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From The

# PUBLISHER...

DINA MASON

July is always our largest edition and we love giving our readers a list of the Premiere places to do business that can be referred to all year! Premiere Awards are an opportunity for our readers to send out recommendations to other readers on where to shop, and we appreciate all the participation this year.

July also provides us the opportunity to salute soldiers and show our patriotism. This year we are honored to tell the story of Major Jim Largent, who volunteers his time to provide military funeral honors to veterans. The story details what is required to be a part of the team and they are definitely "looking for a few good men" to join them.

Everyone who knows me knows I am a Downtowner; this issue starts a series of articles featuring aspects of both Downtown Paragould and Downtown Jonesboro. From public art and bench projects to living and shopping, "Do it Downtown!" Next month we will have Downtown entertainment and food.

We miss our Jordan Lewis as she embarked on her new adventure in Florida with Walt Disney World but we welcome Jacklyn VanScoy to our crazy Premiere family. She has been baptized by fire with this edition being our largest one each year!

I'm sure you will see her design influence next month as our mission was to "just get through this one."

Thank you for reading Premiere Magazine, and we hope to hear from you with all the good news you want to share with our readers.

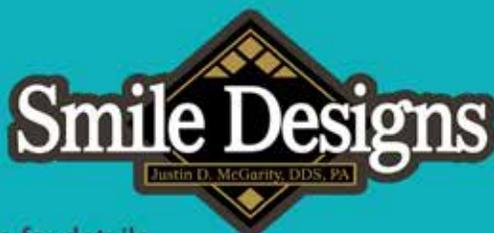
Send your Engagement and Birth Announcements to [graphics@mormediainc.com](mailto:graphics@mormediainc.com) and Jackie will get you in the next available edition. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

We are often asked about weddings and home features. We would love to publish one every month. Anyone can submit their wedding (it's free) and we work them into the next available month. We just need a dozen or so photos (with a release from your photographer) and your story. And if you have or know of a unique house to be featured, email us and we will assign a photographer and reporter to prepare the feature for the next available edition.

And if you really want to get involved, the 2018 Premiere theme and feature plan will be forming in the next few months, so if you have any ideas, let us know. If you have questions you can email me [dina@mormediainc.com](mailto:dina@mormediainc.com).

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# FUTURE FUND

## GET DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL

Paragould's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Get DownTown Festival had something for everyone. The Greene County Future Fund organized a BBQ Cooking Contest, the 12th Annual Pedal the Ridge Cycling Event, free kid's activities, free live music and LOTS of FOOD.

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center was the presenting sponsor and local businesses also supported the Future Fund group in its efforts to get residents moving and active. For information on how to get involved, go to Facebook and find Greene County Future Fund.



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# ARKANSAS METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



William Toler attended the presentation.

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary recently awarded four \$1,000 scholarships. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in an education program within the medical profession and be in the beginning of their second year of education in the medical field by August 2017.

This year's scholarships were awarded to:

Skylar McFarland graduated from Greene County Tech High School in 2010. He is a student at Arkansas State University, where he is studying Nursing. His anticipated graduation date is June 2018. He would like to stay in Northeast Arkansas after graduation and work at a local hospital.

Allison Vaughn graduated from Greene County Tech High School in 2015. She is a student at Arkansas State University, where she is majoring in Exercise Science. Her anticipated graduation date is 2019. Her goal is to become an Occupational Therapist.

William Toler graduated from Crowley's Ridge Academy in 2014. He is a student at Arkansas Northeastern College, where he is studying Nursing. His anticipated graduation date is May 2018. He is currently employed at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center as a Patient Care Tech, but his goal is to become a registered nurse.

Alexandria Dunn graduated from Greene County Tech in 2010. She is a student at the University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock, where she is working on a Medical Degree (M.D.). Her anticipated graduation date is 2019.

The AMMC Auxiliary has been awarding scholarships to students in the community for more than 40 years. The scholarship is a one-time award to any one recipient with the funds sent directly to the educational institution that the applicant attends at the time of registration.

For more information on how you can contribute to the AMMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, contact 870-239-7000 and ask to speak to a member of the Auxiliary.

Additional information about AMMC is available at: [www.myammc.org](http://www.myammc.org).



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**D**owntown is now home to two new murals! The Downtown Jonesboro Association started the Fearlessly Brilliant art initiative to involve local artists in Downtown. Two artists, Beau Jones and Tolik Rayevskiy, brought their own artist touches to Downtown and we couldn't be more pleased!

This painting is sure to catch your eye and never let go!

Local writer, Beau Jones, owner of Beautox Art, provided a colorful and unique touch to 212 Union!

A part of our Fearlessly Brilliant art initiative, the bright colors and positive feel to the painting bring positivity to everyone who sees it.

"We could not be more pleased with his work and we hope that everyone enjoys it as much as we do! So hurry down and check it out at 212 Union Street!" said Hailey Knight, DTJB Director.

See Tolik's work on page 15.



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# TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

## ASSISTANT EDITOR



**E**rik Wright of Paragould has been named the new assistant editor of the National Edition of The Tombstone Epitaph based in Tombstone, Arizona. The paper was founded on May 1, 1880, and is the oldest continually published newspaper in Arizona. Through the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the Epitaph served as a primary source of print news in Cochise County and is noted for its coverage of the street fight between the Earps and the Clanton-McLaury factions in Tombstone on October 26, 1881. By the 1960s, however, the Epitaph transitioned into a monthly publication offering articles by the nation's leading historians on the American West.

Erik Wright has been writing about law and disorder along the territorial U.S.-Mexico borderlands for almost two decades. First published in True West Magazine at age 16, Wright has since published over 60 popular and scholarly articles and essays. He is the winner of the 2016 Wild West History Association award for the previous year's "Outstanding Article on Western History." His most

recent essay, "'Nervy' Phil Foote: Hell-Raiser of the High Desert and the Amargosa," is being considered for the Kimberly S. Hanger Article Prize.

His most recent book, *Main Street Mayhem: Crime, Murder & Justice in Downtown Paragould, 1888-1932*, is the first book to identify and analyze the scourge of violence that plagued Paragould in its developing years. He is a regular speaker at historical conventions and gatherings in the west and will be a featured lecturer this October as part of the Arkansas State Archives and the Historic Arkansas Museum's "Pen to Podium" Lecture Series, where he will discuss his original research on Paragould murderer-turned-Australian-fugitive James Trammell.

Wright is employed as the Coordinator of the Greene County Office of Emergency Management.

## AMMC WELCOMES ADDITIONAL SURGEON



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**Dr. Jennifer Susoreny-Velgos is a graduate of Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee. She completed her General Surgery residency at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Susoreny-Velgos is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, the Sigma Sigma Phi National Honorary Osteopathic Fraternity and the American Medical Association. Dr. Susoreny-Velgos will join fellow surgeon Dr. Bob Warner at the AMMC Surgery Clinic. Arkansas Methodist Medical Center is proud to have Dr. Susoreny-Velgos join it's medical staff.**



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# GREENE COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



A Memorial Day service was held on Sunday, May 28, at the Greene County Court House. The event was hosted by the American Legion Post 17 and was led by Jim Largent. An invocation was given by Ransom Walker, and songs performed by Steve Higgs. The POW/MIA table ceremony was presented by Vietnam Vets Legacy Bikers. Thanks to the Paragould firefighters and guest speaker, Mayor Mike Gaskill, for attending.



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the family and friends go to the funeral home for their services. Faith Funeral Service, on the other hand, serves a 75 mile radius, at no additional cost, which is a huge benefit to the family, by bringing the funeral to your church in your community just as we would if we had a facility in your community, but without the overhead expense! This is one of the ways we keep funeral costs down to about half the price of other firms. Of course, you can have your funeral and visitation at our chapel.

We also offer prearrangement. This allows you to plan your own funeral and take care of all the details. You can have your funeral the way you want it. You can personalize your funeral to meet your needs from picking out your casket, where you want

your services, what songs you want, and choosing a minister. You can be as detailed as you want. Some have even written their own obituaries. You decide if you want a traditional funeral, cremation, or a combination. You give your family peace of mind knowing you have taken care of everything. They don't have to guess what you want-you have told them. If you choose to make financial arrangements, you can also freeze the cost of the funeral. This can eliminate emotional overspending by your family at the time of death. Let's face it, when we have a death we are not thinking rationally and should not be making large financial decisions.

Planning is key! We want you to have the services you want at an affordable price, regardless of which funeral home you choose. Faith Funeral Service can show you how to do this. Our goal is to help you have the funeral of your choice at an affordable price.

Let's face it, no one wants to come to a funeral home unless absolutely necessary. That's why we can come to you at your home or location of your choosing to do prearrangements or at need funeral arrangement. We are very committed to the well-being of the families we serve and to the preservation of the integrity of Christian values, while providing professionalism, personal attention, dignity, and respect at the lowest possible price.

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## LANDSCAPE Lighting 101

**LANDSCAPE LIGHTING** allows you to creatively illuminate all types of exterior environments and increase enjoyment of your favorite natural spaces throughout the evening hours.

**SPOT LIGHTS** are a go-to fixture for highlighting elements of your landscaping.

**STEP LIGHTS** are a way to safely illuminate areas of traffic, both indoors and outdoors.

**HARDSCAPE LIGHTING** is the perfect light source for retaining walls, columns, and also can be used under a variety of surfaces such as seating, railing and steps.

**GRAZING** is a technique used to emphasize a texture of a surface or architectural element. Graze lighting to a wall at a narrow angle, accentuating details through shadows. This is ideal for creating a textured surface such as brick or stone.

**DECK LIGHTING** adds safety and illumination to your favorite outdoor entertaining space.

**OUTDOOR PENDANTS** should be hung 28" to 34" above a bar or table. Pendants are perfect for illuminating and accenting an outdoor dining area.

**OUTDOOR FLUSH MOUNTS** are a perfect selection for balconies and overhangs offering a nighttime glow.

**OUTDOOR LANTERNS** (coach lights) are hung at a point of entry to provide safety, security and a welcome decorative element. When using one lantern, the fixture should measure 1/3 the height of the door. When using two, fixtures should measure 1/4 the height of the door.

**PATH LIGHTING** adds style and safety to a walkway. Lights should be placed 6' apart.

**SHADOWING** is placing a spot light in front of or below an object to create a focal point.

**UPLIGHTING** is illuminating an area surface or object from below to create a focal point in the landscaping. Spot lights and wall lights are most common.

The above noted points of **Landscaping Lighting 101** are basic information provided by Jim Quinn, owner of The Lamp Outlet. If you have projects in mind, schedule a free consultation with him at (870-243-2852) or [jquinn@ar-lighting.com](mailto:jquinn@ar-lighting.com).



**A** stampede is coming and it is coming straight for this mural, the second mural in the Fearlessly Brilliant Art Initiative

Jonesboro native Tolik Rayevskiy helped bring this mural to life as a part of Downtown Jonesboro Association's Fearlessly Brilliant art initiative. The colorful display of the herd of horses draws many eyes and is beautiful to look at. The racing of the horses brings excitement and joy to anyone who sees it.

"We are so happy with the result and are so excited for everyone to see it! So head down to 211 S. Main Street and check it out," said Hailey Knight, DTJB Director.

"I love public art, obviously. I heard a quote once that went "a city with no writing on the wall is a city with no soul" and I believe that. Public art definitely has a way to give a town an identity. It's not very expensive and it brings a community together.

"On paper it doesn't seem like it's a good investment but everywhere I've been with a healthy amount of murals and art galleries just seems so much more livelier and the people more happy. Not to mention interactive," said Rayevskiy.



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# HOUSING MARKET

## RODNEY CLAXTON

By Anthony Childress

Rodney Claxton saw the unfolding housing market meltdown in 2008 and decided his career in real estate was over. So, he took a very different path to put food on the table - and it's for the birds. Really.

Owner of Rodney Claxton Designs birdhouses in Jonesboro since 2006, the former corporate trainer and territory manager for a large food organization saw the imploding real estate slice of America's economy as proof he needed a change.

"Unfortunately, I started in real estate just as the 'bubble' burst," he said. "This affected almost everyone in the U.S. I simply had to find a way to generate some personal income. I often laugh and tell people I'm just in a different kind of housing market. My clients now flock to me. Ha!"

Claxton and his team of seven part-time and seasonal employees spend their time creating new birdhouses for an ever-growing clientele. He said the process includes the



introduction of a new design each year with "at least one new style and color for the customers who have multiple birdhouses." The input and hard work of those team members are essential to Claxton's ability to meet demands for his houses.

The variety of birdhouses is as diverse as what customers have come to expect and new shoppers find themselves unable to resist. For example, sports fans can adorn their yards with houses featuring team colors and mascots. Claxton even created a special house for the chancellor at Ole Miss (University of Mississippi), reflecting the school's history and tradition.

"Each year beginning in January, we start getting calls, emails and Facebook inquiries wanting to order and to know our scheduled festivals for the year. We literally have entire



generations of customers - grandparents, children, and grandchildren. My team often comments that the festivals we attend are more like family reunions because we have so many people that have followed and supported us through the years. At our last event, one of the customers said she was purchasing her 28th birdhouse," Claxton stated.

Rodney Claxton Designs is on the road throughout the year, sharing its use of new and reclaimed materials in birdhouses for bluebirds, wrens, and chickadees. Roofing for some houses is being covered with tin recovered from a former farm house in Madison, Mississippi.

The calendar is chock full of festivals stretching across Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana. But most of the events featuring Claxton and his team's talents occur in Mississippi, ranging from the Patio and Garden Show and Handworks in Jackson to the Double Decker Festival in Oxford. As a member of the Mississippi Nursery and Landscaping Association, Claxton has been profiled in some of the Magnolia State's prominent newspapers, Jackson's *Clarion-Ledger* and *The Oxford Citizen*.

"I had never really thought about doing arts and crafts as a career," he explained. "I'd visited some festivals just as a hobby in the past and noticed some birdhouses being sold. I thought I could do that, but maybe enhance on the quality and style. As the old saying goes, 'I didn't want to reinvent the wheel, I just wanted to make it better.' I never dreamed after 11 years it would become a full-time endeavor."

Customers aren't the only ones taking notice of Claxton's product. He has been approached by a national retail chain product buyer to join it as a supplier of birdhouses for its Lawn and Garden department.

"That is a little overwhelming but who knows what the future holds," he said. "God continues to bless us by breaking our sales goals each year."

For information, visit [www.facebook.com/RodneyClaxtonDesigns](http://www.facebook.com/RodneyClaxtonDesigns).

LET'S CELEBRATE!

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# GREEN HOUSES BELLE MEADE



The opening ceremonies and ribbon cutting for the Green House Cottages of Belle Meade were held in June. Belle Meade Rehabilitation and Guest Care Facility is located in a valley just off Highway 49 South in Paragould. Belle Meade provides rehabilitation and long-term care needs. Their facility provides a friendly, homelike, compassionate environment that promotes independence and autonomy.

There are nine houses and each is named after someone who has left lasting memories as a patient, provider or staff member.

Having served the community for over 50 years, Belle Meade is proud to bring the Green House concept to Paragould.

For information on the Green House Cottages at Belle Meade contact Pam Diggs at 870.236.7104



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# CARTER HICKS JUVENILE ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH



By Richard Brummett

Upon hearing that someone suffers from arthritis, the mental image drawn is generally that of an older person hobbling around precariously. But mothers like Autumn Hicks of Paragould know that children, too, can be affected by the disease.

Autumn and her husband Brian are the parents of a 10-year-old son -- Carter -- who last August was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. Having to manage the difficulties associated with the condition, Autumn hopes to encourage others to have their children checked out thoroughly during Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month in July.

"I'm just trying to raise awareness for it because it's a very rare disease," she said. "There are four in Paragould that I know of and we all have to go to Little Rock for treatment."

According to the Arthritis Foundation, it is a common misconception that only "old" people are afflicted with arthritis. Nearly 300,000 children in America have been diagnosed with juvenile arthritis, suffering from various autoimmune forms of it. Their body's immune system is attacking their joints, causing swelling, stiffness and permanent damage, an extremely serious condition and one that should not go untreated.

"It's really easy to misdiagnose," Autumn said, explaining that it was believed at first that Carter simply had pink eye. It is also not uncommon for young ones to have aches and pains, especially if they lead active lifestyles. "It was not pink eye, it was uveitis. When Carter complained about his knees hurting, the doctors just put it off as growing pains. Since he was little, he would cry at night because he was hurting."

"He was just misdiagnosed, like a lot of children are because it's so easy to do," Autumn added. "There are several different subtypes of juvenile arthritis. Two girls in town have the same thing as we do, two boys have something different. Carter's subtype is ERA ... Entesitis Related Arthritis. Now we have to see an ophthalmologist every three months and a doctor in Little Rock every three months."

Juvenile arthritis (JA) is not a disease in itself. Also known as pediatric rheumatic disease, JA is an umbrella term used to describe



the many autoimmune and inflammatory conditions or pediatric rheumatic diseases that can develop in children under the age of 16, the foundation says. Although the various types of juvenile arthritis share many common symptoms, like pain, joint swelling, redness and warmth, each type of JA is distinct and has its own special concerns and symptoms. Some types of juvenile arthritis affect the musculoskeletal system, but joint symptoms may be minor or nonexistent. Juvenile arthritis can also involve the eyes, skin, muscles and gastrointestinal tract.

"Carter has bad knees," Autumn said. "They said he's like an 80-year-old. He just can't do a lot of things. If a grandpa can't do it, neither can Carter -- no trampoline, no tumbling, stuff like that."

"His joints are loose, and prone to hip dislocation. It's a lifetime thing. There is a chance it will go into remission but that will be a couple of years, at least. He will not outgrow it. Going to Jr. High there will be no football, which was the most disheartening for him. The doctor said no contact sports whatsoever. There is that possibility of remission; we'll just have to wait and see."

She said much about the condition is still unknown to her, since Carter's diagnosis is less than a year old. "He was just diagnosed in August," she recalled. "A lot of it is still new to me. I've learned that most kids have lots of pain. He has a high pain tolerance; he lives it. He had never complained about his fingers and joints hurting and when the doctor rubbed on them he didn't say much of anything, but when he pressed on his spine, he cried. That's all he's known. He has grown up thinking you are just supposed to hurt."

Autumn suggests continued visits to the doctor because JA is so rare. "Even if it's diagnosed as growing pains, keep having them checked," she said. "Look further. Ask if there is bloodwork you can do. I certainly am not an expert, but I would say check out everything you can, as often as you need to."

Each of the different types of JA has its own set of signs and symptoms. You can read more specifics about the diseases by visiting the Arthritis Foundation's website dedicated to pediatric rheumatic diseases, KidsGetArthritisToo.

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# NEA BAPTIST OUTSTANDING PATIENT EXPERIENCE

NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital announced that it has achieved the Healthgrades 2017 Outstanding Patient Experience Award™. This distinction recognizes NEA Baptist among the top 15 percent of hospitals nationwide, according to Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

NEA Baptist is also the recipient of the Healthgrades 2017 Patient Safety Excellence Award™, becoming the only hospital in Arkansas to achieve *both* the Patient Experience Award and the Patient Safety Excellence Award. This combined designation ranks NEA Baptist among the top 3 percent of hospitals nationwide, according to Healthgrades.

Healthgrades evaluated 3,489 hospitals that submitted at least 100 patient experience surveys to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), covering admissions from April 2015 – March 2016 in order to identify hospital performance in this area.

“In our commitment to providing high quality health care, NEA Baptist colleagues work diligently to help ensure the safety of our patients and ultimately, to provide the best experience possible for both the patient and their loved ones,” said Brad Parsons, CEO of NEA Baptist. “We are invested in continual improvement at NEA Baptist to provide the right care, at the right place, at the right time and at the right cost. These prestigious recognitions are a true testament to the work of our team and I am proud of the engagement from our entire team to accomplish both awards. We are very proud to represent our region and our state as the only hospital in Arkansas to receive both awards. Most importantly, we are thankful for our patients who have entrusted their health to us and we look forward to continuing to provide outstanding care for the needs in our community.”



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Healthgrades evaluated performance by applying a scoring methodology to 10 patient experience measures, using data collected from a 32-question patient experience survey of the hospital's own patients. The survey questions focus on patients' perspectives of their care in the hospital. The topics of these questions ranged from cleanliness and noise levels in patient rooms to factors such as pain management and responsiveness to patients' needs. The measures also include whether a patient would recommend the hospital to friends or family.

In order to be recognized by Healthgrades, hospitals must meet eligibility requirements for consideration, which in addition to the number of survey responses includes clinical performance thresholds. Nationally, 2,941 hospitals met those requirements with 443 hospitals outperforming their peers, based on their patients' responses in order to achieve this distinction. NEA Baptist's performance places them among the top 3 percent in the nation.

"Patient experience metrics resonate with consumers as they evaluate hospitals and select where they want to receive care," said Brad Bowman, Chief Medical Officer, Healthgrades. "We commend those hospitals that have achieved the Healthgrades 2017 Outstanding Patient Experience Award for their commitment to delivering superior care experiences to patients during a hospital stay."



The Railcar Park Bench project in Paragould is making progress with the placement of the benches in June. The green space will follow when the weather is better for planting.

The idea has been long in the making but made possible by the Paragould City Beautification Commission. The Commission approved funds for the project in 2016 and the concrete work was finished but the benches have been a bit of an endeavor.

"My vision was something with a railroad theme, cool, not tacky, and usable. Several American Railcar Industries managers are in Rotary with me and we started discussions on axles being incorporated in the design. Once I was told about these antique axles from 1941 that were in the scrap pile, I knew that is what needed to be in Downtown Paragould," said Dina Mason.

The process to acquire, move and build the benches took a while but Downtown now has a "decorative yet functional" place to relax. The project has progressed with the donated help of Nunn Construction, Killer Coatings of Manila, American Railcar Industries and Perry Mason.



This photo by Joy Robinson is from the wedding of Savannah Walker and Timothy Parrott. They were married at The Crossing on June 17.



Nunn's Construction placed the axles to be painted then assembled by Perry Mason.

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**Tuesday July 25 from 4 PM - 8 PM**

*Professional Office Building at*

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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.

**TRAVEL AROUND THE  
WORLD COMMUNITY  
DIABETES PROGRAM**

**Thursday July 27 from 6 PM - 7:30 PM**

*Professional Office Building at*

*Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
AMMC Certified Diabetes Educator Allison Hitt, RN, will explore healthy foods from Greece as part of her 2017 Travel Around the World Community Diabetes Program with the help of Wal-Mart. The event is free but please RSVP by Wednesday July 26 by calling 870-239-7016.

**BREASTFEEDING CLASS**

**Monday July 17 from 6 PM - 8 PM**

*Professional Office Building at*

*Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
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. If delivering at AMMC, the class is free, otherwise, there is a small fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for classroom location, pricing, and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

**HEALTH PREGNANCY CLASS**

**Tuesday July 25 from 6 PM - 8 PM**

*Professional Office Building at*

*Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
This is a healthy pregnancy class

that can help ease the transition to parenthood for expectant mothers, their partner, and other family members. Topics include changes in early and mid-pregnancy; healthy lifestyle; coping with the discomforts of pregnancy; work-related issues; warning signs; and other information to help you have a safe, healthy, and worry-free pregnancy. This is a one-time class for expectant mothers who are prior to 16 weeks in their pregnancy. If delivering at AMMC, the class is free, otherwise, there is a small fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for classroom location, pricing and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

**INFANT SAFETY CLASS**

**Monday July 24 from 6 PM - 8 PM**

*Professional Office Building at*

*Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
This class focuses on topics including car seat safety, childproofing your home and crib safety, as well as infant CPR. This class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for the infant. If delivering at AMMC, the class is free, otherwise, there is a small fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for classroom location, pricing, and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

**RETIREES MEETING**

**Friday July 21 from 12PM - 1 PM**

*Professional Office Building at*

*Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
AMMC sponsors an employee retirees meeting every other month. This luncheon is held so that employees of the hospital who have retired have the opportunity to come together for good food, fun, and fellowship.

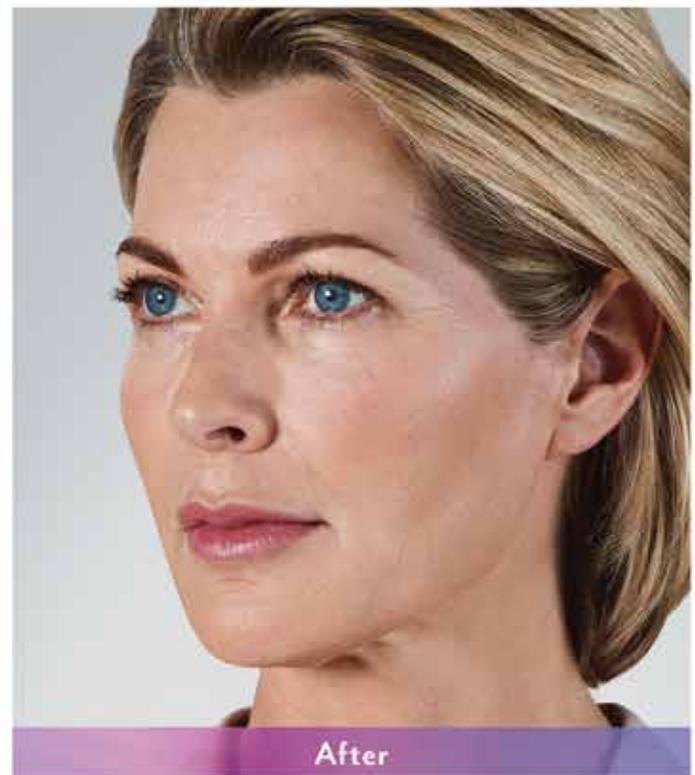


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# Your Monthly Plan to Enjoy

By Chuck Long

Late summer and fall are probably my favorite times of the year. I like spring as the outdoors come to life, but there is something about the cooling of the air, changing colors, increase in animal activity, farmers' harvest and freshness that the days bring as summer winds down into fall and then winter.

I also like all the options there is in the outdoors during the last half of the year. We talked about a few of the options for the first half of the year in January so we will take a little time this month to highlight some of the great outdoor options for the second half of the year.

July is typically hot, with words like sweltering and stifling used to describe the heat. Even in those hot days there are some great options to enjoy the outdoors. Fishing can be good but will probably be best early and late for the boat fisherman to avoid the heat. A very good option would be wade fishing some of our creeks and rivers in the northern part of Arkansas. Spring River, Eleven Point and South Fork all offer great wading options. Many of the small Ozark creeks also offer opportunities, but be sure and secure permission for these waterways. August can be a very good fishing month as our rivers often reach their lowest point of the year. Spotted (Kentucky) bass are a prime target in the Black and St. Francis rivers and catfishing can be very good as well. Take some time this month to do a little shooting, work on food plots and clear shooting lanes as hunting season is just around the corner.

September is viewed by many as the kickoff of hunting season. Doves are usually the first targets pursued by hunters as the mornings become cooler and fall slips in. Squirrel hunting is also popular and cool mornings that keep the mosquitoes at bay provide a great opportunity to get in the woods.

September is also a great time to take a road trip to the Boxley Valley area near Harrison for elk viewing as the bulls begin their rut. Bugling bulls are very common this month and the increased activity and cooler temps will make them much more visible.

October provides many opportunities. Fishing is often overlooked this time of year, but the Halloween month may be one of the best fishing months on the calendar. Fish are in a feeding mode and the bite is not as hampered by weather changes as in other months. Bow and muzzleloading seasons provide great opportunities for deer hunting as the leaves turn. This would be a great month to get out and take a drive to view the fall foliage. Many people head to the hills to see the fall colors but there are great opportunities in the Delta region to see some great fall scenery.

November is celebrated with gun deer season, duck season and turkey on the table. There are typically more hunters in the woods on the opening day of deer season than any other day of the year. Duck season begins at the end of the month and sends lots of folks to flooded fields or timber in hopes of some big greenheads. A great opportunity to celebrate duck hunting happens each year in Stuttgart

on Thanksgiving weekend with their Wings Over the Prairie festival. Duck calling, food and other vendors highlight the event.

The year wraps up in December as winter sets in. Depending on the weather, December tends to offer up some of the best duck hunting of the year. There are still ample opportunities to fill unused deer tags and many small game seasons continue, so there are plenty of options when it comes to hitting the woods. Most folks have stowed away their rods and reels in favor of a gun, but December can provide some great fishing, especially for trout, walleye, sauger and even catfish.

Take a break from the outdoors for a day or two and enjoy the Christmas season. Watch a good Christmas movie (we like "The Grinch"), enjoy some good food and celebrate the birth of our Savior with family and friends.

I hope you will get out and enjoy the outdoors and if you need any help with any of the ideas you can reach me at [Charles.long@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Charles.long@agfc.ar.gov) or at (870)215-3633. Thanks for reading and I hope to see you out there!



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# Business is Booming DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD

They say the health of your city is evident in the condition of your Downtown; if that is true, Paragould has been working on its cardio lately!

The “One and Only” Downtown Paragould continues to see businesses open in the Main Street Paragould service area. Since January, five new businesses have opened: Positively Plants, The Tiny Twig, Gracefully Southern Accessories and Gifts, Heather’s Wish-Upon-A-Star, and Affordable Furniture. Royalty Cabinets and Furniture Refinishing, R Co Elements, Bookkeeping Solutions of NE AR, the Greene County Foundation, and Stidham Financial Services have all chosen to relocate to Downtown.

Two existing businesses have had major expansions. Peak Fitness purchased a building on Pruett and after major renovations moved into its new location in February. Lucille’s Generations moved just a couple of storefronts from the building it had occupied for many years and almost tripled the size, opening the opportunity to offer more services for clients. Eight new senior housing units were also completed.

Investment continues, as through May 2017 \$836,193.20 has been spent on building improvements, and properties have sold at a value of \$643,000. And the growth continues. The soon to open Paisley Pineapple is making improvements to its new space. The new owners of Terry’s Cafe have spruced

up and have brought new life to the established eatery.

There is interest in the 10,000 square foot building at Pruett and Court streets that was built in the ‘60s as a Sterling Store. Local officials are hoping, with fingers crossed, an announcement will be made within the next month that that space is rented.

Main Street faces the challenge of not having space available to rent due to underutilized properties like buildings being used for storage by the properties’ owners, or those unimproved and not in rentable condition. “Having a waiting list sounds great, but really it slows progress,” said Gina Jarrett, Main Street Paragould Director.

“Shop Small and Shop Local are not just slogans. There are so many opportunities in Downtown Paragould to practice what you preach. These locals are investing in the life of your town. Let’s support them,” said Jarrett. “There are many businesses that have been in Downtown for a long time and we appreciate their commitment and encourage everyone to Shop Small, y’all.”

Main Street Paragould’s mission of revitalizing Downtown continues and although challenging, the progress of late is very encouraging. If you would like to get involved, or are interested in investing as a merchant or property owner, or if you have always wanted to live Downtown contact Jarrett at 870-240-0544.



The Tiny Twig, 113 West Court Street, Paragould



Gracefully Southern Accessories & Gifts, 203 North Pruett Street, Paragould

Read more on the Downtown Paragould Progress in next month’s Premiere, when we feature Arts & Entertainment opportunities.



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# LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney



For the early years of my life, when I thought of the 4th of July I thought of fireworks. Like all good American boys, I grew up having bottle rocket battles with my friends, shooting off Roman candles into the night sky, and going to the city's firework show.

Now that I am older, the 4th of July means a lot more to me than fireworks. When I hear the words "Independence Day" I think of a lot more than Will Smith saving the world from aliens.

As a grown man, when I think of the 4th of July I think of the freedom my grandfathers and many others helped secure for me today.

As I shoot off fireworks with my own kids, enjoy lemonade on the front porch with my wife or mow my own lawn, I think about the sacrifice of soldiers who throughout time have fought for my freedom.

I don't take my life for granted. Each day, because men and women were willing to lay down their life for me, I can experience the life I am living today. This isn't lost on me. I am forever grateful.

Above all, when I think of the day where we celebrate our freedom, I think of the sacrifice Jesus has made for the freedom of the world. I remember the words of Paul in Acts 13:38-39, "Let it be known to you therefore, brothers,

that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything..."

We all long for freedom, and we all have things we still long to be freed from. I rejoice in the truth that Jesus came for the purpose of freeing us from everything that enslaves us and keeps us from experiencing the life we long for.

My prayer is that each person reading this will enjoy the freedom we get to experience in America. More than that, my prayer is that you will be able to rejoice in and celebrate the ultimate freedom that is found in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.



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# *The art of interior design* **Storage on Display**

**N**ot all of us have shelves and multiple closets for hiding our day to day clutter, and space is not always maximized even then.

For example, my 130-year-old home has multiple large rooms, but very little cupboard space or even closets, for that matter. So those of us plagued with this dilemma need to come up with some fresh approaches to storing our items, be they seasonal, day to day, or junk.

Use some of your bowls, vintage finds or everyday household items to store kitchen gadgets, napkins, coffee filters, tea bags and cereals to-go. These can all take up valuable cupboard space that you may not have. When you need the counter space, they can easily be stacked to the side and replaced when done.

Use an attractive jar or basket to throw your daily loose change in. I fill up my gas tank about every two months on one of these.

Use furniture to re-purpose your storage, like this vintage tea cart for after five beverages. Put an extra dining chair in the living room for more seating, eliminating a tight table.

Boxes like these can be found at stores like IKEA and are great and can also be used to store supplies of personal care products.

Also look for specialty organizers for socks and under garments, keeping dresser drawers from getting out of hand.

Purchase kitchen bowls, baking dishes and plates that can easily stack on top of each other. Use racks in tight spaces to optimize your cubic feet.

Mount a multipurpose helper like this to keep bills going out and keys from getting lost.

Purchase a French board with a writing apparatus to keep important notes and remind you of chores to be done.



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# Welcome Home

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How YOU Can Make a Difference



Second Home Shoppe is a retail second-hand store that offers apparel for women, men, and children plus housewares, furniture, toys and more. Our mission is to provide funding for the Family Crisis Center.

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## SHOP



If you are looking for unique, vintage items and great deals on designer items look no further than Second Home Shoppe! Our wide selection of clothing and home items will delight you and our prices are incredible! Not only will you go home with something that makes you smile, but you also get to feel good knowing you've helped someone in need. The revenue generated from your purchases will go toward our mission of assisting the Family Crisis Center to help those in need. Come see us today to acquire your newest find!



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Thinking of getting new furniture? Tired of your current wardrobe? Have your kids outgrown their toys? We would love to give these things a second home! Your donations help us stock our shelves to provide funds for the Family Crisis Center and gives shoppers a chance to give old items new life. Not only are these treasures sold at an affordable price to the public, but we also use donations to provide clothing, toys, and furnishings - at no cost - for our clients who may have had to rebuild their lives after escaping domestic abuse situations. Help bring hope and home to those in need!



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# AMMC NAMES

## RACHEL FREEZE

### MARKETING COORDINATOR



Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has named Rachel Freeze as its Marketing Coordinator. Rachel comes to AMMC from St. Bernards Health and Wellness where she managed the company's social media platforms and website and designed marketing material.

As AMMC's Marketing Coordinator, Freeze will use her experience to maintain all of the medical center's social media platforms as well as assist with all other internal and external marketing communications of the hospital and its entities. She is a member of the Arkansas Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations group through the Arkansas Hospital Association in Little Rock as well as a Paragould Young Professional through the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Freeze earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Graphic Communications from Arkansas State University in 2010. She went on to complete her Master of Science in Mass Communications in 2015 and possesses a Health Communications Certificate.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: [www.arkansasmethodist.org](http://www.arkansasmethodist.org).

# Accreditation AMMC LABORATORIES



Some of AMMC's Laboratory employees pictured back row, left to right, are Tammy Bishop, Elizabeth McDermott, Jennifer Shrable, Angie Scott, Lee Sisk, Arleen Brown, Cindy Bowers and Scott Brooks. Pictured in the front row are Teresa Clark, Brandi Hooten, Amber Stuart and Melanie Roberts.

The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has awarded accreditation to the main laboratory at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center as well as the lab located at Paragould Medical Park, based on results of a recent on-site inspection as part of the CAP's Accreditation Programs.

The laboratory's medical director, Terri Y. Green, M.D., was advised of the national recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided. Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's laboratories are two of more than 7,700 CAP-accredited laboratories worldwide. According to Dr. Green, "Our patients can be assured that their local labs uphold the same quality standards as any major hospital lab in the country because of our CAP Accreditation and the standard of quality it possesses."

The U.S. federal government recognizes the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, as being equal-to or more-stringent-than the government's own inspection program.

During the CAP accreditation process, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors

examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record and overall management.

As the leading organization with more than 18,000 board-certified pathologists, the College of American Pathologists (CAP) serves patients, pathologists and the public by fostering and advocating excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine worldwide.

The CAP's Laboratory Improvement Programs, initiated 65 years ago, currently have customers in more than 100 countries, accrediting 7,700 laboratories and providing proficiency testing to 20,000 laboratories worldwide. Find more information about the CAP at [cap.org](http://cap.org). Follow CAP on Twitter @pathologists.



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Major Jim Largent



Sgt. Nathannel Kent

## SERVING FELLOW SOLDIERS TO THE END

**I**t's not as if retired Major Jim Largent doesn't have enough to keep him occupied. His job as Sales Manager at Glen Sain Ford in Paragould and his role as the Commander of Adams-Jackson Post 17 of the American Legion take up more than just a few hours of his week.

But it's his role as a volunteer that helps provide a much-needed and deeply meaningful service to countless others that brings him great satisfaction, and at the same time gives consolation to families across the state.

"Once a soldier, always a soldier, no soldier left behind," Major Largent stated, and he added, "from the cradle to the grave."

Major Largent helps assist the Arkansas National Guard Military Honor Team, rendering Military Funeral Honors for eligible veterans. They cover the areas "from West Memphis, to Forrest City over to Bald Knob, up to Mountain Home and to the Missouri state line and back across to Piggott in the Northeast corner of the state," he said. "We perform services for all officers and enlisted soldiers who have passed to the great beyond."

He has averaged 3,500-4,000 miles in travel annually and says it is an honor to serve on the Military Honors Team. "These soldiers who have served our country and passed away have earned respect and a military funeral, which is much appreciated by service member families," he said, adding that he has tried over the years to make sure everyone who has earned military honors is covered.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran, free of charge, is mandated by law. A military funeral honors detail for the burial of an eligible veteran is to consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail should be a representative of the branch of service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the playing of Taps and folding and presenting of the American flag to the spouse or next of kin.

"The funeral home starts the process," Major Largent said. "They are supposed to ask the family if they want a military funeral for the deceased soldier. If the soldier did not have 20 years of service they authorize a two-to-three-man team -- playing of Taps, NCO and me to fold the flag. If the soldier is a retiree or KIA (killed in action) he gets a seven-man detail. The duties of a seven-man team include performing duties as pall bearers, a three-man firing detail with an NCO in charge, a soldier to play Taps and a two-man detail to fold and present the flag to the spouse or next of kin."

Northeast Arkansas comes under the direction of the Fort Sill Casualty Assistance Center (CAC) area of responsibility for military funeral support as prescribed by AR 638-8. It includes the two-state areas of Oklahoma and Arkansas. The preferred method for verifying eligibility is the DD Form 214, or discharge papers if available. If the family cannot find the proper paperwork, the soldier's Social Security number will also work.

"Let the funeral director know if you want military honors," Major Largent emphasized. "If the funeral director does not know or does not ask if your family member served in the military, then he will not contact proper authorities. Every soldier who has served in the military and received an honorable discharge is eligible for military funeral honors, which they have earned for serving their country.

"The National Guard is always looking for soldiers, men or women, to join the Military Honors Team," he said. "The qualification to serve on the team includes you must be a member of the National Guard, be able to pass the PT test, be interviewed by the selection board, and pass a two-week training course at Camp Robinson."

Major Largent entered the Missouri Army National Guard in 1969 when he enlisted as an E2. He entered active duty in 1973 and was eventually promoted to Sgt. First Class, and after OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia, took commission to Second Lt. on active duty in

1975, eventually being promoted to Major. He retired after 23 years in 1993. He said about four years ago he approached his boss, Danny Ford, to see if he would allow him to join the Military Honors Team and he agreed to let him off work to perform at the funerals. "I want to thank him for allowing me to join the team," he said. "Danny has always been committed to honor our soldiers."

He said now it "depends on whose records you look at to know how many military funerals I've done." His records indicate he has performed more than 210. "In the beginning, I was doing some of them by myself." As a retiree, he is not eligible to be paid for doing military funerals nor does he get reimbursement for travel. He uses his own car and pays for travel expenses. The remaining team members are placed on active duty for the day and travel in military vehicles.

"It's just an honor for me to be a member of the team," he said. "These teams work hard seven days a week, 10- and 12-hour days. We do this to honor our fellow soldiers," and he said he plans to remain working with the team until he is told he is too old to continue.

He said anyone needing information locally or anyone eligible who wants to become a team participant may contact him at 870-215-6655 and he will gladly point them in the right direction. He would also like to see more veterans become involved with the American Legion Post 17 in Paragould, which meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Masonic Lodge on Court Street.

"Our numbers are dwindling because of age," he said. "Sixteen members passed away in the past twelve months and we need new members to keep the Legion open. The American Legion works with ROTC programs in Paragould, sent high school kids to Boys State and Girls State, works with the American Legion ball team, Boy Scouts and the VA Clinic here in Greene County, among other programs we are involved in. There is a lot to do and we need new members to help."



**T**here is a housing BOOM in Downtown Jonesboro.

Hailey Knight, Executive Director of Downtown Jonesboro, is excited about the new residents and what they will bring to downtown. The more people living downtown, the more support for local businesses in the district.

“We LOVE seeing family housing and the cool lofts developing. These residents will walk our sidewalks to eat at our restaurants, take the kids to dance and play practice, the eye doctor and so much more. It is exactly our Eat. Shop.Live!

“We have had residential development in Downtown Jonesboro and they have always contributed to the success. But we are seeing a great boom and a diverse mixture of the available living options.”

If you are interested in living in Downtown Jonesboro, contact Knight at 870.935.0240.



George and Janice Stem on the rooftop of the Wesley on Union loft project. The project started when their son, Hayden, brought the empty building and the loft idea to his parents’ attention.



Pictures are interior shots of Westley lofts and the outdoor patio space.



The exterior of the East Street Lofts.

## **The Wesley (former Massanelli Laundry & Cleaners)**

This project started in 2016 when Hayden Stem spotted the building (which had been empty for more than a year) downtown one day. After he and his dad, George, looked at it, they decided to renovate the space, located at 222 Union Street, and create 11 loft units.

The Stems then went hard to work with the help of architect Jim Little, and were able to clean up the building and reconstruct the units. Janice Stem oversaw the interior design, and decided to go with a modern look including beautiful cabinetry, trendy accents, and a nice improvement to the façade.

The Stems also incorporated two rooftop patios, one having its own fireplace area, and a specialized app for the Wesley. Working closely with Gateway Engineering, they came up with the control system for security and locks using an app. No one needs a key to live or park there!

## **411 Union (former Eden building)**

411 Union was home to Eden Medical Spa and Noah the Children's Boutique before it suffered a catastrophic fire in the summer of 2015, where three lofts were lost and four businesses were forced to relocate.

For months, the building sat empty without any movement. That is, until Mike Ebbert set his eyes on it. When Mike started to inquire about the building, he learned that demolition might very well be in the near future for 411.

The building had significant historical value, with roots dating back to the early 1900s when CWL was housed there. Mike purchased the property and renovated it for five lofts (three upstairs, two in the basement) and a business with over 50 employees.

## **East Street**

East Street is home to 13 more lofts, by Ted Herget. Owner of Gearhead and a Downtown visionary, Ted saw opportunity to provide more homes for people who were looking to live right in the heart of Jonesboro.

After Newell Design came up with the renderings, construction began in late 2016. The lofts, which are two-story, each has its own garage, balcony, and 2-3 bedroom floor plans.

Ted hopes to bring more families downtown with his development, and to keep building more into Downtown Jonesboro.

## **Madison Place**

When Mat and Heather Clark had the opportunity to purchase 311 W. Huntington, they didn't hesitate. The property, which currently houses the Hispanic Community Services, Inc., also included a swath of land right next to the building -- 311 Madison.

Focused on providing affordable housing while revitalizing the core of Jonesboro, Mat and Heather quickly came up with the idea to develop six new row houses, just steps away from the arts and entertainment district on Main Street.

Each two story house features three bedrooms, three bathrooms, spacious living areas and their own private backyard space with decks.

# Paragould Premiere Awards

# 2017



## And the winner is...

Thank You, Premiere readers and Jack, Jill, and iRock Radio Listeners! You never fail to support your local businesses!

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

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

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**20 16 PREMIERE AWARDS WINNER**

**20 17 PREMIERE PARAGOULD WINNERS**

The image features a wooden background with several Premier Awards logos. A large silver house-shaped keychain and a set of silver keys are prominently displayed in the foreground.

# Award Winners

## Wrecker Service

Rudi's Towing

## Interior Design

Gamble Home  
Furnishings

## Local Festival

Get Downtown  
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## Mental Health

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- Families, Inc  
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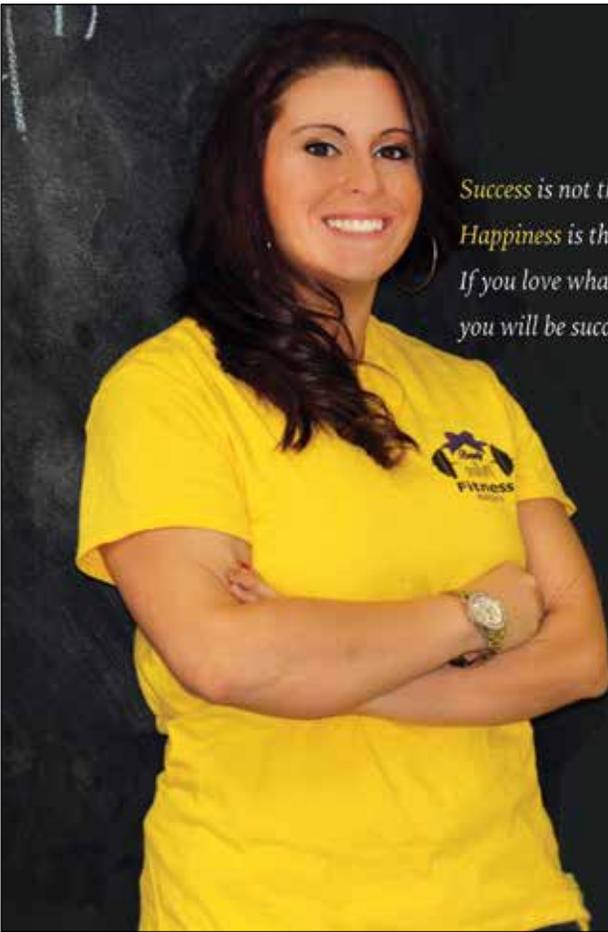
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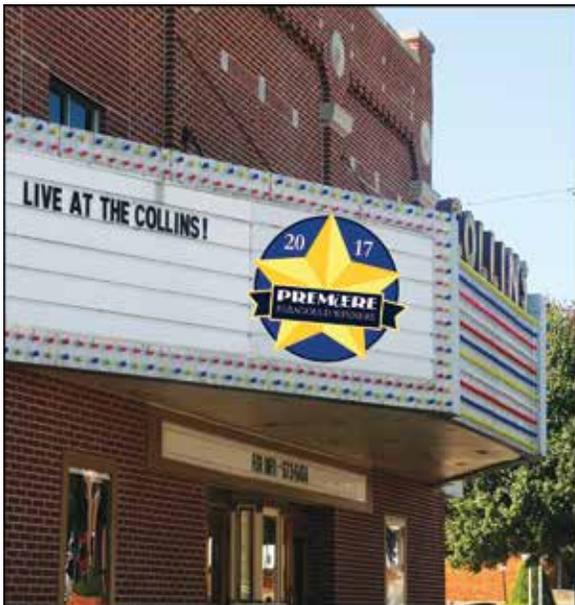
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# GET RICH

with Richard Brummett

**T**here is a good reason the previous month

-- June -- centers a lot of attention on brides. The tradition of honoring June brides dates back to Roman times and the festival of the deity Juno and his wife Jupiter, who was the goddess of marriage and childbirth, on the first day of June. Whatever the reason, it's a good idea.

Being a longtime husband, Lord knows I understand if anyone deserves a little pampering it is the new bride, who will then assume the title of wife. That being said, and the calendar having turned to July, I feel it is my duty now to give a few tips to the new husbands, just to help them have smooth sailing on their newly discovered sea of matrimony and avoid winding up alone on Doghouse Island.

We guys like to think we're funny, but it is necessary to choose words wisely when directing them at the spouse. For instance, when the two of you hop into your new vehicle and a dashboard icon lights up saying, "Passenger Airbag On," do not say, "You're telling me."

While you and all your buddies will automatically chuckle at the utterance, your new bride will tilt her head slightly, raise one eyebrow and give you a look that you will come to recognize as a bad thing. You will notice that her mouth is not curving up at

the corners indicating a smile, but rather it will remain in a very straight line, indicating she is not impressed with your attempts at humor.

If you manage to take a trip to a beach during the early-wedded times, you will be faced with many difficult situations, not the least being a time when you are minding your own business and trying to be a good new husband while at the same time being confronted with some obviously still single and well-toned young women passing by in bikinis. Your gut instinct will be to react just as you would if you were hanging with a group of your single buddies, but this will no longer work in your newly-found wedded state.

Your wife is going to pick up on any turning of your head and slight movements of your eyeballs and sooner or later will come out with, "Oh, is that what you like?"

Be careful here and taste your words carefully. If not, you are bound to blurt out, "No, I don't like hot, sexy girls. I like women like you."

You are drifting closer to the island.

Back at home, your wife may in the early days go a little overboard in trying to please you. Unfortunately, she will not understand that when you have the Big Game on TV, what you really want is to be left alone. She might keep asking questions at most

inopportune times, just trying to be the sweet new wife. Do you want a sandwich? Can she put a pillow under your neck? Do you need a shoulder rub? Rest assured, these questions will all go away soon enough, but in the beginning just let them ride. Don't make the mistake of asking why she's trying so hard.

She will say, "I was just trying to be nice," and you will come back with, "Don't try to be nice, Honey, just be yourself."

As I said, all those attempts will soon go away forever.

And finally, never, ever, EVER say anything about her weight or shape that is not extremely complimentary. If she has already tried on four different outfits while you have been fully dressed and fidgeting with your car keys and listening to your stomach growl, just take it. She will eventually come down the hallway and turn slightly, standing on her tiptoes while glancing over her shoulder at her behind before saying, "Are these jeans too tight?"

With all your power resist saying, "The jeans are fine ... your butt's too big."

Just trust me on this one and get ready to purchase a new dinette set, one that she will thoroughly enjoy and one you will not need on Doghouse Island.

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# July 2017 Kids' Events

**5, 12, 19, 26**

## Story Time

**When:** Wednesdays, 10:30 AM  
**Where:** Greene County Library,  
120 North 12th Street, Paragould  
**Info:** [www.mylibrarynow.org](http://www.mylibrarynow.org)

**13**

## Clement-McCrae Marionettes

**When:** Wednesday, 10 AM - 11 AM  
**Where:** Parker Park Community Center,  
1506 N Church St, Jonesboro, AR 72401  
**Info:** [www.mylibrarynow.org](http://www.mylibrarynow.org)

**26**

## The Kinders in Concert

**When:** Wednesday, 10 AM - 11 AM  
**Where:** Allen Park Community Center,  
3609 Race St, Jonesboro, AR 72401  
**Info:** [www.mylibrarynow.org](http://www.mylibrarynow.org)



Raegan Dorton joined hundreds of others in showing her support at the Clint Dickson Super Draft softball tournament in Jonesboro. Raegan, almost 2, is the daughter of Matt and Jill Dorton of Bono.

# July

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 05

**What:** Natural History Educational Company of the Midsouth

**When:** Wednesday July 5th, 10 AM - 11 AM

**Where:** Parker Park Community Center, Jonesboro

**Info:** The Offsite Performers this week are the animals of the Natural History Educational Company of the Midsouth. Bob Tarter will bring the animals to the two locations on this day. The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library offers Offsite Events each Wednesday throughout the summer where kids can enjoy a performance away from the library. The events are held at the Parker Park Community Center each Wednesday at 10 a.m. and at The Mall at Turtle Creek each Wednesday at 2 p.m. All events are led by performers brought in by the library to provide a fun and educational event.

### 06

**What:** Heart Fore Kids Golf Classic

**When:** Thursday July 6th, 11:30 AM

**Where:** Paragould Country Club

**Info:** Open to all men, women, and junior amateurs, the event will be a 4-person team scramble with all proceeds from the tournament going to help kids in Northeast Arkansas receive healthcare at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Lunch and registration will begin at 11:30; Shotgun Start is a 1 p.m. Cost is \$300 per team with hole sponsorships available. For more information, or to register, contact Jason Weatherford at (870) 476-0781 or email [jason.weatherford@lscihelp.com](mailto:jason.weatherford@lscihelp.com).

### 07

**What:** FOA Cinderella Jr. Musical

**When:** Friday July 7th, 6 PM

**Where:** The Forum, Jonesboro

**Info:** To purchase tickets, visit [foajonesboro.org](http://foajonesboro.org). For more information, call (870) 935-2726.

### 08

**What:** Parents Night Out

**When:** Saturday July 8th, 7 PM - 10 PM

**Where:** Just Pretend Play & Party, LLC

**Info:** For more information, call Just Pretend Play & Party at (870) 240-0211.

### 13

**What:** Disney's The Little Mermaid

**When:** July 13th, 14th, 15th, 7:30 PM  
July 16th, 2 PM

**Where:** Paragould High School

**Info:** Enjoy this performance of the Disney hit classic, The Little Mermaid. The GCFAC's Summer Musical, directed by Krisie Holmes, is Disney's "The Little Mermaid"! Performance Dates are July 13-16, 2017, at the Paragould High School Auditorium. Purchase tickets at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) or visit [gcfac.org](http://gcfac.org).

### 21

**What:** Ultimate Oldies Show

**When:** Friday and Saturday July 21-22, 7 PM

**Where:** Collins Theatre

**Info:** YOUR FAVORITE SONGS FROM THE '50s, '60s, AND '70s. Performers for the show include: Craig Morris, Donna Rhodes, Sam Morris, Savannah Morris, Lori Dial, Ryan Fisher, Suzie Stacey, Chandler Gill, Richie Williams and Shannon Freeman. They are accompanied by Ken Wadley (keyboard), Mark Owen (guitar), Jay Shepherd (bass), Teddy Hoke (drums), Josh Mobley and Brandon Bakala (trumpet), Michael Newson and C J Slatton (saxophone). For this upcoming show, a limited number of reserved seats will be available at \$20 per seat. Reserved seats can only be held by calling 870-215-2253. Tickets WILL NOT be available at Ignited Gifts or PostNet.

### 24

**What:** Bluegrass Monday

**When:** Monday July 24th, 7 PM

**Where:** Collins Theatre

**Info:** Collins Theatre will host Bluegrass Monday with Kenny and Amanda Smith. Ticket reservations may be made by calling 870-573-6454.

### 26

**What:** Pinocchio 3.5

**When:** Wednesday July 26th, 10 AM

**Where:** Fowler Center

**Info:** Gill Bates has the greatest software company on earth, but there's still something missing in his life: children. He builds a robot companion named Pinocchio. But this mischievous mass of microchips is led into a consumer frenzy. What follows is a wacky retelling of the 19th-century classic about what it takes to become a real human being. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For tickets call (870) 972-ASU1. For more information please call (870) 972-2037.

### 28

**What:** FOA High School Musical

**When:** Friday July 28th, 6 PM

**Where:** The Forum, Jonesboro

**Info:** To purchase tickets, visit [foajonesboro.org](http://foajonesboro.org). For more information, call (870) 935-2726.

### Aug 05

**What:** FOA High School Musical

**When:** Friday July 28th, 6 PM

**Where:** The Forum, Jonesboro

**Info:** To purchase tickets, visit [foajonesboro.org](http://foajonesboro.org). For more information, call (870) 935-2726.

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

[graphics@mormediainc.com](mailto:graphics@mormediainc.com)

# Recurring EVENTS

**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.

**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.

**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. [tcfornortheastarkansas@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfornortheastarkansas@yahoo.com).

**Second Thursday of every month:** Alzheimer's Support Group with Alzheimer's Arkansas and Dierksen Hospice, 1:00 PM at Chateau on the Ridge.

**Third Monday of every month:** Greene County Retired Teachers Meeting, 11:30 a.m. at Grecian Steak House. All retired Greene County school personnel are invited.

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

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

**Every Thursday:** Alcoholics Anonymous, meets at noon in the Welcome Center classroom at Paragould First United Methodist Church. The group is open; but court slips will not be signed. Meetings are free. For information contact Lynn at 419-350-1275 or the church at 870-239-8541. The church is located at 404 West Main Street.

# Morningside FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION LUNCH

In June, Morningside of Jonesboro hosted an event to honor first responders in Craighead County and to show their appreciation and thank them for the services they provide to the community.

They served barbeque and ice cream. First responders and residents enjoyed the perfect weather and each other's company.

This is the third year that Morningside of Jonesboro has hosted the event, which was open to any law enforcement members, fire fighters, and EMTs.



# NEA COOK

## Diana Tucker

Diana Tucker is the office manager at a small farm in Northeast Arkansas. "I'm the second child of five and the aunt of ten nieces and nephews. Needless to say when our family is together, there is never a dull moment."

### OOEY GOOEY Chocolate Chip Cookies

#### Ingredients:

1 lb.	butter (unsalted) softened
1 1/2 cups	granulated sugar
2 1/2 cups	brown sugar
4	large eggs
3 1/4 cups	cake flour
3 cups	all purpose flour
2t	baking powder
2t	baking soda
1 1/2 tbsp	vanilla extract
1 tbsp	salt
1 lb.	milk chocolate chips
1 lb.	semi-sweet chocolate chips

#### Directions:

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees

Creame butter, granulated and brown sugar together. Add butter and sugar combined and add one egg at a time (mixing in between each egg). Add vanilla extract. Shift flour (cake and all-purpose), baking powder, baking soda and salt together. Fold in chocolate chips.

When all ingredients are combined, using a cookie scoop place 12 scoops of cookies on a parchment-covered cookie sheet about 1 and 1/2 inches apart. Cook for 8 to 10 minutes. This recipe makes tons and tons of cookies.



**Occupation/Family:** I'm the office manager at a small farm in Northeast Arkansas. I'm the second child of five and the aunt of ten nieces and nephews. Needless to say, when our family is together, there is never a dull moment.

**How did you learn to cook?** Learning to cook was a combination of watching/helping my mom, grandmas, and aunts. Somewhere along the way I fell in love with cooking and decided to start watching the Food Network. I picked up a lot of skills from some of my favorite cooks on that channel.

**What is your favorite dish to cook?** My favorite dish to cook is vegetable beef soup with cornbread (this soup takes all day ... kind of slow and steady makes it that much better). My grandpa use to make this soup for us every year, during the winter. It's funny how the taste of certain food can transport one back to a certain place and time, filled with tons of memories.

**Funniest/worst cooking disaster?** Oh gosh, I'm a little embarrassed to even tell this one! One of my favorite things to do is bake and I'm always trying to multitask, no matter what I'm doing (notice I said try, cause most of the time something is a fail

During finals my senior year at Arkansas State University, I decided to make some chocolate chip cookies while trying to study. I forgot to set the timer, got lost in studying financial formulas, and forgot all about the cookies. Sometime later I started to smell something burning and remembered the cookies. My apartment smelt like burnt cookies for quite a while after that. I didn't get any cookies and I had to finish studying in the library.

**What advice do you have for kids wanting to learn to cook?** Don't worry if something doesn't turn out the way you want it to the first time. Like everything else, cooking takes practice and patience. Just make sure to have fun, be creative, and don't be afraid to try new things.





By Caitlin LaFarlette

**I**t's high-time Jonesboro had its own master of pizza joints, and Eleanor's Pizzeria definitely deserves the title.

The new addition to downtown Jonesboro opened in early May and hit the ground running after days of teasing future customers with Facebook photos of delicious pies and salads. Snuggled in with the rest of the bars and eateries on Main Street, Eleanor's is almost a hole-in-the-wall establishment that, when walking through the doors, reminds one of an industrial warehouse. But an industrial warehouse that smells of mouth-watering pizza fresh from the oven.

Low lighting and iron and woodwork give Eleanor's an almost edgy atmosphere, but it remains blessedly calm compared to other establishments, making it easy to have a relaxed night with friends where you can actually hear each other talk. Even if you are a party of two (or one!), the staff will quickly make friends with you and make you feel at home. On opening weekend the waiters and waitresses were helpful, patient, and extremely knowledgeable about the various pie flavors and local craft beers.

And after all that as a warm welcome comes the highlight of the evening: the almost comically large pizza that is sure to last three more meals. The worst part? Deciding what type of pizza to order. Eleanor's uses fresh, local ingredients to craft spinach, Italian, Margherita and classic pepperoni pies, and Caesar, spinach and antipasto salads. And if you just can't make up your mind, feel free to build your own pizza or salad. It's that easy.

It's tempting to order an entire pizza but if you aren't sharing with a large group, you might want to stick with the slice of the day. Don't be fooled by the name — this "slice" is larger than two slices of a Domino's or Papa John's pizza and you will be stuffed by the time you bite into the last piece.

If craft beer is your thing, Eleanor's hits it on the mark again. Their menu offers a great selection of Arkansan craft beers, as well as a few from breweries in Memphis. Many serve up chocolate or hazelnut undertones, but each comes with a recommendation on what flavor pizza to eat with it.

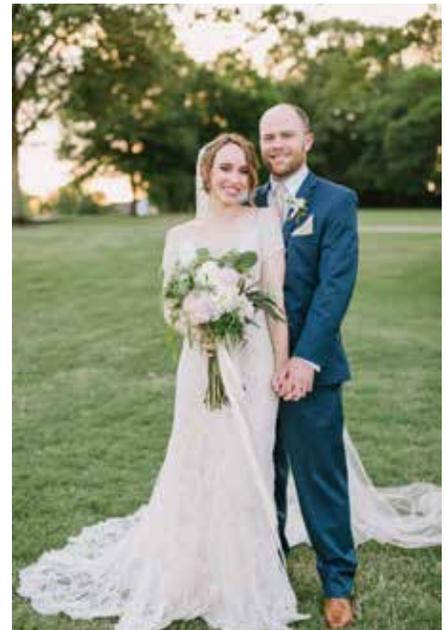


# Backyard Beautiful

## *Callie & Dustin Kellums*



*Photography by Kati Mallory*



**C**allie Layer and Dustin Kellums were married on April 30, 2016, in the backyard of the bride's parents in Jonesboro.

Callie is the daughter of Dawn and Dennis Layer of Jonesboro and Dustin is the son of Kim and David Kellums of Paragould.

The two met while in their respective high schools but reconnected years later in Little Rock. After deciding they wanted to move back to Jonesboro before they got married, picking a venue for the outdoor wedding Callie had always dreamed of became more difficult.

She soon realized the perfect venue was in her own parents' back yard adjacent to the 13th tee box of the Jonesboro Country Club. In addition, there happened to be a vacant lot next door that offered a perfect spot for a tented reception.

Rain then became the main concern with a 90 percent chance in the forecast but "we feel God smiled on us when the skies cleared in the early afternoon. Many prayers went up for us on that day," said Callie. But the couple hedged their bets by following an old Southern tradition of burying a bottle of bourbon upside down at the wedding site 30 days prior, to keep it from raining at the wedding.

A few hundred family and friends were there to celebrate and dance to one of Callie and Dustin's favorite bands, Tyler Kinchen and the Right Pieces, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Callie and Dustin make their home in Jonesboro where Callie is a pharmacist and Dustin is Sales Manager at JV Rockwell Publishing. They are expecting their first child in late September.





# HAPPENINGS



## AMMC AUXILIARY OFFICERS

The AMMC Auxiliary recently installed new officers for the 2017-2018 year. Pictured left to right are Treasurer Linda Hoppe, Vice President Phyllis Hamblen, Secretary Phyllis Holmblad, President-elect Becky Jenkins and President Sherry Noble.

## AMMC AUXILIARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR EMMA BRASHER



AMMC Auxiliary past-President Pat Dowdy presents Auxiliary member Emma Brasher with the 2017 Auxilian Member of the Year award.



## GIRL SCOUTS HELP OUT

Greene County Girl Scout Troop 3487 built a ramp for a young girl in the community with disabilities for easier entry to her home.

Pictured: Andrew Tousley, Lori Neal, Madison Wright, Alyssa Ellis, Destiny Morris, Aubrey Tousley, Jaylyn Goodwin, Elysia Wagner, Lacie Mathis, MaKinzie Gray, Cailee Capps, Ashten Warren, Savanna Cable, and Madison Shelton.

## JACKIE VANSKOY PREMIERE GRAPHIC DESIGNER



Hello! I'm Jackie VanScoy, a Graphic Designer who graduated from Arkansas State University in May 2017. Painting comes as a second nature to me after graphic design, so I paint for fun and for my own YouTube channel. My favorite television show is The Office (U.S.) and the end goal for me is to live in a big city and work somewhere I can bring my dog, Carly, to work and design like nobody's business.

# ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS



## *Vangilder-Glover*

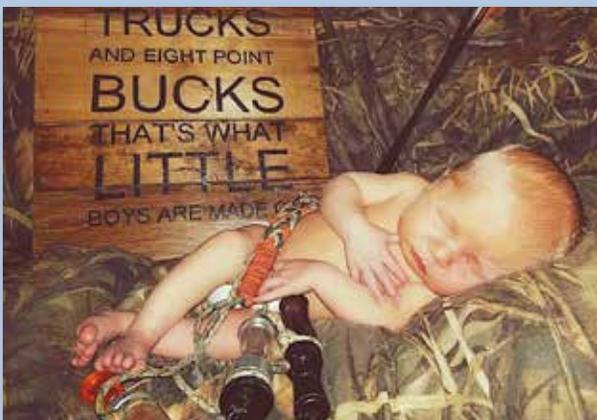
Sierra Vangilder and Ryne Glover have announced their plans for a July wedding.

Sierra is the daughter of Kenny and Teresa Vangilder of Marmaduke.

Ryne's parents are Stan and Cara Glover of Searcy.

The wedding will be July 29th at West Side Church of Christ in Searcy.

# BIRTHS



## *Tyner Lane Calver*

Brittany Crawford and Trevor Calver of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Tyner Lane Calver.

Born April 14, 2017, at NEA Baptist Hospital in Jonesboro, the baby weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Siblings are Makenlee Brooke. Grandparents are Earl and Melinda Crawford and Tim and Paige Calver.

## *Avery Renee Compton*

Nathan and Stefanie Compton of Delaplaine announce the birth of their daughter, Avery Renee Compton.

Born April 19, 2017, at St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro, the baby weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

Sibling is Case, 2. Grandparents are James and Nancy Compton of Delaplaine, Rick and Terry Conrad of Paragould and Quentin and Diana Duff of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.



Photography by Natalie Gray

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# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

Get Ready!



We will have Back to School preparations from nutrition to fashion.

## For the Kids



H4LRanch has served kids in NE Arkansas and continues to expand. Tune in to the August edition for more information.

## Heart Fore Kids Golf



See the Weatherford Family and friends efforts to raise money for LeBonheur Children's Hospital!

**"Happy 4th of July!"**

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