

PREMIERE

June
2017

PREMIERE
MAGAZINE
30
UNDER 40

A FATHER'S DAY *bedtime story*

NEA RACE FOR THE CURE

ART & STROLL

NEA SENIORS

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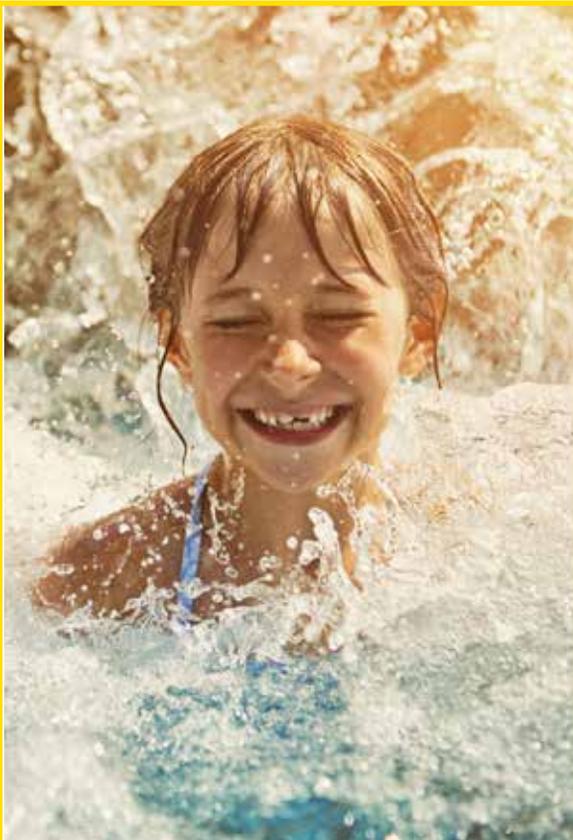
JOEL EPPERSON, M.D.

June is Men's Health Month. This month is all about encouraging early detection and treatment of diseases among men. This is the best time to start practicing sun-safe behaviors and to get your skin checked for suspicious moles and lesions.



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Richard Brummett

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From The

PUBLISHER...

DINA MASON

Thank you to all the readers for the congratulations and “atta boys” on the 15 years of MOR MEDIA, Inc., and 10 years of publishing Premiere Magazine! Everyone needs a battery recharge and this certainly has us at full power to press on.

Everyone needs a battery recharge and this certainly has us at full power to press on.

This edition holds lots of variety with our quarterly NEA Seniors edition and the second annual 30 Under 40 section, highlighting area leaders and their efforts to make an impact on the communities we serve. And

of course, June is the month for Father’s Day and we highlight two dads, one influenced by fatherhood to make a difference in other children’s lives and one who demonstrates a father’s willingness to participate in pursuing his child’s interests and passion. (And it is not even sports!)

As we look to the next editions of Premiere Magazine we ask that you contact us with your ideas, keeping our mission in mind: “Highlight the Good News happening in our communities and the People who make it happen.” This publication is only as good as the readers help it to be by letting us know what is going on, things you think others may not know about the efforts of someone who chooses to remain in the background. Those are the stories we love to publish, so keep up the good work and send your information to editor@premiere-magazine.com.

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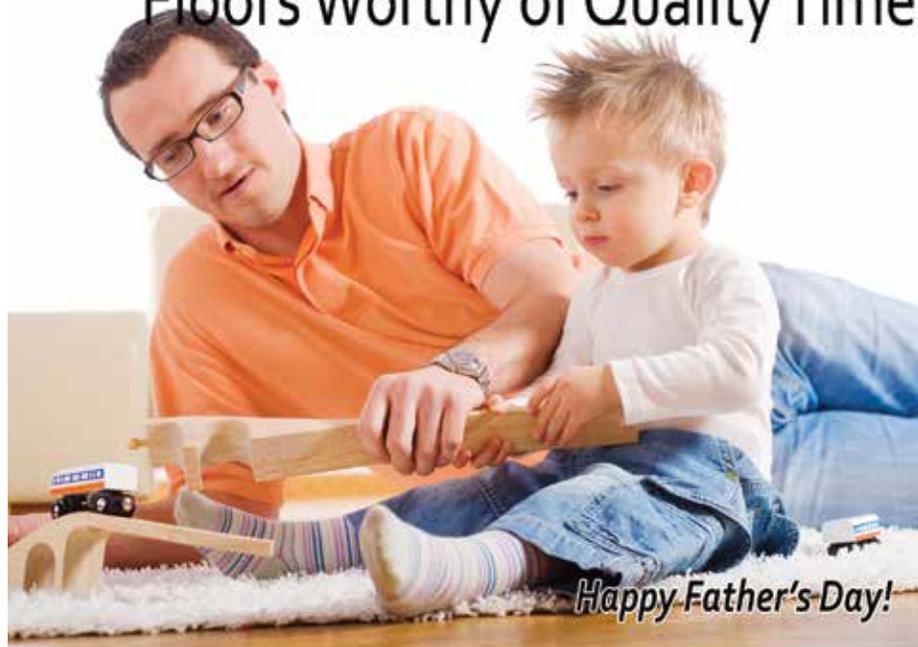
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NEA RACE FOR THE CURE



More than 4,000 people gathered on the Arkansas State University campus in Jonesboro on a Saturday in early May to take part in Northeast Arkansas' first Race for the Cure, a local version of the Susan G. Komen Race. Many people ran the 5K in honor of breast cancer survivors or loved ones they have lost to the disease and when all was said and done more than \$80,000 had been raised for breast cancer research.

Friday night activities included a Kids' Pajama Dash and a Men's High Heel Dash, as well as a Pink Pasta Party hosted by Sue's Kitchen. On race day, a Survivor Breakfast and Survivor Parade helped kick things off.

At a press conference to publicize the event earlier in the week, Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin helped launch a Paint Main Street Pink campaign by hanging a banner in honor of Brandie Lieblong, who was in attendance. The public had the opportunity to purchase a banner flag in honor or memory of an individual, and they were installed on the downtown lamp posts.



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Left to Right- Zachary Walker, Aaden Househoulder, Brock Branch, Harrison Hobbs, Sawyer May, Jayden Lewis, Case Boyd, Kamden Duty, Logan Hickox, Aiden Duty, Rylee Whetsell, Caleb Watson, Cole Brengard, Quincy Adams, Eli McLain, Keeton Turner, Jaxton Brady, Jagger Brady, Brody Williams, Caleb Dachs, and Judah Hammon.

Photo by Live, Laugh Love Sara Field Photography



Left to Right- Darrin Grogan (Coach), Rylee Whetsell, Logan Hickox, Case Boyd, Kamden Duty, Cole Brengard, Robert Grogan (Coach).



From left: Evelyn McHaney, Elizabeth Thornhill, Claire Jackson, Kathelyn McHaney.

Photo by Valerie Orrick



Front from left: Madelyn Coleman, Saydee Pratt, Lexi Reed, Amelia Smith, Morgan Chandler, Lacey Lane, Mia Orrick, Daveena Gunn, Sarah Kate Gillette, Maren Fox, Haylee Scott, Claire Russom; middle from left: Harleigh Hitt, Taylor Heinley, Jodie Layne, Mallory Story, Lainey Russom, Kaitlyn Matheney, Sadie Overbey, Ali Gillette, Ashley Holland; top from left: Elizabeth Thornhill, Abigail Crider, Ally Wood, Evelyn McHaney, Claire Jackson, Kathelyn McHaney, Addy Vowell, Nikki Jeffers, Allie Walker. Not pictured - Eva Williams, Ava Newton

Photo by Valerie Orrick



MARCH FOR BABIES



The NEA March of Dimes held its annual March for Babies at the Earl Bell Community Center in Jonesboro during the month of April.

A goal of raising \$125,000 was set by organizers and sponsors, which included MOR Media. According to information provided by The March of Dimes, one in every nine babies in Northeast Arkansas is born too sick or too soon. Money raised at the event was earmarked for finding out what causes the babies to be born sick or early.



Hetal Patel, MD

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MOTHER'S DAY CAR GIVEAWAY

Shereka Ray of Jonesboro won a 2016 Buick Encore fitted with Yokohama tires in the first Mother's Day Car Giveaway presented by Yokohama Tire and RNR Tire Express. Yokohama Tire also gave Shereka a certificate for another brand new set of tires once the current ones wear out, and she was given a \$500 gas card.

Thousands of entries nominating single moms from a five-state region were received and in addition to the grand prize winner, 20 finalists were also given a new set of tires. Among these finalist was Anna Bryant, who recieved her new set of tires from RNR Tire Express in Paragould.



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ALIVE AFTER 5

Alive After Five, the Downtown Jonesboro Association's award-winning street market, is celebrating its fifth year. Visitors of Alive After Five "Spring Fest" on May 18 enjoyed an evening of local talent including live music by Striding the Blast in addition to producers, artisans, food trucks, and children's activities by the library. Alive After Five operates every third Thursday, 5:00-8:00 p.m., April through October, on Huntington Avenue (between Main and Church streets, right in front of the Municipal Center).

For more information on how to get involved with Alive After Five, email info@downtownjonesboro.com or follow the Facebook Page: Alive After Five - Downtown Jonesboro.

For vendor applications, visit Downtown Jonesboro Association's website www.downtownjonesboro.com



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IMMEDIATE NEED EFFORT

MOR Media helped organize the Immediate Need Effort to assist Northeast Arkansas residents victimized by severe flooding. An incredible amount of donations poured in over just a three-hour period, with funds being delivered to some very appreciative volunteers at the Walnut Ridge Shelter.

MOR Media staffers extend sincere thanks to our friends at Laubach Freight, Cricket Wireless in the Paragould Plaza and the Caraway Road location of First Community Bank for their incredible help with the project.



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GREENE COUNTY GIRL SCOUT TROOP

Members of Greene County Girl Scout Troop 3302 recently delivered cookies to members of the Paragould Police Department.

In addition, several Girl Scouts from Greene County spent their Saturday at local parks (Harmon Playfield, Reynolds Park, and Labor Park) picking up trash and debris in conjunction with the Keep America Beautiful campaign.

Scouts pictured with the officers are Keirsten Sharpe, Michaela Goldinger, Kelsey Goodman and Ashley Russom.



TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The 2017 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas officially kicked off Monday, May 22, in all four corners of the state. The "Flame of Hope" torches were lit and carried by officers and athletes throughout various cities for four days. All Guardians of the Flame were to converge at the Arkansas State Capitol to join their flames in a ceremonial lighting of the Final Leg Torch on Thursday, May 25. Law Enforcement Officers would then take off on the Final Leg, a 50-mile continuous run, to Searcy. Officers will complete the Final Leg by running the Flame of Hope into Harding Stadium for the 2017 Summer Games Opening Ceremonies. This year marks the 30th year that the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics has been celebrating ability through their fundraising and awareness efforts.



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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro completed construction on its 19th Habitat Home in Jonesboro and presented the keys to the selected family during a Key Ceremony. Veronica Scales and her six children can now move into their home after being selected as Habitat homeowners last year. Selected families partner with Habitat for Humanity, where they have to complete at least 250 partnership hours by helping construct the home and by completing homeownership courses. After moving into the home, the partner families make a zero percent interest mortgage payment monthly and those funds are put back into building more homes for families in need.

This home was constructed through a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the Jonesboro Public School District called Canes For Habitat. The Canes for Habitat partnership has three goals: Fundraise, Educate and Build. Starting in the fall of 2015, students throughout the district raised an outstanding \$30,000 for the home. From Pre-k all the way

through 12th grade, students hosted penny drives and wore caps for Habitat, and students from the high school Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter even helped write a \$5,000 State Farm grant, which was received.

In the spring of 2016, Habitat volunteers went into the elementary classrooms and taught about Habitat's mission and the overall need to give back to the community. They built Habitat Gram-cracker houses at the end of each lesson. Finally, in the fall of 2017, the partnership brought JPS volunteers to the build site, along with other community volunteers. Administrators, teachers and students all worked together to help build the home from the foundation up.

The Key Ceremony marked an end to the Canes For Habitat partnership and was a welcome home event for the family. To learn more about the Key Ceremony, contact Micheal Sullivan at msullivan@JonesboroHabitat.com or call him at 870-203-9898.

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HEART FORE KIDS GOLF CLASSIC

The Paragould Country Club will be the host for the Heart Fore Kids Golf Classic, benefiting Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. 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.

The tournament is set for July 6, 2017. Lunch and registration will begin at 11:30; Shotgun Start is at 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



PRESERVE OUR PAST

A Westside Middle School student was among the top winners in the 26th annual "Preserve Our Past" art and essay invitational sponsored by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Meadow Brooks of Westside Middle School in Jonesboro won second place in the seventh-and-eighth grade art division for a drawing of the Washington County Courthouse. Megan Grace Homeir of Ahlf Junior High School in Searcy was the first place winner in the seventh-and-eighth grade division for a drawing of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock.

The contest was held as part of Arkansas Heritage Month 2017 activities. First-, second- and third-place winners in each division will receive a trophy, honorable mention recipients will get a ribbon, and all students who entered will receive a certificate. Winning entries and honorable mention entries were to be displayed at the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock throughout May, which was Arkansas Heritage Month. Winning entries can be seen at www.arkansaspreservation.com/Learn-More/preserve-our-past-winners.

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ART & STROLL

Hundreds of visitors stopped by the downtown area to enjoy Main Street Paragould's annual Art & Stroll presentation in May.

Thirty musical performances, more than 30 artists and crafters, three authors, three vendors and two food trailers provided plenty of opportunities for entertainment and enjoyment by those who took time to stroll, shop, dine, listen to music and enjoy the art. According to Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, merchants, eateries, and vendors were very pleased with the response and the event.

Next year, Art and Stroll will be held on the third weekend in May, on Saturday the 19th.



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Those interested should register online at www.racesonline.com. Pre-registration closes at midnight June 1. Cost is \$20.00 for both walkers and runners. Race-day registration is \$25.00 There will be face painting before the race. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), the American Diabetes Association and local diabetes prevention efforts. For more information, call 870-239-7467 or email allison.hitt@arkansasmethodist.org.

**BREASTFEEDING CLASS
Monday, June 5, 2017
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
This class is offered to moms who plan to breastfeed, to dads and other support persons. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10 materials fee.

**INFANT SAFETY CLASS
Monday, June 12, 2017
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
This class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for the infant. If delivering

at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10 materials fee.

**BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
Thursday, June 15, 2017
11:00 AM - 5:30 PM**

Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at AMMC
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**CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS
Monday, June 19, 26, and July 3
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
This four-week class is offered to anyone who is expecting. It is recommended to take the class when you are 5-8 weeks from your due date.



man caves

By Anthony Childress

They're called man caves ... spaces that define the extracurricular activities of bachelors, dads, husbands, working and retired men. At one time dark and dingy, the expectation among guys now is to up the ante with spaces that define areas of living like kitchens and bars, theater lounging with flat screens, areas for gaming and their own bathrooms.

Let's talk about some of the design elements now being infused into these spaces of entertainment.

WOOD: Wood is king. Stained or naturally finished wood says bold, strong and lasting, with permanence. It's being applied not only to ceilings, but walls, exposed beams and vaulted, wood bars heavily sealed in varnishes and wide rustic plank flooring. Add to this massive wood furnishings.

METAL: Anything with an industrial feel to it; to comically colored metal and advertising messages giving a room that pop-art feel. Creative metal designs are being explored in lighting, doors on cabinetry, even displayed under glass on coffee and pub tables.

RICH LEATHERS AND HIDES: These add hunting lodge texture, acoustical value and deep rich color combinations that you're not likely to find anywhere else. Use them on floors, sprawled over dining tables and hanging from walls.

POWER CHAIRS: After a long day a guy wants to stretch it out. Theater seating with remote movements will give him those very options. These chairs are now designed so that they don't have to take up any more room, either. The mechanism moves forward with the chair allowing it to stay put in tighter spaces once its back is in its upward position.

FULL BATHROOMS: Men are now putting showers in these spaces for convenience, as well as urinals, simply to say, "You've entered the all man zone."

Expect to pay somewhere around \$8,000 for a small starter space. Expect to pay up to \$120,000 for a complete build-out. Either way, it can be a space that clearly defines your down time and serves as a multifunctional space for the whole family, as well.



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TOPPING TRENDS RIGHT NOW



Throughout the year trends will pop up, gain momentum, wane a bit and then pick up speed once more. A lot of this has to do with what they are surrounding. Fashion, social media, ideas ... it doesn't matter. Trends are trends. Let's look at trends in interior design right now -- Navy blue, a big seller, a big comeback! Butterflies and birds -- yes, look all around you. They are everywhere and on everything. Vibrant green -- they are using this a lot in upholstery.

If you need help coordinating some of these new colors, themes or ideas into your current interior spaces, let Interiors By Design help you with these crucial decisions.

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The sunshine may have you eager to sprint outside and soak up the rays, but pause for just a minute. Did you know that 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime?

That's a pretty hard-hitting statistic. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, about 9,500 people are diagnosed with skin cancer every day. Every day, nearly 10,000 Americans are diagnosed with a cancer that in some cases could have been completely preventable.

Basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma are the two most common forms that, if detected early, can be cured. Melanoma is more likely to spread to other areas of the body and is the second most common form of cancer in women ages 15-29. This year, the AAD says, it is estimated that 161,790 cases of melanoma will be diagnosed.

While it isn't feasible to completely avoid the sun, you can become diligent in applying sunscreen with at least SPF 30 every day you will be spending time outside. Reapply often, but keep in mind a sunscreen with an SPF above 50 has a minimal increase in protection against UVB rays. Sticking between SPF 30-50 will keep you protected if applied correctly. For additional protection this summer, throw on a Southern belle-style, floppy hat!

Sometimes, though, taking these precautions isn't quite enough. Those with fair hair and skin, a history of severe sunburns as a child or a family history of melanoma have an increased potential to develop skin cancer. An awareness of the body is also crucial: frequently check the appearance of moles or the development of new spots on the skin, and contact your doctor about anything that causes concern.

You can still enjoy your beach vacations and poolside parties during these upcoming warm months, but take a few moments before running out the door to properly protect yourself. Trust me, your skin will thank you.

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FATHER, SON ARE RIGHT IN TUNE

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Joining band at only 11 years old in the sixth grade was the beginning of a talented music path for Luke Atwill, and his father Brock has supported his son through every chord and scale.

Since then, Luke has expanded his musical knowledge to playing the guitar, banjo, bass, piano, drums, mandolin, dobro, saxophone, harmonica and even the ukulele.

"Music has brought out the confidence in me to express myself," Luke said. "It has introduced me to a world of possibilities, people and places in which I would have otherwise never experienced."

Behind that confidence was Brock to supply not only equipment, but even venues for Luke to perform.

"Most importantly, he has been my biggest

fan and my best coach," Luke said. "He encourages me to do things I would never usually do on my own and I will be forever grateful for those priceless gifts."

"My wife, Lorraine, and I have made every instrument and instructor available to him so he may broaden his musical skills," Brock said. "We've carved out some room in our shop and built a small stage for practice and live performance with friends."

As a result, Brock has now become a roadie, sound engineer, promoter and fan club resident.

Brock said while he may have tried to steer Luke in the direction of his own hobbies, at the end of the day he had to let his son decide what he enjoyed and wished to pursue. Even though Luke immerses himself in music, he and his father appreciate boating, hunting, movies and travel together, as well an interest in old cars and motorcycles.

Brock has played the piano, saxophone and guitar, but said he has no idea where his son gets his musical talent.

"For me it was always mechanical but for Luke it is natural, it literally flows through him," Brock added.

This fall, Luke will move to Nashville to attend Belmont University to study songwriting and music business. Luke said he wants to sharpen his skills and become a music producer one day.

"I enjoy the behind-the-scenes work that goes on behind every song, album, movie or television show," he explained.

During this journey at Belmont, Brock plans to be there every step of the way.

"I'm sure he will be performing there in some fashion and I will be proudly listening in the audience," Brock said.



THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME INSPECTIONS

By James Yates

So you have a home in mind. Your realtor has done an excellent job of helping you find that home of your dreams. You love the spacious bedrooms, the bathroom will be your personal oasis, the open kitchen will bring the family together and you can see where your kids or perhaps your grandkids will take their first steps. Now comes a very important question. Do you want a home inspection? Do I need one, you ask? Before you make that decision it is important to know what a home inspection is and what to expect if you choose to have one.

First, it is important to know that a home inspector in the state of Arkansas must be licensed in the state of Arkansas. Arkansas requires 80 hours of classroom training as well as passing of national exam and passing of ASHI standards of practice and code of ethics exam. Every state licensed home inspector will have an HI number; mine is HI1792, and you should feel free to ask any potential inspector you choose for this number. You can also access the Arkansas home inspector board at www.ahib.org to get a list of licensed inspectors for your area.

The home inspection will cover structural components of the home as well as components inside and outside the home. Your inspector will go through an extensive checklist of all the systems (we call components) for the home. For example, the roof, HVAC, attic structure, flooring, electrical components, and plumbing components. While this is nowhere near an extensive list, it does give you an idea that we are checking all the workings of your future home.

The purpose of a home inspection is to give you, the buyer, a better understanding about the current condition of the home. You may have a good general feel for the condition of the home but you may not have had the opportunity to find a potential burnt wire in the electrical panel or the unreported fire damage in the attic structure. But these are the items we as home inspectors are looking for to put you in the best position to make a good buying decision. Imagine deciding to save a couple hundred dollars by not getting an inspection only to find several thousand in structural issues after moving in. This is why we do what we do.

The inspector is required to inspect all readily accessible, visually observable, installed

systems and components included in the standards of practice for our industry. You will be presented with a report which will outline any systems or components inspected that, in the professional judgment of the inspector, may not be functioning properly, or are significantly deficient, or unsafe, or near the end of their service life. This can potentially save hundreds or thousands of dollars in surprise repairs after the home is yours. At the very least, it can help you make a more educated decision about the risks and benefits of the home you are looking at.

James Yates is a licensed home inspector number HI1792 in the state of Arkansas and owner of Floor to Ceiling Real Estate Inspections, located in Paragould in Jonesboro.

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GREENE COUNTY 4-H ALIVE AND WELL



By Richard Brummett

It seems young people today are always lamenting there is nothing to do, and parents are continuously searching for activities that will keep their kids both occupied and safe. They need look no further than the Greene County 4-H Program for a multitude of opportunities.

For almost 250 young people and their families, the local 4-H organization provides the means for physical, mental, social and emotional growth through projects designed to encourage youth and adults to work together. Lance Blythe, a Greene County Extension Service agent assigned to the 4-H program, said events like the recently completed Indoor O'Rama give kids a chance to show what they have learned in project areas of their choice.

"It is an out-of-school education program administered through the Extension Office," said Blythe, who has put in just over nine years with the local 4-Hers. "It is run daily by volunteers and local clubs. The youth volunteers pick a project area that interests them -- away from school -- from about 80 different project areas. Then they are invited to make a presentation in front of expert judges, who look over the quality of their work."

May's Indoor O'Rama, held at the Paragould Community Center, included competitions in fashion -- both purchased and constructed -- photography, speeches in various categories and even performing arts. An outdoor counterpart was to be held later in the month, featuring events like bicycle safety, BB gun safety and marksmanship, wildlife identification, bait casting, horticulture and much more.

"The great thing about it," Blythe said, "is that the families and the kids get involved together. It is a total family environment. We encourage the family to be involved. We don't want the parents to drop the kids off and then leave. We want the grownups to be volunteers, too."

Allen Davis has been Greene County's Extension Service Agent for more than 35 years and said the 4-H competitions are something he still looks forward to. "We have different age groups and there are lots of educational opportunities for those who participate in them. For instance, when the kids give their illustrated talks they are making presentations about projects they have tried to learn all they can about, then they have to get up in front of everyone and make a talk," he said.

"There's modeling, method demonstrations -- which can be anything, even like how to repair something," he added, "but it gives the kids an opportunity to talk in front of a group, which is something we all need to know how to do."

The mission of 4-H nationwide is to provide meaningful opportunities for youth and adults to work together to create positive changes in the community, focusing on the areas of citizenship, healthy living, and science. 4-H is based on experiential learning -- learning by doing. Administered by the University of Arkansas' Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H is offered in all of the state's 75 counties.

Today, 4-H members mix rural and urban techniques aimed at comprehending our ever-changing world. Young people in 4-H have a long list of issues to consider that their parents were not confronted with at the same age, from global climate change and sustainable energy to childhood obesity. 4-H provides guidance for families to address the many challenges confronting life in the 21st century. To get involved with the local 4-H program, contact either Blythe or Davis at (870) 236-6921; via fax at (870) 239-6328; or email: greeneparagould@uaex.edu



RESULTS ARE IN!



CHECK OUT OUR JULY ISSUE TO FIND OUT THE WINNERS OF THE PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARDS



LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

We have a manhood crisis in our culture; 94 percent of all prison inmates and 80 percent of all suicides are males. Men in our culture are confused, disappointed, lonely, hurting and simply drifting through life with no grand vision.

This leaves us with one burning question: What exactly does it mean to be a man?

In short, a man is one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously and invests eternally.

Rejects Passivity: A real man isn't afraid to serve. He doesn't sit back and wait for others to meet a need. He takes initiative for the benefit of another.

Accepts Responsibility: A real man is one who stops making excuses for why his life is a mess and begins to take responsibility for it. He provides for and protects his family. He works a hard and honest job. He cares for the things God has entrusted him with.

Leads Courageously: A real man lives a life that others want to follow. He sets an example that other men want to mimic.

Invest Eternally: A real man doesn't waste his life on things that will be in a graveyard 50 years from now. He lives in the reality that life is short, and that he needs to make it count for an eternity.

How are you doing in these areas? Take time to ask your wife, family and closest friends.

The truth is, only one man has ever lived up to this call perfectly. Jesus Christ flawlessly rejected passivity, accepted responsibility, led courageously and invested eternally.

May we be reminded as broken men that we all stand in need of this perfect man, Jesus, not only as our example, but as our Savior.

In Christ we find the forgiveness for our sins and the power to be the men he created us to be.

Let's run after him together. And let us settle for nothing less than who we were designed to be as men. What better to give our lives to?



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HUNTING WITH DAD

By Chuck Long

I was fortunate in my growth as a hunter to have many men pass on their knowledge of the outdoors. My dad, both my granddads, and several other acquaintances helped shape me with their advice as we spent time hunting and fishing. Many other guys have also had men that formed them and, as a Father's Day tribute, I asked a few of them to share some of the advice they heard so I could share it with you.

Daniel Hensley and his dad, David, have shared countless hours in the woods and now Daniel is passing on those traditions to his two boys, Isaac and Garrett, and one daughter, Shelby. Daniel said his dad's favorite saying was simply "shoot straight." Daniel tried to apply these words to his hunting trips with bow and gun but as life progressed he learned those simple words had a much deeper meaning. Daniel says he has seen that his dad was also wanting him to apply "shoot straight" to his life as he dealt with peers, friends, family and God.

Gary Cooper said his dad, Wayne, and his grandpa, Red, always told him to respect and honor the animals taken in the hunt. An ethical shot that would quickly kill the animal was required and then the animal was taken home, cleaned and used as table fare. After an animal was taken, Grandpa Red would often say, "Son it is time to get your knees dirty and give thanks to the Lord for what He has blessed us with." Gary has been fortunate to pass that on to many adults and youth through various hunts with disabled participants and through his work as a guide. Steve Kueter has been greatly influenced by his dad, Tommy, through the years. Mr. Kueter, who may be the best shot with a .22 rifle I have ever witnessed, passed on many

lessons to Steve, myself and anyone else who hunted with him. Some of those included to watch the ducks' reflection in the water, not the ducks themselves and keep the windows of the St. Francis River blind brushed properly. Steve recalled one humorous incident on a frogging trip when he was young. Steve had the task of catching the frogs and was not being very effective. His dad finally told him, "Son, grab those frogs like you would grab a piece of fried chicken or we are going home." From that point on, Steve was putting frogs in the sack.

A longtime friend, Barry James, said that hunting has a long tradition in his family. Barry said his dad's main concern was to pass down what was given to him by his elders and insure that was carried on by future generations. Mr. James was adamant about gun safety and frequently said "I'm sorry" would not change the outcome if an accidental shooting happened" and that, "If you take care of your gun, it will take care of you." One of the most important lessons passed on was to never take the privilege of hunting for granted and, according to Barry, he preached that with "grace, humility and a sense of pride in the outdoors."

I have spent several hours in the duck woods with David Wilcox in the last few years and he says his grandpa, Robert Wheelis, helped him hone his duck calling skills by simply telling him to listen to the ducks. Upon his grandpa's advice, David would spend much time in the woods learning the duck language from the mallards themselves.

Other guys I talked with shared some simple words of wisdom from their elders. Kyle Franzen said his dad "helped instill a sense

of patience and love for the beauty of the outdoors in me." Casey Parson's dad stressed safety and often said, "You can never be too careful; once an accident happens you cannot take it back." Brad Whitaker said his dad's words were simple and to the point with "just shoot" being one thing he often heard him say. Connor Crafton, a young man trying to make his mark in the tournament fishing world, said his dad, Tony, often tells him, "just have fun" as a reminder that the outdoors are supposed to be fun.

Dad and I would spend hours on the water after bream, often not talking at all, but it seemed I was always learning. One thing in particular he said to me when I was probably six or seven still stands out in my mind. I was most likely hung up or had just dropped something making a clang in the aluminum bottom of the boat and he glanced back from the front and said, "Son, sometimes I wonder whose side you are on." I think that was said jokingly, but maybe not.

Thanks to all these guys for sharing and thanks to all those that have helped or are helping pass on our great outdoor traditions to new generation.

Happy Father's Day and I hope to see you out there. God bless!!



CHUCK LONG

Regional Education
Coordinator Northeast
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A FATHER'S DAY *bedtime story*

By Josie Bell

Not every story starts, magically, with a "once upon a time." However, Chris Gamble, owner of Gamble Home Furnishings, is attempting to make sure that more and more stories end happily for the children in our community.

Gamble Home Furnishings is a strong advocate for giving back to our local community. Since its inception, the Gambles Gives Back program has provided over \$100,000 worth of in-kind donations to local charities. However, Chris had no idea of the magnitude of the problem facing foster homes until his daughter came home from school one day and announced that a child in her class didn't have a mattress to sleep on. "Our family had always donated a bed whenever we could, but I had no idea how big the problem was. That's when we turned to our community," he said.

The facts can be overwhelming. Nationally, there are over 415,000 children in the foster care system, with over 100,000 waiting to be adopted. Locally, there are 5,100 children in state custody, with more than 500 waiting to be adopted right here in Arkansas. To make this a bit more understandable, more than a dozen children will enter the foster care system today. There are only 1,100 certified homes available to take these children. What it boils down to? There simply are not enough beds for all the children coming into care every day.

Imagine waking up one random afternoon, and someone tells you that you have a child coming home with you later that day. You are simply not prepared. No supplies, no clothing, no diapers, no crib. Foster parents go through this every time they are asked to care for a child. Some items can be purchased quickly, and children often come with some basic items. The problem lies in the actual bed.

If there is no physical mattress available for the child to sleep on, the qualified family will have to turn it away. That means the child will have to go to a shelter or have no place at all to lay its head.

That's where great leadership comes in; seeing a problem, and having the ability and resources to make a difference. That's exactly what this father did. "It took a few months to get the wheels turning on exactly how to do this, correctly," Chris informed us. "The Buy a Bed, Give a Bed™ Program has one goal: provide every foster child in Northeast Arkansas with a place to rest their head."

So how can you help? With every qualifying mattress sold, Gamble and his team will donate a twin sized mattress to a local foster child in need. Each mattress will have your name sewn into it, letting the child and the family know who purchased it. Stop into a local store and talk to the staff members and mention the program. They'll be happy to help you. If you don't need a bed right now, for approximately \$100 you can purchase a bed that will be donated in your name.

Gamble Home Furnishings has generously provided almost a bed a day since the program started in March and the following local organizations have benefited:

- Christians 4 Kids (C4K) is a non-profit 501 c3 organization started by Jeff and Nicole Potts. C4K recruits, trains and supports foster and adoptive families. Seven years ago they started recruiting families to take care of these precious children who needed homes. Over the last seven months, C4K has trained 63 foster and adoptive families. They have supply closets for children in foster care in five counties and online support for all the counties in Northeast Arkansas. Anyone interested in becoming a foster or adoptive family or helping in any way can contact Christians 4 Kids of Arkansas at christians4kids@gmail.com or call 870-932-0090.

- Compassion in Action is a private non-profit arm of Life Strategies Counseling, Inc., which provides clothing, food, and other necessities to children and families in need. Life Strategies employees voluntarily donate from their paychecks. During Christmas, Compassion in Action gives away toys, shoes, clothes, and food to help ensure that children have gifts to open at Christmas. They also run the Glass Slipper Closet through the Jonesboro office. It provides a free prom dress to young ladies who are unable to purchase or rent one on their own. For more information, contact Paige Price at (501) 207-3883.

- Children's Homes, Inc. cares for as many as 110 children a day on average. The ministry does not accept state boarding payments to care for children but relies on the generosity of churches, individuals, businesses/corporations, endowments and grants to fund its multiple programs. The foster care program is statewide and provides Christian homes for children who need a stable home environment where they can experience love and safety while their biological parents work to overcome the problems that required the children to leave their home. The goal is a reunification between children and their parents; however, that is not always possible. In those cases, Children's Homes, Inc. works to find forever families for children who, up until that point, have been in and out of the child welfare system most of their young lives. For more information about Children's Homes, Inc., contact: Micah Brinkley: Phone: 870.239.4031, ext. 131 or email: micah.brinkley@childrenshomes.org

For more information on the Buy a Bed, Give a Bed™ Program contact Scott Richmond at 870-931-3352 or by email at scottr@shopgambles.com. Gamble Home Furnishings is a local Furniture/Home Decor store, with locations in Jonesboro, Paragould, and Manila.



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congratulations to our winners

Amy Reeves
Anna Kaloghirou
April Biggs
Ashlyn Cornell
Bethany Noto
Brandi Hodges
Casey Cox
Chad Harbinson
Daniel McClard
DaRae Roberts

Grant Pickney
Heather Talley
Holden Smith
Jeremy Heath
John David Carmack
Jordan Richardson
Josh Agee
Kembralyn Redman
Kris Goodman
Kylie Allen

Mandy Maxwell
Rachel Guerin
Randy Best
Rob Lance
Scott Richmond
Shannon Moore
Shawnda James
Terren Davis
Whitney Blackburn
Will Branch

Enjoy reading the profiles and take any opportunity to thank and encourage these committed citizens and their companies as they volunteer and work toward making your community a better place to LIVE, WORK, and PLAY. If you are interested in getting involved, ask the individuals or contact the organizations directly. Everyone can offer their talents and contribute!

NOW GO VOLUNTEER!



Amy sponsors a local T-ball team and has sponsored several local youth sports teams in the past. She does sports team photos as fundraisers and helped send a local fast-pitch team to a tournament in Florida. In addition, she has done daycare photos as fundraisers and has helped those businesses purchase new playground equipment. Several times she has been invited to speak to high school students regarding entrepreneurship and her photography business. For the past two years she has volunteered for the Alzheimer's Association Gala by photographing its events. She also sponsors children yearly with school supplies and backpacks, and takes pride in providing free milestone photo sessions for foster children and free photos of court adoptions from foster care.

Amy credits the support of her husband of five years "for always encouraging me and never losing faith in me, even when I lose faith in myself. We have three amazing children: Dylan (13), Willow (3) and Abel (8 months). We are also the proud parents of a rescue fur-baby (Harley). Our house seems more like a circus than a home some days - but I love every crazy minute of it. Thanks again for letting me tell my story. I hope it inspires at least one person to live out their dream, even if the world and their current circumstances say they can't. Hard work, manners, and a little dash of talent will go a long way."

Amy Reeves

AMY REEVES PHOTOGRAPHY

CONGRATULATIONS



30
UNDER
40



Congratulations April Biggs in Paragould and Bethany Noto in Jonesboro for being honored in the 30 under 40.

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Having been a college athlete, Anna enjoys volunteering with St. Bernards Sports Medicine in helping to screen area student athletes for athletic participation. She has also helped local organizations with youth soccer training and considers one of her most exciting volunteer experiences that of raising funds and participating in the first Northeast Arkansas Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure events. She and her husband have also volunteered with the annual Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Fall Festival and the St. Jude S'travaganza Fundraiser in Jonesboro.

"I am honored to be recognized as a 30 Under 40 member in Premiere Magazine," Anna says. "I grew up in Northeast Arkansas, received my degrees from ASU where I was a college athlete, and have lived and worked in several NEA towns. I am currently the clinic director of St. Bernards Rehabilitation Services in Paragould. This is located in the beautiful Paragould Medical Park that provides healthcare for a large population. My job here has blessed me tremendously in that I love this community and the people that live here. Providing physical therapy care on a daily basis allows me the privilege to meet and work with many wonderful people that I might not see otherwise. Making people's lives better physically, mentally, or spiritually is a goal our clinic aspires to achieve daily."



Anna Kaloghirou Koch
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April started working at People’s Bank in 2000 and has served in several officer positions with the local HR organization, Northeast Arkansas Society for Human Resource Management -- including serving as President for two years -- and currently is the Certification Director for the group. Soon after People’s Bank was acquired by Liberty Bank of Arkansas, April became the Human Resources Manager for the company. In April of 2017 she was promoted to Human Resources Administrator for Centennial Commercial Finance Group.

“I have been married to Jeremy Biggs for 12 years and we have a 10-year-old daughter, Ava, who is a 5th grader at Oak Grove Middle School,” April says. “I was born and raised in Paragould and graduated from Paragould High School in 2000 and Arkansas State University in 2004 with a B.S. in Management with an emphasis in Human Resources. I received my MBA from ASU in 2011. I am a member of First United Methodist Church in Paragould.”

April Biggs
CENTENNIAL BANK

Ashlyn has been involved with the Women Can Run clinic for five years and now serves as a Co-Director. She is on advisory boards for the BCAL Academy at Jonesboro High School, the Sports Management Program at ASU, and Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. In addition, she’s a member of the Promotions Committee for the Downtown Jonesboro Association, planning committee for Race for the Cure, and serves as marketing coordinator for the Imacyclist Bicycle Club. She is on the steering committee for the Get in Gear Fitness Series presented by Gearhead Outfitters and St. Bernards.

Ashlyn has been married to her husband, Bobby, for two years and says, “Having grown up in Jonesboro I really want to do my part to help make this town a better place to live. I love being involved in so many things because of the positive impact I’ve seen our efforts have in the community and all of the friends I’ve made in these organizations. I am honored to have been chosen as a 30 Under 40 Winner and appreciate the recognition!”

Ashlyn Cornell
GEARHEAD OUTFITTERS



Bethany is an active member of the Bono Church of Christ where her husband, Joseph, serves as the youth minister. Their son, Owen, will be a year old in August. Bethany serves as a board member for the Jonesboro Young Professionals Network and the Smile for a Lifetime Foundation. She is an advocate for CASA of Northeast Arkansas and a member of Junior Auxiliary, active in the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce as a member of the Business Network Committee, A-State Committee, and the Leadership Jonesboro Class.

Bethany said when she moved to Northeast Arkansas she “never dreamed it would feel like home so quickly! Now I cannot imagine a better place for my husband and me to raise our family. I am so grateful that I work for a company that encourages me to be so heavily involved in the Jonesboro community. I am so humbled to be among the 30 young professionals who are honored with this recognition.”

Bethany Noto
CENTENNIAL BANK



Way To Go Heather!

How exciting for our very own Heather Talley to be named as one of the region's "30 Under 40" honorees!

Heather is the embodiment of commitment, professionalism and service. She has a heart as big as her smile and she gets up everyday focused on delivering for her clients and making our company better.

THANK YOU to Heather for a job well done ...and to Premiere for recognizing her contributions not only to our industry, but to all of Northeast Arkansas as well.



Heather Talley, Leasing Agent

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Brandi is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Jonesboro, is a Goodwill Ambassador with the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, on the board of the Downtown Jonesboro Association and works on committees including Alive After Five, Midnight on Main and Promotions. She is a member of the ASTATE Committee at the Chamber of Commerce and attends Grace Point Church of Christ.

"I am truly honored to be chosen as one of the 30 under 40," Brandi says. "I love living in Jonesboro and serving my community in hopes of making it a better place to live. Jonesboro has been my home since 2000. In those 17 years, I have grown to love not only the town but the people who live here. I spent much of my adult career at KAIT, transitioning to Public Relations in 2011 and found new reasons to love this city!

"I am involved in work with the Downtown Jonesboro Association. Downtowns hold a close place in my heart. I am from a small town – Mountain View, Arkansas – and love what a thriving downtown brings to a community," she adds. "My work at the library has opened doors for me that I didn't know existed, and for that I am so grateful! It is a wonderful feeling knowing that you have helped someone or encouraged someone and that is a feeling that working at the library and helping out in my community gives me."

Brandi Hodges
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Casey has been involved in several community/charitable events such as Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, coordinating food drives for local shelters, painting buddy benches and little libraries for Pay It Forward Paragould and a member of the Greene County Fine Arts Council. He is the owner of Panic Haus: Paragould Escape, is a free-lance commissioned artist, the producer of Nightmare Forest Halloween attraction and has a full-time job through Teleflora.

"I have more gratitude than I could ever express for all of the support that I receive from this area and am honored that I have been nominated," Casey says. "It is you all that keep my fire burning. Growing up and still today, they tell me I am too 'city' for this area and I had actually thought I would have left the area by now; however, the older I get, the more I realize that NEA is a blank canvas waiting for us 'Dreamers and Creators' to take by the reins and add our flare. The goal in my life isn't to leave a footprint but to leave a memory. I am always looking within to come up with new ideas to bring to our community to rejuvenate our culture, especially for my generation, and my mission in life is to help as many people as I can help along the way. The most important person you will have to face in this life is the true you; be yourself, be confident and take risks. Chase your dreams, fulfill your passions and help restore faith back into humanity."

Casey Cox
TELEFLORA & PANIC HAUS



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Chad is a board member of Abilities Unlimited and Jonesboro Young Professional Network. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Jonesboro and St. Bernards Advocates.

"Thank you for selecting me as a 30 under 40 recipient and congratulations to the other winners," Chad says. "Early in my career my business mentor encouraged me to become involved with various community organizations for both personal and professional growth. Having done that for a number of years I find it very rewarding to give back to a community that has been so good to me and my family. I encourage all young professionals to find an organization to become involved with as a way to give back. I would also like to thank my employer, who sees the value of community involvement as something bigger than the bottom line."

Chad Harbison

BEAR STATE BANK

As a business owner, Daniel is always happy to donate to local events, such as the "Show Them Where You Come From" food drive, the Jonesboro High School Band Boosters, and the NEA Gamer's Guild.

"Having spent much of my time living and working downtown, I have an incredible support system for my dream," he says. "I wouldn't be where I am right now if not for that. Most folks don't think of food service as a great or rewarding job, but I disagree. It's an amazing thing to be able to turn someone's day around with something as simple as just asking them how they're doing, or making sure they have a safe way home when I see them out late. I love seeing people light up when they taste my food, and I want that to be my impact here in Jonesboro. I am so grateful for this award, and I want to thank Downtown Jonesboro for helping me to continue my dream of spreading positivity and joy through food."

Daniel McClard

'BORO DOGS



DaRae has been involved in numerous local and area volunteer ventures, including Paragould Young Professionals, Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, Greene County Community Fund Board Member, Greene County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Member, PLWC Health and Wellness Committee, and is an active member of O'Kean Freewill Baptist Church.

"I am honored and humbled to be nominated with this incredible group of people," DaRae says. "Because I grew up in Northeast Arkansas, this area is part of my heart! I want to be part of the good that helps our area to thrive and prosper for future generations. Thank you!"

DaRae Roberts

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Grant is on the Mission Outreach Board of Directors, coaches in Paragould Youth Baseball and the Greene County Soccer Association, and is active at Fellowship Bible Church in the children's and youth activities.

"I am very passionate about several things in life, especially my faith in Jesus, my family and friends, and my career," Grant says. "God has proven Himself to be real in my life time and time again and has surrounded me with amazing people. I am married to Mallory (Rodgers) Pickney. We have two sons, Dalton and Logan, and one daughter, Addison. I have been blessed with a very supportive family and an awesome circle of friends who truly care about me. My passion for serving others is driven and fueled by my belief that we are truly called to love and serve people the way that Jesus loved and served people throughout his life and ministry."

Grant Pickney

ANYTIME FITNESS OF PARAGOULD

Heather's list of volunteer activities is a long one, including serving as the Silent Auction Decorations Committee Chairman (2013-Present) along with giving her time to Junior Auxiliary, The United Way, Children's Home, Alzheimer's Amethyst Gayla, The Women's Discovery Center, Make-A-Wish Bucket Brigade, Abilities Unlimited Grand Slam Jam Fundraiser- coordinator, Miracle League Jonesboro, My Generation Foundation, The Special Olympics Arkansas State University and many more.

"What an incredible honor to be nominated for such prestigious recognition!" Heather says. "When I moved to Jonesboro for college in 2002, it quickly became obvious to me this would be my 'home.' I have been extremely fortunate to develop strong, lasting personal and professional relationships in the last 15 years as a Jonesboro resident. Without a doubt, the most treasured relationship is that of my wonderful husband, Chris. I hardly feel worth of this recognition, however, I'm truly humbled and appreciative. Thank you!"

Heather Talley

HALSEY THRASHER HARPOLE



Holden has been running Lennox Insurance for just over a year, teaches a bible class at Village Creek Church of Christ and is a member of Paragould Young Professionals. "My hope is that myself and my company can be of benefit to the community, not only through our efforts as an insurance agency, but also through our efforts within the community," he says.

"I would like to say thank you to my family for supporting me while Lennox gets going," he adds, "and I also would like to thank my awesome team for all their efforts in making our company a success this past year. Without my family and my team, we would never have made it as far as we have!"

Holden Smith

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Jeremy currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, CASA of the 2nd Judicial District, and House of Virtue. He is an Ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce and graduate of the Paragould Leadership program, as well as being an emergency responder and volunteer with the Greene County Rescue Squad. He is an active member of First United Methodist Church, where his volunteer work includes: Chair of the Church Council, Interim Youth Pastor, and Member of the Evangelism Team, and he is a volunteer for Ozark Mission Project (locally and throughout the state).

"I am surprised, honored, and humbled by this award," Jeremy says. "My goal in life is to make a difference in the lives of others, and I am blessed with a family (wife Tara, and sons Jax and Auggie) that continuously makes sacrifices so I can work to achieve this goal. Paragould is one of the best places in the country to raise a family."

Jeremy R. Heath HEATH FUNERAL HOME

In his role as Communications Coordinator at Craighead Electric Cooperative, Jon David works to spread the cooperative message to members through multi-media, energy education, and community outreach. He is Chairman of the Jonesboro Green Business Committee, working to make Jonesboro a more sustainable community, and is a graduate of the 2016 Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program. He is currently participating in the Paragould Leadership Program as well.

"I love learning about the communities that we serve," says Jon David. "My wife of nine years, Leah, is the leader of the Hasbrook Road 4-H Club, of which my children are heavily involved. I was born and raised in Jonesboro and feel fortunate that my children get to grow up in such a vibrant and growing community."

Jon David Carmack CRAIGHEAD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORP.



Jordan says her dream has always been to give back to the community by helping through exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Helping others is her passion and she feels honored to come across so many individuals and be able to work with them to find their healthier, happier versions of themselves. Throughout the year she gives back to various organizations through local events and school sporting events, with 5k/10k/Marathon races being her biggest "give back." Not only do the events suggest getting out and being active, they also help and support school sports, local charities and non-profit organizations.

"I would like to congratulate each person nominated," Jordan says. "I am very honored to be recognized with such an outstanding group of dedicated community leaders. I was born and raised here, and love this community. I always knew I wanted to stay here and find a way to get others involved in fitness and staying active."

Jordan Richardson PEAK FITNESS





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"There's a saying that I have on my phone that I look at weekly that pertains to being a part of the community," Josh says. "... If you're not participating, it's not home."

In efforts to put those words into action, Josh participates with the The Greene County Future Fund, an affiliate of the Community Foundation. "The GCFF is a group of like-minded people who are trying to make Paragould a better place to live, work and play," he says. "This year on June 2-3 we are having our second annual 'Get Downtown Festival,' which not only brings the community together but also helps us raise money to promote our three goals."

"Another area I'm passionate about is fitness and I'm fortunate enough to be able to partner with a few other guys to put on 'Pedal the Ridge,' a local bicycle ride that is now in its 12th year. It will coincide with the festival this year."

Josh Agee
AGEE DISTRIBUTING

Kembralyn, an ASU graduate, has a long list of volunteer efforts that include being a St. Bernards Advocate, Triple Swing Volunteer, Butterfly Release Committee and 2016 Chair; Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Advocate and St. Bernards Runway to Cure Committee member; Make-A-Wish; United Way's Live United with the Stars Committee and 2015 Co-Chair, 2016 Chair Communications Committee and Day of Caring; the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce's Business Network Committee and Astate Committee; and Board Member and Public Relations Chair from 2014 to present for the Northeast Arkansas Advertising Federation.

"I am honored to be nominated for Premiere Magazine 30 Under 40," Kembralyn says. "While I enjoy volunteering, and giving back to our community, I think it's even more important to teach our younger generations to give back." She, her husband Philip and three children -- Kohen, Adam and Ann -- attend Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Kembralyn Redman
FIRST COMMUNITY BANK



Kris is a member of Paragould Young Professionals, has assisted in Habitat for Humanity, served meals at Mission Outreach, and participates in fundraising for the Make A Wish Foundation. He is active in the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, participating in Clean Sweep Paragould and the Chamber Membership Drive, has served as the Campaign Co-Chairman for the Greene County Community Fund and is currently the Vice President on its Board of Directors. He has volunteered as a youth league coach and is a member of Browns Chapel Baptist Church. A graduate of Leadership Paragould Class XVI, he has been married to his wife, Mandy, for 15 years. They have an 11-year-old son, Kyson.

"I want to congratulate all the nominees and recipients of this award," Kris says. "Thank you for making Northeast Arkansas a great place to call home. I am very thankful to receive this recognition. To be mentioned among the many outstanding young community leaders in Paragould and Northeast Arkansas is a true honor."

Kris Goodman
FIRST NATIONAL BANK



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Kylie is an active member of the Paragould Pride Band Boosters, serving as VP of Concessions, working football concessions, and chaperoning band trips. She recently became a member of the Farmer’s Market Committee, and is a member of Paragould Young Professionals, where she received the Member of the Year award for 2016-2017. She was in Leadership Class XIX and is also involved with community theater and is a member of The Greene County Fine Arts Council. Kylie is a past member of the Paragould and Jonesboro Jaycees and has served on the Greene County Soccer Association board.

She and husband Jeremiah live in Paragould and have a blended family of six children. “They are my reason for being involved in local organizations and making our community a better place,” Kylie says. “I would like to thank my husband for supporting me with all of my community involvement and children’s activities. I couldn’t do this without him. I am so honored to have received this nomination.”

Kylie Allen

FLOWER SHOP NETWORK/ATWILL MEDIA

Mandy, an ASU alum, is driven by her passion to create. “I work with my team of designers to create websites and marketing materials for flower shops and other small businesses, while also promoting my company’s brand, all across the nation,” she says. “This unique position allows me to explore many aspects of my passion: graphic design, photography, marketing and printing.” She serves as Vice President of the Main Street Paragould organization and is involved in planning events and promotion. She won the 2016 Volunteer of the Year for both Main Street Paragould and Main Street Arkansas, and is a member of the Arkansas Museum of Contemporary Art’s Board of Directors. She teaches community art workshops at Black River Technical College monthly and works with the Ozark Foothills Film Fest out of Batesville to create its annual event branding.

She says, “It is an honor to be recognized for my creative strives. I am proud to serve each organization I am affiliated with and look forward to helping bring more art and beauty to our region.”

Mandy Maxwell Mooneyham

FLOWER SHOP NETWORK/ATWILL MEDIA



Rachel is a member of Central Baptist Church and serves in the Children’s Ministry. Outside of duties with the March of Dimes, she is an active volunteer for the Downtown Jonesboro Association, helping out with events such as Alive After Five and Midnight on Main. She enjoys organizing projects for the St. Bernards NICU for special holidays like Christmas, Mother’s Day and Neonatal Nurses Day, and she is also a member of Jonesboro Young Professionals Network and joins their efforts in assisting the NEA Food Bank.

“It is such an honor to receive a nomination for the 30 Under 40 in Northeast Arkansas,” Rachel says. “My goal in life is to leave things a little better than I found them. This community has given me so much, and I want to do what I can to give back to it. Currently, Northeast Arkansas has a high prematurity rate and babies are being born too soon and too sick. My team and I at the March of Dimes are doing what we can every day to change that.”

Rachel Guerin

**NORTHEAST AND CENTRAL ARKANSAS
MARCH OF DIMES**



Randy and his staff have made a concerted effort to be a part of the community. They have participated in numerous fundraisers in Paragould and even reached out to help raise money in places as far away as Arizona. They established a Motivated Futures Program at CFC in order to work with the Greene County Tech Alternative School and have always had a special place in their hearts for the kids of Paragould. Other volunteer/support efforts for Randy include Make-A-Wish, Habitat For Humanity, Angel Tree, and the Paragould Children's Home.

"I would have never guessed that I would be pursuing my passion to help others through health and fitness by opening my own CrossFit Affiliate in Paragould," Randy says. "The journey has been amazing in the four short years I have been a part of this community. I have made lifelong friends and built relationships that are very special to me. Investing in people is the most rewarding experience you can do. I am looking forward to what the future holds for us."

Randy Kyle Best
CROSSFIT CATHAL



Rob is Vice-President of the Jonesboro University Rotary Club and was named Rotarian of the Year for 2015/2016. He serves the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce by working on the Business Network Committee and being a Goodwill Ambassador and can also add roles as St. Bernards Advocates board member, Triple Swing Co-Chair, Past President of JYPN, United Way of NEA -- Financial Division, Lunch Buddy Program for the Jonesboro schools and he is an active member of Southwest Church of Christ.

"Thanks for the honor," Rob says. "I would encourage everyone to become involved in their community in some way. You will find it will help you professionally and socially, but most important you will be helping to improve our cities and acting in a selfless manner, which I personally believe we should all try to do."

Rob Lance
FIRST SECURITY BANK

A member of First United Methodist Church, Scott volunteers with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and anything else that he can make it to. As part of the Gamble Furniture team, he helps head its Gamble's Gives Back programs, which include a Toy Drive, School Supply and Shoe Drive, as well as the Buy a Bed, Give a Bed program.

"I am extremely honored and humbled to even be nominated for this award," Scott says. "To be selected is surreal. I love being able to work for a company that does so much to give back to our community. Being able to help create and lead a program like our Buy a Bed, Give a Bed program, where we give a foster child a mattress for every qualifying mattress sold, is the most amazing feeling in the world. I want to thank our owner, Chris Gamble, for giving me the opportunity to do everything that I do for our community."

Scott Richmond
GAMBLE HOME FURNISHINGS





Shawnda is a member of Paragould’s Junior Auxiliary and will be serving as its child welfare chair for 2017/2018. She is also a member of Rotary Paragould and was previously Rotaract Paragould’s president and started the Teddy Bears for Tots program, where new or gently used teddy bears are collected for the Paragould Police Department to hand out to children who are in need of police assistant (for example, car wreck or removal from their family). Shawnda is involved with Fellowship Paragould as a member of the GLOCAL Missional Community that serves international families within Paragould and she sponsors a child in Haiti named Saintamene. She is a member of Pay It Forward Paragould and is Vice President of Zeta Tau Alpha Jonesboro alum chapter.

“I am blessed to be a part of so many amazing organizations,” Shawnda says. “I am even more blessed to have such an amazing job where I get to help people feel better. I am thankful for my clients, who push me to be a better person, my parents who have always shown me how to care for other people, my sister who has become my mentor and one of my biggest supporters, and my boyfriend, Grant, for always being there for me.”

Shawnda James
ROUGE SPA AND SALON

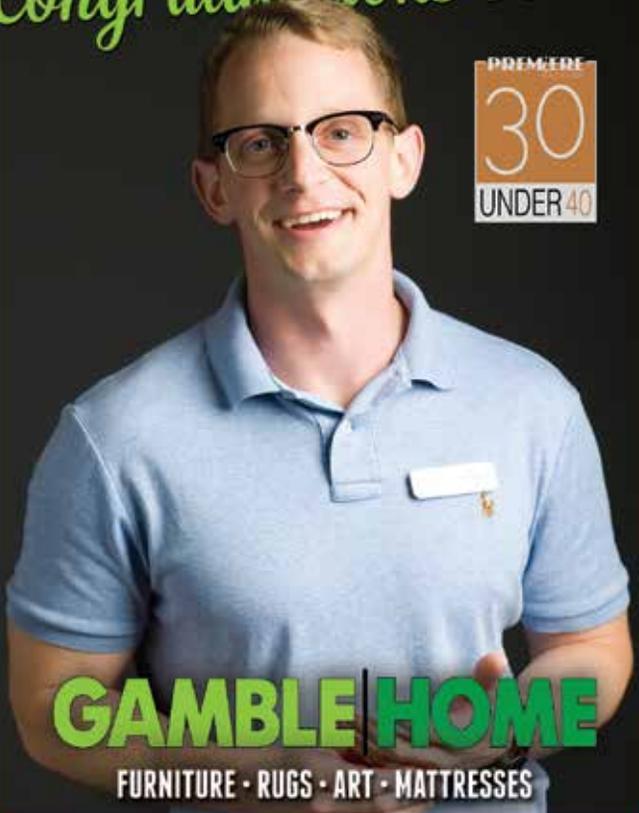
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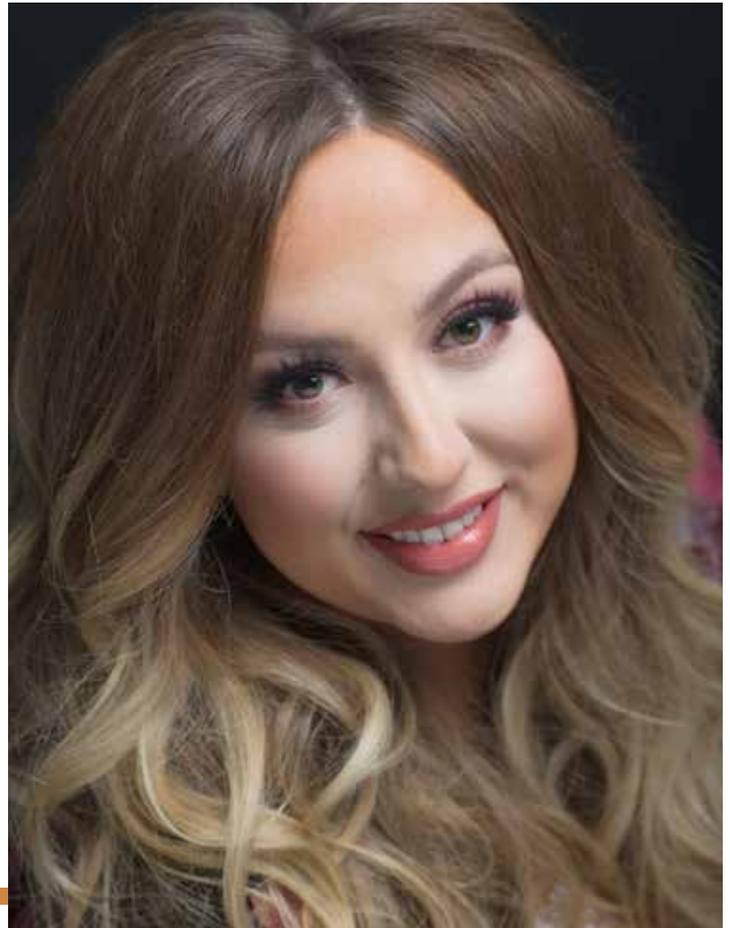
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Whitney has been a board member of numerous area organizations, including The Woman's Discovery Center, American Advertising Federation of Northeast Arkansas, and the Downtown Jonesboro Association, and has served the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce in a variety of roles. She is currently a member of Leadership Link – Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the American Advertising Federation of Northeast Arkansas. She provides pro bono branding, marketing and graphic design services to nonprofit organizations within the community, such as CitiYouth, The Woman's Discovery Center, and the Humane Society of Northeast Arkansas, and has participated in fundraising for the March of Dimes, raising approximately \$1,000 for its yearly Jail and Bail event.

"I am honored to be chosen as one of Premiere Magazine's 30 under 40," Whitney says. "It is a privilege to be recognized for my community involvement, especially considering the collective talent and dedication of the nominees. I've been fortunate to be mentored by some of the most altruistic and kindhearted individuals; their compassion for others and commitment to this community continues to inspire me to do my part. Residing in Paragould and working in Jonesboro has given me the opportunity to experience both communities."

Whitney Blackburn
HYTROL



The bears are roaring with pride!

Congratulations to Bear State Bank's Chad Harbison for being voted to Premiere Magazine's "30 Under 40" list.

Chad is committed to enhancing our community by actively serving as a board member of Abilities Unlimited and the Jonesboro Young Professionals Network. He is also a Goodwill Ambassador for the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Rotary Club of Jonesboro and a St. Bernards Advocate.

Thank you Chad for living the Bear State of Mind!



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Shannon helps host the K13 Fall Mud Ball Tournament to benefit St. Bernards NICU and also teams with others to volunteer their IT services for the St. Jude S'travanza.

"I moved my family to Jonesboro in 2007. Over the last decade, I have witnessed NEA growing by leaps and bounds," Shannon says. "With all the opportunities that the area has made possible for my family and friends, I feel compelled to give something back and hope to do more as we grow with NEA."

Shannon Moore

K13 INC.

Terren runs an all female fitness bootcamp and is a member of Pay It Forward Paragould. She sponsors as many events in the community as she can and donates money and goods whenever possible to anyone in need. "Anything at all I can do to give back to the community, I try and do," Terren says. "This community has given so much to me and so I like to give back."

The wife and mother of two is a certified personal trainer and gym owner. "Two years ago I was extremely overweight -- at 200 pounds -- and scared to enter a gym for fear of being judged, mostly by men. After losing 80 pounds and becoming healthy I decided my mission in life was to give back the healthy knowledge I had learned and help other women who were like myself that have no idea where to start. I am so humbled to have been nominated for this and I am truly grateful for my many blessings and opportunities I have gained since opening in October. Thank you to all of the people of Paragould for all the support since day one!"

Terren Davis

BEAUTY & BEAST FITNESS



Will currently serves on the Jonesboro Young Professionals Network Board of Directors and is a member of the Rotary Club of Jonesboro, past Arkansas Sportshow chairman, and Paul Harris Fellow recipient. He is active with the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce and a 2016 graduate of Leadership Jonesboro, in addition to volunteering at the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas. He was awarded a Safeco Insurance Make-More-Happen award for his community involvement and is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Paragould.

"My proudest achievements are my beautiful wife Laura and our adorable little girl, Elise," Will says. "Community or public service is each person's responsibility if we are to have safe, successful communities. I think that's what makes NEA so great - it's full of helpful neighbors."

Will Branch

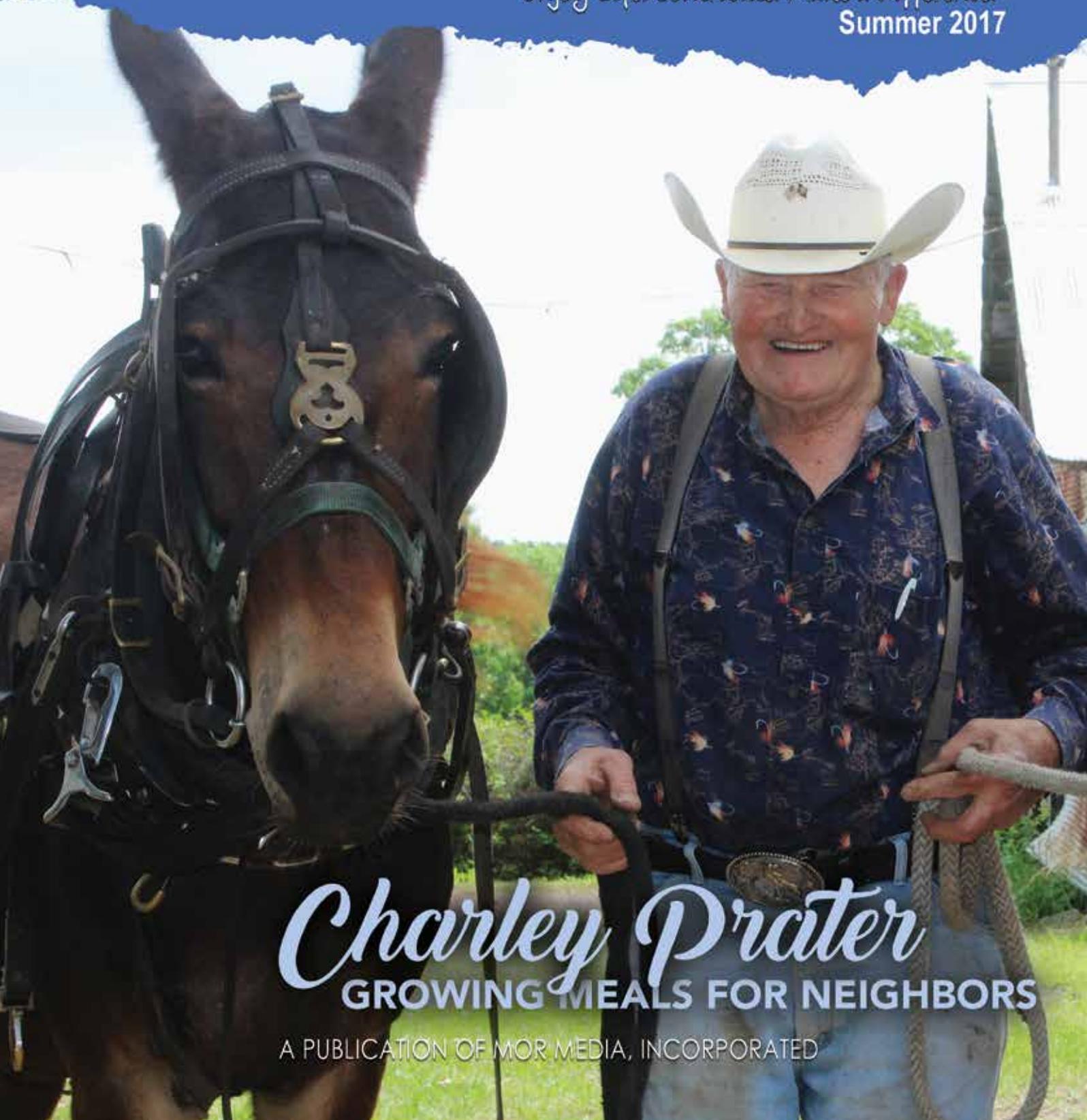
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KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

FAITH FUNERAL SERVICE

By Richard Brummett

Society's opinions on a variety of subjects change from one generation to the next and Faith Funeral Service in Manila is prepared to keep up with the times, especially when it comes to planning the final arrangements for a loved one.

"It seems like every Chamber event I go to," said Faith Funeral Service's Janie Singleton, "people want to talk to me about cremation. Public perception of cremation is changing, and since the trend has started its not all about a financial decision. More people are seeing the value of cremation than ever before."

Recent estimates by industry experts predict that more than 50 percent of funeral services performed nationwide will involve cremations by the year 2018. The substantial increase in popularity is due to significant changes in areas such as religious expectations, geography, and family location. "Ten years ago," Singleton said, "I would say it was 10 percent or less. Today, here, it's around 55 percent and the trend is going up all the time."

Singleton said some of the positive aspects people are finding when considering cremation include greater flexibility in

setting the date of a memorial service, being more environmentally responsible, and reduced financial output when compared to a traditional funeral service, all areas she and her staff can address with families and individuals. "With cremation, we can do a memorial service ... you will have time to plan a memorial service," she said. "You can plan it two or three weeks out. With a memorial service you get to hear more stories, you get to share memories and laugh, remembering that person in good and happy times. For some people, that's hard to do when you have a body present. It's hard to get past that."

As for those with environmental concerns, Singleton said she can relate. "People say we're running out of land or places to bury people. With cremation, even if you bury your loved one in the cemetery, it takes up less space," she said. "The body goes back to where it came from. It's quicker, cleaner. And there are so many options for you to choose from as to what you want done with your remains. Some people pick out what kind of tree they want to become. You can be planted as nutrients, blown into glass, made into fireworks, even loaded into shotgun shells. You name it, they probably can come up with any number of different ways to memorialize you."

Where traditional views of cremated remains bring to mind images of an urn on the household mantle, Singleton said there are many wonderful and imaginative ways to keep ashes today. "With cremation, there are so many more options now than ever before," she explained. "There is jewelry, where you can put a small remembrance inside, you can divide the loved one's ashes up and put them into smaller containers so several family

members have a keepsake. There are all types of urns you can put them in and, of course, you can scatter them. There are very few regulations on what to do with the ashes."

Probably one of the biggest arguments against cremation in the past has taken a religious slant, but even those attitudes seem to be changing as time goes by. "I plan to be cremated and I talked with my preacher and he didn't find anything in the Bible one way or the other," Singleton said.

"Still, if it is something you want and maybe family members object to, the best thing a person can do is sign cremation paperwork ahead of time."

She said the cremation process is very strictly regulated in the state from start to finish and the Arkansas Final Disposition Rights Act spells out the necessary guidelines, so that "once forms are signed and notarized, only you can change them. This may even eliminate those doubts for the rest of the family, and it helps prevent delays."

Cremation services are also less expensive than traditional funerals, and Singleton said she and her staff can explain all the financial options in person or over the phone at 870-776-7336.

"To sum it all up, the best advice is to sit down with the family and let them know what you want and what you don't want," she said. "Like I said, I plan to be cremated. One thing I want done with my remains is for my best friend to look at my 'bucket list' and leave a little bit of me in the places I didn't get to go to."

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GROWING MEALS FOR NEIGHBORS

CHARLEY PRATER



By Richard Brummett

When Charley Prater hooks a mule team up to a plow and gets down to work, he's tying the present to the past in more ways than one. Granted, many of today's young people have never seen crops planted and harvested the old-fashioned way, but the real by product of Prater's work is that down-home country attitude of neighbor helping neighbor ... another aspect quickly disappearing from society.

"It's something that makes you feel good, knowing that maybe you helped somebody," said the 82-year-old Prater, who for almost a decade has been raising crops on a plot of land directly behind the Campground United Methodist Church, giving them away to folks in the area. "We just do it for people that really need it. They just come, and they pick up potatoes and what have you."

Turning what was once a ball field on the church grounds into a garden plot, Prater follows his mules -- Rodie and Maud -- as they pull a plow through the dirt to get the yearly production started. By the time they are finished, people are invited to come harvest

potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, onions, lettuce, radishes, squash ... any number of vegetables, as long as they are willing to do the work. "They have to come pick them," said Prater's wife, Madeline. "That's the deal; if they want it, they have to come pick it. One year, we had 4,000 pounds of potatoes; one year, we had 3,000. There are some people who call here wanting to know if we're going to dig potatoes and what day."

Friends and church members help with many of the chores related to getting the process under way but Charley assumes the main role in seeing it through from start to finish, including the timeworn practice of producing sorghum. "I do it mostly myself," he said. "I plant the ground and sow it, and then others and church members come and help with everything."

Making the sorghum is a long and tedious process, from raising the cane to harvesting it, using the mules to grind it through the mill and then cooking the juice down in a vat and scraping off the foam before being able to produce jars of the sweet, syrupy finished product. The first year Prater and his friends made sorghum, much of the cane was wasted

because they didn't have a press of their own. They eventually came up with one and the sugar cane was put to good use as jar after jar of sorghum resulted. The intense labor doesn't seem to affect Charley in a negative way, giving him instead a purpose many miss out on today. Madeline said during the harvest time he reminds her of "the old peddlers, driving up the road in his wagon and going to every house and saying, 'You need any turnips? You need any cucumbers?' A lot of times he comes from the church and stops at every house along the way."

Charley said he feels at home behind the mule team, plying a trade he learned when he was just a boy, and he enjoys the historical and educational aspects as much as he does the actual work. "There are a couple of neighbor kids who seem to enjoy trying to learn how to plow," he said. "They're plowing for me some. You know, it's an art that's gone, plowing with a mule. They enjoy turning back the page to see how it was done years ago. You'd be surprised at the people who've never seen it in real life."

And real life -- especially the spirit of helping out a neighbor -- is what Prater is living.

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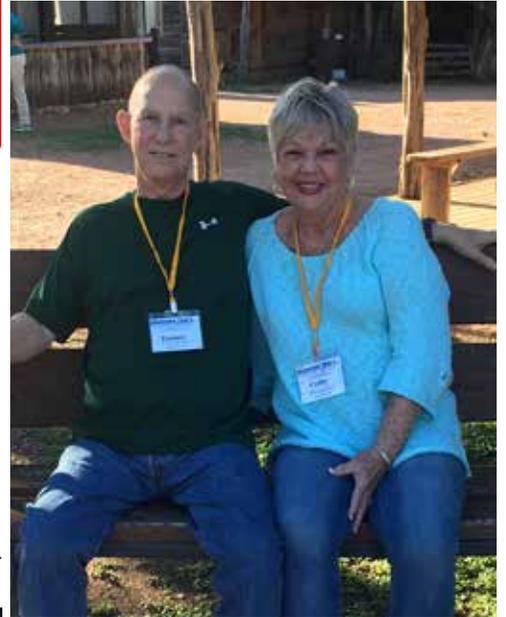
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B.E.E.S. GO TO SAN ANTONIO

The B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens recently traveled to San Antonio. The group of more than 40 enjoyed touring missions, the Alamo, and the LBJ Ranch, where they saw the "Texas White House." Other highlights were going to the San Fernando Cathedral and the Japanese Gardens. Shoppers in the group loved the SAS Shoe Factory, and the members all bought something from candy to popcorn to shoes.

On the last night in San Antonio they enjoyed taking a cruise down the famous River Walk and seeing beautiful scenery. They ended the trip in Waco, spending time at the Magnolia Market at the Silo. The B.E.E.S. trips are interesting and educational and they have lots of fun.

In June they are going to Kentucky to tour the replica of Noah's Ark and the Creation Museum. Their fall trip will be October 8-14 to St. Augustine. Reservations for the fall trip are being taken now! Call Carol at 870-239-4093 for more information.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE LIZ MAY

By Caitlin LaFarlette

More than three decades of teaching children marks the end of a career for Liz May, first-grade teacher at Paragould Primary School.

At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, May concluded 33 years of teaching at three different schools. May began her journey in Special Education at the Wynne school district for five years before moving to the second-grade classroom at Paragould. After three years she moved to first grade, teaching at Woodrow Wilson Elementary for 22 years before moving to Paragould Primary.

"I have always loved school but my second grade teacher, Mrs. Murphy, was the reason I chose to be a teacher," May said. "I wanted to be just like her. She

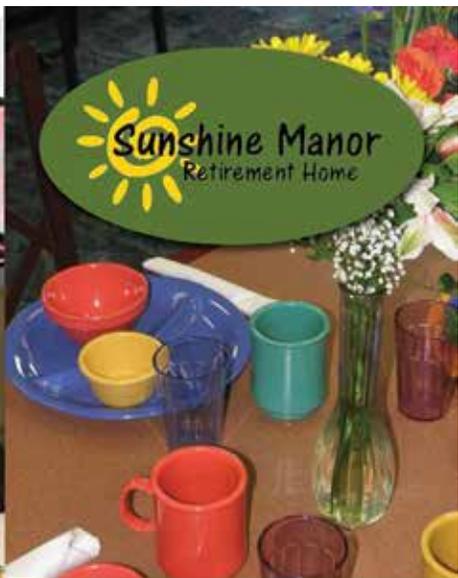
was always happy, laughing and made learning fun and easy."

It takes a special personality to teach, and May possesses it. For her, the best part of her job is seeing students' faces light up with enthusiasm when they discover things they didn't realize they could do.

"I love seeing the questions on their faces because that shows they are thinking and questioning what, how and why things are the way they are," she said. "I love hearing the stories on Monday mornings of all the exciting things they had done over the weekend, books they read or places they visited. I think these are the things I will miss the most, too."

Thirty-three years of any job will create a multitude of memories, and reactions of past students are what stand out to May. She said it warms her heart and brings a smile to her face when those students run to her for hugs and talk about their latest adventures.

"I hope I have made a difference in their lives," May added, "because each of my students have made such a difference in my life."



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**NATIONAL
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Morningside of Jonesboro celebrated National Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer Day in May, staging bull frog races. “Moonshine” and snacks were served at the event, and residents also planted in their gardens and dressed up for the day.

Morningside of Jonesboro is licensed as an Assisted Living 1 facility. The property houses 61 units and is licensed for 81 residents. Because of its reputation as a “local favorite” it has quickly become one of the premiere locations for seniors in Northeast Arkansas.

MASTER GARDENER JOY GATLIN



By Richard Brummett

Joy Gatlin prefers to remain in the background when it comes to her efforts with the Greene County Master Gardeners, but just about any time there's a group project you'll find her front and center.

"Joy is truly a gem in our Master Gardener Program," said President Connie Whitman. "Joy has been Coordinator for the Rainbow Garden Project at the Children's Homes since its inception in 2003. She has served as Secretary for our organization for three years, 2013-2016, Sunshine Committee Chair since 2008, Spring Plant Sale Coordinator for the last two years, and has served on the Nomination Committee, Bylaws Committee, Advanced Training Class Committee, and has volunteered on the Greene County Fairgrounds Project and Flower and Plant Entries Booth during Fair Week."

Joy got her start with the Master Gardeners in 2002 when she was encouraged to check out the classes offered. "We went to Walnut Ridge on Saturdays and Pocahontas and I don't know where all. Wherever we had to go, and I really liked it and that's how I got started. Now, I'm just about a Life Member," she said.

"I stayed with it and I love it. It's so good to be with the other Master Gardeners ... just some 'down home' girls. They're interested in what's going on in your life, and then we all want to do what we can to make Paragould look better."

Joy and her fellow gardeners smile when viewing the results of the many projects they have undertaken, trying to help present an attractive picture regardless of the area of town one visits.

"Every time I come into town from Jonesboro and I see that sign with the train on it, I just beam," she said. "Man, it looks so pretty. Bland Park ... talk about something that looks good. We have three or four beds and we planted the flowers and plants, and we keep it maintained. I have so much pride in the beauty we have created. In front of the new courthouse we've got pots and people probably wonder how

those people at the courthouse -- as busy as they are all day, every day -- keep it looking so nice. Well, that's us. It just makes me feel so proud of our city. At the fairgrounds we worked our fingers, literally, to the bone out there. But the Butterfly Garden ... that is the prettiest place when the fair starts.

"Pride, you just feel it," she added.

Joy said one of her favorite projects is the Rainbow Garden at the Paragould Children's Home. Visitors to the campus are greeted by a seven-tiered display, the lower tier being the one she helps maintain. "I'm the lead on the Rainbow Garden," she explained. "We plant the lower tier of the seven. Yellow lantana. Everyone who comes on campus can't believe the beautiful yellow lantana. Everyone needs to drive out there and see it."

During the group's annual spring plant sale in May, Joy was there to provide assistance to anyone needing help and to direct customers to the correct spots. "The plant sale is for scholarship money," she said, "and a lot of people came and bought a lot. Almost nobody left without buying something. And us Master Gardeners ... we're our best customers. We buy a lot of plants, too."

Joy said her two years as secretary gave her a new appreciation for the position and the amount of work required, and she is amazed by the contributions of Whitman as the current president. "Lord mercy, I don't know how she does all that she does," Joy said. "She's the one that really keeps us going. We've got some younger members and I hope one will step up and be president when we elect the next one after Connie's done. We've got some hard workers who go wherever they are needed. That's about all I do now. When they call a work day we all go help on a project.

"I'm really just the encourager now," she said. "But I'm so proud of the things we've done. We've done a good job. Several of us are gonna play out, but we keep going and I guess we will until we just can't go anymore. It's a really good thing we're doing for Paragould."

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BELLE MEADE

The Green House Cottages® of Belle Meade, 2200 Chateau Boulevard in Paragould, scheduled a grand opening celebration Thursday, May 25.

Belle Meade has been designated a 5-STAR national industry rating by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, is a recipient of the Governor's Quality Award, and was chosen as one of the "Best Nursing Homes" by U.S. News and World Report for 2016-17.

The award-winning facility's opening showcased the introduction of The Mitchell Center for Rehabilitation, a private independent short-term therapy center offering intensive, acute therapy in an elegant and comfortable environment. The Mitchell Center's team of rehabilitation professionals specializes in occupational, physical and speech therapy, and utilizes innovative equipment and technology that provide proven superior clinical outcomes for patients, particularly in the areas of improving mobility and functionality.

"The real magic of The Green House model is the dual emphasis on quality of life and quality of care. These small, intimate cottages foster meaningful relationships in a comfortable home environment. Love, compassion, and family - joined with highly skilled professionals, innovative therapies, technology, and equipment all in one place," said John Ponthie, Managing Director, Southern Administrative Services, LLC. "At Belle Meade, you have the very best rehabbing environment for healing and recovery before returning home — and for living a vibrant, independent lifestyle for elders who have made Belle Meade their home."

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IN THE KNOW WITH MR. O...

By Chad R. Oldham, Esq.

Over the years, our firm has assisted innumerable clients in obtaining Medicaid benefits through one or more of the various programs providing in-home assistance for the aging or disabled, including: long-term care (nursing home) assistance, ElderChoices (ARChoices), Choices in Living (Assisted Living), Alternative, PACE, and other Medicaid programs. In so doing, one of the most often received questions is, "What is estate recovery and how will it affect me or my family?"

In short, estate recovery is the term utilized in both federal and state statutes to describe the act of recovering for the costs of benefits provided to a Medicaid beneficiary following the beneficiary's death. The practice and procedure varies greatly from state to state with some states flatly refusing to recover against the estates of the deceased despite federal mandates requiring states to do so. The concept or notion of estate recovery was not widely known until its specter was raised by the implementation of the Affordable Care Act

(Obamacare). Arkansas and many other states passed remedial legislation to specifically exclude healthcare related Medicaid benefits under the ACA from the purview of estate recovery. (According to Obamacare.com, only as few as ten (10) states seek to recover for healthcare related Medicaid benefits (as distinguished from long-term care and the home and community based waiver programs identified above)).

So how does Arkansas recover for benefits paid or provided under one of those programs? Arkansas Act 415 of 1993 (A.C.A. §20-76-436) and Arkansas Act 1480 of 2001 allow the Department of Human Services (DHS) "to make claim against the estate of a deceased Medicaid beneficiary for the amount of any benefits distributed or paid, or charges levied by the Department of Human Services." The statute further provides that "the department [DHS] shall not seek recovery against the estate of a deceased recipient for the amount of any benefits distributed or paid, or charges levied, if the recovery is not cost effective or if recovery works an undue hardship on the heirs and devisees of the decedent's estate." According the Arkansas DHS Medical Services Policy Manual (POMS), estate recovery will also not be pursued when: there is a spouse still alive, there is a child under twenty-one (21) years of age, or there is a child of any age who is blind or disabled.

For the reader, the importance of the statute is that it limits recovery to the estate [probate estate] of the deceased Medicaid beneficiary. Arkansas law provides for a number of means or mechanisms to transfer property or assets outside of probate. These include, but are not limited to: certain trusts, deeds, as well as, payable-on-death and transfer-on-death accounts and/or designations. In addition, most life insurance, employer sponsored retirement plans and IRAs pass pursuant to a contractual beneficiary designation free of the probate process.

When properly and timely utilized, these tools may enable the Medicaid recipient to take advantage of any one of the Medicaid programs and ultimately avoid estate recovery and thereby protect and preserve assets and accumulated wealth for successive generations.

*Chad R. Oldham, JD, LLM, CTFA is an Arkansas licensed estate planning, elder law, and probate attorney located at 603 SW Drive, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401. He can be reached at 870-930-9919; or by email at coldham@oldhamlawfirm.us.

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MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

By Richard Brummett

Mother Nature decided to cooperate for a weekend, providing sunshine and pleasant temperatures, allowing the Master Gardeners to hold their annual plant sale in Downtown Paragould.

People streamed in and out of Centennial Park, looking over the selection of plants, with most of them making a purchase of some sort. Several stayed for a demonstration on how to make a decorative rain barrel, as well.

Club President Connie Whitman said the funds generated by the sale are used for the group's scholarship, which it awards annually, and for Master Gardener leadership training. "Our sale was successful, but due to some supply costs, it



was somewhat less than last year's sale," Whitman said. "We were pleased with our final tally."

Whitman said the Master Gardeners "are planning to host a special event in the fall with a well-known guest speaker. The event will be open to the public and more information will be available soon. We will also have a booth at the Harvest Craft Fair at the Paragould Community Center in November."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Master Gardeners program or in volunteering to help in any way may get more information in one of these ways:

Contact the local extension service at 870-236-6921; or via its website: uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners; email: cwhitman@grmco.net; Facebook: [ARGreeneCountyMasterGardeners](https://www.facebook.com/ARGreeneCountyMasterGardeners)









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GET RICH

with Richard Brummett

There's a reason when you go to court that you have to swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. It's because the truth can be deceiving when all the facts are not brought out.

For example, if I were to challenge the fastest runner in the United States to a foot race I would obviously lose. But the following day, if anyone were to inquire about the outcome, I could say with all honesty that I finished second and the other guy came in next to last.

That's the truth, but not the whole truth. A few times in my life I have failed to fill in all the details because the perceived truth made me look better. Two examples come to mind immediately.

For thirteen years I coached the elementary school girls' basketball teams for the Paragould School District. One day, when practice had ended, the girls just headed for the door and left basketballs all over the old middle school gym for me to pick up. I was just about where the halfcourt line and sideline meet when one of the dads, who was following his daughter out, shouted, "Let's see you make one from there!"

I heaved up a Harlem Globetrotter-like hook shot with the ball I had in hand, and it swished home. Astounded, the dad said,

"Let's see that again!"

I picked up another ball and fired a shot skyward, and this time it banked in. I proceeded to knock down five in a row without saying a word, letting the dad leave the gym thinking I might be the best long-distance shooter he had ever seen. I didn't bother to tell him that up to that point, I had probably not made five halfcourt shots in all my years of basketball combined. Why things worked so perfectly that day I will never know but I just let it ride that way until a couple of years ago, when I saw the guy in a local store and told him I had to confess that everything he saw that day had to be attributed to pure luck.

He said he didn't remember the incident at all, which crushed my ego slightly.

Years before that, when I was still a single guy, I had been trying to get a date with this incredibly cute little blonde but things just couldn't be worked out. She was in one of those boyfriend-girlfriend relationships that was teetering on the edge of extinction; one day things would be fine, the next they would break up only to get back together so they could break up again. I always seemed to approach her on one of the "on" days, so we were unable to go out.

She was still in high school but I had graduated the year before, and on the day of the annual Homecoming assembly my sister was in town

and we decided to go see it together. The two of us were seated several rows up in the middle section of the gymnasium's bleachers when I saw the pretty blonde heading in our direction. To my amazement, she walked right up to where we sat and said rather boldly, "Do you still want to go out with me?"

Naturally, I said I did and she responded, "Call me when this is over."

I sort of felt the need to explain the situation to my sister, but before I could say anything she turned to me and asked, "Did that girl just ask you out?"

I leaned back, sort of like Barney Fife does when he thinks he has Thelma Lou or Juanita from the diner in his back pocket, slowly nodded my head up and down and answered, "Yep."

That was it. Not, "Yep, but we've been trying to work things out for a while," or even, "Yep, I've asked her out a few times but we haven't been able to get together." It was just, "Yep," as if pretty girls followed me around waiting for the opportunity to ask me out all the time, and "yep" so that my sister thought I was something special.

I finally told her the truth many years later because the story turned out so well. I did call the blonde and we did go out, and last month we celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary. That's the truth, the whole truth to the story.

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When: Tuesdays 6:30 PM
Where: Jonesboro Public Library
315 W. Oak Ave., Jonesboro
Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org

School is out and baseball season is officially here, which is just fine with Hudson Tritch. Hudson, 9, is the son of Jason and Mandy Tritch of Paragould.



June

EVENTS CALENDAR

02

What: 2-Mile Glow Run

When: Friday, June 2, 8:30 PM

Where: Greene County Tech Old High School Campus ("Eagle Mile" course)

Info: The 4,000 Steps GLOW RUN for Diabetes is an opportunity to raise awareness about diabetes, a disease that touches every family. Through a donation, individuals can honor persons currently managing the disease or remember those who succumbed to diabetes-related complications. Those interested should register online at www.racesonline.com. Pre-registration closes at midnight Thursday, June 1, 2017. Cost is \$20.00 for both walkers and runners. Race-day registration is \$25.00 and begins at Greene County Tech Middle School at 7:30 PM. There will be face painting before the race. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), the American Diabetes Association and local diabetes prevention efforts. For more information, please call 870-239-7467 or email allison.hitt@arkansasmethodist.org.

02

What: Get Downtown Festival

When: Friday, June 2

Where: Downtown Paragould

Info: Fill up your family with events that won't empty your wallet. Paragould's Get DownTown Festival has something for everyone. On Friday there will be a BBQ Cooking Contest downtown in connection with the Kansas City BBQ Sanctioned Event. For more information, please contact Tony and Andrea Williams at (870) 476-8628 or go to getdowntownfestival.com

03

What: Get Downtown Festival

When: Saturday, June 3, 8 AM

Where: Downtown Paragould

Info: Fill up your family with events that won't empty your wallet. Paragould's Get DownTown Festival has something for everyone. Ride a Century or Metric Century Cycling Event and then enjoy food and music in Downtown Paragould! Participants will be able to listen to the music and bands playing on Saturday, June 3rd. There will be two different stages with music starting at 5 featuring Big Red & Matt Claude. Dillon Cate starts at 7:00 and will be playing on South Pruet. This year, organizers are offering some fun kid activities. There will be a kid's fun run that starts at 6:00 on June 3rd, an obstacle course provided by The National Guard, bounce

house provided by Hijinx and Skip Schalk is coming to do balloon animals from 5-8. Come join the fun!

09

What: Relay for Life

When: Friday, June 9, 6 PM

Where: Harmon Park

309 W Northend Ave, Paragould, AR

Info: Relay is a team fundraising event where team members take turns walking around a track or designated path. Each event is 6-24 hours in length and each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps. Cancer patients don't stop because they're tired, and for one night, neither do we. Each team sets up a themed campsite at the event and continues their fundraising efforts by collecting donations for food, goods, games, and activities. This money will count toward their overall team fundraising goal. For more information contact Karen Cremeens at (870)335-8990 or go to <http://main.acsevents.org>

15

What: Alive After Five - "Nature Month"

When: Thursday, June 15th, 5 PM-8PM

Where: Downtown Jonesboro

Info: Celebrate what Jonesboro and the Natural State have to offer! Head downtown to celebrate nature and local talent at Alive After Five's Nature Month! Located on Huntington Avenue, the market offers artisan products, locally handmade and produced fares, food trucks, local music, and children's activities hosted by the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library.

16

What: The Collins Opry Show

When: Friday, June 16, from 7 PM-10 PM

Where: Collins Theatre

120 W Emerson St, Paragould

Info: Guests at the June Opry Show will be Daryl Wilcoxson, Josh Wilcoxson, Gary Poe, the Collins's own Rick Lane, Ella Murray, and of course Minnie Pearl, Patsy Cline, Roscoe, and the great Collins Opry band and dancers. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for ages 12 and under and will be available at PostNet around June 1st or always at the door.

19

What: Be a Clown Summer Workshop for Kids

When: Monday, June 19 to July 8, 9 AM-4 PM

Where: Collins Theatre

120 W Emerson St, Paragould

Info: The Collins Theatre will conduct a summer workshop for children June 19th through July 8th. The workshop will be "Be A Clown" and will be open to children ages 7-12. Sessions will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Hours for 7-9 year olds will be 9:00am-noon. Hours for 10-12 year olds will be 1:00pm-4:00pm. The cost of the three week workshop will be \$150.00 and limited to thirty participants. Fee will include all supplies and snacks.

22

What: Bats, Brains, and Bases:
Strike out Alzheimer's

When: Thursday June 22, 6:30 PM

Where: Southside Softball Complex

Info: Adult Co-Ed evening softball tournament to help promote awareness and raise funds to help find a cure for Alzheimer's! Entry fee is \$150 per team, and the deadline to enter is June 8. Please contact Samantha Hollis for more information! 870.207.7598 or shollis@Uams.edu

28

What: SNAP Outreach Training

When: Wednesday, June 28, 12 PM-1:30 PM

Where: St. Bernard's Health & Wellness

1416 E. Matthews Ave., Jonesboro

Info: Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance is presenting a SNAP Outreach Training program this month. Learn how to support eligible populations access and use of SNAP benefits. This session will cover basic SNAP and eligibility information, the application process, policy information, and more!

06

What: Heart Fore Kids Golf Classic

When: Friday, 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. The tournament is set for July 6, 2017. Lunch and registration will begin at 11:30; Shotgun Start is at 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

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. tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

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

Second Thursday of every month: Alzheimer's Support Group with the Alzheimer's Arkansas Association and Home Helpers Senior Care, 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.

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ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS



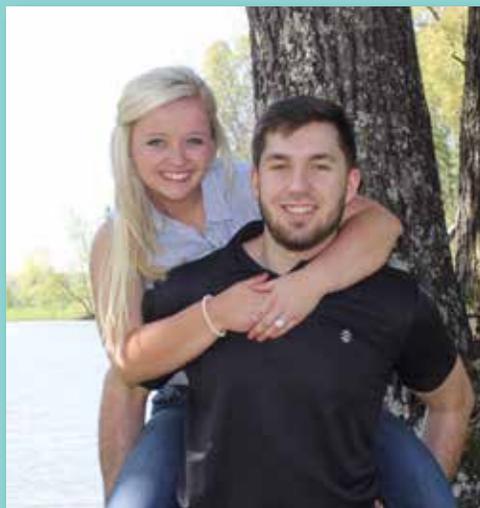
Campbell & Taylor

Katey Lynn Campbell and Matthew Daniel Taylor have announced plans for a June wedding.

Katey is the daughter of Buster and Linda Campbell of Black Oak. Matthew is the son of Ronnie and Gia Taylor of Paragould.

The ceremony will take place Saturday, June 24, at 506 CR 132 in Bono.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Watson @ Wisp Portrait Art



Brown & Hensley

Bailey Rae Brown and Blake Hensley have announced their plans for a July wedding.

Bailey is the daughter of Lance and Marty Brown of Jonesboro.

Blake is the son of Helen MacTaggart of Salem.

The wedding will take place on Saturday, July 8, at Valley View Church of Christ in Jonesboro.

Photo by Sheri Lenderman



Johnson & Coleman

Bethanie Johnson and Seth Coleman have announced plans for a July wedding ceremony.

Bethanie is the daughter of Richard and Andrea Johnson of Jonesboro and granddaughter of Jerry and Vendetta Carlile of Paragould. Seth's parents are Scott and Sherrie Coleman of Searcy.

The wedding will be July 29 at Downtown Church of Christ with reception to follow at the Robbins Sanford Grand Hall, both in Searcy, Arkansas.

All friends and family are invited.

Photo by Anna Bryan Photos



Watson & Pfeifer

Lindsay Watson and Kirk Pfeifer have announced their plans for a September wedding.

Lindsay is the daughter of Bruce and Lisa Watson of Paragould.

Kirk is the son of Carey Pfeifer of Jonesboro and Stan and Mary Crawford of Paragould.

The ceremony is planned for September 29, 2017 at a location to be announced soon.

BIRTHS



White & Dicken

Katie Dicken and Tanner White will exchange wedding vows in a June ceremony.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Richard and Kay Dicken of Paragould.

Tanner's parents are Dennis and Sheila White, also of Paragould. The wedding is planned for Saturday, June 17, in Bono.

Photo courtesy of Paula Bean Photography



Milo James Stewart

Chad and Hawley Stewart of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Milo James Stewart.

Born March 15 at St. Bernards Medical Center, the baby weighed 6 pounds and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Tim and Melissa Blackburn and paternal grandparents are John and Karen Stewart.

Be There For All The Moments



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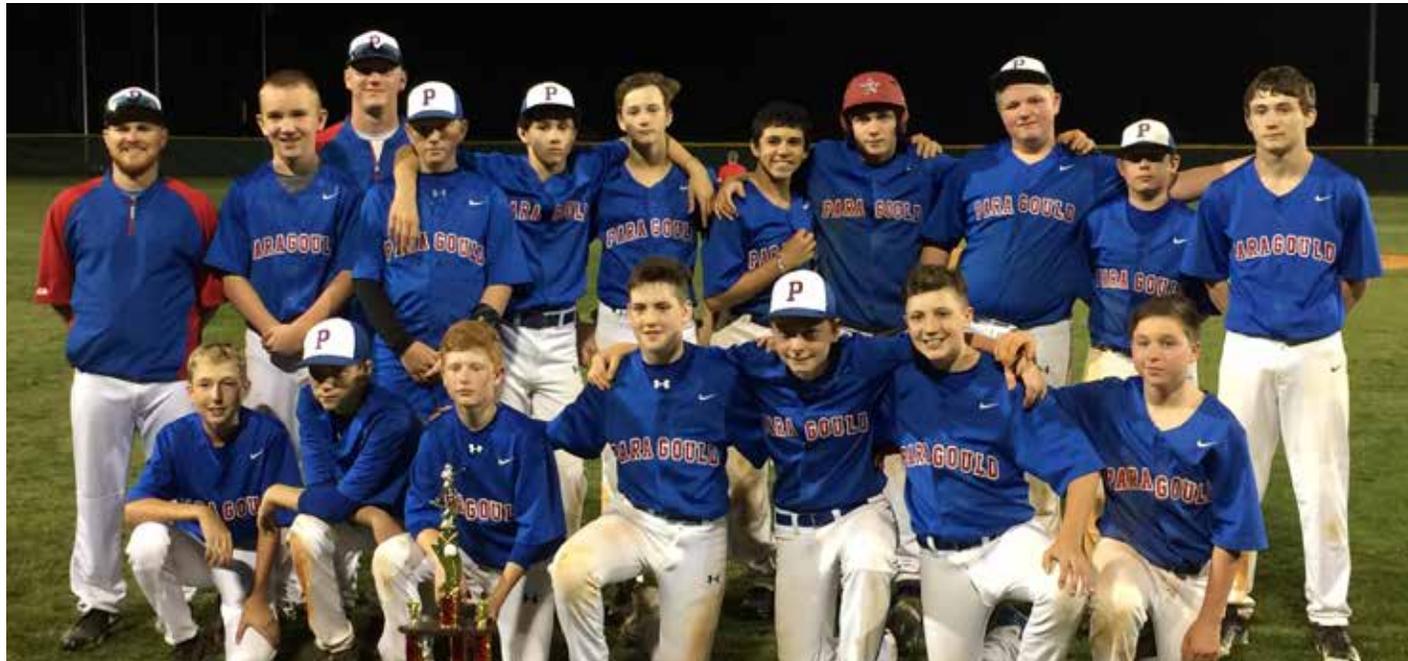
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HAPPENINGS



OVER 800 BOOKS READ IN SCHOOL YEAR

Addie Lashley achieved 400 Accelerated Reader points on Monday May 8, meaning she has read 800 books during this school year. Addie is an avid reader and has inspired others in the classroom to read more. She also plays soccer and has many outside activities but she always has a book (or books) close by.



PARAGOULD JR. HIGH PLACES IN CONFERENCE

The Paragould junior high baseball team recently won 2nd place in its conference. The team members are: First row; left to right: Dalton Ricker, Blaine Wood, Simon McBride, Cole Edwards, Tyler Rogers, Braxton Tilley and Alexander Dunigan.

Second Row: left to right: Coach Tyler Hays, Austin Thrasher, Coach Dakota Weatherly, Jack Henry Glasgow, Ethan Palma, Cole Doke, Darion Norris, Brayden Hines, TJ Myatt, Weston Shirley and Nick Ashby.

Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

Paragould Awards



Results are in! Voting has been tallied for this year's Paragould Premiere Awards. Find out who won in our July issue!

4th of July



Bring on the barbecue and fireworks, we're celebrating the 4th of July! Get in the patriotic spirit by reading the next issue of Premiere.

Downtown Living



Discover all of the perks of living in downtown Paragould and Jonesboro in the next issue of Premiere! We will explore the luxury loft apartments and lifestyle of both areas.



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