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May  
2017



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From The

# PUBLISHER...

DINA MASON

April marked the 15th year for MOR MEDIA, Inc and May marks 10 years of publishing Premiere Magazine! Those who know me will say I planned it that way because I like symmetry but I cannot claim this one. I accused Trey Stafford of having triplets just to have great marketing symmetry with "Triple FM," his company at the time. Media people are weird that way.

As the celebrations begin we want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has made the past 15 years possible, from our readers to those who have graciously allowed us to share their stories and events on air and, most of all, the advertisers who have allowed us to be a part of their marketing and advertising plans that have helped them and us on the road to successful business. We will be celebrating for the rest of 2017, so stay tuned to participate.

Ms. Manners, Linda Lou Moore, graces our cover again, ten years later and it is not fair that she looks as if she has not aged a bit! My photo is at least five years old and I'm told I should get a more current one but exclaim to "not have time to." Linda Lou actually named the

magazine; we had picked a name and thought we ran it through the proper channels for copyright as we did a federal search only to find out there was a state publication with that name not listed in the federal registry ... after a threatening letter arrived. We were off to a bit of a rocky start and Linda Lou piped in with "what about Premiere?"

May, ten years later, shows a few changes and hopefully progressive ones but we hope we are still accomplishing our early goal of "the good news happening and the people making it happen." We just have expanded the area we cover and now publish those stories about Jonesboro as well. We love the opportunity to help our communities spread the good news, both Paragould and Jonesboro, as well as all the communities that surround us. In our next ten years we hope that continues and we need all of your help. Let us know of those people in your community that make good things happen!

Thank you for reading Premiere and we hope to hear from you soon.

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# PREMIERE

## **publisher/advertising sales**

Dina Mason •  
dina@mormediainc.com

## **copy editor**

Richard Brummett •  
editor@premiere-magazine.com

## **contributing writers**

Caitlin LaFarlette •  
caitlin\_lafarlette@hotmail.com  
Anthony Childress •  
tribalredwolf@hotmail.com  
Chuck Long •  
Charles.Long@agfc.ar.gov  
Jared Pickney •  
jared@fellowshipparagould.com  
Joshua Costner •  
j.costner@490media.com  
Ashley Berry •  
ashmorie-songwriter@yahoo.com  
Ren Hoggard •  
Josie Bell •

## **graphic designer — advertising**

Jordan Lewis •  
graphics@mormediainc.com

## **advertising sales team**

Dina Mason • dina@mormediainc.com  
Perry Mason • perry@mormediainc.com  
Ashley Mason • ashley@mormediainc.com  
Brian Osborn • brian@mormediainc.com  
Sarah Dawson • sarah@mormediainc.com

## **photographer**

Amy Reeves •  
amyreevesphotography@yahoo.com



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

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For advertising, distribution or editorial contribution, contact Dina Mason at 870-236-7627 or email to dina@mormediainc.com.



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# AMMC BLUE & GREEN CELEBRATION

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and Mid-America Transplant hosted an event in observation of Blue and Green Day. April is National Organ Donation month and this celebration helps raise awareness of the need for signing up to be an organ donor.

The principles of why everyone should be an organ donor were best put into words by attendees. Kasie Noel, a lung transplant recipient six years ago, said, "Not only did my donors give me life, but my son was born after I was told I would not have children; and he will one day have children, so this person continues to contribute."

Kasie has Cystic Fibrosis and had two lung transplants within five days. Her two month wait seemed long but really was a short time compared to many who wait much longer. She and her family made the trip from Illinois to attend the event and meet Brandi Snodgrass-Hill. Brandi and Kasie were both in St. Louis at Barnes Hospital and although Brandi met her family when matched up as a support group, she had not met Kasie face to face.

"We feel like we know each other already but it has been nice to actually meet," Kasie said. "Support groups are so important. Sometimes we have to be strong for our family but we can always let our fears and frustrations go with each other."

Brandi has a rare lung disease called bronchiolitis obliterans. She was misdiagnosed for years with asthma. She was finally diagnosed five years ago and is waiting to be placed on the lung transplant list when her health status allows. Brandi points out how impressed she is with the recipients she has met on her journey and how they honor and think of their donor every day. "What better way to leave a legacy or honor a loved one that you have lost than to have a recipient and their whole family and community honor them every day?" she asked.



Kase was featured on the cover of Premiere in April 2009.



Kase Kersey

Kase Kersey was the recipient of a heart transplant at 14 months old. He was that one in a million child that could not fight off a virus and it attached to his heart. Kase was rushed to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock via helicopter.

Now ten years old, Kase lives a fairly normal life besides taking a handful of pills and not being able to play football or drink grapefruit juice. "My dad said it is sour and not good anyway," he said, and he really likes hunting and fishing, so not playing football is not too much of a sacrifice.

His favorite subject in school is science and he really is not fond of math. Kase is a fourth grader at Greene County Tech. He makes a trip to ACH every three months and has a biannual heart cath to keep tabs on the health of his heart. Kase has several favorite doctors at ACH, specifically mentioning Dr. Ballard and Dr. Elizabeth Fraiser, who has been with his case from the beginning. His favorite thing to do when he has to go to Little Rock is go to Red Lobster.

Kase's grandmother, Joy Middleton, said he is very responsible with his medications and informs those around him when they offer

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him something he cannot have or do. Kase has two younger brothers and he says, "They are the real problems!"

It was Kase's tenth birthday April 19th, the day of the event, and both Kasie and Brandi have April birthdays. The trio are appropriate spokespeople since April is Donate Life Month. Brandi said, "The best birthday present you can give me is to sign up to be an organ donor."

For more information on organ donation go to [mid-americantransplant.org](http://mid-americantransplant.org).



Kasie Noel and her son.



Kasie Noel and Brandi Snodgrass-Hill



Laverta Stewart at her 100th birthday party alongside her son Ben and his wife Susan.

## 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



By Richard Brummett

Laverta Stewart, a resident of Sunshine Manor in Paragould, celebrated her 100th birthday in April with the help of family and friends.

A crowd of about 25 well-wishers gathered at Brick Oven Pizza to help Mrs. Stewart mark the occasion, and several shared stories of their long histories with her and emphasized the impact she has made on their lives. Almost every brief account ended in laughter, which seemed to delight the honoree.

Her son Ben, who lives near Vicksburg, Mississippi, and his wife Susan helped get the guest of honor to the table and in front of her cake and assisted in recognizing the various guests who approached to congratulate her on the big day.

"She doesn't hear well at all," Ben said, "and she just won't wear her hearing aids, but she knows everybody here and you can tell she's happy. She looks real happy."

An advertisement for Glen Sain Ford. It features a silver Ford pickup truck driving through a muddy puddle on a dirt road. The truck is splashing water. In the top left corner, the text "Glen Sain" is written in a cursive font, with the Ford logo next to it. At the bottom, there is a black banner with the text "GOD BLESS *our* TROOPS" on the left and "870.236.8546 | 1301 HWY 49 North | glensain.com" on the right.

# DISC GOLF PRO TOUR



Teams of disc golfers gathered in Jonesboro April 13-16 to put their skills to the test on the Disc Side of Heaven golf course.

Tucked away in the hills of Crowley's Ridge, Disc Side of Heaven aims to eventually host 3-4 tournaments each year. This year saw the arrival of the Disc Golf Pro Tour, which is comprised of nine total tournaments across the country from March to October. The course at Disc Side of Heaven is one of the longest in the world, and professional men and women attended for the chance to win cash, according to a Disc Golf Pro Tour press release.

The current first, sixth and fourteenth men players in the world entered the competition, as well as three of the top 12 women in the world.



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# AMMC WINS REGIONAL AWARD



On April 4 the River Valley Region of Kindred Hospital Rehabilitation Services held its annual meeting in St. Louis. During the meeting, the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center was given the Outstanding Key Performance Indicator Award. The award recognizes the top performing unit in the region with outstanding scores in regard to patient functional improvement and overall return to home rates after an injury or illness. The regional award is given to one out of 25 inpatient rehabilitation units throughout Arkansas, Missouri,

Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois. It evaluates patient outcomes across 15 different areas utilized to judge the overall effectiveness of any inpatient rehabilitation program and is considered the region's highest honor, awarded annually to the top performing unit in Kindred's River Valley Region. Pictured left to right are Kindred Inpatient Rehab Director Jeff Deniston; AMMC Inpatient Rehab Nurse Manager Angie Hendrix, RN; Albert Fonticciella, M.D.; and Kirk Coward, APRN.

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# AMERICAN FOUNDATION SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK AT A-STATE

In April the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted a walk at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. It is their hope that walks like this one will encourage locals to get involved. Funds that are raised are used right here in Northeast Arkansas to help start suicide and mental health programs in high schools and colleges. Currently Arkansas is ranked number 10 in the United States with the number of deaths per suicide and the AFSP hopes to bring light to helping people that may be struggling with the thought of suicide.

Kaitlyn Nugent says she got involved because she is a mental health worker and she has had family members struggle with mental health issues. She credits God for placing it on her heart to help bring the walk to Jonesboro and raise awareness for suicide prevention. The walk was the first AFSP event in Arkansas and they hope to bring more events to get the community involved. Kaitlyn also says she hopes the biggest thing people take from the walk is to help raise funds to allow more programs to be started in Northeast Arkansas.





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# JONESBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Nearly 40 vendors mingled with a steady flow of people attending the annual Hogwarts Fair of Arts, Crafts, and Wizardry on Saturday, April 1, on the back grounds of the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library. The Natural History Educational Company of the Mid-South brought animals to the event to perform. Various booths featured handmade artistic pieces, crafts, and a variety of other items. The Joben Brothers entertained the crowd with a musical performance.



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# UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB JONESBORO AUTO SHOW

The University Heights Lions Club held its 28th annual Jonesboro Auto Show in April at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center. More than 144 cars and trucks were exhibited from 41 cities and towns in Arkansas and four other states. Attendance was over 2,300 individuals.

The Best in Show Award went to a 2000 Lingenfelter Corvette, owned by Dan DeMicco and shown by Tommy Stracener of Jonesboro. Lingenfelter Performance Engineering was founded over 44 years ago and is a globally recognized brand in the automotive performance engineering industry. Lingenfelter offers engine building, engine and chassis tuning components and installation for most GM vehicles.

The People's Choice, as voted by show attendees, went to a classic 1958 Chevrolet Corvette owned and exhibited by Rob Hester of Jonesboro. Rob is a member of the Fast Glass Corvette Club of Northeast Arkansas.

The Jonesboro Auto Show is a major fundraising project of the University Heights Lions Club and all proceeds are used to fund various projects related to sight and hearing. The nearly \$10,000 raised will help local sight and hearing programs for individuals in the Jonesboro area. The show also helps to fund programs such as Mid-South Sight and Hearing in Memphis, World Services for the Blind in Little Rock, The Arkansas Blind Camp, The Lions Eye Tissue Bank in Little Rock and the Leader Dog Program.



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# DELTA SYMPOSIUM

By Anthony Childress

Writers, filmmakers, and storytellers lent their talents and shared experiences at the 23rd annual Delta Symposium in April, on the Arkansas State University campus in Jonesboro.

Hosted by the Department of English and Philosophy, the symposium featured a host of panel discussions and workshops to highlight the Delta region's unique heritage and history. The four-day event kicked off with authors discussing their works, including ASU's own Dr. Michael Bowman, who spoke about the influence of censorship in Southern life. Famed musician and poet Bob Dylan now appears on a scholarship dedicated in honor of the late Dr. Frances Hunter. Through her leadership, she helped to create a book titled *Professing Dylan*, which is a collection of 14 essays by professors who examine Bob Dylan's work and teach it in college and university classes.

One of the symposium's special guests, Kentucky native and writer Bobbie Ann Mason, sat down with moderator Dr. Catherine Calloway, professor of English at ASU, to discuss her book, *In Country*. Mason's written work was adapted for a 1989 feature film of the same name, focusing on the effects of the Vietnam conflict on a family, in particular a young woman's quest to find out more about her deceased father's history before the years-long military commitment took his life while her mother was pregnant with her.

The symposium's theme was "Caring for Community." One of the panel discussions, led by Heritage Studies PhD. candidate LaDawn Fuhr, brought four authors with deep ties to Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas together to read from their original works. The Regional Writers' Roundtable featured Jonesboro native William Garner's book, *Me, Boo and the Goob*, a tale of three boys and their misadventures on the grounds of the Jonesboro Country Club. In addition, Stephen Greenwood read excerpts from his late father Roy Greenwood's work, *And That's the Way it Was*, set during the elder Greenwood's youth in early 20th century Jonesboro. Angelia Campbell-Owens shared parts of her mother Iwana Blevins-Campbell's book, *The Story of My Life*, also about the elder's life experiences.

Randy Larson, whose family has deep roots in the Tulot community of Poinsett County, evoked rounds of laughter by his unique brand of story-telling by recounting some of the familial tales of everything from road kill cuisine to hair-raising experiences with St. Francis River rats and other monsters.

The Arkansas Roots Music Festival wrapped things up with a free concert at City Water and Light Park in Jonesboro. Featured performers were the Vicki McGee 3 and the Natural Disasters, Sky City, Apples, Rounds, Hees, and Cobb; then a closing set by Memphis blues artist Sweet Angel.



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# GCCF AWARDS LUNCHEON

Organizations and individuals contributing to the Greene County Community Fund were recognized at the annual GCCF Awards Luncheon in April, held at the Paragould Community Center. For the 2017 funding year, 19 agencies are being sponsored by GCCF.

Funded agencies are: Agape House, Boy Scouts of Greene County, CASA, Child Abuse Task Force - MDT, DARE, Every Nation Food Ministry, FOCUS, Inc., Greene County 4-H, Greene County Boys/Girls Club, Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Greene County Rescue Squad, Greene County Fine Arts Council, Grace Mission Bible Training Center, Habitat for Humanity, House of Virtue, Henry Wrinkles, Pilots for Christ, Senior BEES, and Sight Conservation.

Executive Director Kera Crafton announced that new board members for 2017-2018 include Max Garnett, Misty Carr, Mike Weaver, Jon Tripod and Darrell Austin. Current board members are Kris Goodman, Julia Davis, Jeremy Scheffer, Beverly Cook, Sara Dickey, Donnie Roberts, DaRae Roberts, Pam Bradford, Keith Milligan and Ty Sims. Members rotating off the board are Donna Emmert, Kavin Snyder, Michael Cox and Aaron Frahler. Crafton also recognized intern Re'ne Spencer, who helped extensively with the most recent campaign.

Numerous individuals were honored for their participation throughout the year, then several organizations were noted for their outstanding fundraising efforts -- two in particular by donating more than \$50,000 each. Each received the Superior Award -- Utility Trailer for pledges of \$54,646; and Tenneco, Inc., winner of the Highest Donor Award, with a pledge of \$59,277.



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# FAITH, FAMILY, AND DUCKS



John 3:17 Ministry played host to The Duck Commander, Phil Robertson, in April at Arkansas State University's Convocation Center.

The event was held in order to raise money for John 3:17 Ministry, an organization formed to help women who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction. The ministry does not charge anything for the year-long program, so fundraisers such as this help it to continue to be able to do its work.

Around 1,500 tickets were sold for the event entitled, "Faith, Family and Ducks." Robertson, the Duck Dynasty star, was accompanied by wife Kay, his son Alan, and Alan's wife, Lisa.



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# CORKS & FORKS FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

A crowd of about 90 people attended the Corks & Forks fundraiser at Jonesboro's Harmony Gardens in April, with proceeds designated to provide financial support for the Family Crisis Center.

Noted local chefs prepared "world class small bites" for the guests, with Stacy Hall capturing top honors. Live music was provided by the band The Greasy Trees.

Two gift cards -- totaling \$250 -- were given away at the event.

The Family Crisis Center provides immediate crisis care, support, and hope to individuals and their families victimized by sexual or domestic violence. Its mission is to keep individuals in Northeast Arkansas safe by protecting their legal rights, offering counseling and education, offering methods of support, keeping them from harm's way and being their voice.

For more information about the Family Crisis Center, call 870-933-9449 or check them out at [www.neafamilycrisiscenter.org](http://www.neafamilycrisiscenter.org).



From left to right: MG Meyering, Vicki Crego, Mark Sexton, Sherri Cothern, Keith Pace



Jessica Coleman and Natalie Hawkins



From left to right: Andrea Seeman, Amanda Weeson, Jarrod Wesson

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# ASU WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The 3rd Annual Women's Business Leadership Conference at Arkansas State University attracted over 600 participants from across Arkansas and neighboring states. Participants were a combination of professional women, A-State students from Jonesboro and Mountain Home, students from other colleges, and a high school group from Cutter Morning Star.

The conference highlights the diversity in female leadership emerging across different industries to inspire through example, and to provide role models and gain leadership skills necessary to successfully move forward in their careers.

Keynote speakers certainly achieved that goal with their inspiring discussions. Ms. Fawn Lopez, Publisher and Vice President of Modern Healthcare, the industry's leading source of healthcare business and policy news, described her family's journey fleeing Vietnam and starting over in a new country. Some key points made were "expect the unexpected" and "never give up." Ms. Nancy Everitt, a 1987 graduate of Arkansas State University, is founder and CEO of HEOPS, Inc., based in Nashville. She challenged the audience to make the affirmation, "I am good enough and I will succeed" a part of their daily routines. Cindy Hovis Boyle, partner with BKD, LLP out of Little Rock, said women should always strive to move forward despite the obstacles that life may give them. A quote from Ms. Boyle: "You cannot control who you came from, or where you came from. But you can control who you are and where you're going."

This conference has attracted such interest and excitement that the Women's Business Leadership Center, a permanent outreach, was formed in 2016 and continues the support and encouragement of young women across the state. One of the highlights of the conference was the nine scholarships given due to the generosity of the women of the Founder's Circle, a group of founding members of the newly launched Center.

The next Women's Business Leadership Conference will be March, 29, 2018.



Founder's Circle



Scholarship Recipients





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### CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS

**Monday, May 8, 15, 22, 2017  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

*Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*

This three-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.

### BREASTFEEDING CLASS

**Monday, May 13, 2017  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

*Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*

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

### INFANT SAFETY CLASS

**Saturday, May 13, 2017  
1:00 PM - 3:00 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.

### RETIREES MEETING

**Friday, May 19, 2017  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

*Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at AMMC*

This luncheon is held so that

employees of the hospital who have retired have the opportunity to come together for good food, fun and fellowship.

### TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD COMMUNITY DIABETES PROGRAMS Thursday, May 25, 2017 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

*Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at AMMC*  
AMMC Certified Diabetes Educator Allison Hitt, RN, will explore healthy foods from several countries in 2017 and May's event is going to feature the great tastes of China. Please RSVP by May 24 by calling (870) 239-7016

### HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS

**Tuesday, May 30, 2017  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

*Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at AMMC*

This is a one-time class for expectant mothers who are prior to 16 weeks in their pregnancy.

### 2-MILE GLOW RUN Friday, June 2, 2017 8:30 PM

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Those interested should register online at [www.racesonline.com](http://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 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](mailto:allison.hitt@arkansasmethodist.org).



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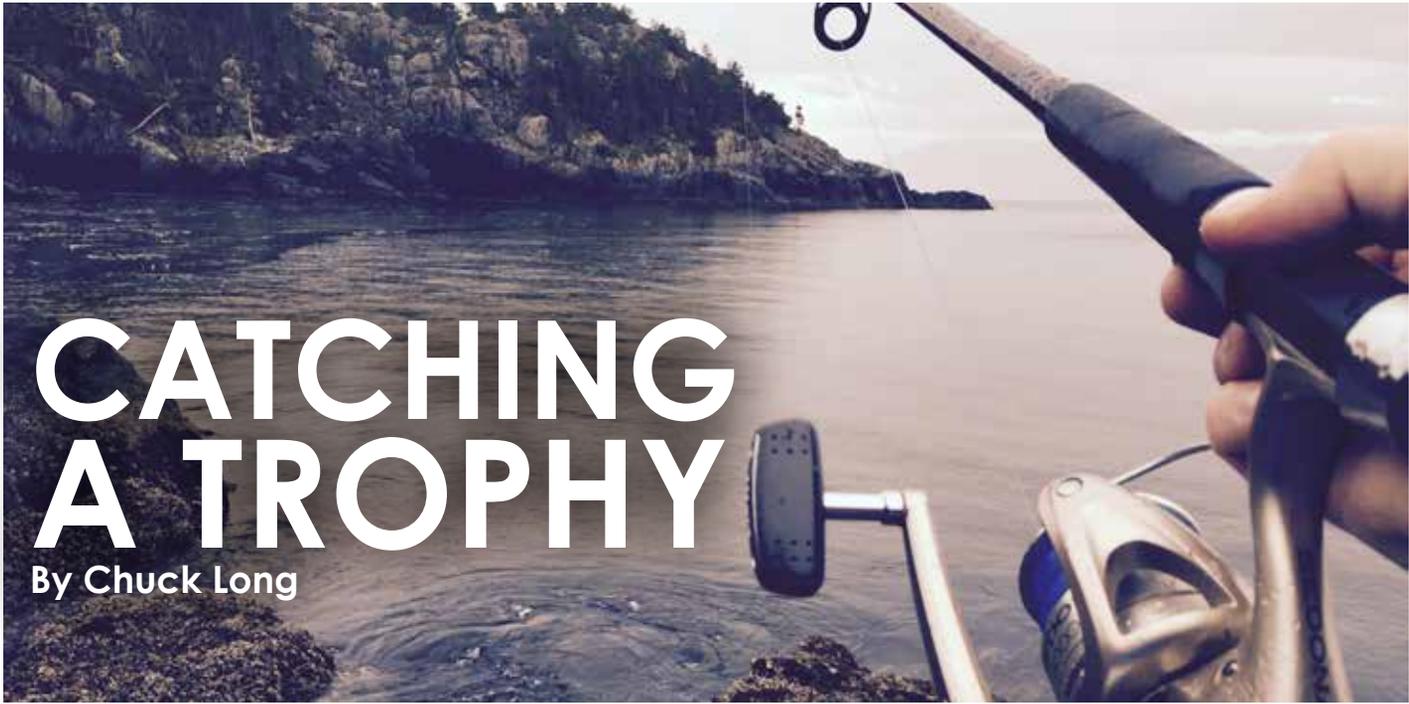
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# CATCHING A TROPHY

By Chuck Long

Those of us who enjoy the outdoors often use numbers as a measuring stick to our success. Some of the more common outdoor-related questions with numeric answers include - How many did you kill? How much did that buck score? How long was that turkey's beard? How much did that fish weigh? And the list goes on. We often get caught up in using numbers as the guidelines for success.

I recently taught a fish biology class to a group of fourth graders at Cedar Ridge Elementary in Newark. We talked biology, did some dissecting and then talked about basic fishing skills. As we wrapped up I asked if there were any questions and a young man raised his hand and asked a very simple question that brought up this thought of numbers as a measure of success to the forefront of my mind.

"What is the biggest fish you have ever caught?" the young man asked. I gave him a couple of examples but, for some reason, that question has been circling in my mind since that day. My quick answers were a flathead catfish from Lake Norfolk, a paddlefish from the Tennessee River and a mention of the big halibut that we almost landed in Alaska (will share that story at another time). Even though I had some answers for the aspiring fisherman, that question has been coming back to me. But why?

After years in the outdoors I have come to better understand that there is so much more to a "big fish" story than the numbers and weight of the fish itself. The place, the people and the overall situation are better markers

in my mind than the numbers generated by a set of scales.

One of those days that is etched in my mind happened when I was about ten years old. As with many young fishermen I always wanted to catch a big fish, but a big largemouth bass would be something special. I wanted one like I watched Rayo, Bill and Homer catch on television.

My Grandmother Long was often the one who took me fishing and on this particular day we were at Meadow Lake just north of Oak Grove. At that time it was a pay lake and once the fish were caught they were weighed and then the fisherman paid by the pound.

We were after some catfish and my bait of choice was a big glob of Catfish Charlie, carefully rolled onto the hook and then delicately heaved as far out in the lake as the Zebco 33 would allow. I sat the rod down and soon the pole jumped with the telltale sign of a fish taking the bait. The hook was set and the fight was on and another hefty catfish was headed in for the stringer.

The fish fought and I reeled and soon the fish was near the bank and finally rolled to the surface. It was then we realized it was not a catfish, but a largemouth bass, and not just an average bass, a big one! Excitement set in and I worked the fish close to the bank but could not lift him onto the dry ground and end the fight. Then it happened, the hook came untied and there my trophy bass lay on its side, half covered in water. Luckily he did not know he was free, but I did not know what to do either. Without hesitation

Grandmother went into action and before I realized what was going on she was in the edge of the water and skillfully flicked the large bass up on the bank. I was ecstatic to say the least. We immediately headed to the scales and the bass hit six pounds. I had my trophy bass.

Even though it has been 40 years, the memories of that day are still strong in my mind and for that I am very thankful. I have caught bigger bass, bigger fish, but to have a special memory of a day at the lake with my grandmother means more than the fish on my wall.

In the end the outdoors are all about the memories. I like to talk full game bags, filled tags and hefty coolers along with anyone else. But, as I look back now, I am more thankful for the experiences and the great times I have shared with many friends and family on the water and in the woods than the trophies on the wall. There have been good days, great days and some days I would rather forget, but they all come together to make an outdoorsman who he is.

I hope you get out and enjoy the woods and water with your family and maybe I will see you out there. God bless and good fishing!!!



## CHUCK LONG

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In the middle of March, Luke Whitby-Lange, son of Lorie Whitby and David Lange, was contacted by the chairman of the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Kyle Franzen, and informed his name had been chosen in a national drawing for the 2017 JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime. Luke has been involved in the local NWTf Chapter, the Scatter Creek Fightn' Toms, for many years. He is an active committee member and his dad is one of the Charter Members of the organization.

The winners were given a nice package of supplies, including a shotgun. Luke's gun was a Winchester SXP Turkey 12 gauge. All travel and lodging expenses were included and great meals were provided and cooked to order by Emily of Comstock Lodge. Hunting clothes, calls and a hunting vest were also provided and parents on the trip were outfitted as well. The other winner was Lexi Riley of Evergreen, Alabama, accompanied by her mother, Devin Riley. A third hunter, Jocelyn, was from Utah and purchased her hunt during an auction at the NWTf annual conference in Nashville in the spring.

The hunt took place April 10-14 at Comstock Premiere Lodge in Sargent, Nebraska. Owners Roxanne and Mitch Huggins helped to guide and make the stay enjoyable. Barry Woods, the Director of Field Operation for the West Central Region of the NWTf, also helped guide the young hunters.

Hunting started on the afternoon of April 11. Luke, his dad, and lodge owner Huggins traveled to the beautiful rolling hills to try to harvest a turkey. After a couple of hours of looking, listening and calling they heard the echo of gobblers sounding off and approaching. Very quickly three adult Rio gobblers came in huddled in a small circle,

which made for a hard shot. Finally one of the gobblers separated for a shot but, unfortunately, Luke missed. Soon an adult gobbler, a Merriam with an 8-inch beard and 3/4-inch spurs, was approaching the decoys. This time Luke was right on target, harvesting his first turkey ever.

Before the day ended all three youth hunters harvested birds.

The second day started with a bang, literally. A strong lightning storm caused the turkeys to stay away; however, the bison and some big-horn sheep decided to pay a visit. Later in the afternoon the group returned to hunt and after some calling, a couple of hens decided to pay a visit. After about an hour of watching the hens, the group started hearing gobblers out in front. One of the hens disappeared, heading in the direction of the gobblers. After a long wait, Luke spotted one of the gobblers, his red head and neck a very bright red. A fourth gobbler and numerous hens surfaced in the area and Mitch advised Luke to shoot any of the gobblers since they were all adults. Soon after that a shot rang out and a good bird was down for the count. His second and final gobbler was a Rio with a 9-inch beard and 1-inch spurs. With a two bird limit for the hunt, Luke could relax and see if the other hunters could also be successful.

Jocelyn was scheduled to leave earlier than the rest and was not able to harvest another bird. Lexi was persistent and harvested a nice adult gobbler on Thursday afternoon just before they were scheduled to leave the following day.

The National Wild Turkey Federation calls the event the "JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime" and in the opinion of Luke and David, it truly is.

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# LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney



I want to encourage moms to stop worrying. To stop allowing your children to trigger inside of you a deep seated anxiety that is robbing you of the life you were created to experience.

The truth is, moms across the world worry about their kids. They worry about their safety, health, and competence. They worry about their present and their future. This is natural, but it is not healthy.

It is common, but it is not the way things are supposed to be.

Perhaps this is why Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

Mom, you are a human being with real limitations. You cannot be everything for your kid. You cannot ultimately ensure that your child will live a long, healthy, safe and

successful life. And according to Jesus, no amount of worry will change that.

God never promises that your kid will live a pain free life. Nor does he promise that parenting will be easy. He does promise that if you will trust him, that if you will recognize that He is God and that you and your children are not, that He will be with you all the way.

I pray that every mother reading this will have a wonderful Mother's Day. That you will see your kids as a blessing from God. And that you will give them back to him, trusting that your joy is found not the gifts but in the Giver.

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# The art of interior design FROM A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE

Not too long ago, interior design was wildly inspired by the masculine aspect of directional decor. Sharp, creased, tailored draperies, along with pinstriped upholstery in sophisticated shades of gray and navy blue set the stage for rooms.

But as fashion always does, the arc is now swinging in a different direction and the winds are blowing toward the call to the new feminine. But this isn't the previous call to shabby-chic lace and other cliches of a decade ago. No! It has evolved to a classic and soft look with an eclectic spin to it.

Bear with me ... pretty is back, but we designers are using traditional florals on edgy, clean lined furnishings to create a mashup of modernity.

Now, we are looking at a return to pretty rooms where traditional design reigns but adding to that the unexpected focal points of metals, straight lines, taking the "girly" look out and giving these spaces the serious gender they deserve.

Designer Suyel dePedro Cunningham suggests layering a feminine room with a mix of eclectic patterns and furniture with a simple straightforward message. What is

that message? Simple. The new femininity is not your mother's chintz filled bedroom from the 1980s; rather, the new woman is an independent soul, making her own money, well traveled, in control of her own life and has an agenda all her own, aside from the new modern man, who supports her in all these efforts to forge out and create her identity.

Example: You have a rather traditional heirloom bedroom set of beautiful woods and hardware, so bring in an edgy light fixture with a wildly industrial flair to it. Try some bold pinks and oranges on your bed ensemble in some larger than life patterns. Don't forget what you throw on the floor, too. Take what you've started and bring it on down to the carpet or hardwood. But keep all of your architectural elements simple without too many embellishments; you want to draw attention to the extra design elements in your room and keep those the focus.

## Try shaking up the color pallet

White on white is always beautiful, but also may be impractical, so layer this with lavender, turquoise or mint green and red.

If you do use pink in your rooms, pair it up with navy blue. This will

create a neutral gender balanced look and try adding some passementerie or trims in very preppy tones to add to those drab, simple draperies that five years ago you just had to have because Brittney down the street said they were all the rage!

Another trick to giving some edge to a feminine room is to add black into the mix. Paint only the legs on a chair, or hang a large black mirror. Black is an anchor. If you want edgy feminine, then you'll want to add some black somewhere. Modern photography in black and white is always a good call, especially if it calls and grabs your heart with the content.

In a nutshell, the new modern femininity is appealing to men, too. It is well rounded, it is interesting and it will keep its interest. Just like the confident modern woman who will turn men's heads everywhere she goes!!



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## MAY IS A TIME FOR MOTHERS



It's a month of beautiful flowering shrubbery, trees and rose bushes in abundance. As the special day arrives for us it reminds us of who mothers are. Mothers are nurturers, they are protectors, they gather us in for special affection and sometimes to discipline us. Many mothers are heads of their homes as single parents. They go to work to make a living, they sacrifice to pay the bills, clean the leaves out of the gutters and take the car in for oil changes. They plan our vacations, pack our lunches, go to endless sport activities and band performances. They are partners to our fathers, lovers of the men they've married. Some households have two mothers, others are headed up by a single dad, doing his best to be mother and father.

My mother's been gone now for ten years. I lost her to Alzheimer's disease. She was a gentle, loving woman with a creative twist for style. She could throw a party together for twenty-four place settings on the back of her hand and in one wave of her wrist, cook and have it ready by the time the first guest arrived. She wouldn't leave the house without make-up, her hair done, a purse and her pumps. As I reflect this month on her, what she did to help make me the man I am, I am filled with gratitude for the days I spent with her, for her wisdom, her reflection. And as I see children and families everywhere in tow behind their mothers - I smile to myself for I realize the rich blessing God has given us in this mortal life called our mothers.

**Best blessing to mothers everywhere. Happy Mother's Day!**

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# YOUR SKIN DESERVES THE BEST

## HOW TO KEEP YOUR MAKEUP LOOKING FLAWLESS



If you have your skin care routine down pat, use the correct kind of foundation and are still experiencing breakouts or uneven skin tone, you may want to take a look at your makeup tools.

For many, the makeup process can be just tedious enough that by the time you swipe on your finishing powder, you don't want to do much else. But it's time to take a second look at your brushes and sponges — they could be the reason for pesky acne that won't go away.

Even if you wash your face before applying makeup, your skin still harbors various kinds of bacteria that transfer to your brushes and, in turn, to your makeup if using compacts and palettes. And if your makeup is left in a humid, wet environment like a bathroom, it creates the perfect breeding ground for that bacteria to flourish and get loaded up again on brushes. Which then come back into contact with your skin ... wash, rinse, repeat.

Aside from the health hazard, not washing brushes can also give a patchy or streaky appearance to makeup. Dried liquid can flake on the brush and get caught on the skin, and numerous layers on the brushes can cause difficult application.

So what's a girl (or guy!) to do? Washing your tools after each use is ideal, but most of us are too busy for that. Try aiming for cleansing three times a week with a deep cleanser such as a face wash, baby shampoo, or a cleansing oil. Allow brushes to soak for a short time, rinse completely, shape the bristles and lay out to dry. If cleansing every day is important to you, a brush cleansing spray will be your best friend. Just spray down brushes, wipe on a towel and let dry!

Your skin deserves only the best so to keep that makeup looking flawless, take care of your tools first!

# Three generations WORKING SIDE BY SIDE

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Mother's Day is every day for the women at Lucille's Generations salon in Paragould — three generations of cosmetologists work side by side as family and coworkers.

Owner Lucille Harvey has been a hair stylist since 1973, following in the footsteps of her mother-in-law and sister. With three children, Lucille said she prayed for God to help her find the right thing to do. Her prayer was later answered.

"I went to the beauty school one morning to find out how much it would cost, just to see if we could afford it," she said. Later that day, Lucille discovered a woman who saw her at the school and wanted to pay her tuition.

"I knew God had answered my prayer and He has blessed me ever since with the best, loyal customers and friends," Lucille said. "It's like a big family."

Lucille's daughter, Bridgette Horner, became the next stylist in the family in 1992. "Up until then I never even thought about wanting to be one, and it was like God just put it on my heart," Bridgette said. "And of course I had my mother to help me along the way."

Bridgette never hesitated to ask for help on her cosmetology journey and said she wanted to learn everything she could from her mother. She added she knew it was God's perfect plan for her life because her love for the craft has remained for the past 25 years.

In the summer of 2016, Bridgette's daughter Alexis joined the team, turning the former Lucille's Blessings into the current Lucille's Generations. From the moment she joined cosmetology school, Alexis said she knew she would go to work with her family. Even though her first day in the salon was spent without her mother and grandmother, every day from then on was filled with excitement.



"It's always just a giant party up here," Alexis said.

For Alexis, being a third-generation cosmetologist comes with the perk of an abundance of knowledge and wisdom. "I always know for sure there's going to be someone to help," she said.

Some may see working in such close quarters with family as a recipe for disaster, but Lucille, Bridgette and Alexis have the right communication skills to make it work. "We don't have conflict with each other because it's so easy to talk to one another," Alexis said, adding that communication is her advice for others in this situation. "Just like any other relationship, you have to nurture it."

The three can be found in the salon throughout the week laughing with not only customers, but each other, and clients leave feeling the warmth of family.

Bridgette summarized the family business in a simple, devoted way: "To get to work with my mother, and now my daughter, is just amazing."



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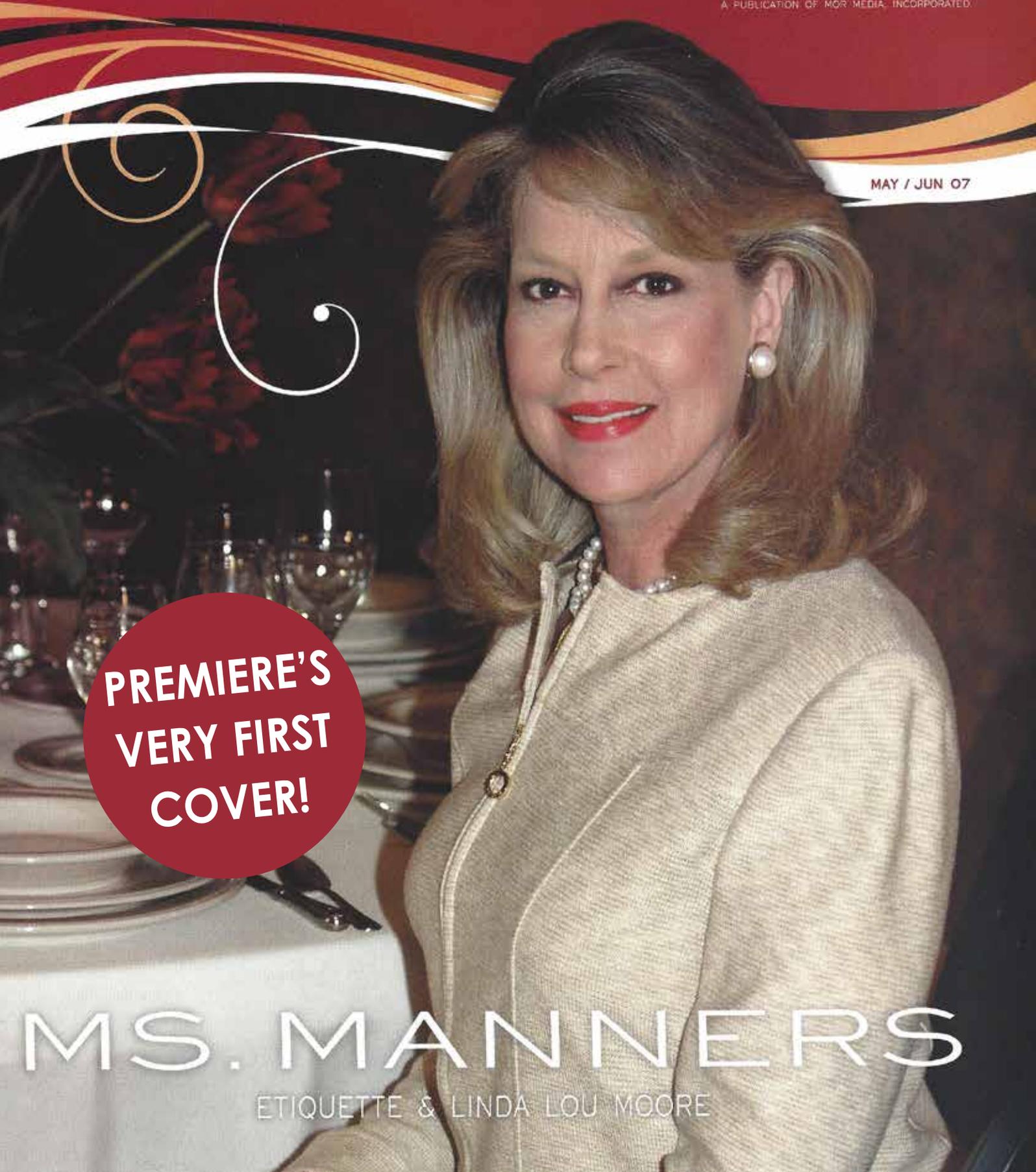
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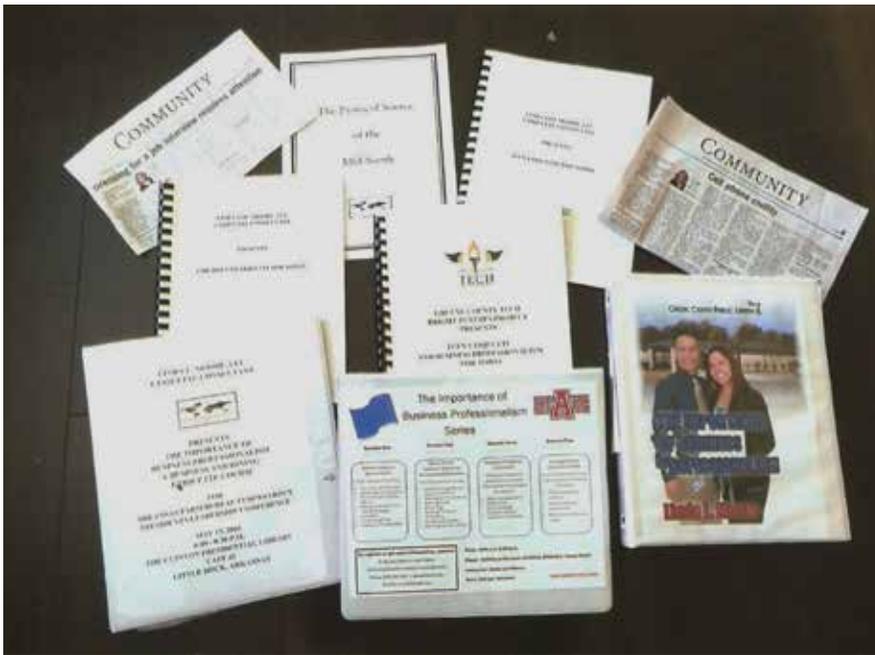
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# ENCORE PERFORMANCE

## LINDA LOU MOORE RETURNS AS COVER MODEL

By Richard Brummett

When the very first issue of *Premiere Magazine* rolled off the press, Linda Lou Moore graced the cover. Now, 10 years later, here she is again, helping the MOR Media staff mark a successful decade of publishing.

"I remember that Dina (Mason) called me and talked about starting a magazine," said Moore, a highly respected etiquette consultant from Paragould. "It never occurred to me at the time that she was going to ask me to be on the cover. She said they were going to report the good things going on in the area but to be on the first cover ... I was so surprised."

That first story detailed Moore's efforts to provide education in understanding that etiquette is essentially knowing how to treat someone, and informed readers who were not familiar with her services about the availability and value of her courses. She said she spent 20 years as a speech therapist, working with patients "from pediatrics to geriatrics. After that time, I wanted to do something different and when I read about the Protocol School of Washington, I thought, 'That is it.' While a college student, I served as ASU's 'official hostess' and enjoyed it very much. Etiquette consulting seemed like a natural extension of something that I had enjoyed," prompting her to attend the aforementioned prestigious school,

considered the "gold standard" for the industry.

She has taught etiquette and dining skills to children, teens and adults and said, "Most of us, no matter our age, find ourselves in situations where what we say or do is important. If we know what to do, we're comfortable and if we're comfortable we can make others comfortable."

Moore said knowing how to handle awkward situations with respect, civility and courtesy are hallmarks of the etiquette and protocol seminars. Children and teen courses build confidence by teaching social, communication, dining and leadership skills. The business etiquette and protocol courses for adults include forms of introductions, greetings from other cultures, deciphering dress codes, communication skills, business dining and much more.

She points to responses from attendees as proof positive of the courses' effectiveness.

"When a former UALR Law School student came to me at an Arkansas Bar Association meeting and told me how much the business etiquette course had helped her in the job interview process," Moore said as one example of positive feedback. "When a dining seminar participant who had a terrible dining experience (she spilled a plate of pasta on her professor) said, 'Had I only known how to

handle the problem back then.' When a child says that they feel better when they know what to do. When a teen talks about learning how to handle awkward situations. You receive some heartfelt followup from lots of people."

Moore and her husband, attorney Harry Truman Moore, are active in community projects and with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Society. In addition, she is a well-known workshop presenter and seminar leader, is an etiquette columnist and a guest on state and local television stations, and a member of The Etiquette and Leadership Institute.

"I get great feedback from my columns," she said. "Readers often say, 'I'm so glad you wrote that,' or, 'You addressed a subject that I had wondered about.' And some of the best columns have come from readers who have asked questions. The variety of articles are due, in part, to them."

As for making her second appearance on the cover of *Premiere*, Moore said, "What an honor. The magazine has grown so much and you see them everywhere. I am just truly honored to be on the cover again."

For more information regarding Moore's services, reach her at P.O. Box 726, Paragould, AR 72450; or at [manners@paragould.net](mailto:manners@paragould.net).

# celebrating TWO MOR ANNIVERSARIES PREMIERE MAGAZINE & MOR MEDIA



**SOMETHING 'MOR'**  
Several members of the community gathered for a ribbon cutting Monday for MOR Media, MOR Media, which is...

By Richard Brummett

There is a double anniversary celebration going on this year, as MOR Media, Inc., marks its 15th birthday while at the same time Premiere Magazine turns 10.

It was in 2002 that Dina Mason, Brian Osborn and Peggy Richardson teamed up to form MOR Media, starting with the purchase of radio station KDRS AM-FM. The radio group that KDRS was a part of at that time was purchased by another, which only wanted a portion of the stations involved. That provided the opportunity for KDRS to be separated from the package, and ownership of the station once again became local.

"Brian always says we bought our jobs," offered Mason, MOR's General Manager and co-owner along with Osborn.

From the outset, service and growth were at the forefront of MOR Media's game plan. Premiere was launched in May of 2007, followed by the addition of two more radio stations in 2013 and 2015. The current radio ledger includes 107.1 JACKfm, Jill Radio at 99.3 (KTPG) and iRock 103.7 as the media group takes on a more regional approach.

"Since we made the switch to JACKfm in February of 2012 we have been able to expand by starting two new formats," Osborn said. "In 2013 we added Jill -- at 103.9 at that time -- and in '15 we moved Jill to 99.3 and started iRock at 103.9 (now 103.7).

"After a variety of formats on both stations that included oldies, country, news/talk, sports talk, we debuted JACK, which brought a new way of doing radio to Northeast Arkansas," said Osborn, known fondly by listeners as Big O. "The format is based on incredible variety, more music and no 'jocks.' Just the host, a guy named Jack. The great thing about Jack is that he's only talking two

to ten seconds at the most, providing humor, information, et cetera, without getting in the way of the music. Jack begat Jill, which is hot adult contemporary, today's hits. And Jill begat iRock, which is a modern rock feel. All have the same type of delivery, which is a single voice saying exactly what we are thinking, while playing the music we want to hear, all while providing an optimal setting for the advertising messages of our clients."

"We pride ourselves in being multimedia -- print and broadcast," Mason said. "We continue our commitment to our community and to the Jonesboro market. We are interested in the endeavors of both communities. We want to be very visible and examine growth opportunities throughout Northeast Arkansas. I just love it, and love to make it work."

Premiere Magazine came to life in '07 when Mason was approached with the idea of putting her background in print to good use. She started at the Lawton Constitution in 1989 as an advertising assistant and has done something in the media ever since. "I have sold every sort of media except TV," she said, so when a group of community minded people concerned over the lack of positive news being presented to the reading public approached her about starting some sort of print product, she was intrigued.

"I had seen society magazines in other markets," she recalled, "but I wanted something that would be more community than social. I saw a way to do what we want ... to promote good news and events around the community."

Mason's original idea was to publish bimonthly, but the reception from readers and advertisers prompted a quick change to those plans. "The first Premiere said 'May-June issue' on the cover," she said, "but soon after publishing the first issue, when we were

trying to get advertising clients to commit to six-time contracts, they said, 'No, we prefer to do it yearly' and we quickly decided to publish monthly. Both the radio and magazine philosophies are the same: to cover lots of community events and individuals and fit the MOR Media mission of promoting community and businesses to be successful."

"We have grown, expanding to the Jonesboro market," Mason said. "Even before that, we tried to include those markets that come to Paragould ... Walnut Ridge, Rector, Piggott, Kennett. They read about their community and come here to shop the advertisers in our magazine, and that's a plus. We really began to become regional with the radio, when we leased 103.9 and launched Jill Radio. That's when we really first started branching out and decided it was time to have a presence in the Jonesboro market. We have a sales office on South Church Street in a cool downtown building; I love that. We were surprised to hear lots of Jonesboro listeners of JACK and how much they liked the less talk and variety of music which solidified our Jill's format decision of no DJs."

In the early days of MOR Media, the current owners were bolstered by the contributions of Richardson, who was called by Mason "an integral part of getting us started. She had 20-something years' experience as a salesperson in Paragould and was a sales consultant for us. She had just started the process to retire in March of 2011, not long before she passed away, but she was definitely a big part of getting this thing started."

Osborn said MOR Media's multimedia approach to sales and service is most fitting for today's readers and listeners.

"The great thing about Northeast Arkansas," he said, "is that it's all coming together in one big place and our stations are representative of that, and so is Premiere."



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# 15 YEARS AS MOR MEDIA.



KDRS, announces the purchase of both the AM and FM stations by MOR Media — a long-time advertising account executive in Paragould. Photo by Gary Exelby)

Other stations are apparently seeing a decline in advertising revenue. "Overseeing KDRS and becoming increasingly difficult," says Osborn.



where Family sold its Jacksonville holdings to Saga Communications. The three were laid off with a quick decision — buy the two stations or look for work.

programs from "the main collection," Osborn said. "I call it 'Big One.'" Osborn said. On-air promotions include a little fun at iPad hours, by asking them why they should "work about."



OB Paragould Daily Press July 31



**SOMETHING 'MOR'**  
Several members of the community gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new MOR Media building. Brian Osborn, owner of MOR Media, is seen on the right. The building was purchased by MOR Media from the former owners of KDRS AM and FM stations, was bought on a management agreement on April 16, 2002. FCC approval was received on July 2. The name was changed to MOR Media on July 15, 2004.

By TOMMY HAYNES  
DAILY PRESS

PARAGOULD — MOR Media, Inc., parent company of Paragould's only locally-owned radio stations, has expanded in 2004 with even more plans for the future.

Radio stations KDRS FM 107.1 The Ridge and KDRS AM 1490 have had a presence

Paragould, the Paragould/Greene County Chamber of Commerce and Junior Auxiliary.

While there have been no facility changes in the past year, increases in the staff were made.

Currently, MOR Media has four full-time employees and four part-time employees. One addition noticed by

# THANK YOU FOR LET

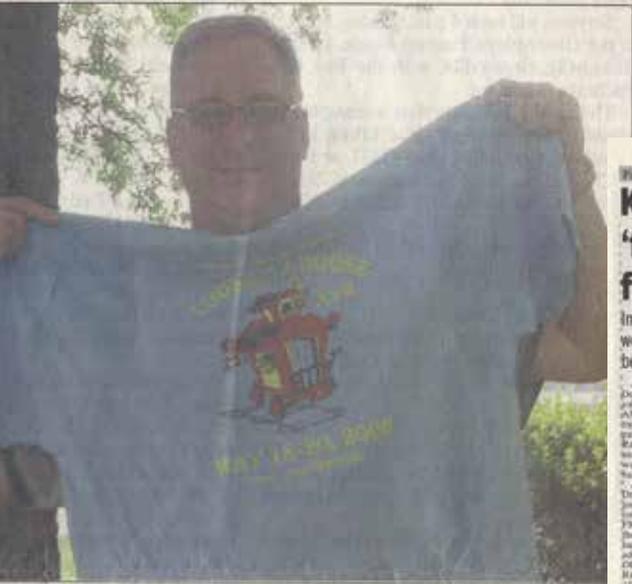
# 10 YEARS AS PREMIERE.



MOR Media...MOR

FUN!

... Caboose T-shirts!



Daily Press photo by Hannah B...

... chairman of the Loose Caboose committee, holds up one of the T-shirts  
... year's festival. Shirts can be purchased at Wal-Mart in Paragould for \$10.



Daily Press photo by Dawn Be...

... ribbon cutting Monday for MOR Media. MOR Media, which  
... nt by Dina Mason, Brian Osborn and Peggy Richardson. T  
... 15, pending approval from the Federal Communications Com  
... the MOR was derived from the initials of the three new owners.



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and speech, do public speaking and DO  
worry about your personality, attitude and  
appearance! Dina said, "When you are in  
management, like we are, you are always  
looking for personality and presentation.  
Everywhere you go, it really does matter if  
your hair is blue, pink and purple. One of  
the best sales people I hired worked in a  
department store. Her attitude and presence

## KDRS will become 'flagship station' for two ASU sports

Indian baseball, women's hoops to be aired locally.

Arkansas State University's Department of Athletics has entered into a partnership with a group of AM radio stations to announce a new partnership for the Indian Radio Network for football and men's basketball and for women's basketball and baseball beginning this fall.

AM Director of Athletics Dr. Don Lee said during a press conference that Country 92.5 FM in Wynne will serve as the flagship station for football and men's basketball. In addition, Country 106.3 FM/103.5 AM in Walnut Ridge/Poplarville and 101.5 FM in Stuttgart/Dickinson will carry all games.

A three-minute coach's segment each week day with ASU Head Football Coach Steve Barber and men's Head Basketball Coach Dickey Ivey is one of the on-air highlights.

All are owned and operated by ASU graduates with degrees in Radio-Television-Digital Media from ASU.

Head Coach Barber and Head Basketball Coach Dickey Ivey are the general managers in Wynne, Ark.

MOR Media will carry all of the women's basketball and baseball games including pregame play. The network will also feature a three-minute coach's segment each week day with ASU women's Head Basketball Coach Debra Beiter and Head Baseball Coach Keith Koenigse during their respective seasons.

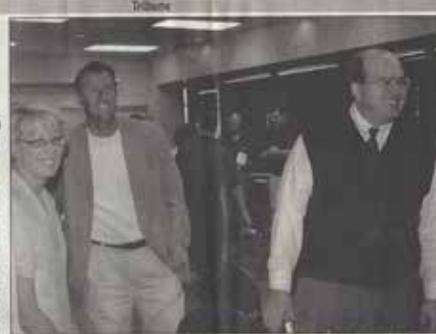
"We are excited to begin this association with ASU people who have a deep love for and commitment to their university," said Lee. "It is also a tribute to ASU's Radio and Television Department and the type of graduates they produce. They prepare their people well to enter the communications job market and become successful."

"The network is a true partnership," continued Lee. "ASU athletes will see drastic cutbacks and we will not allow it to be undercut. People who strongly believe in Arkansas

ASU's football, basketball and baseball games will be heard in five states," said Lee.

In addition to returning states Arkansas, people can hear Indian football and basketball in southeast Missouri, west Tennessee and northern Mississippi. Sitting in the stands in Indian Shoshone, you can hear stations and you can drive well over one hour in any direction and continue to listen to ASU broadcasts."

Lee also said that ASU's coverage will be global as there will be able to access



From left, MOR Media General Manager Dina Mason, Arkansas State University baseball coach Keith Koenigse and ASU Associate Athletic Director Chris Hickey share a laugh during a press conference announcing the school's radio network affiliates last Friday on the ASU campus.

"We have not only enhanced our radio network to greatly expand our coverage of ASU athletic events, but have now provided new revenue opportunities that have not previously available to us," said Lee.

Lee said the network includes affiliates in Little Rock (KARK 92.9 AM, KAY 1090 AM, and KOLY 102.1 FM), Boone (KELW 609 AM), Conway (KASR 92.7 FM) and Clinton (KOPQ 92.5 FM) and Cherokee Village (KFCM 98.3 FM). ASU officials are reporting additional

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## MOR Media buys KDRS stations

Mason, Richardson, Osborne form media group

By GARY EXELBY  
Tribune Staff Writer

Three long-time media professionals are going into business for themselves in Paragould. Dina Mason, Brian Osborn and Peggy Richardson are buying radio stations KDRS-AM and KDRS-FM from Pressly Media for an

have formed "MOR Media," announced an on-air press conference. "We've got to be locally owned in a long time," said on the air as "Big

g this for 17 years," "and Peggy been doing it for 22 the owners."

en on the broadcast since August 1980, who was vacation-as at the time of the as sold advertising her tenure. The third on, is relatively new

the station manager

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Thank You, Premiere readers and Jack, Jill, and iRock Radio Listeners! The votes were overwhelming this year for our annual Jonesboro Premiere Awards and we appreciate your taking the time to participate. Businesses and individuals who purchased an ad for this section appear in blue; their advertisements will be contained in the special section pages. The remaining winners are listed in black.

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

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

**PREMIERE**  
MAGAZINE



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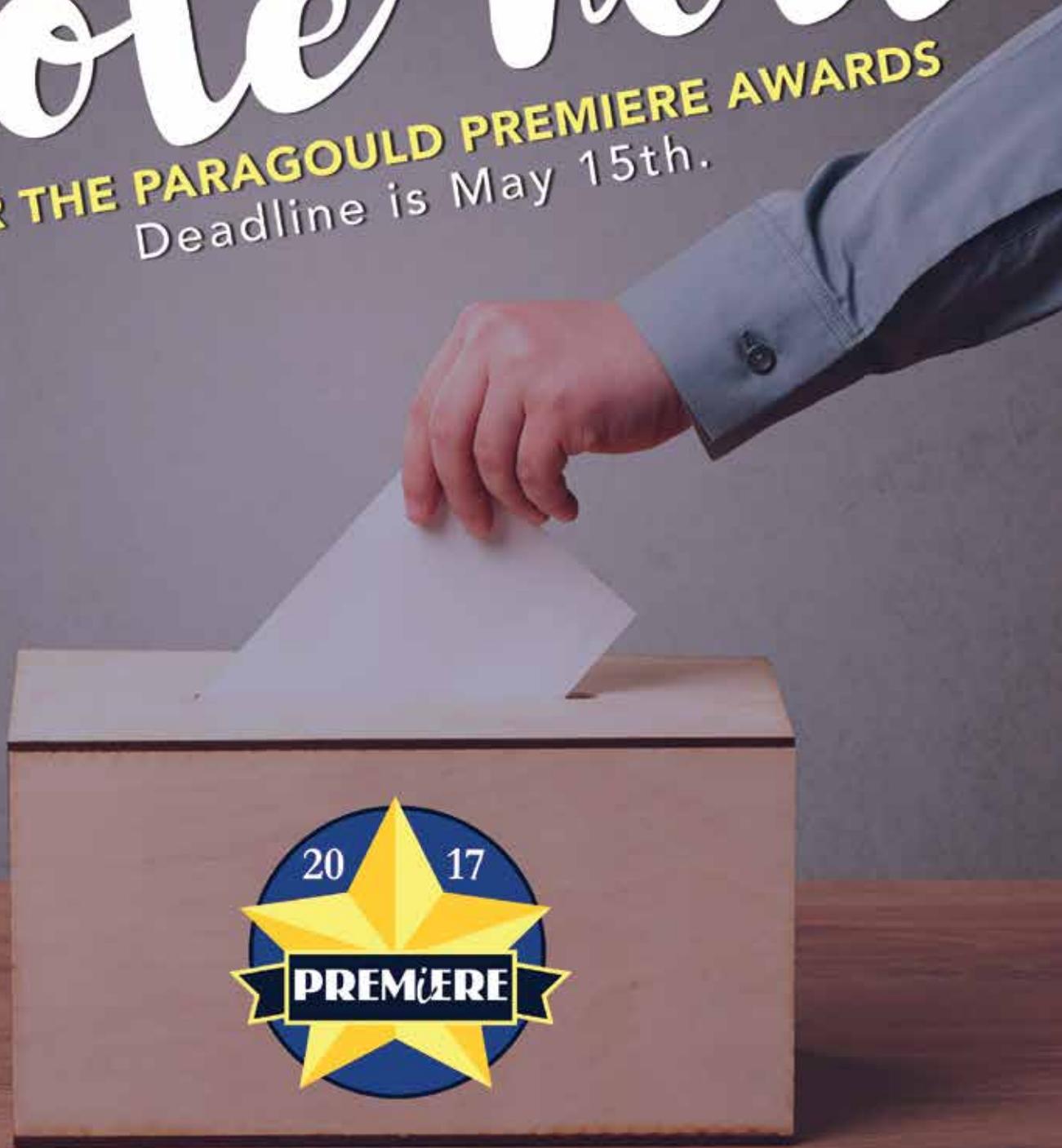
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By Richard Brummett

**H**oliday entertainment is set to return to Paragould with a bang if Daniel and Angie Stidham have anything to say about it.

Supported by the efforts of a team of locals interested in returning a fireworks show to the city, the Stidhams are spearheading the drive to raise the necessary funds to bring the pyrotechnic display back to Rotary Park as close to the Fourth of July celebration as possible. Collaborating with MOR Media on an advertising package, the Stidhams hope to get the financial backing in place to stage the Paragould Pyromania 2017 show on Saturday, July 8.

The Stidhams were out of town during the July 4 holiday two years ago and didn't realize that for the first time in a while no fireworks show was offered locally. Last year, when Daniel called MOR Media's Dina Mason to inquire about the best place to watch the fireworks display, he was shocked to hear her say that no event was planned in Paragould because there were not enough people interested in helping share the cost, which runs quite deep.

"I promised then and there that I would do everything I could to get it back this year," Daniel said. "I think it's important to the city. Paragould has changed so much since I was a kid growing up here, and in many ways the economy has not been very kind. But the people here are still 'down to earth' old-fashioned people, and this is the kind of thing a community like ours needs to support."

Angie said the MOR Media group has developed an "amazing promotional package, with four levels of sponsorship through the magazine and radio for anyone who wants to participate." Sponsorship levels range from Platinum (\$2,500) to Bronze (\$250), with each carrying different levels of prominence in ad placement and/or frequency.

"It is really pretty expensive to put on something like this," Angie said, "but my husband is very certain that we will not have any trouble raising the funds for a much-needed local event. We want to get the city involved as much as possible, because it's for families to enjoy. And we're getting kids as involved as we can. A girl from Piggott named Avery Little is the top student in her graphics design class and she has created the main flyer. Our daughter goes to Tech, and she has been working on it some. We want all ages to be a part of it."

Daniel said local businesses are being approached first, hoping they will see the benefit of financially supporting the event. He, MOR Media's Brian Osborn, Josh Agee and Shawntae Thompson, to name a few, have begun the task of getting the money together to bring the show to town. "Locally-owned businesses are getting first shot at putting their names on this," he said, "but, obviously, if they don't want to do it, to pull it off we'll have to go somewhere else. We're getting good response. This is an event the people of Paragould need."

To get more information on the fireworks show, or to participate, call Angie at 870-236-5743 or email her at [angie@stidhamfinancial.com](mailto:angie@stidhamfinancial.com).

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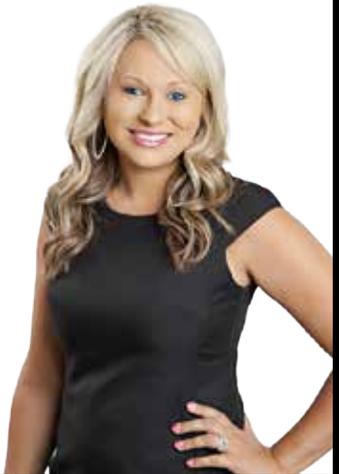


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# NEA COOK

## Amanda Yates

### PEACH STRAWBERRY BLUSH DRINK

#### Ingredients:

1 cup fresh strawberries  
2 cups Mt of Olives peach white balsamic  
8 cups sparkling water  
Stevia to taste

#### Directions:

Wash and chop strawberries and put in a quart jar with lid. Add the vinegar to the strawberries and seal tightly. Refrigerate overnight or at least 4 hours. When ready to serve - strain mixture and add about 1/4 to a pitcher with chilled sparkling water. Sweeten with Stevia to taste.

**NOTE:** You can make it stronger by increasing the amount of the vinegar mixture. Play with it and have fun.

### BAKLOUTI BLACK BEAN DIP

#### Ingredients:

¼ cup garlic olive oil  
¼ cup baklouti olive oil  
2 (15.5 ounce) cans black beans, rinsed and drained  
1-1/2 teaspoons salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice, from one lime, plus more if desired  
A few tablespoons of water if necessary  
1/4 cup fresh chopped cilantro, plus more for garnish (optional)

#### Directions

Add the black beans, olive oil, salt, cumin, lime juice, water and cilantro to the blender. Blend until smooth (if you're using a blender, you may need to stop and stir a few times to help it out). If the dip is too thick, add a bit of water or lime juice, little by little, to thin it out. Taste and adjust seasoning, then transfer to a serving bowl. Serve warm, cold or room temperature with tortilla chips.

\*The heat comes from the baklouti chili olive oil, so if you like it mild, replace with unflavored extra virgin olive oil or simply double the garlic olive oil used and omit baklouti.

Optional - add 1 small or 1/2 large avocado for extra creaminess.



This month's featured cook is Amanda Yates. "I own several health related stores in Jonesboro. I am passionate about eating healthy foods and cook most meals for my family. I truly believe God made our bodies to heal themselves if we give them proper nutrition. So much of today's food is empty calories and chemicals. I love educating people how to nourish their bodies with clean, whole foods.

**How did you learn to cook?** My mom always cooked when I was growing up. It was a bit different from what I cook today, though. We grew a garden and Dad hunted. We couldn't afford to eat out so Mom cooked all the time. She taught me how to make chicken and dumplings and coconut creme pie and beans and cornbread. As I got older, though, I realized the sugar and flour and corn were making me sick, so I re-learned to cook without the harmful ingredients.

**What is your favorite dish to cook?** I have many go-to dishes but if I had to pick just one it would be chocolate-peanut butter-avocado pudding. It has only a handful of healthy ingredients but tastes like a rich indulgence that chases away Mondays without Friday's guilt.

**What was your worst cooking disaster?** When I first got married, and before I

changed my diet, I spent a long time making lasagna to impress my new husband. As I was taking it out of the oven, my oven mitt slipped and I dumped the whole thing in the floor upside down. That was 18 years ago, and I've never made it again.

**What advice do you have for people learning to cook?** Start small and have fun. Designate one night a week as "experimental new food" night. Look through social media or books for inspiration. I find a veggie I had never cooked then search for recipes using that veggie. It is fun to include the whole family in the cooking process. Don't be afraid to vary a recipe or just create your own.





By Caitlin LaFarlette

For more than 40 years, Presley's Drive In has remained a Jonesboro staple of classic American food for every meal of the day.

Presley's has been called not only the "last joint standing in Northeast Arkansas," but also the "best kept secret in town." Walking inside takes you back in time, and Elvis lovers will feel right at home with the plethora of Elvis memorabilia. Presley's has been in the same spot since 1972, and even though it exchanged hands a few times, the Elvis theme has always remained the same.

Current manager Dave Stallings said in 2012, he was running an IHOP in Tupelo, MS, when Presley's closed. Stallings' father called to tell him the restaurant was up for sale, and Stallings knew he wanted it.

"I grew up on Presley's," he said. "We lived right down the road when I was younger, and owning my own restaurant has been a dream."

What I was most impressed with at Presley's was the extensive menu. Not only does it offer classics like burgers and fries, but there is a full breakfast menu, as well as milkshakes, Frito pies, tuna and Reubens. Stallings said while keeping the Presley's classics, he likes to go an extra step.

"I am a guy that loves food, and when a plate hits the table you want it to just feed your eyes before you even get to the first bite," he said. "We do big portions and we make sure every plate looks delicious."

Stallings suggests the ¼ pound burger and fries for first-timers, and it's easy to see why. The basket may not look like it holds much punch but prepare to fall in love after that first bite. The burger patty tastes like nothing I've ever had at a restaurant before. It was obvious it was cooked fresh, unlike burgers from most chain restaurants. The tomatoes and pickles were blessedly crisp instead of soggy, and the fries were piping hot and seasoned to perfection.

You can't go to a traditional diner without having a milkshake, either. The strawberry milkshake was out of this world. Like the

burger, it tasted completely fresh and had bits of real strawberries mixed in. It wasn't too sugary, which meant I sucked down half of it before my meal even arrived.

Another wonderful thing about Presley's is the affordability. Meals are reasonably priced — you could easily spend more at a fast food restaurant on the same items.

The atmosphere at Presley's is truly a hometown, Southern feel. Stallings and his wife are the owners and operators and can be found morning and night at the establishment, making rounds to every customer.

"You come in a few times and we get to know you by name," he said. "We want to be the kitchen table everyone wants to come to. We have an enormous growing family of regulars and we absolutely love it."

It is this dedication that makes Presley's so different from the ever-growing chain restaurants in Northeast Arkansas.

"The community has always been there for us," Stallings said, "and hopefully Presley's will always be there for the community."

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What's so special about olive oil? Our oils are all sourced from fresh, green olives from around the world. Countries including Spain, Italy, Tunisia, Chile, Portugal, and U.S. grown in California, and are all rated Ultra Premium. Ultra Premium is the highest possible classification of olive oil and because we source from both hemispheres, it is always fresh.

For our health conscious consumer, we stock a minimum of five varieties of Extra Virgin Olive Oil. These oils contain high levels of POLYPHENOLS, antioxidants that can only be found in 100% pure, green, fresh EVOO. These antioxidants have been studied for their positive effects on heart disease, inflammation, diabetes, and cancer. They are also high in healthy fats.

For the cooks and those looking to jazz up their menu, you'll love the flavors of the infused oils and vinegars. Try garlic infused oil with your meats or potatoes, chipotle for sautéed veggies or blackened salmon. Tuscan herb is great for Italian dishes or dipping bread. For salad lovers blend the oil and vinegars for a unique twist. The blood orange oil and cranberry pear vinegar combo is one of our favorites. The steak lovers will love the selection of vinegars for marinades and the butter oil for finishing.

And what about those vinegars? They are sourced from Italy and are aged up to 18 years. They are medicinal as well as delicious. They contain probiotic mother, which benefits the digestive and immune systems.

Mt of Olives is located at 1321 Stone street inside Jonesboro Health Food. Owners of both stores, James and Amanda Yates, are committed to bringing health and well being to our customers, and our environment. Our fixturing and decor is from repurposed materials and we support in-store recycling by offering a discount for returning your clean, empty bottles for refill.

We invite you in to Mt of Olives, inside Jonesboro Health Food today. Let us help you raise the bar for your families, healthy, delicious meals.



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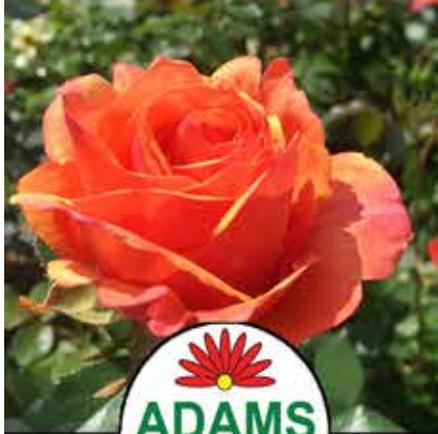
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# LED LIGHTING

By James Quinn

The Lamp Outlet has been leading the charge when it comes to sourcing LED (light emitting diode) lighting. Jim Quinn has spent the last 5-plus years studying and sourcing the best the market has to offer.

LED got off to a bad start with big box stores, which jumped on the bandwagon prior to LED's being ready for market. Color temperatures were not controlled within a 1,000 kelvin color temp. You would find a range of 2500 kelvin to 3500 kelvin in the early LED products, which gave lots of customers a bad taste for them. Now our staff at The Lamp Outlet can explain the correct kelvin temperatures for the correct space. We will insure your paint color stays the color you chose at the store.

Next we will discuss beam angle, to insure we are matching your project with the perfect spread of light. If grazing, we will insure on a pre-wire consultation that LED placement will graze -- not flood -- for the desired luminance. We will look at height of the ceiling or distance to meet your desired look. We will lay out task rooms with double the foot candles, and we will make certain your kitchen does not look like an airport runway. Our desire in the kitchen is to be sure you are not creating shadows on your work space.

I welcome architects and electricians to set up a consultation to see all the new products available in today's market. We are still seeing the same architect layouts from 20 years ago and we can, with few adjustments, give your projects a lighting design transformation. We can educate on efficacy, color temp, beam angle, and luman output. LED shopping is not intended for big box shopping. If there is an associate to ask for assistance they are not trained on proper questions to ask so that you get the desired results.

Example: If your eyes have seen better days, we have a solution. Is your room too dark? Are bugs being drawn to your light source? LED does not have uv, thus does not attract bugs. Most LED products come with a 3-to-5-year "no questions asked" warranty.

The Lamp Outlet is a one-stop LED shopping experience. Our incredible staff can assist with the every day projects and Jim Quinn is available for consultations. We make on site visits to insure you are using the correct fixture and light source, and we will discuss

integrated LED vs. non-integrated LED. You can ask early LED customers why you might consider a non-integrated LED source. Over five years ago, in the early days of LED, technology was moving so fast that if you used integrated LED on large projects with multiple fixtures and had the occasional faulty fixture, there were no matching fixtures left to be found.

A few facts:

1. A 60-watt equivalent LED bulb uses 13 to 15 watts of electricity. True
2. I can put more than six 15-watt LED bulbs on a 300-watt dimmer. False
3. LED bulbs have a start-up surge and can have mid-line surges while operating.

This does not mean LEDs are not energy savings. On a 2100 square foot house, changing to LED bulbs alone will save on average \$660.00 annually.

Going canless is the phrase The Lamp Outlet coined when we could see the future of LED and realized in most cases there is no needs for cans when building. We will be the first to tell you that there are still applications for cans that the LED discs cannot replicate.

## Under counter lightings

We insure if your counter top is reflective that your new counter does not mirror the LED source. We are experts when it comes to accent lighting, under counter, toe kick and pathway lighting. Within and around the house or business, LED takes lighting off the "honey do" lists. In most cases, once LED is put in those hard to reach areas you should have between 50,000 to 100,000 maintenance-free hours of enjoyment without having this fixture added back to the repair list.

Last tip: Do not use 5000k LEDs on soffit lights.

If you want guests looking at your house vs. your soffit lights, shop the lighting and LED experts at The Lamp Outlet or visit us online at thelampoutlet.com. We are proud to have been selected in the Top Ten showrooms in the U.S. and Canada for three of the last five years. This honor has been bestowed on our team and facility by Residential Lighting and the Dallas Market Center. Come shop The Lamp Outlet's 26,000 square foot showroom, the largest in the region. All pre-wire consultations on new construction are by appointment only.

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# GET RICH

with Richard Brummett

Sometimes, when I begin to think I'm pretty smart, I watch the game show "Jeopardy" on television just to bring myself back to Earth. I don't even understand some of the categories, much less the answers, and have no idea why anyone would know anything about lakes in Switzerland or Argentine architects.

My lack of intelligence was emphasized by a couple of recent real-life events. My cousin, Phil Burton, gave me a book he wanted me to read so we could discuss it later. He's in a book club and once I got into the work he suggested, I decided he really just wanted me to read it and tell him all about it so he could participate at the next club meeting.

It was a preacher's take on accepting evolution as both a reality and a boon to our Christian beliefs, but he chose to use words like "fecundity" and "paradigm," and I don't know people who speak with words like that. My belief has long been that fecundity and paradigm and all their cousins are words invented for the sole purpose of being used by lawyers to confound members of a jury.

No one wants to be the one juror who admits not knowing what the heck those words mean, leading to jury room conversations like, "Well, he has to be guilty, right? I mean, he committed a lot of fecundities and paradigms

out there, you know?" And everyone has to agree, because they don't want to seem uneducated or fecund or paradigmical.

Most close acquaintances of mine would have to look fecundity up in the dictionary, and as far as my crowd is concerned, paradigm is twenty cents. Big words for us are "cookout," "alley-oop," and when really trying to show off, "Mizuno."

I finally fought my way through the book and when I tried to return it to Phil he said, "I don't want that thing. I hated it," and I was quick to let him know that I, too, found it less than inspiring.

A few days ago my daughter, Kelly, asked me to proof a paper she had written entitled, "Pre-Calculus/Physics Integrated Curriculum." I did my very best but rather quickly ran into terms like "parabola," "quadratic formula" and "vector." Kelly is a high school math instructor, which often plants the seed in my mind that she might not really be my child. If ever I struggled with a school course, it was math.

I was really good with numbers up to about the sixth grade, when they quit just telling me to add 88 and 12 or to subtract 30 from 70. It was around then that I was introduced to reading problems, where someone expected

me to look at a paragraph and figure out from the verbiage contained what numbers I was to do something with. I learned early on that I had a future as an investigative reporter, because when I read a sentence like: "If Phil has 9 apples and gives 4 to Kathy and 2 to Richard, how many does he have left?" ... I didn't see 4-plus-2 equals 6, and 9-minus-6 equals 3. I saw, "Who's Phil? And where did he get 9 apples? If it's my cousin Phil, I guarantee you he stole them. And why would he give Kathy 4 and only give me 2? What's so special about her?"

About that time I would hear the teacher say, "Put your pencils down and pass your papers to the front," and I would write down "7" as my answer because 7 was supposed to be a lucky number.

It wasn't.

So, I fought my way through Kelly's paper looking for spelling or punctuation errors and tried not to focus so much on the Archimedes Principle or a vertex, whatever a vertex is. Turns out, it could be applied to an alley-oop, but who -- other than a Jeopardy contestant or math teacher -- would know that? Certainly not me.

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# May

## 2017 Kids' Events

**6**

### Build a Flower Pot

**When:** Saturday, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM  
**Where:** Home Depot  
711 W Parker Rd, Jonesboro, AR  
**Info:** [www.workshops.homedepot.com](http://www.workshops.homedepot.com)

**3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

### Story Time

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

**6, 13, 20, 27**

### Creature Feature

**When:** Saturday, 1:30 - 3:00 PM  
**Where:** Crowley's Ridge Nature Center  
600 E. Lawson Rd., Jonesboro, AR  
**Info:** [www.crowleysridge.org](http://www.crowleysridge.org)

Tanner Warren is ready for school to be out, signalling a summer of fun. Tanner, 4, attends preschool at Marmaduke and is the son of Bo and Diana Warren of Lafe.



# May

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 05

**What:** A Tribute to The Music of Hank Williams  
**When:** Friday-Saturday, May 5-6, 7PM  
**Where:** The Collins Theatre, Paragould  
**Info:** The Collins Theatre will present "The Lonesome Tour - A Tribute to The Music of Hank Williams" starring Jason Petty, winner of off-Broadway's 'OBIE' award as Outstanding Actor for his portrayal of Williams. Admission is \$15.00 with tickets available at Ignited Gifts and PostNet. Out-of-town patrons may call 870-573-6454 for 'will-call' tickets. Please leave name and ticket info.

### 05

**What:** Race for the Cure Friday Night Events  
**When:** Friday, May 5, 7PM  
**Where:** Downtown Jonesboro  
**Info:** By purchasing a \$20 ticket, participants can enjoy a pasta dinner and entertainment. As part of the night's events, children under 12 can participate in the Pink Pajama Dash starting at 6:30 p.m. Participation in the Pink Pajama Dash comes with the purchase of a \$10 child's ticket to the Pink Pasta Party (includes a child's meal). Pink pajamas are encouraged. Also, men are invited to participate in the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event. Men are encouraged to dress up for the event, but must wear women's shoes for the one-mile walk that begins at 7 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to winners.

### 06

**What:** Race for the Cure  
**When:** Saturday, May 6th, 9 AM  
**Where:** Centennial Stadium, A-State  
**Info:** This year marks the inaugural Komen North East Arkansas Race for the Cure. Registration and Packet Pickup opens at 6:30 AM, with the survivor breakfast beginning at 7 AM. The race will begin at 9 AM. For more information go to [komenarkansas.org](http://komenarkansas.org).

### 06

**What:** Blacksmithing Demonstration  
**When:** Saturday, May 6th from 10AM-3PM  
**Where:** Crowley's Ridge State Park  
**Info:** BOA (Blacksmith Organization of Arkansas), an affiliate of Artist-Blacksmiths Association of North America- ABANA, is a Jonesboro chapter that teaches interested parties

about the skills, techniques, and traditions of blacksmithing. They aspire to expose the art of blacksmithing to the public and to serve as a center of information about blacksmithing and its tradition.

### 06

**What:** Book signing for Larry Clifford  
**When:** Saturday, May 6, from 1 PM-3 PM  
**Where:** The Greene County Museum  
**Info:** Huntin' With Gus, Clifford's recently released book, is about growing up in Paragould, specifically the North End. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the book signing. The cost is \$13 each. Everyone is encouraged to attend, meet the author, and have his/her copy of the book autographed.

### 06

**What:** Spring Plant Sale  
**When:** Saturday, May 6, from 9AM-2PM  
**Where:** Centennial Park, Downtown Paragould  
**Info:** The Greene County Master Gardeners will be offering decorative yard art and garden décor, including tiled stepping stones and barn quilts; and a variety of potted plants including herbs, perennials, annuals, vegetables, shrubs, and trees. Whether you have a green thumb, or a brown thumb, they'll have something for you. Demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Just look for the green canopy!

### 18

**What:** Alive After Five - "Spring Fest"  
**When:** Thursday, May 18th, 5 PM-8PM  
**Where:** Downtown Jonesboro  
**Info:** Head Downtown to celebrate the season! Located on Huntington Avenue, the award-winning street 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.

### 22

**What:** KASU Bluegrass Monday  
**When:** Monday, May 22nd, 7 PM  
**Where:** The Collins Theatre  
**Info:** The KASU Bluegrass Monday will feature Nothing' Fancy. There is no admission but they

do pass the hat to pay the artists. Recommended donation: \$5.00/person

### 25

**What:** Travel Around the World Community Diabetes Program  
**When:** Thursday, May 25, 6 PM-7:30 PM  
**Where:** Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Professional Office Building, Auditorium  
**Info:** AMMC Certified Diabetes Educator Allison Hitt, RN, will explore healthy foods from several countries in 2017 and May's event is going to feature the great tastes of China. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 24, 2017 by calling (870) 239-7016.

### 27

**What:** Fishing on the Ridge  
**When:** Friday, May 27th, 9AM-11AM  
**Where:** Crowley's Ridge State Park  
**Info:** Bring your fishing pole, bait, and enthusiasm to put your fishing skills to the test! Walcott Lake will be stocked with hundreds of catfish for you to catch. Or you may want to try your luck with bass or bream. The fishing derby is co-sponsored by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and is open to anyone ages 15 and under. Adults are welcome to help their children bait hooks and remove fish, but the kids must be holding the pole. Drawings for door prizes will be held throughout the derby in several categories and age groups. Participants must bring their own pole, tackle, and bait. One pole per child please.

### 28

**What:** Memorial Day Madness  
**When:** Saturday-Monday, May 28-30  
**Where:** Crowley's Ridge State Park  
**Info:** Crowley's Ridge State Park is celebrating Memorial Day Weekend with music, swimming, pedal boats, and interpretive programs at Lake Ponder beach on Saturday, May 28th through Monday, May 30th. A DJ will be on the beach on Saturday only from 1-5 p.m. All programs are free, but fees for swimming and pedal boats apply.

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

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

# Recurring EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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



## 7TH ANNUAL ANGEL RUN

The 7th Annual Saints & Sinners Angel Run was completed in late March, with proceeds from the event earmarked for Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Each year the riding group presents a large check during the MOR Media/ACH Radiothon, representing some of the largest cash contributions to date.



## 4H AWARD BANQUET

More than 220 people attended the annual Greene County 4-H Banquet. Winners were announced in several categories:

Craighead Electric "Electricity Award Winners": Junior Winner-Michael Haywood; Senior Winner-Grace Thompson

County 4-H Champion Award Winners:  
Junior Champion - Michael Haywood;  
Senior Champion-Jessica Griffin

Greene County 4-H Foundation Scholarship Winners: Katie Head, Baylee Mangrum, Katelynn Copeland

State 4-H Advanced Record Book Winners:  
Katie Head, Baylee Mangrum,

2017 Arkansas 4-H Teen Stars: Layne Kelley, Jessica Griffin, Grace Thompson

2017 Arkansas 4-H Ambassadors: Jessica Griffin, Grace Thompson



## HUB OPENS

Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin joined the Homeless task force and many other community members in April to welcome the grand opening of Jonesboro's H.U.B. (Helping Underserved Belong), located at 711 Union Street in the basement of First Baptist Church. The program allows all of the services helping the homeless to gather in one place and make a collective effort to eliminate the homeless population.

The HUB will be open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays and will be manned by local volunteers and community project members. For more information, contact [eagnew@jonesboro.org](mailto:eagnew@jonesboro.org) or call 870-336-7210.



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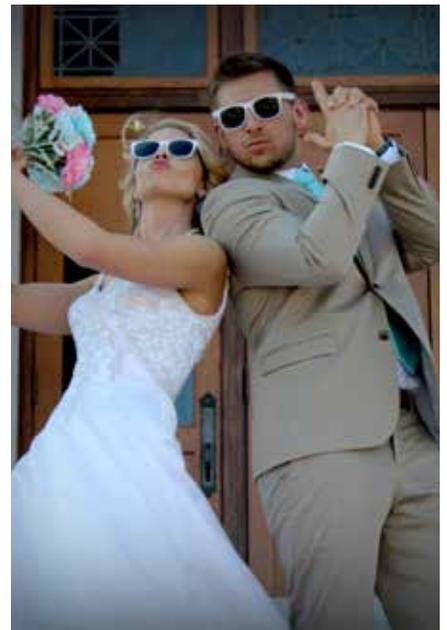


### THANKS JONESBORO! VOTED BEST PHOTOGRAPHER.



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**T**his love story is not your typical tale of a boy and a girl meeting, falling in love, and getting married. The journey for Lauren and James began much earlier than the day they met. Four years ago, they were both in the lowest points of their lives. Although they had never met, and lived hundreds of miles apart, they had more in common than most. They found themselves in pits that led them to seek a way to numb the pain caused by life events and poor decisions. Finding themselves in the darkest of places because of alcoholism, they both decided to turn their lives and wills over to their one true higher power, Jesus Christ. Their roads to recovery were not easy, and were filled with years of ups and downs, but they were dedicated to full sobriety and determined to use their experiences to encourage and give hope to those struggling with addiction and depression.

On a Tuesday night in September 2016, at 5:45 p.m., Lauren and James met over dinner at Breaking Bonds Ministries, located in Wesley Hall at First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro. Breaking Bonds is a ministry led by Casey and Tiffanie Turner, and focuses on helping the broken rid themselves of sin and addiction. The ministry strives to lead families out of bondage and into the promised land of abundant life through Christ.

The moment they met, they knew there was something very special between them. The

similarities in their stories and struggles, paired with their cheesy senses of humor, full commitment to Christ and the desire to help others who were struggling created an inseparable bond. They began to see more and more of each other at church and decided to date while keeping God first in their lives. They fell in love more and more every day. On November 29 (Lauren's parents' 41st wedding anniversary), James popped the question in front of the place they met right before Breaking Bonds service. James had the ring placed over Lauren's favorite Bible verse, Joel 2:25 ... when God says, "I will restore the years the locusts have eaten." Of course Lauren said yes!

They realized the more they entrusted God with their lives, the more He restored their dreams. James had always dreamed of having a family, and was blessed with not only a new wife, but two beautiful children -- Gracie, 8, and Daniel, 5. Lauren dreamed of having a husband who shared her passion to help those struggling with addiction. They don't see their wedding day as the pinnacle of their relationship, but as the launching pad of their ministry. They both have wonderful careers in mortgage lending and retirement planning, but their true passion is helping others in recovery and both have a calling into prison ministries. They are excited about entrusting God with their futures to see where He leads them next!



# ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS



## *Greene-Coy*

Meredith Greene and Mason Coy have announced their plans for a May wedding.

Meredith is the daughter of David and Karen Greene of Nashville, TN.

Mason's parents are Tim And Susan Coy of Paragould.

The wedding will be May 27 at Harmony Gardens in Jonesboro.

Photo by Stephen Johnson

## *Biggs-Hollis*

Chasity Biggs and Roger Hollis have announced plans for a June wedding ceremony.

Chasity is the daughter of Phillip and Robbin Biggs of Paragould. Roger's parents are Elaine and Bill Yancey of Jonesboro and the late Joe Hollis. The wedding will take place June 3rd at The Studio in Walnut Ridge, AR.

All friends and family are invited.

Photo by Amy Reeves Photography



## *Massey-Pillow*

Meagan Massey and Ryne Pillow have announced their plans for a summer wedding.

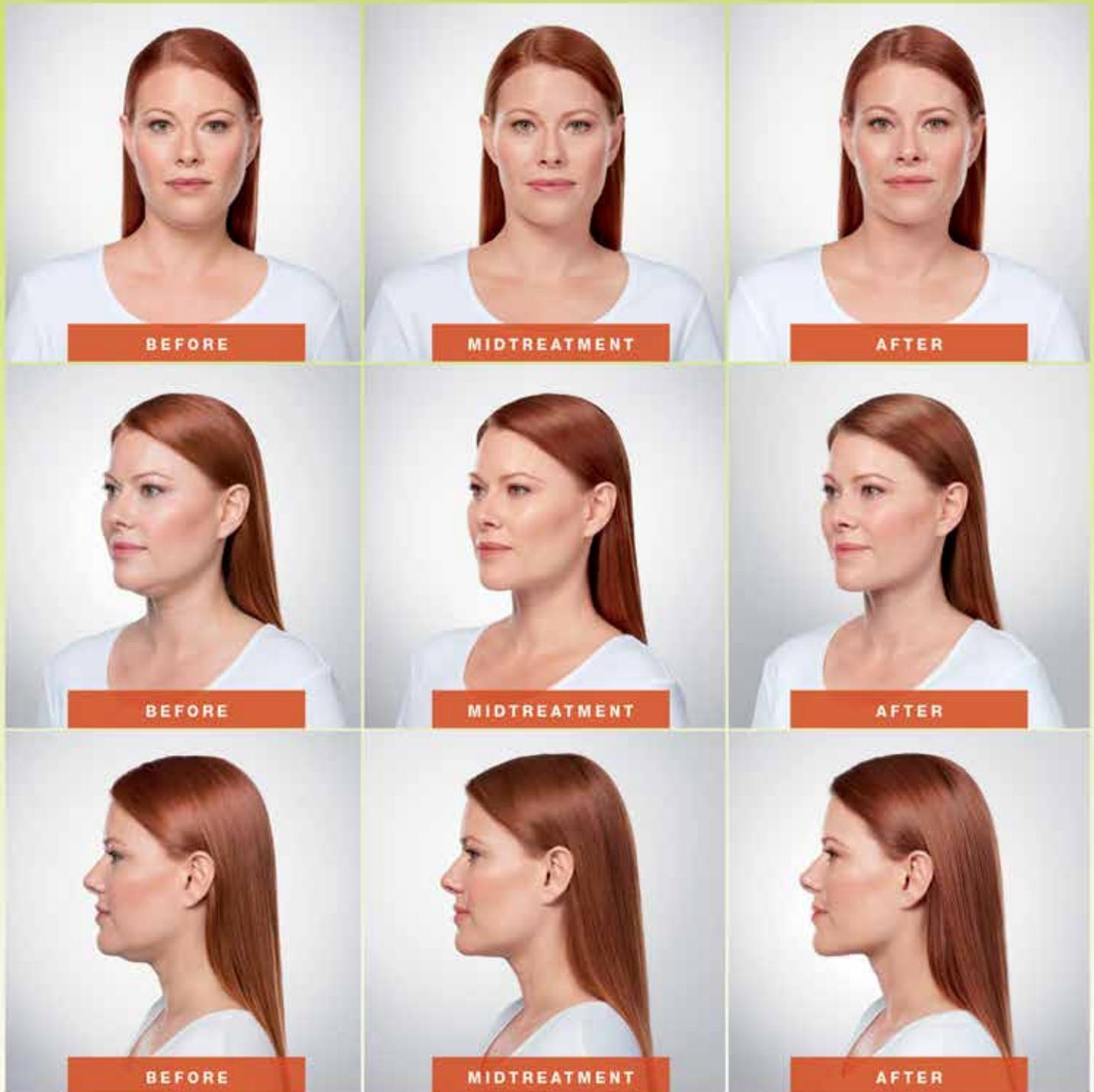
Meagan is the daughter of Jerry and Michelle Massey of Paragould. Ryne is the son of Joe and Karen Pillow, also of Paragould.

The ceremony is planned for Saturday, June 17, at Cherry Farms in Poughkeepsie.

Photo courtesy of **Focused on You** by Missy Norred.

# Curious about Kybella?

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# BIRTHS



## *Milo Blanton Ryan*

Alex and Brittany Ryan of Lafe announce the birth of their son, Milo Blanton Ryan.

Born April 7, 2017, at NEA Baptist Hospital in Jonesboro, the baby weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 and a half inches long.

Grandparents are Dennis and Pam Cunningham; and Al and Harriet Ryan.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Martin.

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The advertisement features a collage of three photos from a gymnastics center. The left photo shows a man in a blue shirt holding a young child in a red shirt. The middle photo shows several young girls in blue leotards performing a routine. The right photo shows a boy in a red shirt jumping. The background is a gymnasium with blue and yellow equipment.

# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

30 Under 40



Nominations are in, and it's time to announce the winners! Find out the 30 Under 40 results in our June issue.

## Interior Design



Want to revamp your home? Check out our next issue for more of MG Meyering's latest tips on how to add some style to your living space.

## Father's Day



Our next issue is all about dads! Don't forget to celebrate Father's Day and to thank the great dad in your life.

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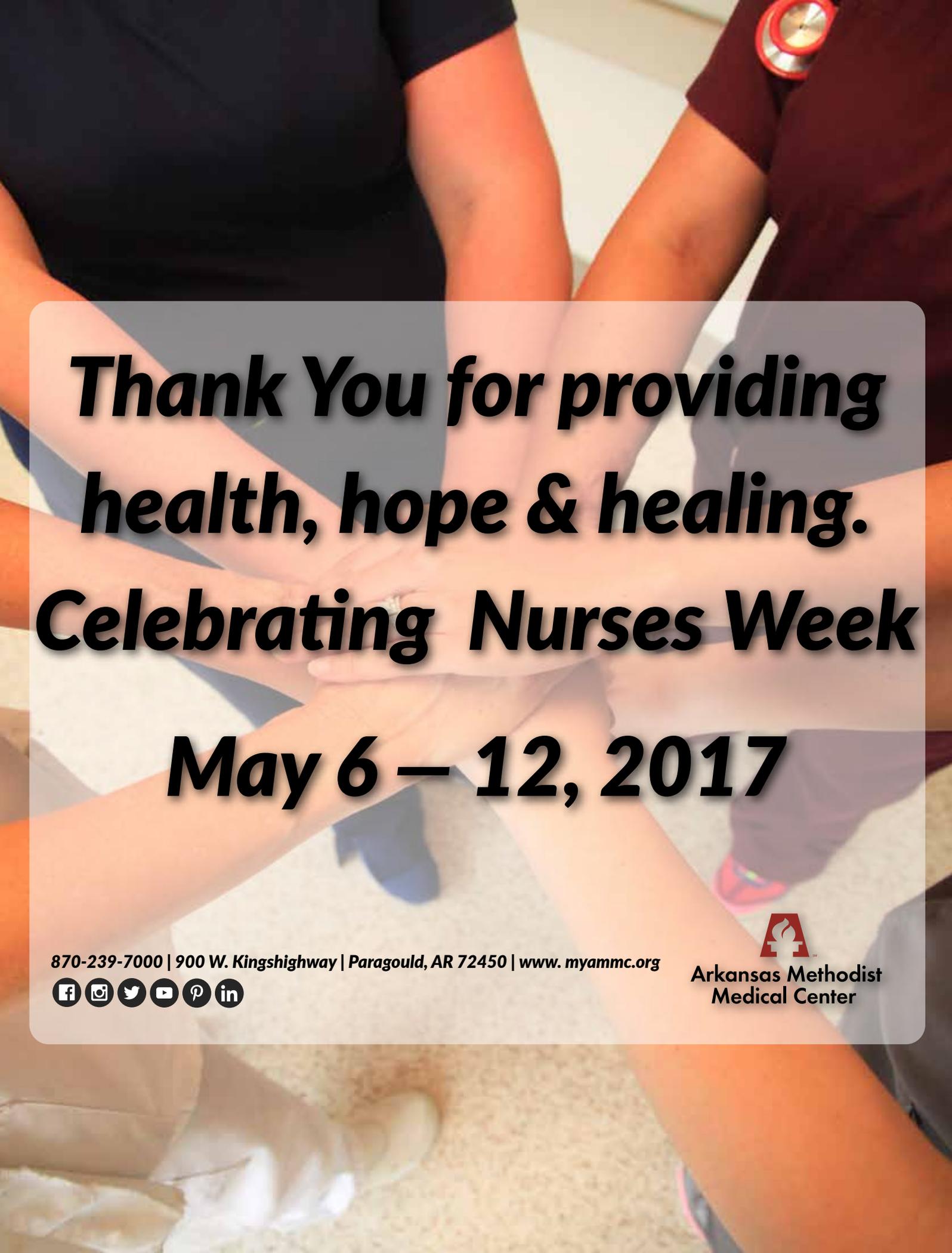
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