowly add cocoa powder and peanut butter until combined. Add oats while continuing to stir. If it's still pretty liquid, add more oats as needed until it becomes more solid. Scoop up spoonful onto wax/parchment paper. Let cool until solid and able to remove from paper.

Greene County Relay for Life

Saturday, June 4th

-- Richard Brummett



Greene County's annual Relay For Life activities are scheduled for early June, beginning with a Survivors Dinner and concluding with the honorary walk and accompanying events.

According to Jane Wheeler, the head of the Survivors Committee, the dinner will be held at First Baptist Church in Paragould on Saturday, June 4, while the around-the-clock walk and fun night will be staged on Friday, June 10, starting at 6 p.m.

The main event – the actual Relay – will take place at the Greene County Fairgrounds and will feature a silent auction, games, live entertainment, a bounce house for the kids and much more, all based on a Disney theme. “There will be lots to do for everyone,” Wheeler said, “and there should be lots of Disney costumes. It’s just a fun event for a great cause.” Wheeler said one of the top attractions will be a “Hands of Hope” quilt that will go to the highest bidder via the silent auction.

Relay For Life is an overnight community fundraising walk where teams of people camp out around a track. Members of each team take turns walking around the track throughout the evening, and food, games and activities provide entertainment and build camaraderie. It is a family-friendly environment for the entire community, all designed to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Greene County's Relay For Life officially kicks off with the Honorary Survivors Lap at 6 p.m., followed by the walks of other survivors and caregivers. The Luminaria Ceremony will be launched at 10 p.m.

Survivors Lap

During the Survivors Lap, all cancer survivors at the event take the first lap around the track, celebrating their victory over cancer while being cheered on by the other participants who line the track. Relay For Life events also recognize and celebrate caregivers, who give time, love, and support to their friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers facing cancer.

Luminaria Ceremony

The Luminaria Ceremony takes place after dark so those in attendance can remember people they have lost to cancer, honor people who have fought cancer in the past, and support those whose fight continues. Candles are lit inside of personalized bags and are placed around the Relay track as glowing tributes to those who've been affected by cancer.

This year's Honorary Survivors:



Chuck Lemmons

Chuck was diagnosed with cancer 10 years ago and his deep religious beliefs have helped encourage him. He said the two things that helped get him through treatment were “faith that God was in control” and “hope of an eternity in Heaven.” “Even through the tough times,” he said, “we are all much better off than we deserve.”

Today Chuck enjoys spending time with his family, camping and bicycling.



MaKenzie Kai Rangel

MaKenzie was diagnosed in August of 2014 and said a supportive family and “child life” have helped get her through. She said for other young people in her situation, “St. Jude is amazing! Everything will be okay.”

Now she enjoys spending time with her family, and said finding out she was cancer-free is the happiest moment of her life.

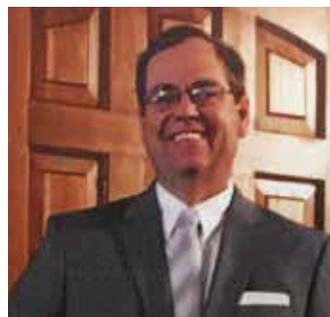


Miric Richardson

It has been 6 years since Miric was diagnosed and she has refused to let the situation keep her from singing, painting and acting.

She said others who learn they have cancer should “have faith and believe” because she cherishes “claiming victory in the fight against cancer.”

Miric credits her mother, for keeping her entertained, and nurses who were “so sweet to me” for helping her fight her battle.



Tim Weston

Tim learned 4 years ago that he had cancer but said love and support from his wife and his church family helped him along the way.

For others facing cancer for the first time, Tim suggests, “Ask questions. Talk to a friend and, most of all, don't be too proud to accept help from family and friends.”

Hearing his doctor say, “I got it all” and “You're cancer free” constitute one of his happiest moments in life. ♦

United Way United with the Stars

United Way of Northeast Arkansas held its annual fundraiser, United with the Stars, featuring Kevin Lacz, U.S. Navy Seal and co-star of "American Sniper."

"Live United With the Stars" raised approximately \$7,700 due in large part to the generosity of Dr. Shane Hunt. Dr. Hunt was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held through the event and he donated his winning ticket back to United Way of Northeast Arkansas! ♦



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SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

1. State FFA Awards

Marmaduke High School won First Place in the State FFA competition with its Floriculture Team, and added Third Place in Vet Science.

The competition included all 230-plus FFA chapters in the state, encompassing classes 1A-7A. Both Marmaduke teams will be presented an award at the State FFA Convention in June and the Floriculture Team will represent the state of Arkansas at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October. B.J. Lenderman is Marmaduke's FFA instructor.



Marmaduke's state champion floriculture team, from left: Ariana Wyatt, Patience Bynum, Emma Morton and Lindsay Walden.



Marmaduke's third place vet science team, from left: Scout Weatherford, Hadleigh Bynum, Arielle Griffin and Josh Carey.

1

Pictured are Madison Wood and Eli Dowdy. Graduates not present were Jacob Price and Anna Quinn.



2. Future Leaders

Paragould and Greene County Tech sophomores graduate from the Youth Leadership Paragould Class XI for 2015-16.

Graduates were nominated by their schools to participate in the program from area schools. The students participated in a 7-session course on leadership, which seeks to equip teens to be successful leaders in the future. The course is designed to introduce students to leadership styles and community involvement.

Members of the Greene County Tech Sophomore Leadership Paragould class graduated in a special ceremony in April. Graduates included Taylor Barnes, Halle Roleson, Raley Malone and Grant Register.



2

3. GT "Survivor Day"

Elementary Gifted and Talented students in the Paragould School District recently participated in "Survivor Day." Students from Baldwin, Oak Grove, and Woodrow Wilson elementary schools worked on team building skills to compete in fun and challenging activities. This is an annual event for the Gifted and Talented Program.

3





GET RICH

At the time, it represented the absolute worst day of my life. Since then, several events have stepped up to challenge it, but for the longest June 23, 2006, was the league leader. It was the day I had to tell my dad he was going to die.

Very few of us manage to escape life without cancer touching us in some way. It could be us personally or a friend or a loved one, but almost everyone has some firsthand knowledge of what cancer can do. My dad's experience was not the first time our family had dealt with it, but it was the most dramatic for me because it hit us so unexpectedly. As a fellow I shared one of the many waiting rooms with said to me one morning, "You know, the thing about cancer is that it cheats. You can follow all the rules and still get it. It just cheats you out of life."

I came to agree. Looking back over Dad's battle, I remain puzzled even 10 years after the fact. One morning he was up and taking his mile walk as usual; the next day I was putting him in the hospital and he would never see home again.

It started with vision problems and some issues with his legs that he hid from us, in typical guy fashion. We're always going to be better tomorrow, right? No need for a doctor, it's just a bump in the road. A visit to his optometrist led to a trip to a specialist in Little Rock, who admitted Dad's situation puzzled him. He indicated that Dad should enter the hospital upon our return home, but as we drove back Dad said he thought he would pass on that suggestion. As we were speaking, I got a call from the original optometrist who said he had Dad's entry to the hospital all set up whenever we could arrive. I told him Dad had decided to just tough it out, and through the phone I heard the words, "Mr. Brummett, what your father has could kill him. If it were my dad, I'd be getting him to the hospital as soon as I could."

So that's what we eventually did and on May 18 Dad entered St. Bernards in Jonesboro for a series of tests that couldn't pinpoint his issues. Two-and-a-half weeks later he was transferred to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock where he underwent a battery of tests and he knew long before physicians did that his outlook was grim. In fact, before deciding whether to endure yet another scan of some sort, he said to me, "For you, I will; for me, ... no." But I had to try. That was my father lying there and I wasn't ready to give up.

The UAMS staff is among the best in the world and the doctors set out to determine if we were dealing with a nerve issue or

a treatable cancer of some sort or even something else, but all of that required numerous examinations at all hours of the day. Most of the doctors who saw dad were of foreign descent, making communication difficult. When I asked a question their answer was very matter-of-fact, which was their wont. Where I expected several explanatory paragraphs, I would instead get, "No." End of discussion, which was okay if that actually was the answer.

Finally, on June 22, his oncologist suggested a test that would require a series of seven spinal taps and she said once we started, he could not afford to miss any of the succeeding attempts. When nurses came to Dad's room that night to begin the proceedings, his body simply could not cooperate. They were unable to perform the spinal tap so I knew I would have to be at the hospital early the next morning to relay that information to the doctor. I arrived to greet her and explain the situation, but she said in her very broken English, "Doesn't matter." She had his most recent lab results in her hand and said he had something called Mantle Cell Lymphoma, Blastoid Variant.

I looked at her and asked what that meant. "It means you die," she said. So there it was, in black and white. It means you die. My mother, who just a few weeks before had been in wreck, was in Dad's room along with my wife and I did my best to compose myself before going in with the bad news. I rolled Mom's wheelchair up to the bedside, held my father's hand and somehow managed to get out the words, "Dad, it looks like you're not going to make it." I explained the medical team's findings and he squeezed my hand and said, "That's okay. Let's go home."

So we came back and he entered Belle Meade nursing home, where he got excellent care right up to his final day, Tuesday, November 21, two days before Thanksgiving. I was holding his hand as life left him at the age of 79, and our six-month journey ended. The amazing thing about the experience is that from the first day Dad entered the hospital all the way up until his voice finally deserted him, he did everything he could to make everyone around him smile or laugh.

He spent 54 years trying to teach me how to live, and in six short months taught me how to die ... with grace and courage and a sense of humor. I hope when my time comes I can follow suit and go out with a smile. ♦

Accelerate Jonesboro Angel Fund



So, you want to be an entrepreneur? Or you have an invention you believe will make millions if you could get it to market? Accelerate Jonesboro may have your ticket to opportunity. The AJAF, Accelerate Jonesboro Angel Fund, could provide the answer.

Manu Nair, chair of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce Technology committee and owner of ACE ONE Technologies, announced that the first round of applicants for the fund are being accepted now through August. "The goal is to create jobs and startups," Nair said, explaining that the Angel Fund is starting with a \$50,000 investment as seed money from investors. Applicants will pay a \$500 administrative fee along with submitting a two-page executive summary. Each applicant must be a C-Corp organized in Arkansas or Delaware and based in Northeast Arkansas.

"We find that there is a lack of coordination involving programs for entrepreneurs in Northeast Arkansas, as well as a lack of opportunities for rural entrepreneurs," said Heather Clark, deputy director of the ASU Delta Center. The Delta Center is working on a program to leverage \$500,000 in initial funding, as well as \$1.1 million in private, grant and public funding to help entrepreneurs. Clark said this program will help businesses with marketing and feasibility studies, among other things. The program at ASU will open Sept. 12, Clark said.

"There is no excuse now," said Cari White, chamber vice president. "We need applicants." For more information on the process or for an application, contact the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce. ♦

ENGAGEMENTS

The May edition published an error in a photographer's name. The Hunter-Moore announcement should have read:
Photo by Kayla Foster



Olivia Pillow and Trevor Mafnas

Pillow-Mafnas

Olivia Pillow and Trevor Mafnas have announced their plans to marry. The couple will exchange vows on Friday evening, June 10, 2016, at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould. Olivia is the daughter of Wes and Regina Pillow of Paragould. The groom-elect is the son of Steven and Stacey Rollins of Paragould and Ron and Teresa Mafnas of Fort Benning, Georgia.

Dicus-Irvin

Rachel Dicus and Haden Irvin will exchange wedding vows in a July ceremony. Rachel, of Paragould, is the daughter of Rena Dicus. Haden's parents are David and Mitzi Irvin, also of Paragould. The wedding is set for Saturday, July 30, 2016, at Brown's Chapel Baptist Church.

Rachel Dicus and Haden Irvin
Photo by Kayla Davis



BIRTHS



Ayden Matthew Ray

Matthew and Ashley Ray of Marmaduke announce the birth of their son, Ayden Matthew Ray. Born March 29 at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, the baby weighed 7pounds, 9.2 ounces and was 20.2 inches long. He has one sibling, Bentley Ray, 3. Grandparents are Greg and Teresa Shatley, and Lilly and Hershel Tarpley.



Nicole White and Derrick Brinkley
Photo by Alger Photography

White-Brinkley

Nicole White and Derrick Brinkley have announced their plans for a September wedding. Nicole is the daughter of Jack White of Paragould. Derrick, also from Paragould, is the son of Joe and Candice Brinkley, and Sherrie Robart. The ceremony is set for Saturday, September 3, 2016, in Paragould.

Clark-Hays

Courtney Clark and Tyler Hays have scheduled a June weekend to exchange wedding vows. Courtney is the daughter of Yvonne and Terry Sutton, and Roger Clark and is from Jonesboro. Tyler's parents are Sherri and Brad Anderson, and the late Sammy Hays of Paragould. The wedding ceremony is set for Saturday, June 11, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the Lodge At 6 Mile Lake, 1753 CR 360, in Jonesboro.

Courtney Clark and Tyler Hays



Baby Registry

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Mallorye Wesley | Isha Fletcher |
| Meagan Cole | Sadie Cremeens |
| Brittany Spence | Tina Bruce |
| Kasey Nelson | Autumn Lawrence |
| Felicia Brokaw | Emerald Kemp |
| Nikki Gautreaux | Jill Vaughn |
| Isha Fletcher | Taylor Pierce |
| Alexandra Murray | Amber Bowers |
| Teri Hoke | Kori Gill |
| Ali Bean | |

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Christina Walls and Peter Burrow
April 16

Graycen Colbert and Alex Bigger
May 21

Makenzie Strope and Hunter Rawls
May 28

Mackensie Nutt and Clayton Davis
May 29

Julie White and Zack McCoy
June 4

Shana Williams and Ryan Cupp
June 4

Jordon Miller and Skyley Droke
June 25

Taylor Garner and Trase Davis
July 23

Carly Brasher and Kirk Porter
November 19

Katie Lopez and Garrett Daniel

BABY Registry:

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Erin Holland

Melissa Carpenter

Isha Fletcher

Emerald Kemp

Ali Bean

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Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

Patriotism



July brings to mind fireworks, picnics, holiday celebrations and -- most importantly -- the opportunity to say a big "thank you" to all who have helped protect and guarantee our independence. Premiere writers will bring you stories related to just such people and those that serve their special needs in our July issue.

Premiere Awards!



Look For Us



Premiere readers -- and even some MOR Media followers too young to read, like Lila Taylor, above -- are everywhere. Be on the lookout for our photographers at your events and keep us informed by calling 870-236-7627.

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