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Photo By: Amy Reeves



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From The

# PUBLISHER...

# DINA MASON

2017 is almost at a close but not before we celebrate the Christmas season and, boy, are we, with this issue of Premiere! Our cover, award winning Santa Steve, talks of the joy of Christmas and we packed this edition with all sorts of information to help you plan and participate in lots of holiday activities. From ice skating to parades, recipes and, of course, our advertisers helping you with gift ideas, we remind you to Shop Local. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope you get out and enjoy the season!

Of course, November featured Veterans Day and we have several events that show our communities honoring veterans. There are so many activities every year

and we hope you enjoy seeing a few new ones, like the Wounded Warrior Softball Tournament held as a fundraiser for the Miracle League of Jonesboro.

Speaking of the Miracle League, they hit a home run bringing Jennie Finch, one of the most highly-decorated women's softball players of all time, for a weekend clinic at the Southside Softball Complex. Finch was an All-America pitcher and national champion at the University of Arizona, and a two-time Olympic medal winner for the United States!

There was so much going on in November we packed in as much as possible. Read about the Law Appreciation Day at Liberty Outfitters in Rector, the Inaugural

Johnny Cash Festival held in Dyess, so many young people honored into the Purple Circle Club, an awards program recognizing junior livestock exhibitors who earned championship honors at the Arkansas State Fair ... and so much more!

Our regulars get in the spirit with stories from the past, present and future. Our communities continue to make positive things happen and we love to tell you about them. Oh! And don't miss the NEA Seniors special section, too!

Our small but mighty staff thanks you for helping us shine the positive light and we are thankful for such a great year. From our family to yours ... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Happy Holidays! Make 2018 Your Year!



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# FOOD REVIEW



By Anthony Childress

In small town Arkansas, some of the best cooks and menus can be found at the most interesting places.

Harrisburg is certainly no exception to that rule. Stop by Edwards' Food Giant any day of the week and folks are lined up at the deli counter, ready to order everything from fried chicken, dressing, and potato salad to crispy

potato wedges. The offerings keep people coming back for more.

"For me, being able to feed my family a good meal and get my grocery shopping done is really nice. I tell my friends all the time that they should come here for the same reason," a woman from nearby Whitehall said.

It is not unusual to see neighbors standing side-by-side to grab a to-go plate of the day's

special. And, because Harrisburg sees its fair share of workers passing through town or working there, plenty of men enjoy joking around with the cooks and taking a few minutes to relax and savor the aroma and taste of their chosen foods.

"I work in Harrisburg from time to time and coming here gives me a chance to tell a few jokes to the cooks and catch up on the latest gossip with my buddies," said Lee Myers. "If it was up to me, I'd just stop at the gas station and pick up some candy bars and chips to eat. The ladies here keep me on a healthier diet. My wife said she's going to thank them for it."

Food preparation takes time, effort, and dedication for the women who fill customer requests and keep the crowds flowing. There are times - Sunday after church, for example - when people make their way to their favorite tables and visit.

High school football is a time-honored tradition throughout the South and the hometown Hornets can often be found at Food Giant, chowing down on their meal of choice.

Alec Childress, a first-year assistant coach and teacher at Harrisburg Middle School, discovered the food counter shortly after being hired and makes it a routine to stop in when he can for a meal.

"As soon as I came here, I kept hearing about Food Giant and its menu. I am a big fan now," Childress said.

Whether green beans, black-eyed peas or corn fit the bill, variety awaits those with eager taste buds at Harrisburg's Food Giant.

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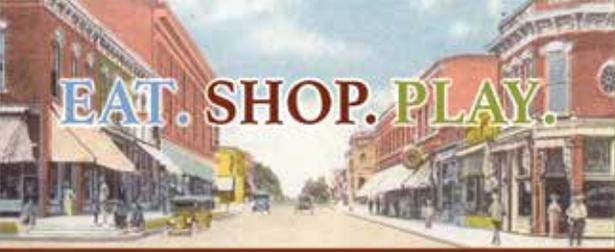
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8:00 Horse Drawn Carriage Rides from Centennial Park start at 10:00am.

Visit with Santa at Something Sweet 10am-2pm

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

*Paragould main street*

# NEA VETERANS DAY PARADES

November 11th was Veterans Day and Jonesboro and Paragould celebrated with Veterans Day parades along their downtown streets. Veterans, ROTC

students, and local school bands paraded the streets and celebrated valor while honoring veterans all across the country.



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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOEY!

Friends and family pulled off the perfect surprise for Joey Pillow's 60th birthday at the Cedar Ridge Venue on November 7. Friends, family, classmates, and employees at Coldstream Fisheries enjoyed a catfish dinner to celebrate Joey's special day, as well as telling stories and sharing photo memories. Elvis was also in attendance as musical entertainment and emcee for the evening.

Catering was provided by Iron Horse BBQ, cake by Renee Faughn.



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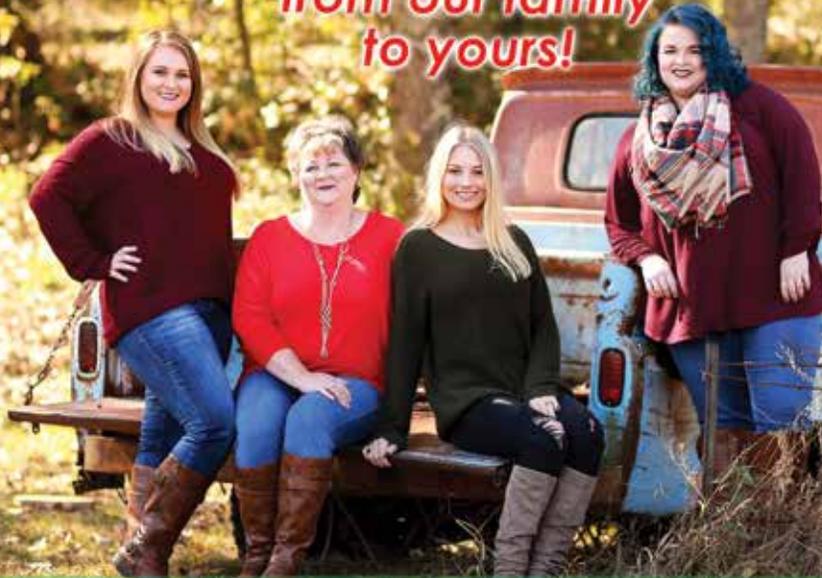
# 2017 ANNUAL GRILL & CHILL

Arkcare held its 3rd Annual Grill and Chill on October 19 at the Silos in Bono. It was an evening full of entertainment featuring live music from the Arkansas Brothers, watching the ASU vs. LA Lafayette game, a silent auction, food and fellowship. Proceeds from the event benefit the Arkansas Family Health Foundation and the Habitat for Humanity in Jonesboro.



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# JOHNNY CASH MUSIC FEST

By Anthony Childress

Fans and scholars descended on Dyess to experience the inaugural Johnny Cash Heritage Festival from October 19-21, where they heard presentations from some of the legendary performer's high school classmates, writers focusing on Cash's life and times, and finally, an afternoon of music featuring singers Roseanne Cash and Buddy Jewell.

Grammy Award winning artist Kris Kristofferson (Roseanne Cash is also a recipient) headlined the "cotton field" concert, which also included songs performed by Cash's sister and brother, Joanne and Tommy Cash. Fans gathered on a slice of land next to the Cash family home. Many of the visitors toured the residence before and during the concert.

"It is really like returning to my own childhood," one man said. "I grew up during the years when people really struggled to survive. I knew Arkansas State University made it a priority and you just can't help but be thankful for that. I also enjoyed the restored buildings in the Dyess Colony Circle. I am already getting ready for next year's festival."

Arkansas State University Heritage Sites, led by Dr. Ruth Hawkins, lists a number of heritage locales, including the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center (Piggott), Southern Tenant Farmers Museum (Tyronza) and Lakeport Plantation (Chicot County), among others.

Prior to the concert, presentations were made by a diverse mix of speakers. In addition, a new exhibit marking the importance of New Deal-era Works Progress Administration posters in places like Dyess was unveiled.

One of the featured presenters was Mark Stielper, personal historian to Cash. Keynote presentations were made by Bill McDowell and Michael Streissguth, held in the Dyess Community Center. McDowell and Streissguth discussed the Great Depression and American culture as they relate to Cash's background.

"We really enjoyed the presentations and being here," Maryann Hodges of Jonesboro said. "Great job."



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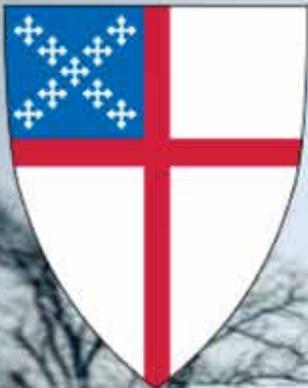
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# WRITERS' RETREAT

By Anthony Childress

**B**udding authors traveled from as far away as Boston to take part in the annual Writers Retreat at the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center in Piggott, the week of November 6-10.

The event allows adult writers to explore ways to broaden their creativity and share their work with each other. Dr. Pat Carr held the distinction of retreat mentor. She has previously taught writing and literature in a university setting. In addition, she penned 16 books, ranging from *The Women in the Mirror* to *Death of a Confederate Colonel*. Carr has also written over 100 short stories and received recognition via awards.

"I enjoy the writing process and this is the perfect spot for it," said one participant. "You have the opportunity to share ideas, take a lot of notes, and build new friendships."

Each day involved time to examine Hemingway's work (and those of other

accomplished writers), and space to draft stories. Some authors took advantage of the crisp fall air and crafted their work on the museum grounds, while others took up residence inside the Pfeiffer home or the infamous Hemingway barn, where he wrote portions of his novels, including *A Farewell to Arms*.

Dr. Adam Long, director of the museum and educational center, worked closely with participants to arrive at a working title for the anthology that includes poems, essays, and the like.

"If anyone wishes to dig into their writing style, they should come to a retreat. It's the ideal place to do that. The exchange of ideas and input cannot be overestimated," another participant stated. "I knew it would be a good experience, but it has been far more than that. I congratulate the folks at Hemingway-Pfeiffer."

For more information, visit [www.hemingway.astate.edu](http://www.hemingway.astate.edu).



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# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



By Anthony Childress

The eighth annual Souper Sunday fundraiser benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro was held November 5 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Jonesboro, featuring a number of soups prepared and served by area restaurants to those attending the event.

Crowds sipped a range of soups, then cast ballots to determine their top choice. In addition, a silent auction was held during the event. Habitat board members and volunteers assisted with serving soups and visiting with the capacity crowd on hand.

“We are very proud of the success this event continues to enjoy,” said David Hunter, Habitat’s board president. The organization’s

executive director, Michael Sullivan, echoed that sentiment.

For more information about Habitat’s projects and mission, visit [www.jonesborohabitat.com](http://www.jonesborohabitat.com). Photographs submitted by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro.



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# SIGNATURE CHEFS AUCTION NIGHT

Signature Chefs gathered in November to raise money for the March of Dimes and participants enjoyed the food, bids and donating to the success of the annual event. Murray Wills, the 2017 Ambassador, helped Brian Osborn, the emcee, entertain and inform the audience on the efforts of the March of Dimes and where their donations go to work.

The event raised over \$70,000 and was deemed a huge success.



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# LAW ENFORCEMENT HUNT

Liberty Hill Outfitters in Rector hosted its second annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.) in November, providing morning and afternoon hunting sessions for the honored guests.

The concept originated as a way to honor law enforcement officers and to thank them for participating in their Christmas "Cops for Kids" program. Corporate and individual sponsors hosted twenty officers and several veterans on a European style pheasant hunt at Liberty Hill Outfitters. About half the field hunted the morning session then, after a VIP luncheon provided by John 3:16 Ministries, the afternoon group hunted.

Many of the birds were banded and special prizes awarded to the hunters who bagged them. Wings of the South Taxidermy offered a free wildlife mount to the lucky shooters of the banded birds. Celebrities from the world of television and the outdoors joined the action along with special guests Sean Adams and his service dog, sponsored by Retrieving Freedom, Inc.; and Jonesboro



police officer Jason Daniel Chester, a combat veteran sponsored by Fraser Farms of Seattle. Several other notable guests participated, thanks to the efforts of the Liberty Hill staff and the numerous sponsors, including David Humke of glockparts.com and Bob Snell and Archie Mason of the popular "Boom Time with Bob and Archie" show, as they filmed for a future episode.

Those wanting additional information on Liberty Hill Outfitters may call 870-239-1597.



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# AMMC STAYS SAFE

On Thursday, November 9, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center along with the Office of Emergency Management and the Paragould Police and Fire departments, the Greene County Sheriff's Department, the Greene County Rescue Squad, Air Evac and the AMMC Ambulance Service participated in a CODE SILVER/Active Shooter Drill. The entities involved want those in Paragould, Greene County and the surrounding area to know that this was strictly a drill and that all entities operated normally during this exercise. The event was held to help train the appropriate personnel in responding to various disasters.



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# WOUNDED WARRIORS AMPUTEE SOFTBALL

By Richard Brummett

It took about a year and a half to get them to Northeast Arkansas, but when the members of the Wounded Warriors Amputee softball team finished playing a couple of exhibition games in November they left a lasting impression.

City of Jonesboro Softball Coordinator Sharon Turman traveled to Little Rock in July of 2016 to see the team of veterans play in the annual Busch Classic and immediately started inquiries as to what it would take to get them to Jonesboro. It had taken Busch tourney organizers about three years to work around the Warriors' incredibly busy schedule, but Turman said as the conversations continued it was decided October 12 of this year was an acceptable time.

"But then some things came up that they had to do, and weren't going to be able to make it, but they said they could come on November 11th and 12th. I asked if they realized that was Veterans Day and they hadn't right away, but we were all tickled to death to have them here and tie the games in with Veterans Day. It worked out great for us," Turman said.

After the Greene County Tech Color Guard presented the colors and Maggie Benton, the reigning Miss Arkansas, sang the National Anthem, two Air Evac pilots landed their helicopter in center field and exited to deliver game balls for ceremonial first pitches by Mayor Harold Perrin and Miracle League ambassador Brant Ballard.

Then it was time to play and the Warriors didn't disappoint, impressing fans and



opponents alike with their skills as they took on a collection of players called the NEA Legends, put together especially for the weekend exhibition games.

The Miracle League of Jonesboro was designated as the targeted recipient of the proceeds from the games, accompanying banquet and silent auction, but anyone who showed up to watch was rewarded as well.





# JENNY FINCH'S SOFTBALL CAMP

By Richard Brummett

Jennie Finch, one of the most highly-decorated women's softball players of all time, stopped over in Jonesboro during November and shared her skills and knowledge of the game with area girls at a weekend clinic at the Southside Softball Complex.

Finch was an All-America pitcher and national champion at the University of Arizona, and a two-time Olympic medal winner for the United States before taking her talents to the professional level. Finch and her teammates won the 2001 Women's College World Series and she helped lead Team USA to the gold medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics and a silver medal at the 2008 games. Time magazine has described her as the most famous softball player in history.



Thanks to the efforts of Sharon Turman, Softball Coordinator for the City of Jonesboro, the Jennie Finch Softball Camp was brought to Northeast Arkansas, giving the campers a chance to have their photos made with the legendary star before hitting the field to work on game fundamentals.

"I was looking for ways to raise money for the Miracle League," Turman said, "and I saw on her website that she was having a camp in Bryant. The state ASA commissioner was the one who got her there, and he said he's trying to keep her coming to Arkansas every year or every other year. I got there for the Sunday morning session and she was giving the devotional, and I realized right then that she is such a godly, Christian woman, so genuine and sincere, and I said, 'I've got to get her to Jonesboro.' I watched throughout the day, and she made every girl to feel like she was the only girl there. She took the time to talk to them and work with them and they loved her."



Before taking the mound to display her incredible pitching talents at the Jonesboro clinic, Finch sat with the girls and explained some of the finer points of the game, focusing particularly on the mental aspect. "Control the controllable," she advised the girls, referring to attitude and effort, and told the campers they are "in control of the most powerful tool, the one between our ears."

"If you take nothing else from this camp, learn to concentrate on the positive. There's plenty of negative out there and it will find you. But you control the most powerful tool," she said, pointing to her temple, "this one right here." Turman said 139 girls from eight states took part in the camp.



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**BROOKLAND**

**DEC. 3RD 2PM**

**JONESBORO**

**DEC. 7TH 7PM**

**SWIFTON**

**DEC. 9TH 5PM**

**MANILA**

**DEC. 2ND 6PM**

**WALNUT RIDGE**

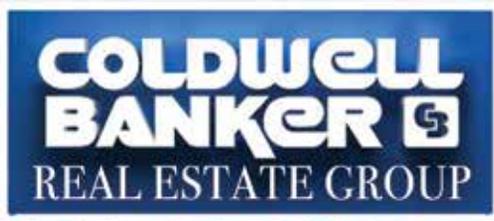
**DEC. 5TH 6PM**

**PARAGOULD**

**DEC. 5TH 7PM**

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# BEING SANTA CLAUS

By Richard Brummett

When young children catch a glimpse of Santa Claus they are generally thrilled at the prospects of hopping up on the Christmas gift-giver's knee and reeling off their wish lists, all the while trying to calm hearts that are filled with awe and wonder.

Santa would like for the children to know that is a two-way street.

"You've never seen love until you look from Santa's eyes into the kids' eyes," said Steve Southard, a Jonesboro resident and an award-winning member of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas (IBRBS). "Sometimes after a really long day at work I'm driving home knowing I have to get ready for a performance and I might think, 'Why go through this?' But once I put that suit on, I reach a different energy level. I'm a whole new person. I become Santa Steve then and it's all good."

Southard, 61, works at Nucor-Yamato Steel in Blytheville as a shipping manager, overseeing a crew of 180 people. Even in work attire he certainly looks the part of Santa: He's big, he's loud, he's jolly, and the white hair and beard were not purchased at a novelty shop; they are as real as he is. He's been performing as Santa for about eight years, very seriously for the last four or five. Once he decided the role was actually a calling, he went all out and took every measure available to learn the craft of thrilling the audience -- including attending Santa School, which teaches ethics and some of the tricks of the trade. He has become known and widely respected for his habit of donating almost all his earnings from events back to the organizers.

For his efforts, he was named the IBRBS International Charitable Santa of the Year for 2016. "I sort of changed my moniker to Santa Cause, because God has given me a cause," Southard said. "There are roughly 1,600 Santas across the world, so to win the top award is something else. They select the most charitable Santa. I won a trophy and a certificate and a Santa suit, but I auctioned the suit off and contributed the money."

He said his venture into the world of Santas is, "To be honest, a little bit of a sad story. Christmas was always real big at the Southard house. Christmas Eve, Dad would

get a call about a family that had no gifts and he'd gather up stuff to take to them. He was a regular dad, a barber with a good heart. I saw early on how important it was to be willing to do good for others.

"But then my own son at the age of 22 tragically passed away. To help fill that void I started dabbling with Santa a little. To help fill this hole in my heart, I got pretty serious about Santa. After I first got out in public it became more of a ministry to me. It's a gift God has given me, I believe with all my heart. I use it to spread the word whenever possible ... you know, the reason for the season. Six years ago on Christmas night I got married. My wife Suzanne joins me as Mrs. Claus when she can." When she can't, Glenda Neff of Brookland expertly fills that role.

Starting at the end of October, Southard will do roughly 60 appearances that include private parties, churches, schools and, last year, the Paragould Christmas Parade. "I do all kinds of events," he said. "Central Baptist Church's Special Needs Adults is one of my favorites. Last year I helped with the St. Bernard's NICU unit, maybe the most emotional thing I've done. To hold those little babies is something. I've done Christmas Tree lightings, the North Pole at Jonesboro where you can walk through, Breakfast with Santa, Cookies with Santa. And I donate almost all I earn back to charity. I've just gotten deeper and deeper into it. Suzanne and I both believe it's a God-given gift. I'll be in a restaurant and kids will come over wherever we go and say, 'Are you Santa?' I'll say, 'I don't know, do you think I am?' I am drawn to special needs kids. I can see one 200 yards away, and there I go."

He said their house is "very much flavored with Santa stuff year-round. A room in my house is the Santa room, full of belts and suits and bells."

Southard said he counts it as another blessing that Nucor-Yamato understands the importance of what he does and backs his efforts. "I could not do it without their support and the immediate employees' support," he explained. "Santa Steve represents a lot of people. I am inundated with calls, and one of my goals is getting fellow workers to be community minded, too. My goal is to get the people behind me

involved, to keep the ball rolling when I'm not around."

While the role he plays is obviously geared toward making children happy at a joyous time of year, it is also designed to help him receive happiness at the same time he's doling it out. "It's all about the heart," he said. "When little ones see me and they run and jump into my arms, and that's a thrill. I take a lot of pride in making families have a good experience."



# WINTER WONDERLAND

By Richard Brummett

Activity is picking up at the First Community Bank Wonderland Ice Skating Rink in Jonesboro since its official opening on Nov. 18.

Donna Alexander, with the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department, said rink workers "have been staying busy. Sometimes they're lined up after school, and then sometimes at night we're getting busier. It just depends on the day, and the weather, I guess."

The synthetic surface, located in the parking lot along the 300 block of Union Street, can accommodate several skaters at a time and can be used for parties and other get-togethers. The Wonderland rink is open Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m., on Saturdays from 1 p.m. until 10 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The ice-skating rink was donated by First Community Bank and debuted last year. Skate sessions are 45 minutes and start at the top of each hour. Skates are provided with the \$5 fee. Group rates for 25 participants or more are available on Sundays and schools can also rent the rink for field trips during school hours. Call 870-933-4604 for more information.

Winter Wonderland, which is free to all, is a Christmas-themed entertainment venue for kids at 215 W. Monroe Ave. It is open from 5:30-8 p.m. weekdays and 1-8 p.m. Saturdays.



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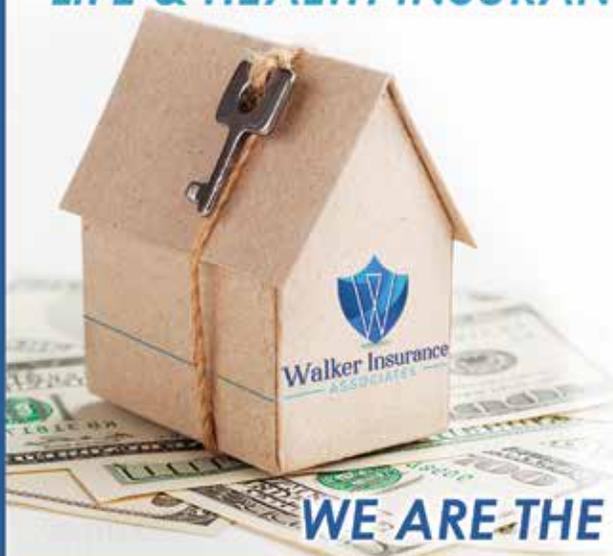
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# HOLIDAY RECIPES

## THE SAVORY STUFF



### PINEAPPLE HAM GLAZE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 6 lb Fully Cooked Bone-In Ham
- 1 Fresh Pineapple
- 2 6oz Can Pineapple Juice
- 1 Cup Brown Sugar

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325°F (165 degrees C). Place the ham, cut side down, into a roasting pan.
2. Cut the skin off the pineapple with a sharp knife and cut out any brown spots of skin left behind. Slice the pineapple into 1/2 inch slices and cut the cores out of the slices. Pin the slices onto the ham with toothpicks.
3. Bake ham in the preheated oven until a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the ham reads 140°F, 1 1/2 to 2 hours.
4. While the ham is baking, mix the pineapple juice and brown sugar in a microwave-safe ceramic or glass bowl and microwave on medium power until the glaze is boiling and slightly thickened. Work carefully because the glaze will be sticky and very hot.
5. Pour about half the glaze evenly over the ham and pineapple about 1 hour before the end of baking; pour the rest over the ham about 30 minutes before the end of baking.



### HASHBROWN CASSEROLE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 2lb Pkg Frozen Hash Browns, Shredded
- 1/2 Cup Butter, Softened
- 1 Tsp. Salt
- 1/2 Tsp. Ground Black Pepper
- 1/2 Cup Chopped Onion
- 1 10.75oz Condensed Cream of Chicken Soup
- 2 Cups Cheddar Cheese, Shredded

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray one 9x13 inch pan with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine the potatoes, butter, salt, pepper, onions, soup and cheese. Gently mix and pour into prepared pan or dish.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until browned, about 35 minutes.



### CORN CASSEROLE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 8oz Sour Cream
- 1 Can Cream Style Corn
- 2 Sticks of Oleo, Melted
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Can Whole Kernel Corn, Drain
- 1 Box Jiffy Corn Bread Mix

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Mix together all ingredients except corn bread mix.
2. Mix in corn bread mix.
3. Pour mixture in a greased 9"x13" pan. Bake at 350°F for 30-40 minutes or until firm in the middle.



Enjoy these  
delicious recipes!





## CHRISTMAS CLUSTERS

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 16oz Jar Unsalted Peanuts
- 1 16oz Jar Salted Peanuts
- 1 12oz Bag Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1 12oz Bag Milk Chocolate Chips
- 1 20oz Bag Peanut Butter Chips
- 2lbs White Almond Bark

### DIRECTIONS

1. Layer all ingredients in a large crock pot starting with peanuts.
2. Turn crock pot on low, cover lid, and let sit for 2 hours.
3. After 2 hours, stir the mix. Replace lid and let sit for 30 more minutes.
4. Stir again. Spoon out mixture into dollops on waxed paper.
5. Let sit for 1 hour and serve.



## GRANDMA FUTRELL'S SUGAR COOKIES

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 Cups Enriched Flour
- 1 1/4 Cups Sugar
- 1 Cup Shortening
- 1 Tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 Tsp. Vanilla
- 3 Eggs

### DIRECTIONS

1. Sift flour, measure and sift again with remaining dry ingredients.
2. Add shortening, cutting it into small cubes
3. Add unbeaten eggs and vanilla and mix thoroughly.
4. Roll very thin on a lightly floured board. Cut with a floured cookie cutter.
5. Bake in hot 375°F oven for 8 minutes. Cool and decorate to your liking.



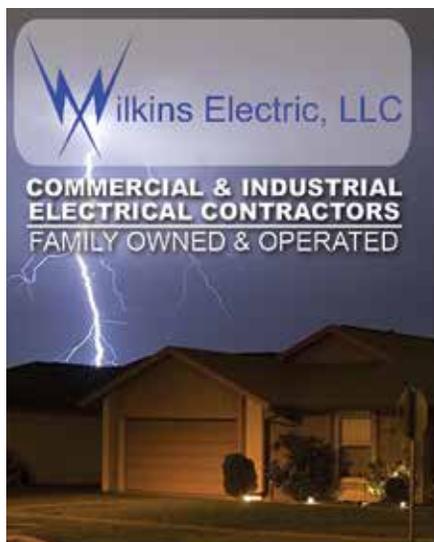
## OLD-FASHIONED CHESS PIE

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 Cup Buttermilk
- 2 Cups Sugar
- 2 Heaping Tbs. Flour
- 1 Heaping Tbs. Cornmeal
- 1 Stick Oleo, Melted
- 3 Eggs, Beaten
- 2 Tsp. Vanilla
- 1 12-inch Pastry Shell, Unbaked

### DIRECTIONS

1. Combine buttermilk, sugar, flour, and cornmeal.
2. Add stick of melted oleo and mix well.
3. Pour mixture into unbaked pie shell.
4. Bake in a hot 450°F oven for 10 minutes.
5. Reduce temperature to 375°F and bake for 30 minutes. When pie begins to brown, cover with a sheet of foil to prevent burning.
6. Let sit and serve.



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It's not all Santa and snowmen for the holidays in Arkansas. This year will be the first time the Chinese Lantern Festival has visited the state. Get ready for a spectacular sight as organizers illuminate what to expect at this year's festivities. The Arkansas Chinese Lantern Festival will be in Little Rock from Dec. 8th - Jan. 14th, 2018. The festival will have more than 30 massive lantern displays.

The six-week long festival will have more than lanterns. Artists will be demonstrating different traditional handicrafts each night of the festival. You can look forward to Chinese

calligraphy and aluminum wire weaving. The festival will also have nightly performances.

All the artists have traveled from China to showcase different talents. Performances will range from jaw-dropping acrobatics to traditional face-changing and jar balancing.

The festival will be open every night (yes, that includes Christmas, Christmas Eve, and New Year's!) from 5:30-10 PM. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 3-17 years old. For more information, visit [onlyinyourstate.com](http://onlyinyourstate.com).



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# LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

I have a friend who works for hospice. I recently asked him what his biggest takeaway is from being around dying people on a daily basis. Without hesitation he said, "The things we often roll our eyes at are the very things the dying wish they could go back and relive. Things like your daughter asking you to push her in the swing or your son asking you to read him another book before bed."

My friend went on to tell me how in his six years working for hospice he has never heard the dying regret not having more stuff. Not once has he heard them grieving the fact that they didn't get a bigger house or better car. Rather, more than anything, they wish they could have more time with the people they love.

The people we care about mean much more to us than a new pair of shoes or a shiny new gadget or even a certified pre-owned luxury car with a huge bow on top.

And yet, many of us attempt to give material items to make up for the time we don't spend with the people we love. But possessions can't ever make up for lost time.

I don't say this because I believe it's bad to have nice things. My point is that our presence matters more than our presents. More than your spouse, kids or friends need your gifts, they need you. They need your undivided attention, a listening ear, and an unconditional love.



This is what makes Christmas special. It's about God making a way for us to encounter his presence by stepping into this world and providing a way for us to live in relationship with Him, the only one who truly can satisfy and fulfill our souls.

God has gone through great lengths to be present in your life. This is what Christmas is all about. With this in mind, I encourage you to celebrate His presence this season while making yourself more present in the lives of those you love.

A promotional banner for a radio station premiere. It features a group of six people (three men and three women) standing in front of a brick wall with a mural. The mural includes a large clock face, a sign that says "J.W. PARK JAY", and the text "EST. 1883". The banner contains the text "Merry Christmas &amp; Happy New Year!" and logos for MOR MEDIA INCORPORATED, 107.1 JACK fm, ROCK 103.7, and Jill 99.3.



# THE PERFECT OUTFIT

By Chuck Long

Just like any other youngster I enjoyed making my Christmas list. There was no Internet so I had to patiently wait for catalogs to arrive through the mail and thumbing through those pages helped build my list. I often glanced through the Sears catalog and added things like race cars or sports equipment, but I anxiously awaited the arrival of “special” catalogs before the list would be complete. Wing Supply, Knutson’s Decoys, Gander Mountain, Cabela’s and Bass Pro were more often the reference material that helped build my Christmas list. Decoys, ammo, clothes, boots, rods, reels, lures and other supplies to help me bag more ducks or catch more fish were high on my list.

I now have several years behind me and am far removed from those youthful days but I still enjoy those outdoor catalogs and looking through them with wishful thinking. Do I make a Christmas list now? No. What do I truly need? Not much these days, but I still enjoy browsing and thinking about the outdoors. I do often get the question of what do I get my hunter or fisherman for Christmas, so here are a few ideas as you shop for your outdoorsperson.

Clothing is a basic need and the clothing now available is much more effective at warding off cold, wind or water than the fabrics of years ago. There are many manufacturers and name brands on the market and some can be rather expensive, but I tend to look at the makeup of the product, not the brand. Socks are good fillers and a sportsman can always use a pair or two. Look for wool, especially Merino wool, combined with one of the synthetics that allows for better stretch. A good pair of socks can be expensive, but they can make a difference in enjoying the time outdoors by preventing cold feet and blisters. Along with good socks, there are

several brands of thermal underwear on the market that will increase comfort. Look for something that wicks moisture and offers scent control. There are many options in the synthetic fabric and most Arkansas hunters will be happy with something in the mid-weight class, though a heavy-weight option may be good for longer sits or travels to a colder climate.

Outerwear offers a vast array of options as well. Look for something that is windproof and breathable as the wind block helps increase the insulation value in a thinner layer. If the outdoorsperson is a duck hunter, something that is waterproof will also be appreciated. Gore-Tex is still the gold standard for protection from damp days though there are several materials on the market that will turn away the rain. A good pair of bibs and a fleece pullover will serve a hunter for years on the deer stand or in the duck blind. Some hunters may have a personal preference in camo patterns for outerwear, so take a look in the closet and try to match the patterns. Don’t forget a good pair of gloves, toboggan or a neck gaiter, as these will help them stay out a little longer.

There is a myriad of other gear that makes great gifts for someone who spends most of their time chasing fish or fowl. A good flashlight always comes in handy and many on the market today provide LEDs that allow for great light and low battery use. A flashlight in the 200 lumen range will help them find their way if they enter the woods before daylight. A knife is always a great gift and, once again, there are several good ones on the market. Outdoor Edge, Buck and Schrade offer great options for the average user while a brand like Benchmark offers a very high grade knife but with a higher price tag.

A new GPS may also help fill a need for your outdoorsman. Once again, there are many options, but I tend to lean toward the Garmin brands as they provide great interaction with many of the online mapping databases. Even though they may have a GPS, don’t forget a simple compass; it is a great backup to help navigation in the outdoors.

Other items that might come in handy would be a new deer blind, feeder or game camera. There are plenty of these on the market with most all of them being very good products. Tools to help your hunters take care of the game they harvest is also a good idea. A dehydrator, meat grinder or sausage stuffer can help them prep their own meat for lots of uses. A vacuum sealer is also a great tool to purchase and will help with the storage of any fish, fowl or other game they might take. I hope this gives you some ideas, and good luck with the shopping. As we go through this Christmas season I hope you and your family are truly blessed with great times and great memories. It is the most wonderful time of the year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and enjoy family time. May God bless you richly this holiday season and I hope to see you out there!!



**CHUCK LONG**

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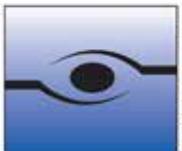
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## What your lighting says about “Who You Are”

**L**ighting trends were never more important than they are now. The style of what you choose and where you put it is a crucial element to how you work, live and play. Let’s look at the top ten lighting choices consumers are purchasing, in no particular order.

LED lighting is the fastest growing segment of the lighting market. I have scores of clients changing over their lighting layouts to LED versus the old incandescent. Truth is, LED prices have come down, making this cost saver even more valuable than ever before. LED lighting is getting better, with more options, and color shades like warm whites or cooler blues. Statistics say that by 2030 LED lighting will be 75 percent of all lighting purchases.

Retro lighting with Edison bulbs (my favorite) sets moods for eclectic, one of a kind type lighting. These also look great in restored antique fixtures and re-purposed artifacts that are wired and turned into lamps and hanging light pendants. I designed a chandelier from an old boiler I found in my attic from the 1890s. It’s a steam-punk original and I have it hanging in my keeping room off the kitchen.

Gold colored lighting. Get set: brass is coming back, but this new look has a more muted Old World look to it, not the shiny stuff we all had in the ‘90s! Your old brass can be painted; don’t throw it out.

Industrial lighting once used in outdoors of factories and warehouses is now indoor trending over islands, vanities, ceiling lights and outside loft decks. It’s got a raw, gritty ambiance to it and aesthetics that very few light fixtures can bring to the table in design.

RLM lighting, or Reflector Luminaire Microscopy (there’s a mouthful). This lighting actually has a following. It is task, diffuser free lighting using metallic reflective surfaces in order to shed light where it is needed and not where it is not wanted. Sound complicated? It gets better. There are these things called Dark Sky Ordinances which actually measure light pollution. Yes, you read it right, pollution from light. We don’t have space here to get into it, but look it up, it’s a real thing. This type of light fixture is gaining popularity.

Chandeliers in unexpected places. Kitchens being the first highlight, attic bedrooms, closets, Mother-In-Law suites and now there is a huge demand for contemporary chandeliers that are value-priced but are very high-styled and don’t compromise on long-lasting wear and tear. Small chandeliers are also popular for apartments and smaller spaces that need a visual uplift.

Lighting inside of drawers and cabinets. I’m doing this more and more with clients. People are tired of not being able to see items tucked way back and this handy technology allows lighting to come on when

a drawer or a cabinet door is opened. No more hunting around in the dark!

Restored antique lighting. This is actually like artwork since an antique is not mass produced any longer. One-of-a-kind pendants, chandeliers, and sconce pairs are being cleaned up, rewired and appreciated once more for their character, grace and architectural heritage of interior design. My house still has the 1912 lighting fixtures that were put in after oil lamps went out. They are hanging art. I wouldn’t change them for anything.

Start looking at your lighting. Is it you? What does it say about you? What does it say about your personal style?



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Winter 2017



*Nina Fowler*

**GREENE ACRES' NURSE OF THE YEAR**

A PUBLICATION OF MOR MEDIA, INCORPORATED

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**Nina Fowler  
Nurse of the Year**

**Holiday Decorations  
at Sunshie Manor**

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# DIABETES & YOUR EYES

**D**iabetes is a health epidemic in the U.S. In the past 30 years, the number of adults diagnosed with diabetes has increased by more than 150%. Diabetes is caused when the body cannot or does not control high levels of blood glucose. The longer you have diabetes, the higher your risk of getting diabetic eye disease. Diabetic eye disease is a group of problems including cataracts, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. Diabetic eye disease can lead to vision loss or blindness. Loss of vision means that even with regular glasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery, people find everyday tasks difficult to do. Things such as reading the mail, shopping, cooking, watching TV and writing often become impossible.



**If you have diabetes you should remember the following:**

1. Early diabetic eye disease has NO SYMPTOMS. Do not wait to visit an eye care professional.
2. At least once a year you should see an eye care professional.
3. The dilated eye exam is short, simple, and painless.
4. An eye care professional who has experience examining the eye and the retina should perform this exam.
5. Only an eye care professional can tell what is happening inside the eye.
6. During the dilated eye exam, the eye care professional can find damage to the lens, cornea, retina, and/or other parts of the eye.

The incidence of blindness is much higher in the diabetic population. Dilation is extremely important as it allows the eye care professional to see more of the inside of your eyes to check for signs of disease. Symptoms are often “silent” so your annual dilated eye exam is critical to your vision.

All people with diabetes need to have a dilated eye exam at least once a year and more frequently if their eye care professional has diagnosed an eye complication.

Call Southern Eye Associates in Jonesboro at 870-935-6396 for more information and to set up an appointment.

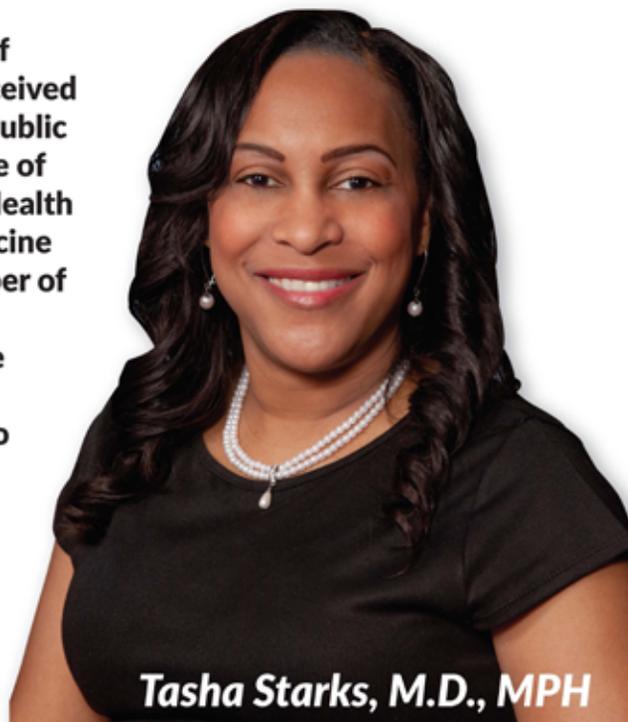
This is an advertorial for Southern Eye Associates.

## AMMC WELCOMES FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN

**Dr. Tasha Starks is a graduate of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) where she received her Master of Public Health through the College of Public Health and her Medical Degree through the College of Medicine. She completed her residency at the Area Health Education Center-Northeast Arkansas Family Medicine Residency Program in Jonesboro, AR. She is a member of the American Medical Association, the UAMS Christian Medical & Dental Associations and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Arkansas Methodist Medical Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Starks to its family.**



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# FOUR STAGES OF PRE-PLANNING

While the holiday season is looked upon as one where family members can gather and share love and laughter, there might not be a more fitting occasion to address the future burial plans of loved ones.

Janie Singleton at Faith Funeral Service in Manila knows that most people have a difficult time discussing funeral services for those they cherish, but also knows that if family members live far away and will be together at this time of year it makes sense to solidify the wishes of parents, grandparents or the elderly.

"The idea could be one of the best gifts you can give to family," Janie said, "especially if the family is scattered all over the country. We don't often think about what we want done ahead of time, so people usually end up trying to put something together in two or three days."

That's why Janie suggests families practice pre-planning funeral arrangements for their loved ones so that nothing is left to chance and nothing is left unaddressed when the time comes. "The holidays are family time," she says, "so take just a little of that time to let your family know what it is you want in your funeral service. Some people say, 'Well, I put all that in my will.' But lots of times the will isn't read until after they are already in the ground. That is typically not the place to put it. We can help walk you through everything you want and make sure all in the family know your wishes."

**She offers these pointers to help family members through the pre-planning stages:**

1. Just have a conversation. What type of service would you want? Maybe new ideas will surface in a family talk session, or maybe things the individual has not thought of as being important to other family members will be revealed. "You've got to think, am I being selfish?" she said. "The funeral service is not for the deceased; it's for the living."

They may still have some needs a person hasn't thought of. It helps give you a feel for what they want."

2. Know what you are looking for when you meet with the funeral home staff. Federal law requires that funeral homes provide you with a price list of services if you request one. You are allowed to make calls and get quotes regarding the type of service you seek. Janie said a bonus of dealing with Faith Funeral Service is that they will not try to sell you a preconceived package; they will sit with you and "help you put the pieces together. Maybe there are things that you don't want or don't need in a package, and you shouldn't have to pay for those. You have the right to choose the different aspects of the funeral you want. I put the best prices out there and give you more sense of flexibility."

3. Ask yourself why you should do this. "First of all, you give the family peace of mind," Janie says, "knowing that everything has already been decided. In an unplanned funeral situation, people often make costly



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decisions because they are under duress. Maybe they are depressed or fatigued or they've been sitting up at the hospital for the last two weeks. With a prearranged service, the price is locked in if you have made those financial arrangements in advance."

4. It is cost-efficient. Janie says they can write a policy "for anyone, any age group or health condition. What we write will not affect their Medicare if they're on it. If you make arrangements with us and make

payments, the cost is frozen forever. If you do it with someone else, some other way, the prices can go up. With us, for \$36 a month for ten years, you will be guaranteed a full-service, traditional service with no interest, no finance charges on preplanned services.

"We have serviced almost 300 families in need this year, and over a hundred are preplanned. There's a reason for that, and it's not just the price, but the quality of our products and our services. By using us,

you will pay about half the cost of most funeral homes. That means your monthly premium will be half of what you would pay somewhere else. We can help you get the service you want, for a price you can afford to pay."

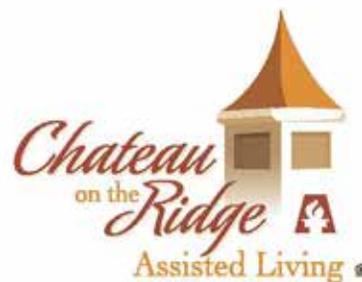
Faith Funeral Service can be reached by phone at 870-561-1197. It is located in Manila at 2658 West State Highway 18.

Advertorial for Faith Funeral Service.



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# MORNINGSIDE CARNIVAL

The residents of Morningside of Jonesboro participated in a Carnival on August 23, 2017. They kicked the event off with a Magic show that morning. That afternoon they had midway games where the residents played different carnival type games for tickets they could cash in for prizes. They also had snow cones, funnel cakes, and popcorn at the carnival. The evening was capped off with a theatrical rendition of a big top show.



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10



**Merry Christmas from the  
elders, staff & families!**

# NFDA ON PRE-PLANNING A FUNERAL

**W**e've all heard many times that one funeral home costs much less than another. According to the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), the national average cost of a funeral is over \$7,000. However, most, if not all, funeral homes in Northeast Arkansas can be thousands of dollars less than the national average.

Key findings from the NFDA 2017 Consumer Awareness and Preferences Study indicate that end-of-life services are becoming increasingly personal, with families wanting new, unique ways to honor and celebrate the lives of loved ones.

Despite this, most are not inquiring at multiple funeral homes to compare costs and services offered. The percentage of respondents who contacted more than one funeral home was only 18.9 percent, and of those who visited/called more than one funeral home, 52.3 percent did so to compare prices.

Every funeral home offers unique services and pricing structure. To help families plan a meaningful tribute to their loved one, NFDA recommends calling – or better yet, visiting – several funeral homes to find one with licensed funeral directors who understand their emotional needs and will be sensitive to their budget.

When making a decision of who to care for your loved one, take the time to research each funeral home in your area. Visit each funeral home, view their facility, meet the staff who will care for you and your loved one, obtain a price list, ask questions, and learn what each funeral home has to offer your family. The more informed you are, the more service you receive for the price you pay.

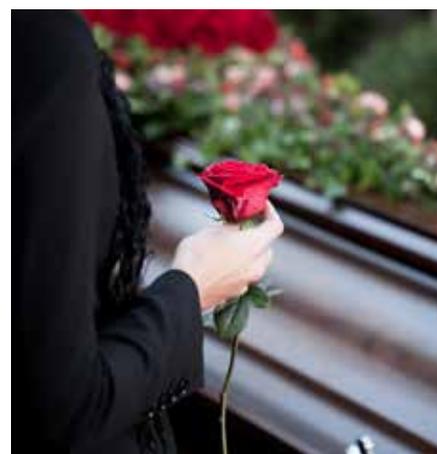
It is understandable that no one likes to think about funerals, but an increasing number of adults find that preparing for the inevitable is a wise decision. Planning one's funeral in advance allows individuals to do their homework and select a funeral home that will meet the emotional and financial needs of their family.

Planning funerals in advance allows individuals to plan a memorable funeral

service that reflects their wishes. With advance planning, families today can plan celebrations of life as unique as the individual being remembered. Today's funerals include adding personal touches such as favorite music and incorporating hobbies and life's accomplishments. An

NFDA-member funeral director can walk you through the decisions necessary to create a meaningful funeral service.

After all, service and experience make a difference when caring for your family.



Merry Christmas!

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

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# MRS. FOWLER NURSE OF THE YEAR



By Richard Brummett

**N**ina Fowler finds it hard to talk about herself but, thankfully, others have no problem lauding her contributions.

When residents and co-workers at Greene Acres Nursing Home in Paragould had the opportunity to nominate Fowler as Nurse of the Year in the Arkansas Healthcare Association, their praises flowed freely and the longtime caregiver came out on top of the voting.

"I have no cotton-picking idea why they voted for me," Fowler said with a smile, trying her best to downplay her role as Assistant Director of Nursing and LPN at Greene Acres. "When they told me, I was flabbergasted. It was an honor, for sure, but I just do whatever it is they call on me to do."

Fowler, 73, has been at Greene Acres for 27 years and said her duties include taking care of the immunizations of residents and administering flu shots and TB skin tests, and making sure the nursing home staff also has mandatory flu shots. "And I go around and check on a few things," she said, "and make sure they're being done correctly ... diabetic and glaucoma checks, and I help the Director of Nursing with all the scheduling. I do attendance for the entire

building, keeping up with who misses and when and why they missed and making sure everything is covered. Just whatever needs to be done."

It is, however, the manner in which Fowler goes about her duties that caught the eye of those who nominated her for the award. Words and phrases like "dedication," "compassion," "heart of gold" and "dynamic leadership" dotted the letters of recommendation from staff, residents and their family members. The awards committee took all the letters under consideration and chose Fowler, a Corning resident, as this year's winner. She was summoned to Little Rock to receive a plaque recognizing her for her outstanding work ethic.

"I still don't know that person they're talking about in all those letters," Fowler said. "I think they got me mixed up with somebody else. But, really, what I see as the honor is for people I work with and even the daughter of a woman who has since passed on as one of our residents to think as much of me that they would nominate me and say the things that they wrote.

"It does take a certain quality to do this day in and day out, and you really get attached to these people. It affects you, no doubt, and I'm grateful to anyone who nominated me."



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# A THANKSGIVING DINNER

**B**.E.E.S. Senior Citizens Center fed a great crowd Thanksgiving dinner at the Paragould location. They also delivered more than 120 meals to home-bound senior citizens living in Greene County.



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# DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

By Richard Brummett

Martha Miles says when she was a child “there wasn’t that much Christmas at our house. But after I got married and had kids and grandkids I started decorating the yard and the house and, well, I sort of went all out.”

That’s a pretty good description of her room at Sunshine Manor in Paragould, one office personnel refer to affectionately as “a place where Christmas exploded.” Martha has nearly wall-to-wall decorations adorning her room, a place that puts one in the holiday spirit as soon as they enter the door. A giant snowman, a lighted tree, multiple Santas -- they even sing and dance -- candy canes, stockings, soldiers ... all situated in a sea of red, white and green to bring a smile to the visitors’ faces.

“And I have my snow family over there,” Martha said, “and other little old odds and ends. I love Christmas, so I go all the way.”

Her daughter, Nancy James, says her mom used to decorate the house and yard so extensively that her father said he feared when they flipped the switch to the “on” position it would “drain the electricity from the neighbors. They lived in Illinois and we would make the trip up there and you really could spot it a long way off. You could see it for miles away.”

Martha said a number of people have come in “and looked at my room and told me how nice it looks. I don’t know ... I guess I just love Christmas.”



...and more!

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# B.E.E.S. GO TO ST. AUGUSTINE

By Carol Fleszar

The B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens recently traveled to St. Augustine, Amelia Island and Jacksonville, Florida.

The group of 40 enjoyed touring St. Augustine and strolling down the Historic George Street. They drank from the Fountain of Youth, and warn that friends back home

might not recognize them now. Founded in 1565, it is the site of the first and oldest continuous European settlement in the United States.

The next day they took a guided tour of Amelia Island, shopping in downtown Fernandina Beach, dipping their toes in the ocean and picking up sea shells. Finally, they cruised on the St. John's River and were able

to spot several dolphins. As always, they ate lots of seafood. B.E.E.S. members say their trips are interesting and educational, and provide lots of fun.

The B.E.E.S. Spring trip will be April 29-May 5 to Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg and Historic Norfolk. Reservations and deposits are now being accepted. Call Carol at 870-239-4093 for more information.



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The Purple Circle Club is an awards program recognizing junior livestock exhibitors who earned championship honors at the Arkansas State Fair. It is sponsored by Arkansas Farm Bureau, a nonprofit, private farm and rural advocacy organization of more than 190,000 families throughout the state working to improve farm and rural life. Arkansas Farm Bureau President Randy Veach presented the awards.

Hudson Tritch of Paragould had the Grand Champion Yorkshire Gilt at the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show. Katie Head of Paragould had the Grand Champion Market Hog at the show. Matthew Exum of Paragould had the Grand Champion Pen of Broilers at the show. Rayleigh Gonser of Paragould had the Division Champion Market Hog (Duroc) at the show. Andrew Ellis of Beech Grove had the Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Broilers at the show. Baylee Mangrum of Paragould had the Grand Champion Shorthorn Plus Heifer at the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show.



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# GET RICH

with Richard Brummett

One day I stopped by my parents' house and found my dad in the middle of a home improvement project. He had encountered a stumbling block and I accompanied him to his shop to help him search for the appropriate tool with which to finish the job.

He reached up on a shelf and took down a box that contained a tool I had given him as a Christmas gift, and it was obvious the box had never been opened. Dad took out the tool, looked it over and decided it was just what he needed to complete his project, and he was right. Before he returned it to its box and put it back on the shelf he said, "You know, sometimes the best gift is one you don't need right away, but one that sure does come in handy down the road."

When he made that statement it reminded me of a similar situation from my younger days. One Christmas I unwrapped a box that contained a transistor radio. It was nice, and it was something I could see myself using some day, but at the time I was not so much into music or radios or anything that wasn't connected to baseball or basketball. It is difficult to explain to the young people of today what a phenomenon the transistor radio was, because they can get up and take their music with them wherever they go. But in my day, which many refer to as Olden Times or Pre-Boom Box, the family radio generally rested on the kitchen counter or in a spot where all could sit in front of it and hear the news, the ballgame, a talk show, or music. But you were tied down by a bulky

plastic or wooden box filled with vacuum tubes requiring low voltage current in order to operate. You were as plugged in to the wall as was the radio, a captive in a confined space.

I used my radio sparingly since my life consisted of school and then basketball practice until well after dark, followed by my arrival home and a quick shower, a meal, homework and bed. There was little time for radio business as the calendar wound its way through basketball season and on into spring and baseball. But in the fall of 1967 my beloved St. Louis Cardinals were in the World Series against the Boston Red Sox and back in those ancient times those games were played in the daytime ... right in the middle of school and work and other hazards.

We didn't have TVs in the classroom, so I knew I wasn't going to get to watch the game unless I came down with some serious illness earlier in the day, but my mother would have seen through it -- she was a teacher, so I figured I was going to be sitting at a desk come game time. I also knew I had a couple of teachers who were pretty cool and understood the need for teenage boys to listen to the Series during class and would turn on their radios at the appropriate time, but I had them for my morning classes. The two teachers I had for the afternoon sessions were the type who would go out of their way to make certain we knew there would be no baseball during their teaching time; in fact, one of them was the kind who started lecturing as soon as you entered the room, well before the second bell signaling the start of class sounded, and she went on beyond the bell that ended class, refusing to let you go even if you already had one foot in the aisle and your books stacked and tucked under

your arm. You would leave when she said you could leave, and more than once we had to hoof it down the hallway to avoid being tardy for our next class, thanks to her.

I was considering maybe dropping out of school about then when I glanced across my bedroom and saw my transistor radio. It was not much larger than a pack of cigarettes, and I knew it came with an earphone so that the user could listen to the desired broadcasts and not disturb anyone else. I closed my door so Mom couldn't see me working on a very James Bond-like plan, one where I put on a light jacket, placed the radio in my shirt pocket and ran the corded earphone up my coat sleeve and into my hand. If I sat with my head tilted to the side and resting upon my left hand, I could listen to the radio without anyone else knowing.

And that's what I did. I went to school wearing the jacket, even though it was a warm day, and I attended all my morning classes with the earphone tucked inside the sleeve, ready for action. When I sat down in my first afternoon class and I clicked the radio on and put the plan into action. For the 55 minutes I was in class, I looked at the teacher and periodically doodled on some notebook paper as if I were taking notes, listening all the while to the ballfield exploits of Bob Gibson and Lou Brock and Tim McCarver. When the bell rang I headed down the hall, took my seat next to the wall in my next classroom, and resumed listening.

I didn't get much book learning that day, but I got the satisfaction of hearing the Cardinals win and of knowing that some gifts may take a while to prove their value, but when they do it's worth the wait.

*Glen Sain* **GMC SANTA UPGRADED HIS SLEIGH!**

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# December

## 2017 Kids' Events

**2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

### **Creature Feature**

**When:** Saturdays 10:00 AM

**Where:** Crowley's Ridge Nature Center  
600 E. Lawson Rd., Jonesboro, AR

**Info:** [www.crowleysridge.org](http://www.crowleysridge.org)

**4, 11, 18, 25**

### **Story Time : Family**

**When:** Mondays, 6 PM

**Where:** Children's Library, Jonesboro  
315 W Oak Ave., Jonesboro, AR

**Info:** [www.libraryinjonesboro.org](http://www.libraryinjonesboro.org)

**6, 13, 20, 27**

### **Story Time**

**When:** Wednesdays, 10:30 AM

**Where:** Greene County Public Library  
120 North 12th Street, Paragould

**Info:** [www.mylibrarynow.org](http://www.mylibrarynow.org)



It was a cold afternoon at the Winter Wonderland Ice Skating Rink in Jonesboro, but Ember Whitton was all bundled up and enjoying the action. Ember, 2, is the daughter of Gabrielle and Teddy Whitton of Universal City, Texas, and was in town to visit with the Cherry Broadway family.

# December

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 02

**What:** Holiday Traditions & Holiday Market  
**When:** Saturday, December 2nd 10 AM - 2 PM  
**Where:** Downtown Paragould  
**Info:** Paragould businesses and Main Street Paragould host the Holiday Traditions and Holiday Market. Visitors can take a picture with Santa at Something Sweet, pay to ride a horse drawn carriage from Centennial Park, or shop from crafters, bakers, artisans, uniques from downtown shops and The Crossing! All events begin at 10 AM.

### 03

**What:** Heath Funeral Home's Tree of Memories  
**When:** Sunday, December 3rd 2PM  
**Where:** Heath Colonial Chapel, Paragould  
**Info:** Please join Heath Funeral Home in remembering loved ones who have died. Bring an ornament for the tree in memory of

your loved ones. A reception will follow after the ceremony. The Heath Colonial Chapel is located at Heath Funeral Home at 321 W. Garland St.

### 08

**What:** The Writer's Block  
**When:** Friday, December 8th 5 PM  
**Where:** Craighead County Public Library, The Civic League Room, Jonesboro  
**Info:** If you have ever thought about writing a book, improving your writing skills or would just like to have some fun with different writing prompts, the public library may have the group for you! At this event, writing prompts will be given to help get the creative ideas flowing. This group is there to encourage writers, support one another and have fun!

### 09

**What:** Cookies with Santa  
**When:** Saturday, December 9th 3PM - 4:30PM  
**Where:** Santa's North Pole, 4502 Access Rd, Ste A, Jonesboro.  
**Info:** Your magical experience includes admission into the amazing North Pole woods, our very own animated walk-through Christmas scene display, and access to our newly renovated Santa Room where you'll enjoy delicious food and drinks while you have a ball singing Christmas carols, listening to stories, and playing games with the big guy himself, the one and only Santa Claus! Visit [santasnorthpolejonesboro.com](http://santasnorthpolejonesboro.com) to purchase tickets.  
**What:** Christmas Ornament Food Drive  
**When:** Saturday, December 9th 1PM - 3PM  
**Where:** Crowley's Ridge State Park - Group Lodging Area Dining Hall  
**Info:** Christmas is the season of giving. Crowley's Ridge State Park will host a

Lunch: M-F 11am-2:30pm  
M-T 4pm-7pm  
Fri 4pm-10:30pm  
Sat 11am-10:30pm  
Sun 11am-9pm



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Christmas ornament workshop. Bring non-perishable canned goods and you will be able to make a handmade Christmas ornament out of a gourd, or a tree cookie. These ornaments will last a long time, but you are leaving an even longer impact on the people you are helping by donating canned goods. The donation of canned goods will allow one person to make one ornament. Each additional ornament per person or an ornament without a canned good donation is \$2.50. Registration is not required, but ornament supply is limited. All materials provided. For questions, call (870) 573-6751 or email the park at [crowleysridge@arkansas.com](mailto:crowleysridge@arkansas.com).

## 10

**What:** The Nutcracker

**When:** Sunday, December 10th 2 PM

**Where:** The Collins Theatre, Paragould

**Info:** The holiday classic, The Nutcracker, is coming to the Collins Theatre. To reserve tickets, call 870-573-6454.

## 16

**What:** A Disney Christmas Meet and Greet

**When:** Saturday, December 16th 10 AM - 12 PM

**Where:** Paragould Community Center

**Info:** Enjoy taking pictures with everyone from Mickey to Princesses and even Santa himself! Cookies and milk will be available while supplies last, as well. Cost of admission is \$5 per person and \$20 per family of four or more. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society

## 23

**What:** Breakfast with Santa

**When:** Saturday, December 23rd  
9 AM - 10:30 AM

**Where:** Santa's North Pole, 4502 Access Rd, Ste A, Jonesboro.

**Info:** Enjoy a delicious breakfast with Santa Claus! Visit [santasnorthpolejonesboro.com](http://santasnorthpolejonesboro.com) to purchase tickets. Prices include: display admission for each paid individual, food/beverages, one 5x7 photo with Santa per paid child, take home souvenir for each child (ages 12 and under), and an experience you'll never forget!

## 24

**What:** Christmas Eve Services

**When:** Sunday, December 24th 11 AM

**Where:** First United Methodist, Paragould

**Info:** Christmas Eve services will be in the church sanctuary at 11:00 am, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, and 11:00pm. The church will offer carols and communion during these special services.

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# HAPPENINGS

## FIVE GENERATIONS



Here are five generations of one family. First Generation, Maxine Atkins (middle-right); Second Generation, Shirley Dodd (middle-left); Third Generation, Jennifer Vanaman (right); Fourth Generation, Grant Vanaman (left); and Fifth Generation, Greer Anise Vanaman (far right).

## DONATION TO AMMC



Crowley's Ridge College recently made a \$1,221.00 donation to Project Hope, a program offered through The Foundation at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center for women who are at risk for breast cancer but who cannot afford to pay for a mammogram.

## EAGLE'S PALETTE



GCT Elementary Art Teacher, Jonatha Bradsher along with faculty volunteers created a parent painting night with students painting along side their parents. Event was successful with 32 children and parents attending and painting a holiday picture.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS SETS A RECORD



Four Arkansas State University students from the College of Business recorded the school's highest finish ever in the ninth annual Bowersox Supply Chain Challenge, hosted by Michigan State University in East Lansing. Members are (from left) Dr. Michelle Li, assistant professor of supply chain/operations management; Kristen Vaughn of Jonesboro; Richard Crawford of Melbourne; Josh Goldsmith of Benoni, South Africa; Travis McCloskey of Bella Vista and Dr. Shane Hunt, professor of marketing and the R.M. "Bob" Wood Endowed Professor in Sales Leadership.

## QUIZ BOWL FOR FIRST



The Paragould Junior High School Quiz Bowl team won first place at the Greene County Tech Invitational on Saturday, November 4. Pictured: Back Row - Max Hooten, Secily Eldridge, Tyler Brown, Ashton Rodrigues, Jackson Douglas, Devon Jarman. Middle Row - Abby Stevens, Sofia Garcia, Sarah Sellen, Nevaeh Morse. Front Row - Matthew Bermea Not pictured: Lily Broadway

Correction from November Premiere  
**Photographer of Baby  
Linnik Jameson Hedge:**  
*CoHo Creative*

# BIRTHS



## Reed Alexander Scudder

On September 11th, 2017, Tyler and Heather Scudder of Paragould welcomed their new baby boy, Reed Alexander Scudder, into their family.

Reed was born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center weighing 8 pounds and measuring 20 1/5 inches long.

Reed's proud grandparents are Jim and Darla Scudder, Perry and Alice Reed and the late James and Naomi Scudder and Maleta Scudder. His great grandparents are Bill and Rosalee Lott and Dennis Scudder. And Trevor Scudder and Morgan Cook are his uncle and aunt.

Photographer: Darla Scudder



## Amelia Ann McGarity

Justin and Ambrea McGarity from Paragould gave birth to their second daughter, Amelia Ann McGarity, on October 17th, 2017, at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Amelia's oldest sister, Eliza, and grandparents Ronny and Cheryl Russell and Rick and Marietha McGarity are excited for the new addition to the family.

Amelia weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

Photographer: CoHo Creative



## Benjamin Thomas Kellums

Callie and Dustin Kellums of Jonesboro welcome their newborn baby, Benjamin, into their world.

Born September 15th, 2017, at St. Bernards Medical Center, baby Benjamin weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 21.25 inches long.

Benjamin's proud grandparents are Dawn and Dennis Layer and Kim and David Kellums.

Photographer: Meredith Benton of Meredith Benton Photography

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# THE BEST DAY EVER

## *Erin Petty and Robert Grogan*

**R**obert Grogan and Erin Petty met right after Christmas of 2015 through a mutual friend. Little did they know this friend (Rosemary Suggs) would be a bridesmaid at their wedding one day. They were both reluctant as to whether this “blind” meeting was a good idea or not, but two weeks later they went on a first date and were inseparable after that.

On November 5, 2016, Robert proposed to Erin while taking pictures at his parents’ pond. Robert had tricked her into thinking that their friend, Sara Field, was taking the pictures to help “expand” her business, when all along he had asked her to help capture that very special moment. To top it all off, he had sneaked Erin’s family into town so they could all celebrate together afterward.

The two were married on September 30, 2017, at the Silos in Bono, Arkansas, also known as, “The Best Day Ever.” The two couldn’t have ordered better weather. The perfect weather allowed them to hold the ceremony and part of the reception outside. Over 250 guests attended.

The wedding had many personal touches: Robert’s brother, Lee Grogan, sang two solos for the wedding. Erin’s aunt, Susan Tusing, who is a pianist, played all of the music for the

wedding. Erin’s hair comb was a piece from her mother’s wedding halo and the ribbon around her bouquet was from her mother’s dress. The wooden cross that stood at the ceremony was made by Robert’s dad, Bill Grogan, and his good friend, Greg Slayton.

Officiant - Gerald James. Photographer - Meredith Benton. Matron of Honor - Becca Bagwell (lifelong best friend). Bridesmaids - Rosemary Suggs, Emily Collins, Bekah Fisher (friends from PT school), and Sarah Dickey (college roommate). Best Man - Lee Grogan (Robert’s brother). Groomsmen - Sam Petty (Erin’s brother); Riley Adams, Nick McPherson, Clay Schechter (old teammates)

Bride’s parents: Lee and Linda Petty of Marianna. Groom’s parents: Bill and Sharon Grogan of Paragould.

Robert attended ASU and graduated with a bachelors degree in Business Management and is currently coach and co-owner of Champions Gymnastics Center

Erin attended the University of Central Arkansas and graduated with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy and is currently a physical therapist at NEA Baptist Hospital.

Photographer: Meredith Benton Photography







# JA JONESBORO DONATES TO THE FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

## BREASTFEEDING CLASS

Saturday, Dec 2 from 10 AM - 12 PM

Professional Office Building at AMMC

This class discusses the importance of breastfeeding, breast preparation, feeding techniques and positioning options for mother and baby. This class is offered to moms who plan to breastfeed, dads and other support persons. Call the AMMC Lactation Services Department at 870-239-7013 or email [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for classroom location and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

## INFANT SAFETY CLASS

Saturday, Dec 2 from 1 PM - 3 PM

Professional Office Building at AMMC

This free class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for the infant. Call the AMMC Lactation Services Department 870-239-7013 or email [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for classroom location and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

## LINEN SALE

Thursday, Dec 7 from 8 AM - 4 PM

Friday, Dec 8 from 7 AM - 3 PM

The Herget Atrium

AMMC Auxiliary hosts a linen sale including Sherpa Throws and Blankets, Quilt Sets, Imitation Mink Blankets, Comforter Sets, Bamboo Memory Foam Pillow and Sheet Sets will all be for sale. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. Proceeds will benefit the AMMC Auxiliary.

## BLOOD DRIVE WITH AMERICAN RED CROSS

Thursday, Dec 21 from 11 AM - 5:30 PM

Auditorium in the Professional Office Building

Donate blood to help victims of trauma, organ transplants, childbirth complications, and leukemia regain strength and health. In order to donate, you must be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law (includes Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee). You must weigh at least 110 pounds and not have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks or double red cells in the last 16 weeks. You must be "healthy," meaning you are not currently being treated for chronic conditions. Those who successfully donate blood will receive three \$5.00 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station. For more information, contact The American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).



The second in a series of recent charitable donations made by the Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro has gone to The Family Crisis Center, thanks to a record-breaking 2017 Charity Ball fundraiser.

The Family Crisis Center offers free and confidential services to families, with a mission of assisting those who have been victims of domestic or sexual violence. The organization provides housing to families that have fled a dangerous living situation. The \$16,000 donation from JA of Jonesboro will allow the Family Crisis Center to pay the mortgage on its private house for an entire year. Having the mortgage paid will allow the center to focus on areas other than fundraising, thus improving the quality of its services.

"The Women's Crisis Center provides an invaluable service to women and children when they have nowhere else to turn," said Kristy McDaniel, President of Jonesboro Junior Auxiliary. "By sheltering and counseling these women through a very difficult time in their lives, their children benefit immensely in the present and the future because of the support and guidance their mom receives. The shelter relies heavily on donations and we are so proud to support this organization and the positive impact they have in the lives of children in our community."

Vicki Crego, Executive Director of the Family Crisis Center, said in a statement: "On behalf of the Board and Staff of FCC, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous funding JA has contributed towards our mission. Providing a home for women and children who are not safe in their own home is life changing for them."

Junior Auxiliary announced in August that monies would be allocated to various charitable organizations when excess funds were realized after funding all of the group's yearly projects. Additional financial gifts will be announced in the coming weeks. Founded in 1950, JA of Jonesboro has a mission to meet the needs of children, youth, and families throughout Craighead County. The non-profit organization is run solely by approximately 100 volunteers in Jonesboro.



# Happy Holidays from

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PARAGOULD  
3 BR/ 2 BA  
1200 SQFT



158 MISTY MARIE  
PARAGOULD  
3 BR/ 2 BA  
1250 SQFT

# CHEERS FOR CHARITY

The Junior Auxiliary of Paragould celebrates its third annual Cheers for Charity for Charity that raises funds for Greene County children. Each year, many children face hunger, literacy issues and a Christmas without any gifts. Junior Auxiliary strives to provide these missing essentials by raising money through its Cheers for Charity event. Junior Auxiliary hosts its guests with a wonderful meal, as well as a silent auction of items donated by area businesses and supporters. The Angel Tree is adorned with ornaments for attendees to choose from, then provide a gift and necessities for each child to ensure a happy Christmas that extends into the upcoming year.



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- Work in short term or specific projects to meet other community needs

**ABOUT RSVP: AN ORGANIZATION LIKE NO OTHER**

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

**RSVP BENEFITS**

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

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# BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

“**A** la Rurru,” an idea to produce a serape-like hammock to prevent sudden infant death syndrome in Hispanic newborns, is the winner of the 2017 Business Plan Competition hosted by the College of Business at Arkansas State University. The winners were recognized Wednesday, Nov. 15, in the Delta Center for Economic Development.

“RuGuard,” a plan to develop a mouthpiece to detect potential concussion problems for rugby players during games, was second.

“Mobile Billboards” is a system for placing advertising on the back rear windows

of vehicles and it won third place. “Nutrisphere,” a ready-to-eat nutritious sphere for athletes and outdoors enthusiasts, was fourth.

The most innovative idea award went to Weston Wager, Takara Warren and Chelsey West, all of Jonesboro, and Kyle Fouts of Beebe, for “Automated Logistics Providers.” This is a system for truck-loading automation in distribution centers.

The 10th annual business plan competition awarded this year a total of \$2,500 in cash that came from the cumulative winnings that A-State has earned in the last three Governor’s Cups. Thirty-eight entries with

141 participants that ranged from incoming freshmen to graduate students from four colleges engaged in the competition. Since 2007, the business plan competition has distributed over \$21,000 in prizes to students and the Governor’s Cup winnings over the last 10 years have been \$70,000.

The Business Plan Competition was started in 2008 as an initiative from Dr. Nareatha Studdard to make A-State part of the several events that celebrate entrepreneurship worldwide. It is a part of Global Entrepreneurship Week that was launched Nov. 14 by Sir Richard Branson in South Africa.



A promotional graphic for iROCK 103.5. The background is dark with a large, stylized hand making the 'rock on' gesture. The hand is filled with the text 'iROCK 103.5'. In the top left corner, there are logos for Pearl Jam, Green Day, The Offspring, Creed, Foo Fighters, Drowning in Pool, and Avenged Sevenfold. In the top right corner, there is a Facebook icon followed by the text 'iROCK'. At the bottom, the text 'streaming on irocknea.com' is written in a white, distressed font.

# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month?

## A-State Innovate



Read about Ty Keller and his story in leading the new A-State Innovation System in the January edition of Premiere Magazine.

## Financial Fitness!



It's going to be a new year! That means it's time to get your businesses into shape! Stay tuned for financial business advice and stories from local business owners in the January edition of Premiere Magazine!

## Wedding Season



January is one of the most popular times for couples to plan and host their perfect day of matrimony. Read from vendors, flower shops, wedding planners, and more to discover how to plan the perfect wedding.

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