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On The Cover: Jackson Parker
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From The

PUBLISHER...

DINA MASON

August already! 2018 is flying by at a record land speed pace. August brings thoughts of Back to School to the forefront and we took the opportunity to highlight some students as they pursue their interests and passions with the support and assistance of their parents and their respective school staff members.

Some students really like to study. Jackson Parker is one who truly enjoys learning, but even he knows how important other activities in school are to his education and well being. He also involves himself in band and student organizations.

Other students we chose to highlight give us the opportunity to think about extra-curricular activities our kids can get involved with. There are several studies showing that participation in extra-curricular activities increases student success in all aspects of academic and emotional life. A *1992-93 study of seniors revealed that activities such as music, academic clubs, civics, science, sports and others help students learn teamwork, responsibility, physical strength, endurance,

diversity and a sense of community and culture.

You will be enlightened by these stories as to what activities are available and what to watch for in your children as they develop their own personalities, allowing you to help them follow their passions into areas you may not have ever considered. Not every student follows a parent as the star athlete and it is important to support your child's choices and find ways to involve yourself through volunteering or being a good spectator. Joy Robinson's story of her last trip as a band mom gives some insight into the rewards of doing so.

I hope you enjoy these young people as much as we have and the next time someone says something negative about "kids nowadays" -- or our schools -- loan them your copy of Premiere and remind them these are just a few stories and areas sampled and we know there are many more.

*Lamborn et al, 1992; Finn 1993

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Trend Report

BACK TO SCHOOL

By: Colton French

Athleisure: To imitate the styles of celebrities and bloggers, take a step in the relaxed yet edgy style of athleisure, which combines styles from athletic apparel with comfort and accessibility to be used for daily activities. Wearing a pair of sweatpants is not viewed as taboo anymore and not seen as portraying no effort. This garment paired with an eye-catching or sleek hoodie and refined sneakers offers an ultra-modern look that can blend in with current street-style bloggers.

'80s prints and colors: With the current trend of early '80s styles influencing music, film, and even boards on Pinterest, this definitely can fall in line with what is happening in fashion. Think of super-saturated Jordan almond colors and quirky, kitschy patterning! For guys, pair an ironically patterned button-down shirt with a neutral pair of shorts for balance and preppy loafers for a refreshing take on the "yuppie" style. For girls, go for the high-waisted look in pants or go for ones that are cropped. With the retro pants, wear them with a colorful, striped t-shirt and maybe even a blazer for a full effect. Bonus points if they have shoulder pads.

Denim: In mentioning back-to-school what automatically comes to mind is denim. With denim being a completely diverse category of its own, trends emerge within them, or maybe not so much as a trend but the classics prevailing. The traditional hue of blue has remained prevalent in today's jeans. Plus, with the aforementioned trend of the retro styles, high-waisted seem to still remain as being trendy, and if you want to be more adventurous with your wardrobe, go for the flared look which could be super flattering to give an elongated silhouette.



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PARAGOULD TEACHER HEADS TO C-SPAN'S 2018 EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE

Greene County Tech High School teacher Laura Richards was chosen to attend one of two C-SPAN Educators' Conferences for an immersive experience with C-SPAN's educational resources. Richards, a social studies teacher, is one of 30 educators from across the nation selected to attend the July high school conference.

The conference provides educators with the opportunity to hear from guest speakers and explore C-SPAN Classroom's free teaching resources. Attendees discover how to incorporate these resources into their curriculums and create engaged learning experiences for students.

Richards competed with high school teachers from across the country to secure a place at the conference. C-SPAN provides round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations and meals for the two days.

Participants were selected by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and evaluated

based on their commitment to learning new educational resources, applying them in the classroom environment and sharing their professional development experiences in their academic communities.

"We're excited to introduce educators to C-SPAN's Video Library, an online archive containing more than 240,000 hours of searchable, sharable content that teachers and students can use as a primary source in the classroom," said Craig McAndrew, C-SPAN Manager of Education Relations. "For nearly 20 years, C-SPAN has hosted Educators' Conferences, and we look forward to meeting and working with this year's participants."

Conference attendees heard from Founder and Executive Chairman Brian Lamb about the public affairs network. In addition, C-SPAN's Senior Executive Producer and Political Editor Steve Scully spoke at the conference dinner.





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American Legion

PARAGOULD POST 17 STILL GOING STRONG

By: Richard Brummett

American Legion baseball is experiencing a decline in numbers nationwide but Paragould's program keeps drawing kids and churning out victories, just as it has for decades.

While neighboring programs like those in Jonesboro, Blytheville and Newport have folded in recent years, Paragould American Legion Post 17 is set to make another run at a state title and is considered one of the stronger teams in the state. Like other programs in the country, the local Legion team relies heavily on the sponsorship of businesses like Glen Sain GMC and --prior to that, Dr Pepper under the guidance of Francis Bland -- as posts, just like the baseball teams, experience

shrinking membership rosters. As a result there are fewer and fewer sponsoring posts, reducing the chances for longtime Legionnaires like Norman Willey, Norman Cole and Doc Kennemore to lend their avid support to the local team, as that trio did in years past.

Youth travel teams and extended high school summer programs have cut into the Legion numbers to the point that Arkansas now has fewer than 20 top tier teams. That makes traveling to find quality competition tougher, but Paragould head coach Randy Smith -- who provided much of the information here -- credits state commissioner Bob Hayes with doing a great job of keeping the Arkansas program healthy.

time fans of the Paragould teams can recall visits to the old L.W. Baldwin Park and seeing future stars like Mark Littell take the mound as teenagers while on their way to big league careers, facing the likes of James "Rooster" Thomas, Larry Elmore and Kendal Hurt for the home team.

It wasn't just the visitors that dressed out potential pros. Great players like Shelburn Morton and Gary and Manuel Washington honed their skills at Baldwin Park during the 1960s, where home runs sailed atop or over the school buildings. Since moving to Francis Bland Park in the 1970s the Legion program has sent even more players to college and professional careers. Hundreds have earned college scholarships while some like Rick Poe, Randy Rogers and Mitch Nelson -- all on the 1977 club -- and P.J. Hilson from last year's team signed pro contracts, to name a few. In fact, 11 players from last year's team alone earned baseball scholarships, according to Smith, and there more than that on this year's team. Even the program's sponsor, Danny Ford of Glen Sain GMC, is a former Paragould Legion pitcher.

One reason for the continued success is a stream of quality coaches, men who played and understand the importance of the instruction a good Legion team provides. Pros like Morton and, later, Gary Washington



"Hopefully, Legion baseball will continue to thrive in Paragould," Smith said, "and hopefully many teams and fans will come back." Despite the downturn in participants, Legion baseball remains a high-quality product, boasting current and future major league Hall of Famers like Stan Musial, Johnny Bench, Bryce Harper and Albert Pujols among its graduates. Long-

Glen Sain

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returned as head coach to share their expertise with the local youngsters, and other veteran Legion players like Bill Keedy, Tommy Fowler, Bill Schatzley and Kevin Reddick have shared time at the helm. Smith, another former professional pitcher, has logged 35 years as a player and coach with Legion programs and guided last year's team to a 34-5 record and a fourth place finish in the state. He is assisted by his son, Tyler.

Popular opinion says that in the next decade -- because of the decline in membership in the American Legion other veterans' organizations -- there won't be enough Legionnaires to sponsor and run programs. However, as long as the Paragould community continues its love and support of the game at this level and as long as talented baseball men contribute their time, there will always be the potential for a winning program here.



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ARKANSAS COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Arkansas Country Music Association Awards Show was held at UALR in North Little Rock in June. Cory Jackson, a Jonesboro native, was nominated in three categories - Entertainer of the Year; Country Music Artist of the Year; and the music video of his song "Row by Row" was nominated for Video of the Year. Cory won Country Music Artist of the Year.

There were hundreds of musicians and entertainers in attendance from all across the state, including some country music legends that are originally from Arkansas.

For more information regarding the association or the awards show in general, visit www.arkansascountrymusic.com.

For more information on Cory Jackson, visit www.coryjacksonmusic.com or send an email to: management@coryjacksonmusic.com



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NEA TENNIS

By: Richard Brummett



There was a time not so long ago when area tennis courts were filled with competitive action, much like today's softball and baseball facilities enjoy almost every weekend. For some reason tennis seemed to die out in Northeast Arkansas but several men and women who love the sport are doing their best to revive it.

Pat Malone, USTA Southern Liaison and a 40-year tennis pro, is spearheading a move to get people back on the tennis courts. "We are encompassing the Northeast Arkansas region, based in Jonesboro," Malone said, referring to the NEA Tennis group that is promoting public tennis for everyone. "We are out to show that tennis does not have to be played in a country club setting."

Malone said statistics show that in the United States 80 percent of tennis is played at a public facility but "when I moved to Jonesboro a year ago it was zero percent here. One hundred percent of the tennis being played here was in three private clubs. That's why we are talking to ages 5 to 80 with our community outreach program."

The NEA Tennis website (www.neatennis.com) says they are "passionately committed to helping people enjoy life through the physical, mental, and social benefits of fitness and tennis." Those who are interested can learn about youth programs, adult programs and private lessons by checking out the website and Malone feels getting back to "grassroots tennis" will be beneficial to the community in a variety of ways. "For one thing, what I've seen in the Delta is that kids wait until they reach high school to start tennis, and then it's too late," he said. "They're terrible and so far behind and the school teams are not strong and it's too late. What we're doing will help school programs and city programs and will be great in so

many areas because of grant money for equipment and improvements ... tennis is a glass ceiling sport."

NEA Tennis offers group and individual instruction for beginners on up, and Malone said having been a competitive player most of his life he's happy now to be able to give back to a sport that has given him so much.



"I had to drive from Batesville to Paragould and Jonesboro to play competitive tennis when I was younger and when I moved here I realized the guys I played with at 13 are still playing in Jonesboro. The base of players is still there, but we're old.

"I think if we rally together, some as volunteers and some as certified instructors, we can teach this game to a new generation. Tennis is a little bit of a different animal and

it is being taught differently today than it was when all of us old guys played."

He said for starters, the government is encouraging people to get outside and be active, so the tennis group is "jumping on the bandwagon." Secondly, teaching techniques have improved over time with equipment and attitude changes suited to enhance the beginners' experience. "It has been slowed down for beginners," Malone explained, "with a bigger, slower ball and a lower net so players can be successful earlier. As they progress they eventually use the yellow ball. You know, soccer and basketball used things like this -- like lowering the goal for little ones -- long ago. It took tennis a long time to catch on."

A third big boost comes in the form of grant money designated for the purchase of equipment to be distributed free of charge to school children in grades K-6. Also, Jonesboro has a proposal on the table to build a modern facility adjacent to the Joe Mack Campbell baseball complex.

"I also work with the USTA, so one hand sort of feeds the other," Malone said. "I am excited about being in Paragould and in Jonesboro and Batesville, and teaming with the parks and recreation departments to get tennis back in front of people. I have done this in the Northwest part of the state and it was awesome. It is a way for me to give back to the sport and now that some of us are older and more settled, we can help a game that has been so great to us.

"There's a lot of excitement that's going on. No one has told me 'no' yet when asking for money or sponsorship," he said, "so that tells me people know this is a good thing."

ASTATE STUDENT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

HANNAH SHELL

Arkansas State University senior Hannah Shell was recently recognized for her work with the United Way of Northeast Arkansas as the winner of the 2017 Best Use of Video Award by United Way Worldwide in Alexandria, Virginia.

Shell, a Strategic Communications major from Batesville, served as Intern for United Way of Northeast Arkansas from August through December 2017. She was also a member of the nonprofit's on-campus organization, A-State United Way. Each fall, the organization hosts "United We Dance," a fundraising event on campus that gives the students an opportunity to give toward the A-State campaign to United Way of Northeast Arkansas.

Shell's primary role as intern was to create videos and other publicity to promote A-State United Way and United We Dance. She created two videos to promote the event and to encourage students to sign up to attend, and a third video showed highlights from the evening. All three videos were shared across various social media platforms.

"The first video was shared more than 2,200 times just from our A-State United Way Facebook page. We were excited to see the video counts come in and students were tagging each other and sharing the video because they saw themselves or someone they knew in the video," said Shaila Creekmore, Director of Business Development for United Way of Northeast Arkansas.

In the spring, United Way of Northeast Arkansas nominated Shell for a Student United Way award through United Way Worldwide.

Shell was selected winner of Best Use of Video Award from among high school and university student groups throughout the country.

"Hannah's United We Dance video demonstrated talent, commitment to the United Way mission and immense creativity," said Andrea Sok, Director of Young Adult & Multicultural Engagement United Way Worldwide. "We are so pleased to award her Best Video and look forward to following her many accomplishments to come."

Shell's prize was an all-expense paid trip for her and a friend to Alexandria, Va., to visit United Way Worldwide's headquarters June 26-29 and sight-seeing in Washington, D.C. She attended the Executive Forum on Philanthropy with a presentation and

backstage visit with Chris Bashinelli, former star of the HBO series "The Sopranos" and most recently host of "Bridge the Gap" on PBS and the National Geographic Channel. She also attended "A Concert and Conversation with Peter Buffett" where she had a private meet and greet with the philanthropist, musician and son of Warren Buffett.

"We were so pleased to welcome Hannah to United Way Worldwide's offices last week," said Sok. "She was well deserving of the Best Video honor and we hope her work will inspire other students to get involved with Student United Way to create change for communities around the world."

At United Way Worldwide, Shell met with a number of executives from the world's largest non-profit to learn more about the organization, their roles and how they rose to their position. "I am humbled beyond words," said Shell. "Thank you so much to United Way for awarding me the 2017 Best Video Award. I was so inspired from all the people I had the opportunity to meet last week. United Way will always have a very, very special place in my heart."

United Way of Northeast Arkansas' mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities. United Way supports programs focusing on education, economic stability and health in eight counties including Clay, Craighead, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Poinsett and Randolph. For more information about United Way of Northeast Arkansas, visit www.uwnea.org.





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LOLA

PREMIERE PET OF THE MONTH

In the past couple of years, we have become empty nesters. With the house so quiet, I had been telling my husband I wanted to get a pet. He kept saying with our busy lives we didn't have time to care for one properly, so I knew a dog was out of the question and started thinking about kittens. They are a little more self-sufficient.

I saw Lola on a Facebook post and just knew she was the one. A friend had neighbors who had abandoned their cats and now it was kitten season. She contacted Ozzie's Legacy for help in getting this bad situation under control. Ozzie's Legacy is a non-profit, no-kill animal rescue. They took the kittens and got them vet care and went about finding them homes.



After talking to my husband about adopting Lola, he still said no, it wasn't the right time. So I scheduled her adoption anyway (forgiveness is easier than permission, right?) We met with Ozzie's Legacy on June 23rd to bring her home. My husband was aggravated and reluctant, but by the end of the night he was in love with her; he just told me not to tell anyone. Lola has been such a blessing. She loves to cuddle but also loves to attack. She will hide behind furniture or corners and jump out to get you as you walk by. She has brought us so much happiness and laughter.

-Tracy Mothershed



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Sand Creek

GREENE COUNTY 4-H CLUB

By: Richard Brummett

Performance in the classroom is important but some area students are mastering performing outside the schoolhouse setting and are drawing plenty of attention.

Making their marks locally as the band Sand Creek, six youngsters are learning firsthand about the performing arts and all that goes along with being part of a band while working around the various aspects of family and daily life.

Tereasa Mitchell, their sponsor with the Greene County 4-H Club, said the young musicians and singers have been working together since November and are gaining experience and encouragement at every step along the way. "We're fortunate to have performing arts in Greene County with our 4-H," Mitchell said. "I think there are only three or four in the state. These kids are third and fourth generation of it for us. A group as long as I can remember has been called Sand Creek. They play all different styles of music."

The band members range in age from 11-14 years old and get first-hand instruction from local experts like Lori Dial, the Craig Morris family and Gary Cremeens, all well-known performers and, according to Mitchell, "Musicians with a lot of experience and they are happy to volunteer and to give back. Lori helps them with vocals and Gary with stage performance. The kids are so young that some people don't expect much, but they're really talented. I'm amazed at the them. When they performed for the first time, my husband said, 'Are they ready?' I said, 'I don't know,' but they loved it and they nailed it."

Band members include lead singer, Chloe Hancock; lead and rhythm guitarist, Makenzie Mitchell; drummer, Hudson Inman; bass guitar, Bradlee Money; vocals, Hallie Cooper; and keyboardist, Harper Gray. They will perform at Brick Oven Pizza on Monday, August 13, in a "Back to School" free concert and will also appear at the Greene County Fair.

"We encourage all kids to wear their school colors and come on out to Brick Oven," Mitchell said. "Since they started in November, they've gotten really talented, and have lots and lots of requests to perform. We gave them July off to rest because they had been doing so much with performing and such. Every Monday they practice or perform and they're more in demand, and in bigger areas. They do some Tom Petty, Pat Benatar, The Beatles, Twenty One Pilots.

"They love to try and learn about different music and being in a band. They have performed individually but they had to learn how to be a group. It's such an education, and it's cool to be in a band. I just think it's a thrill to have a performing arts group here in Paragould."



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KAIT LAUNCHING NEW CW AFFILIATE IN REGION 8



KAIT-TV has signed an affiliation agreement to become the home of The CW Network in Region 8.

The Virgin. Starting this fall, The CW will broadcast a six-night, Sunday through Friday primetime schedule.

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The new channel is scheduled to launch Saturday, September 1, 2018.

KAIT CW will also carry The CW Network's exclusive television events including the iHEARTRadio Music Festival.

"We are excited to expand our partnership with Raycom by adding a new CW affiliate in Jonesboro," said Chris Brooks, Executive Vice President, Network Distribution, The CW. "We're looking forward to working together with KAIT-TV this fall, and in the years to come."

The CW Network will bring its hit shows to the new KAIT CW with original primetime series including Riverdale, Supergirl, The Flash, Arrow, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, and Jane

"The CW is an exciting addition to the KAIT family," said Vice President and General Manager Hatton Weeks. "CW's lineup offers






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PERFECT A.C.T. JACKSON PARKER

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Many high school students stay up late playing video games on school nights. Jackson Parker's mother has trouble getting her son to put away the textbooks and put a pause on his studying.

All of that studying has led to an incredible feat for Parker: a 1530 out of 1600 on his SAT in June and a perfect score of 36 on his ACT in February.

"He told me he was going to do it," his mother Melanie said.

Parker, a 17-year-old senior at Paragould High School, has several academic accomplishments under his belt. In 2014 and 2015 he won the Greene County Spelling Bee, and in 2015 he won first place at the state level and traveled to nationals. At nationals he received a laptop, after winning \$3,000 at the state level. Parker said his grandmother tutored him up until the nationals event.

"It was months of [studying]," he said, adding that while it was nice to get that much practice, it was mentally exhausting. At the time he was juggling not only band practice, but an extra hour of school every day to make up for snow days.

Throughout his turns at spelling bees, Parker also participated in four ACT boot camps to

prepare him for the big test. As a freshman he scored a 32 and in December 2017 he received a 35 before his perfect score just a few months later. A 36 opens up an entire world of college choices but Parker is staying level-headed with that decision.

"My choice of colleges is really limited out of practicability, frugality," Parker said. "I wouldn't want to pay for college with all the options in which I would have the full paid scholarship."

However, he still aims for top choice schools, even though he knows students with perfect scores can still slip through the cracks during the admissions process.

"It's really more a shot in the dark right now, once I get done with my applications to see more of what my options are," he added.

In the midst of spelling bees and ACT prep, Parker also earned six AP class credits his sophomore year and 12 his junior year. As a sophomore, he scored a 5 on his AP World test, the highest possible score. He is currently enrolled in three AP classes for his senior year.

"I thought, 'I want to get the highest GPA possible,'" he said.



When college does arrive Parker plans on a potential degree in biology, chemistry or biomedical engineering before moving on to medical school, hopefully at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

"I would like to go into heart surgery," he said, adding he is also interested in building new medical technology.

On top of all this preparation for after high school, Parker is a second-chair flute player in band, a member of Quiz Bowl, theater, National Honor Society, Key Club and holds the title of class president. He has volunteered with P.A.W.S., the Greene County Museum and participated in M.A.S.H. He is also one of nine children and said he hopes things in college will "be less hectic."

As he moves into his senior year and prepares for the inevitable amount of downtime college will bring him, Parker said he spends his free time reading and trying to complete a cache of video games he has had saved up, just like any other teenager.





BOYS STATE CROSS THOMPSON

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Two generations of Thompson men have spent a week of their summers at Arkansas Boys State, immersed in the duties of various public offices.

Robert Thompson first attended Boys State in 1988 before his senior year of high school, at the recommendation of his school counselor. The civics education program for high school juniors assigns each boy a mock political city, county and party. By the end of the week-long camp the boys are educated on the duties and responsibilities of citizens and public officials, all while holding state legislative sessions, evening assemblies and court trials.

"I was elected to the Boys State Senate," Robert said. "On the last day of Boys State, we participated in a mock legislative session at the State Capitol building at Little Rock."

His group had the opportunity to sit in the Senate chamber and debate legislation proposed by the students. "It was great fun, and I loved it," he added.

Boys State began in 1935 as a countermovement to Fascist Young Pioneer Camps. Hayes Kennedy, Americanism Chairman of the Illinois Department of the American Legion, wanted to stress the importance of a Democratic government to the nation's youth and, along with Harold Card, created the Boys State project. For 73 years Boys State has brought together young men who exude leadership, character and loyalty to their communities.

"The best part of Boys State was making friends with other students from around Arkansas," Robert said. "I'm still friends with some of the guys I met at Boys State over 30 years ago."

Robert said he recommends the camp for any student interested in history, politics, law or state government. His 17-year-old son, Cross, has now followed in his footsteps. From May 27-June 1, Cross attended Boys State in Conway at the University of Central Arkansas, and was elected to the Senate, just like Robert.



"I got to present a bill to the other Boys State students on the floor of the senate at the state capitol this year," he said.

Cross said he was excited when he learned he was accepted for Boys State, and that his time spent there taught him valuable leadership skills. He is also involved in football, Key Club and Rotary Interact at Paragould High School.

According to the Boys State website, the camp doesn't focus on traditional classroom learning but instead on participation and personal experience in a model state.



FBLA

BROOKS VANGILDER

By Richard Brummett

It should come as no surprise that Brooks Vangilder has an interest in joining Marmaduke's FBLA club. His mother, Tina, is the group's sponsor and Brooks has been going to Nationals with her and her students since he was seven years old. Now that he's about to enter junior high school, he's excited that a mid-level version of FBLA will be offered this year for 7th and 8th graders.

"From what I've seen, having gone to many National trips, there's a lot to do and a lot to show you what to do in business situations," Brooks, 12, said. "I want to develop computer software and probably make my own business, so this will help me learn a lot before I jump into that."

Brooks likes most sports -- soccer, track, baseball ("I really, really love baseball") and basketball -- and is one of the top students in his class. He is in the Gifted and Talented program, which allows him to take part in things like Quiz Bowl, chess tournaments and the Project Fair, and he has proven his skills in both the school and Greene County spelling bees.

But an eye toward a business future is one thing that has drawn him toward participation in FBLA and he understands the importance of getting a head start. "Some people are not all that tech savvy," he said. "They can use a computer but it's hard for them to understand. I want to invent software that makes it not so hard for them. I think if it's easier for them, people will get involved with the Internet and use it."



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VOLLEYBALL

KATIE BEASLEY

By Richard Brummett

Katie Beasley is hoping for a bit of *deja vu* when school starts back at Brookland this year. Having already been a member of a state championship volleyball team, Katie is hoping for a repeat in her senior year.

"I hope we make it past the third round this year," said the 17-year-old Lady Bearcat. "We won state when I was a sophomore and feel like we really should have won it last year. This year, we want to do it."

Katie gave basketball and softball a try in her earlier days but found that volleyball was the sport that kept calling her back. She started young, attending volleyball camp at Brookland while only a second-grader because some friends were going and she thought it would be fun to try. "Immediately, I knew," she said of a budding love for the game. "In the fourth grade I started playing on a team and started JO (Jr. Olympic) in the fifth grade. When basketball started to interfere in the fifth and sixth grade, I stuck to volleyball."

She hopes to play collegiately when her high school career ends and admits she concentrates on little else once the season starts. "Volleyball is it," Katie said. "I stay pretty busy with it. I just have so much passion for it. When I'm playing it's like it's an outlet for me. Diving for balls, making plays ... there's just so much energy."

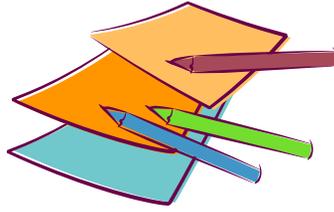
She said she's looking forward to the start of school because she likes to socialize with friends, even though, "I'm not looking forward to getting up early every day," she said with a smile.

Katie, who hopes to become a physical therapist some day, is the daughter of Colette Vaughn and George Beasley.



VISUAL ART

EMILY MARTHEY



By Calli Perkins

Emily Marthey, an 11th grade student at The Academies at Jonesboro High School, is involved in the visual art program. “My favorite part about art,” she said, “is the freedom that it grants. There is nothing like the feeling of completing and being proud of a work. When you can take something that you thought of in your head and put it on a canvas and be happy with it and proud of it, it’s fantastic. I believe art is the definition of freedom.”

Art is her expressive medium, where she can find her outlet while in an academic environment, “I’ve always been interested in art,” Emily said. “As soon as I could pick up a crayon I was doing stick figure self portraits and drawing butterflies in landscapes filled with block houses and stick trees. Quite the young Picasso. As I got older, art became a way for me to be myself. I could take whatever came out of my head and put it on a piece of paper. Art led to a renaissance of my own personal thought and I have no clue where I’d be without my experiences in drawing.”

Emily also is able to find comfort in herself and the world around her with her creations. “Art has given me a language that I can use to communicate with myself and my own emotions,” she said. “A few years ago I started drawing strange little cartoon characters. These little guys were very weird; they always had buck teeth or acne or weird hair and it made me feel less alone with my own strangeness and it felt nice to see something and draw something that isn’t conventional or perfect. I’m a big fan of breaking the norm and I think that’s what art is all about.”

As she explores the world of art through the program at Jonesboro High School and through her own personal experimentation, she is finding different ways to express her vision through multiple mediums. “In doing art, I have learned about self expression and exploring my own mind with pencil and paper. It’s a magnificent skill that I’m always very excited to learn more about and expand,” she explained. “Whether it be painting something myself or taking photos or looking at someone else’s

pieces, art is something that I continually find myself appreciating for what it’s taught me about myself and the world.

“My primary media in art are paint and charcoals. I enjoy layering colors and shadows; seeing a work slowly emerge into focus on the canvas is very cool to me. My primary focus is human features and emotions as well as any other abstract thing that comes out of my head. You’ll often find dozens of eyeballs scribbled all over my school work and sketchbooks. They’re one of my favorite human features; you can learn a lot about someone by looking into their eyes.”

Emily said, “One thing I want people to know about art is that it’s much more than putting something onto a canvas. It’s about finding yourself in the colors and learning how to create something from some tools, paints, and whatever exists in your own mind. It’s truly a beautiful thing and I think everyone should give art class a chance. “



CHEER KARLIE THOMPSON

By Richard Brummett

Karlie Thompson is like many other teens in Northeast Arkansas, involved in a variety of activities both in and out of school, but she wears the Greene County Tech cheerleading uniform with pride because she decided cheering “is really my thing.”

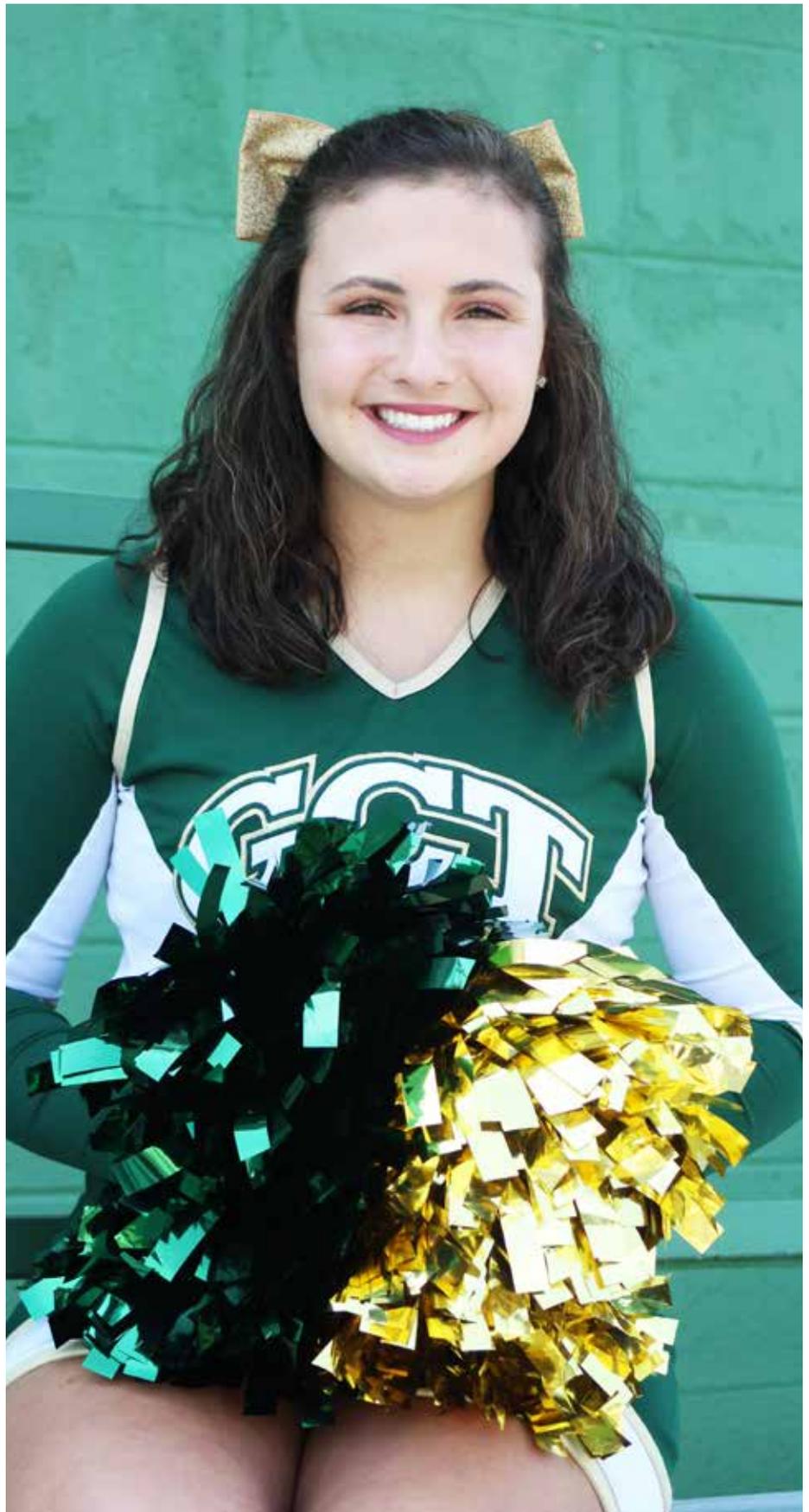
The 14-year-old freshman has put some other interests on the back burner as she prepares to enter the school year and help boost the spirits of the Golden Eagles and their fans. “I love the leadership part of it,” Karlie said. “Our sponsor, Donna Foster, really kind of puts the ninth-graders out in front to lead the others.”

She said she got into cheerleading when she was 7 or 8, taking instruction at Paragould’s Champions Gymnastics. “I kind of progressed after that,” she recalled, “and then went to Priscilla’s Cheer and Tumbling and just kept going. I knew from the start that I just loved it.”

Up until recently Karlie also mixed in Jr. Olympic and school volleyball but this year made a choice to concentrate on cheering. “I play piano, too, and sing,” she said, “so I’ve had a lot going on.”

Three older sisters graduated from Tech -- two being members of the dance team and the other a cheerleader -- and her mom was also a dance team participant so the family is well versed in piecing together the many aspects of school, cheer and family life. As for the academic side, Karlie has always been an excellent student but admits, “Sometimes the grades stress me out a little bit, but I love school. I love the association with others.”

She is the daughter of Hardy and Wendy Thompson and hopes to become a dentist when the school days are behind her.



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Lifestyles

DRAMA

REECE RUHL

By Caitlin LaFarlette

It was a love for music that initially led Reece Ruhl to theatre and after three years of the program, he has taken valuable life lessons with him as he moves on past high school.

"My favorite thing about theatre is working with others who experience the same love I do," he said. "There's something about performing that has always been in my heart ever since I was little and I began to flourish in the arts, so I keep doing it."

The 18-year-old said his sister also talked about theatre and that helped guide him to join the troupe at Greene County Tech High School, directed by Lori Dial. She described Ruhl as an amazing, well-rounded young man. "He is one of the most dedicated to his craft students I've ever seen," Dial said. "His motto is, 'An amateur does it until he gets it right, but a professional does it until he can't get it wrong.'"

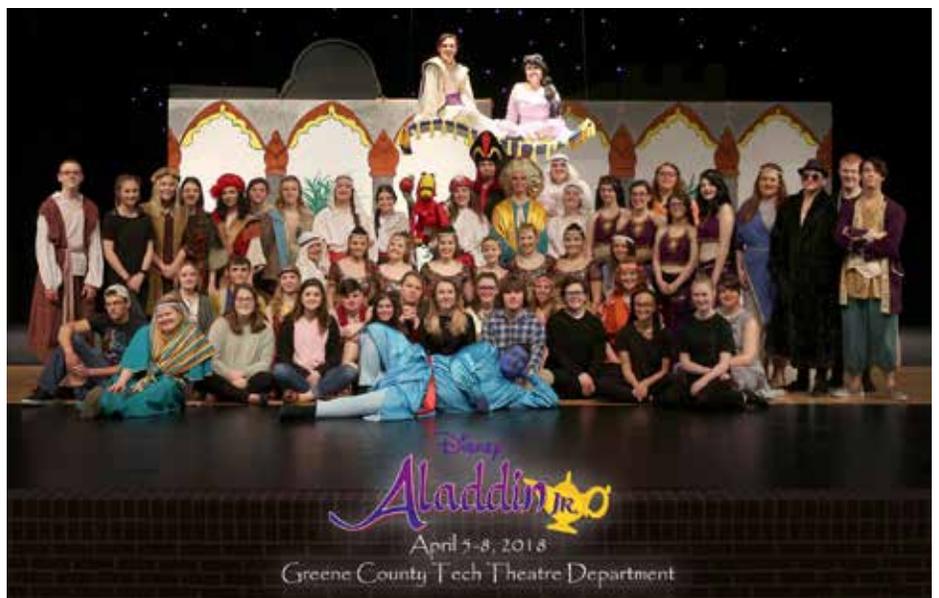
Dial added Ruhl has been featured in several lead roles but her favorite was Genie from Aladdin. Ruhl earned superior ratings at state competition, a main stage showcase and auditioned at the national level at Thespian competition.

Ruhl said in the theatre world he looks up to Brian d'Arcy James, Sutton Foster and Jason Robert Brown for their professionalism and dedication to the craft. Aside from growing to love these idols he has learned to accept others for themselves and their beliefs.

"If the world just accepted people instead of persecuting them, the world would get better," he said.

Ruhl said that while students interested in theater can speak with a school theatre director, there is also the option of joining local theatre or simply attending a show. Dial said being involved in theatre is important, as it is math, science, history, technology and language all rolled into one.

"It teaches students how to recognize beauty, to understand people, to grow compassion," she said. "Theatre instills teamwork, the pride that comes from a job well done and physicality."



BAND

BLAIRE JUSTICE

By Caitlin LaFarlette

After watching the Paragould High School marching band perform at halftime shows, Blaire Justice became obsessed with watching other bands and joined the PHS tribe as soon as she entered the seventh grade.

Now 16, Justice plays the flute and is section leader. "My favorite thing about band is the fact that you've got all these kids with different backgrounds and home lives coming together in this overwhelming heat, just to create music," she said. "We all bond and grow as a team and create true art, in my opinion."

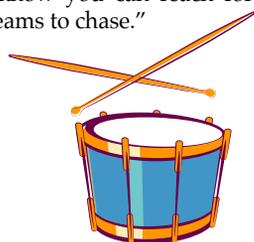
She added after winning so many competitions, it is humbling and exhilarating to know their performance and hard work paid off. Justice said band isn't something somebody can go into and just "wing it." Participants will be pushed like never before and will learn the difference between true pain and simple discomfort.

"You have to battle and push through, whether it is too hot or too cold outside," she said. "But along with that, you're going to understand what it feels like to really be proud of yourself and your team."

Those battles are what outsiders may not see band students experience. Justice said the marching band has 6 a.m. workouts and practice until 4 p.m. The students give up most of their summer for the physically demanding practices in the heat. During school, practices last from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. and there are competitions nearly every weekend.

While learning how to push herself, Justice has also been shaped by band into who she is today. After being a featured soloist in her sophomore year, she learned through the stress of it that everybody has ups and downs in life, and she was able to stay strong and keep her head held high even if her solo didn't go perfectly the first time around.

"I understand the difference in staying stagnant and giving something your absolute all until you improve," she said. "It has taught me how to be thankful for what I have, to stay humble, to have pride, but to always know you can reach for more and have dreams to chase."



FARM CREDIT BREAKS GROUND ON NEW PARAGOULD FACILITY

Farm Credit Midsouth held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Paragould location in June. The 8,000-square foot facility will sit at the corner of highways 49 and 135 and house the Paragould Branch as well as several administrative offices for staff members currently located in Jonesboro.

“Farm Credit Midsouth has more than doubled in size in the past 10 years,” said CEO James McJunkins. “We were excited to find this new location to provide better access for our customer/stockholders and employees located in and around the Paragould area.”

Along with financial services and administrative offices, the building will also feature a conference/meeting room for the local agricultural community to utilize.

“Agriculture in Greene County and the surrounding area continues to be a major part of the economy in Northeast Arkansas, and Farm Credit will continue to be a major financial provider for our farmers and rural homeowners just as we have for over 100 years,” McJunkins said.

Approved by the Board of Directors in late 2017, the new facility is projected to be completed in early 2019. Board members serving on the building committee are Donald Norwood (Greene County), Vice Chair Dane Coomer (Clay County) and Chair Chris Roberts (St. Francis County). CahoonSteiling is the architect on the project with construction managed by Nabholz.



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After staying almost two months, Ms. Davidson returned home and back to her kitchen.

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GREENE COUNTY TECH CHOIR VISITS NEW ORLEANS

By Joy Robinson

As a parent, one of my favorite things has been watching my daughter learn and develop as a person, as well as watching her involvement in extra-curricular activities. I have sat in the audience at many choir concerts, awards ceremonies and Veterans Day programs, as well as on the sidelines at many football games for band performances and marching competitions. I have had some of the happiest memories of my life watching her do what she loves.

That being said, volunteering is an awesome opportunity every parent should take advantage of. I was given the honor of traveling with the Greene County Tech Choir to New Orleans in May as they were chosen to represent Arkansas in the "National Festival of the States." Invited by Mayor Mitch Landrieu, the choir was given the opportunity to see and perform in some of New Orleans' most famous and historic places – including the St. Louis Cathedral, The National World War II Museum, and even standing on the corner of Canal and Bourbon. They also visited Mardi Gras World, and the famous Café du Monde for beignets.

Led by tour guide Don Downs, the students were shown and told stories of the history of New Orleans and the French Quarter. The cathedral, monuments and memorials, as well as opportunities to eat famous New Orleans cuisine, were a part of the four days students were there. Even the "Ghosts and Legends" tour was full of authentic New Orleans history and folklore.

One of the most heartwarming experiences was the service project of singing at St. Margaret's at Mercy, a local retirement home. They performed for a full audience, who enjoyed the singing – and even sang along. After the concert, students visited one-on-one with the residents. While the students were nervous at first, it seemed to be one of the most rewarding parts of the trip.

As a chaperone, it was an amazing experience to watch the students not only perform for crowds that gathered just to

hear them sing, but seeing them learning and enjoying it was just as amazing. My daughter, Catherine Hankins, is a graduating senior with the choir. This was the perfect "last trip" to enjoy with her and her friends.

If you are ever hesitant about the importance of Fine Arts in our schools and community, just talk to some of these students, parents, or directors. Ask them how many of these young people are moving forward with scholarships or honors because of the opportunities they have been given through programs like this one. And if you ever get the opportunity to volunteer ... take it. Not only will you enjoy the experience with your child, but you get to see on a first-hand level the value of these programs.



The Greene County Tech Choir and chaperones stand in front of Oak Alley Plantation, where they took a tour of the grounds and learned of its more than 200-year-old history. The plantation was seen in the movie, "Interview with the Vampire", and features more than 28 oak trees surrounding the property.



Tara Pangborn, a graduating senior, visits with a resident at St. Margaret's at Mercy.



Members of the GCT Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Beverly Finley, performed a concert for residents at St. Margaret's at Mercy as a part of the National Festival of the States. The students were able to visit with residents one-on-one after the performance.

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

EASY RECIPES FOR BUSY FAMILIES

ENTRÉE

CROCK POT SPAGHETTI

Ingredients:

FOR THE MEATBALLS

1 lb. ground beef
1/4 c. breadcrumbs
1/4 c. freshly grated Parmesan
1/4 c. freshly chopped parsley
1 large egg, beaten
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 tsp. Kosher salt
1/2 tsp. Red pepper flakes

FOR THE SAUCE

2 (28-oz.) cans crushed tomatoes
2 tbsp. tomato paste
1/2 yellow onion, finely chopped
2 tsp. dried oregano
1 garlic clove, minced
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Red pepper flakes

1 c. chicken broth
3/4 lb. spaghetti
Parmesan, for garnish
Freshly chopped parsley, for garnish

Directions:

1. For meatballs: mix together ground beef, breadcrumbs, Parmesan, parsley, egg, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Form into 16 meatballs and place in the bottom of crock-pot.
2. In another large bowl, mix together crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, onion, oregano, and garlic. Season with salt, pepper and a pinch of red pepper flakes. Pour sauce over meatballs. Cover with lid and cook on high for 3 hours or on low for 6.
3. During the last hour of cooking add chicken



broth and spaghetti noodles to crock-pot (you can break noodles in half to make fit in the crock-pot). Replace lid and continue cooking for the remaining hour. Garnish with Parmesan and parsley to serve.

Recipe courtesy of www.delish.com.

SIDE DISH

SIMPLE SIDE SALAD

Ingredients:

3 Heads of Romaine Lettuce
1 Tablespoon Dried Basil
2 Teaspoons Garlic Powder
1/2 cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese
1 Roma Tomato chopped
3-4 Slices of Cooked Bacon chopped
2 Boiled Eggs chopped
1/4 cup Celery chopped
1/4 cup Carrots chopped

Directions:

1. Slice romaine leaves off of white stems, (discard white stems) and chop lettuce in to small pieces and pour in large serving bowl.
2. Next, layer on to the lettuce the tomato, bacon, eggs, celery, carrots, and cheddar cheese.
3. Sprinkle on top the garlic powder and the dried basil.
4. Serve with choice of dressing. (Our favorite is to make the Hidden Valley Buttermilk Ranch dressing, with the seasoning packet, buttermilk, and mayo.)

Recipe courtesy of www.fantabulosity.com.



DESSERT

AFFOGATO TRIFLES

Ingredients:

2 cups coarsely crushed biscotti, amaretti, or other favorite cookie
2 cups vanilla ice cream, softened
1 cup whipped cream
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
4 shots hot brewed espresso or strong coffee (about 3/4 cup total)

Directions:

1. In each of four parfait or dessert glasses layer 1/4 cup of the crushed biscotti and 1/4 cup of the ice cream. Repeat with the remaining biscotti and the remaining ice cream.
2. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with cinnamon. Accompany with shots of espresso to drizzle over the ice cream before eating.

Recipe courtesy of www.midwestliving.com.



EMBASSY SUITES & RED WOLF CONVENTION CENTER DIRECTOR OF SALES

O'Reilly Hospitality Management, LLC, is proud to announce Shawnie Carrier as its new Director of Sales for the Embassy Suites and Red Wolf Convention Center. This makes Shawnie the first hire for the 203-suite property with over 40,000 square feet of convention space, that is currently under construction on the campus of Arkansas State University, located on Red Wolf Blvd. Her significant contributions and dedication to this project from the start will be invaluable in her new role.

"I am ecstatic about joining the OHM Team as Director of Sales for the Embassy Suites and Red Wolf Convention Center," said Carrier. "Having played a lead role in this development since the inception makes this move natural and exciting. This new property will generate an incredible amount of economic benefits for the Northeast Arkansas region by hosting out-of-town visitors that attend conventions, trade shows, business meetings and events of all types. In the years to come the convention center will contribute multi-millions in direct spending to the regional economy, making it one of Jonesboro and NEA's most important economic engines."

Carrier joined ASU in fall 2013 as chief of staff for the chancellor after several years of work with economic development groups in Arkansas. She led discussions regarding public-private partnerships related to A-State's commercial land development. The Embassy Suites and Red Wolf Convention Center was at the top of that list.

Carrier was appointed Executive Director of the A-State Delta Center for Economic Development in the spring of 2015 in addition to continuing her role as Chief of Staff for a year. The Delta Center is the community outreach arm of the university. Functioning as a business with access to intellectual capacity found within the university, the Delta Center's mission is to advance economic opportunity and quality of life for the Delta communities and surrounding counties in Arkansas.

Carrier brings 17 years of development experience, marketing/recruitment strategies and community competitiveness. She has a proven track record of fostering

positive community relationships with a comprehensive approach to serving businesses, governments, and citizens.

"We are thrilled that Shawnie is joining our OHM team as a Director of Sales," said Tim O'Reilly, CEO of O'Reilly Hospitality Management, LLC, "and I am personally humbled that a person with Shawnie's professional experience, work ethic, enthusiasm and character is joining us to lead the sales effort for this important project."

Prior to OHM, Carrier's career included several years in local and regional economic development. She was CEO of the Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance and director of external affairs for the Cross County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation. A graduate of A-State, she continued her education as a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education in Authentic Leadership, the University of Oklahoma's Economic



Development Institute and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management, receiving a professional IOM certification. Carrier was also recognized in 2015 by Arkansas Business as one of Arkansas' 40 under 40.



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Downtown Jonesboro

BBQ & MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

The Downtown Jonesboro BBQ & Music Festival announces plans for two day event



The Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission's Downtown Jonesboro BBQ and Music Festival announced plans for the 10th annual event. The Festival will include two nights of music this year with FUEL performing Friday night September 28th and SmashMouth performing Saturday September 29th on the Ritter Communications Stage.

FUEL is an American rock band formed in 1994 known for their hit songs "Shimmer," "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)," "Bad Day" and "Innocence". The band has sold over four million records worldwide. "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)" was Billboard Magazine's #5 Rock Song of the Decade according to their Best of the 2000s Rock Songs chart. The hit also became the No. 6 Alternative Rock song of the past 25 years according to Billboard's Alternative Chart 25th Anniversary: Top 100 Songs. The Band released their Greatest Hits album in 2017.

SmashMouth is an Alternative American rock band from San Jose, California, formed in 1994. They are known for songs such as "Walkin' on the Sun", "All Star", and a cover of The Monkees' "I'm a Believer" (2001), the latter two of which were featured on the soundtrack for the animated film Shrek. In May 2016, Smash Mouth released their first live album titled Playlist: The Very Best of Smash Mouth through Sony Music. Lead singer Steve Harwell was a featured cast member in the sixth season of the VH1 reality show, The Surreal Life, in 2006. Harwell has also appeared on other television and radio shows, as well as making a cameo in the 2001 film Rat Race. Also taking the stage on Saturday will be the

Whyte Caps, a progressive rock band from Gulf Shores, Alabama. The three powerhouse musicians have created an industry buzz with their sound which has been compared to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and CREED. In the past year they have played over 188 venue stages and five festivals and are a familiar sound at the FloraBama and the Hangout establishments in Gulf Shores. The late lead guitarist for Three Doors Down, Matt Roberts, noticed the band and offered to help produce their first EP, "Four in the Van". The Whyte Caps released their first full album entitled Broken Record in 2017, which can be found on iTunes, Spotify and iHeart Radio.

In recent years the festival has seen Scotty McCreery, Brett Michaels, Brothers Osborne, The Commodores, Lee Brice, 38 Special, Rick Springfield, Easton Corbin and Night Ranger perform in Downtown Jonesboro. Tim McCall, Festival Chairman, said they are "excited that this year we have two nights of entertainment at no cost to the community. It is all about providing our community and visitors with an opportunity to see Jonesboro and all the things we have to offer."

The festival also hosts the Kansas City Barbecue Society-sanctioned Arkansas State Championship. Jack Turner, event coordinator, said, "The past few years we have seen contestants from all over the country. We have been working hard to make

the BBQ event bigger and better in 2018. We have some great sponsors this year and look forward to giving away over \$10,000 in cash and prizes." The Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) is the largest BBQ organization in the world. The Grand Champion is invited to the American Royal and Jack Daniels World Championship. Turner said, "Everybody's got a chance to win some big cash, this is fun for some and serious business for many grillers."

The Festival will also host the 2nd annual Steak Cookoff Association event, one of over 180 throughout the world this year including new events in Austria, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, Italy, the Caribbean and New Zealand. For more information event contestants can visit <http://www.steak-cookoffs.com>. McCall and Turner, who have organized the event since inception, said they are "excited to have the support of Ritter Communications this year and hope to continue to expand the event into a larger Arts and Entertainment festival moving forward." The event also includes activities for the kids, plenty of food, vendors, crafts and a kids' area sponsored by HiJinx, and the Express Employment Professionals Clydesdales will be downtown on Friday evening for carriage rides to support the Children's Miracle League.





Express Clydesdales

APPEARING AT JONESBORO BBQ FEST

In 1998, Bob Funk, owner of Express Ranches and CEO and Chairman of Express Employment Professionals, visited the longstanding Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan. While visiting, he met and fell in love with the rare and beautiful black and white Clydesdales.

Black and white in color, the distinctive Express Clydesdales serve as Goodwill Ambassadors for Express Employment Professionals. These gentle giants stand six feet high at the shoulder, weigh over 2,000 pounds, and prance with hooves the size of dinner plates.



Brief History of the Clydesdale

Clydesdales are big, powerful, refined draft horses named after, and imported from, Clydesdale, Scotland. Historically, they were bred to work. Legend has it that hundreds of years ago, medieval knights rode them into battles and in jousting tournaments. But, when the ancient era passed, Clydesdales assumed more moderate chores like plowing fields and pulling carts along the streets of Europe.

Characteristics of the Clydesdale Breed

While the breed usually varies in differ-

ent shades of bay, chestnut, and black, only 10% of the Clydesdale population in North America is black and white. These gentle giants typically stand around 18 to 19 hands high and weigh nearly a ton. They're beautiful, graceful, and extremely even tempered.

Facts:

Color: Black with four white stocking feet, a blaze of white on the face and a black mane and tail. Feathering above the hooves. This long hair covering their ankles makes this breed easily recognizable and it is thought the feather was developed during the first breedings with the Fleming and English breeds. This feather, a thick mane and heavy coat helped the breed survive in the Scottish climate.

Height: 17-19 hands (6 feet) at the shoulder

Weight: 1,700-2,300 lbs.

Age: 3-15 years

Gender: Gelding

Temperament: Very gentle

Hooves: Size of dinner plates

Shoes: Each Clydesdales' horseshoes are computer cut so each shoe is exact. The shoes weigh about three pounds each and average nine inches wide and eight and a half inches long. They are shod with a leather pad for added support and protection. Each horse is re-shod every six weeks. (A horse's foot is much like a human's fingernail so the shoeing doesn't hurt the horses.)

Feed: Each horse consumes about 12 pounds of feed, 12-15 pounds of hay and 30 gallons of water in a day with occasional treats of apples and carrots.

Transportation: The horses travel in a custom-built 53-foot tractor-trailer with air-cushioned suspension, rubber floor-

ing, windows and fans to ease the effects of traveling. The back half carries tack-harness and the 1880 replica hotel coach.

Coach: The hotel coach is a replica of one used by the Crawford House Hotel in Concord, New Hampshire, in 1880. It can carry 24 passengers and two drivers and was rebuilt by the Hansens Wheel and Wagon Shop in South Dakota, for private use only.

Wagon: A beautiful handcrafted replica of a turn-of-the-century delivery wagon, the show wagon undercarriage and body are based on a Studebaker design. It weighs over 3,000 pounds and was also built by the Hansens Wheel and Wagon Shop.

Notable Clydesdale Appearances

- Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
- Tournament of Roses Parade
- Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Professional Bull Riders (PBR) World Finals
- Calgary Stampede
- PBR Event Tour (Select Markets)
- Fiesta Bowl Parade
- Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade
- International Youth Finals Rodeo





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STUDENT WINS PHI BETA LAMBDA NATIONAL TITLE BRYSTON HICKMAN

Bryston Hickman of Mountain Home became Arkansas State University's sixth national Phi Beta Lambda champion, and 15 additional students placed in the PBL's 2018 national conference and competition in Baltimore.

Hickman, a senior psychology major, won the award in "Organizational Behavior and Leadership." He also won that category during competition at the state leadership conference held in April in Little Rock.

A total of 29 A-State student members competed in Baltimore and brought home 19 awards. They were accompanied by three advisers - Dr. Philip Tew, associate professor of finance in the Neil Griffin College of Business and PBL adviser for the state of Arkansas; Kerry Tew, first-year

student success coordinator; and Dr. Patricia Robertson, chair, economics and finance, professor of business law and faculty coordinator for the Women's Business Leadership Center.

"The advisers are extremely proud of these great students," stated Dr. Tew. "They have led A-State PBL to heights that 10 years ago, when we re-started the chapter, never thought were possible. To bring home 19 national awards, including the chapter's sixth PBL national champion, is an incredible accomplishment for these students."

A-State finishers include:

First Place - Organizational Behavior and Leadership: Bryston Hickman; largest chapter in the country: Arkansas State University.

Second Place - Website Design: Bryston Hickman and Sam Reagan, both of Mountain Home; Sports Management and Marketing: Grant Long of Batesville; Programming Concepts: Sam Reagan; Justice Administration: Grant Long; Accounting Principles: Ben Tinsley of Jonesboro.

Third Place - Business Communications: Kourtney Chadwell of Piggott.

Fifth Place - Microeconomics: Tristan Sweatt of Floral; Macroeconomics: Anthony Adkins of Jonesboro.

Sixth Place - Statistical Analysis: Tristan Sweatt; Business Sustainability: Rachel Washam of Jonesboro.

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Seventh Place - Management Analysis: Zoe Parsons and Jordan Womack, both of Mountain Home; Contemporary Sports Issues: Alex Young of Jonesboro; Business Presentation: Alex Young; Accounting for Professionals: Dylan Smith of Walnut Ridge.

Eighth Place - Marketing Analysis: Zoe Parsons, Jordan Womack; Economic Analysis: Ahad Sanjrani of Dallas, Texas, Jared Barham of Paragould.

Ninth Place - Administrative Technologies: Kyler Brooks of Bald Knob.

Phi Beta Lambda is the college division of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and provides help and preparation to members for business-related careers. One of the most active branches of the national organization, Arkansas State consistently wins numerous awards each year, including 73 awards at the state competition in April.



Men's Health Fair



We offer blood glucose and cholesterol screenings; blood pressure checks and several vendors are in attendance offering information and screenings about health. All services are free to the public. Located in the Professional Office Building at AMMC.

Men's Health Fair

Thursday September 6
6 AM - 2 PM



Arkansas Methodist
Medical Center

Civil Air Patrol

JONESBORO

By Jennifer Delong

Monday evenings in Jonesboro, students and adult volunteers gather at the airport for a rather unique opportunity. Together they create the 120TH Composite Squadron of the national organization, Civil Air Patrol.

Their website describes Civil Air Patrol as “one of the largest single-engine piston aircraft fleets in the world, operating 560 powered planes that fly about 100,000 hours annually in support of search and rescue, disaster relief, air defense, cadet orientation flights and Air Force-assigned missions.”

Started in the days of World War II, this volunteer organization was started in 1941 to help mobilize the nation’s civilian resources for defense purposes. To this day CAP members still carry out emergency service missions when needed. As an Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, CAP members are encouraged to develop their minds and their bodies for the sake of keeping their communities safe. Weekly Aerospace/STEM education helps build future leaders while a dedicated fitness program developed on the guidelines of the Presidential Youth Fitness Program, develops their bodies.

Lt. Col Lee Clark is the current Jonesboro commander. “Cadets are encouraged to improve physical fitness, which means cadets not only get the best mental training, but the best physical as well,” he said. “We have physical fitness training (PT) one Cadet meeting per month, usually the first Monday of each month. At least once-a-quarter we administer a PT test for promotions. New cadets who work to earn their first achievement (Curry Award) only have to ‘attempt’ the physical test. After that, cadets need to score a minimum achievement level in order to get promoted.”

The goal of physical fitness program is three-fold: 1) To get cadets moving, for fun and structure. 2) To learn the benefit of fitness training and nutrition. 3) To build positive relationships with their developing bodies and their peers.

These young people are on their way to becoming amazing assets to our community. For more information on CAP and how to join contact Lt. Col Lee Clark at 870-530-0996, or stop by the Jonesboro Airport, Building 10, on Monday nights at 6:30 PM.



NEA ARTS

FOUNDATION OF ARTS JONESBORO

DR. DAMON WRIGHT

By Jennifer DeLong

Dr. Damon Wright, Owner/Operator of Wright Family Dentistry, is the true definition of a modern-day Renaissance man, and we are lucky to have him as part of our own community at the Foundation of the Arts.

Dr. Wright started his career studying trumpet performance and zoology and ended up graduating from the University of Tennessee Dental School in 1999. Cosmetic artistry dentistry followed with dentistry, orthodontics, and photography. In 2014 he discovered what most theater people find out: Theater allows introverts to come together and build a family. Performing allows you to create a character that escapes reality. The Foundation of the Arts has allowed him to find that place.

Kristi Pulliam, Executive/Artistic Director of the Foundation of the Arts, inspires many in Jonesboro, but especially Damon and his co-teacher Maranda Nichols. Together they turned this hobby into teaching, directing and acting.

“While I have extensive university training in music theory and performance,” Damon said, “I do not have a formal education in theater. Since 2014, I have studied under Kristi Pulliam, who is the Executive Director and Artistic Director with the Jonesboro Foundation of Arts. Kristi is an incredible mentor to so many of us.”

Damon said, “I teach three musical theater performance classes each Thursday night with my co-teacher Maranda Nichols, who is a physician’s assistant in Jonesboro. Together we direct, act, teach, as well as serve on the Board of Directors for the Foundation of Arts. We also co-direct the Curtain Up Crew, which is a performance group of kids and adults who serve the Jonesboro area performing at nursing homes, the mall, coffee shops, parades and charity events. Our musical theater performance class ranges from age 8-18 and has performed in Branson, Missouri, and the America Gardens Stage in Epcot. We plan to perform again this year in Disney World and Universal in February. We are currently running a four week musical

theater camp along with other FOA teachers.

“Art comes in many forms. It is the flavor that makes life taste so good. My art only works with other artists both with music and on stage. I serve as a teacher for young artists because they need me to practice their art. I serve as their supporting actor and chorus member during shows where they are the star. They serve me by teaching how to remain young and excited and they serve as my supporting actors and chorus members when it is my time to shine. Together, we become better people and stronger people.

“Anyone who chooses to create along with me is an artist regardless of training, ability, age, background, religion, color, identity, political beliefs, etc. Our creative projects at the Foundation of Arts lead to unity, relationship, and love in a world where we are told we can’t get along with anyone who doesn’t look like us or think like us. This unity is never easy but always happens by the end of a piece.”

There are many ways to get involved with the programming at The Foundation of Arts and we would love to have you! Feel free to contact us at (870)935-2726 or visit us at foajonesboro.org





LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

We send our kids to school because we want to set them up to have happy, successful lives. We want them to learn the skills needed to not only survive, but thrive in the real world. Undoubtedly, having an education can certainly enhance your child's chance of having a good life in the future. But did you know that according to 30 years of research, emotional intelligence is more important to your kid's well being than intellectual intelligence? In fact, according to Daniel Coleman in his book, EQ, children who are emotionally intelligent grow up to be much more successful and happy participants in the world in which they live. To help our kids grow into the men and

women they were created to be we need to put the same level of intentionality into developing their emotional health as schools put into developing their intellect. Here are a few ideas to help you encourage and support your child's emotional development.

1. Encourage feelings with rules. Children need to have the freedom to feel -- whether we parents like what they're feeling. Good parents show their children how to identify and then express their feelings in a healthy way.
2. Don't always try to fix your child's feelings. Many times children need to be given the freedom to feel emotions without being encouraged to change them. Sometimes

we are so uncomfortable with our kids' feelings that we communicate to them that they shouldn't feel what they're feeling. It's incredibly important not to do that. It's important that parents support their kids so they feel safe to express emotions.

3. Don't tell your child it shouldn't feel a certain way. Nothing frustrates a child more than when you discredit how they are feeling. Some of you may have memories of your parents telling you why you shouldn't be so upset over _____, or how it's stupid to be bothered about _____. Your child's emotions are real and should be acknowledged without trying to be changed. Over time they will mature in their feelings and learn to regulate their reactions.

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2018 Kids'
Events

August

7

**Back to School: STEAM
Magnets**

When: Tuesday at 2 PM
Where: Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library
315 W Oak Ave, Jonesboro
Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org

10

YA Lock-in

When: Friday at 7 PM
Where: Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library
315 W Oak Ave, Jonesboro
Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org

1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Story Time

When: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
Where: Greene County Public Library
120 North 12th Street, Paragould
Info: www.mylibrarynow.org

Jalie Gardner romped through the Splash Park at Paragould's Labor Park on a recent warm day. Jalie, 6, is the daughter of Jake and Nioaka Gardner of Marmaduke.



Dean of Students

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Martha Spack has been appointed as the Dean of Students for Arkansas State University, Chancellor Kelly Damphousse announced recently.

The long-time member of the student support staff of A-State began her new position on July 15.

"I am honored to be selected as the Dean of Students and consider it a privilege to accept the responsibilities that come with the position," Spack said.

Joining Arkansas State in 2004, Spack was promoted to director of the Leadership Center in 2008. In that role, she provided oversight for several areas

that will now compose the Office of the Dean of Students, including the Student Activities Board, the Student Government Association, the Student Union, Greek Life and Residence Life. The Dean of Students will also oversee Student Conduct and the Red W.O.L.F. Center. She completed her doctorate in 2018.

Damphousse also announced the appointment of Dr. Lonnie Williams as special assistant to the chancellor. In his new role, Williams will continue to direct the A-State Student Health Center and the university's Counseling Center. He will also assist with the student conduct appeals process and manage other tasks for the Chancellor's Office.

"I'm looking forward to working with Dr. Damphousse as we begin a new chapter at Arkansas State," Williams said.

Both positions report to the chancellor as a part of his reorganization of campus administration.

"I'm pleased that Dr. Spack and Dr. Williams have accepted their new positions, and I am looking forward to working with both of them as we continue our commitment to our students," Damphousse said. "The goal of these changes is to more clearly define roles and focus in on our most important task – the education of our student body."





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BIRTHS



Benjamin Kent Matlock

Proud parents Jesse and Lauren Matlock of Paragould welcomed their second child, Benjamin Kent Matlock, into the world on June 1, 2018. He is also welcomed by sister Caroline and grandparents Kenneth and Rosemary Johnson, and Ronnie and Debbie Matlock. Benjamin was delivered at St. Bernards Medical Center, weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 22 inches tall.

Photography credit Joy Robinson Photography



Nolan Brooks Headley

Aaron and Vanna Headley of Jonesboro announce the birth of their second son, Nolan Brooks Headley, younger brother to Urban Headley.

Born July 20th at St. Bernards Medical Center, Nolan weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

Photography credit Vanna Headley

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CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

There has been recent news from the outdoor world about dwindling participation in outdoor sports. I tend to look on the good side and see lots of youth interested in the outdoors; many just need the opportunity to get out there. This month we will take a look at two local young men who have followed the calling of the outdoors.

Connor Crafton and Jade Craft will be seniors at Paragould High School this fall, and both like to spend as much time on the water as they can. Connor is the son of Tony and Shelly Crafton while Jade is the son of Mark and Traci Craft. I asked each of these young men a few questions about their pastime and their answers tell their story.

Like a lot of young fishermen, Connor and Jade both give credit to members of their family for their start chasing fish. Jade credits his dad while Connor credits his dad and his grandpas for instilling and fostering their desire to be on the water.



Both have been fishing as long as they can remember but each has a few special days that stick out as memorable days on the water. Connor hit the water the morning of his prom to fish a tournament. The snow made for an interesting day, but Connor fished through the weather and, with the thought of prom in the back of his head, won the tournament. Jade has had many memorable trips but a recent one to Lake Charles stood out. He and Connor went to the lake after school and loaded the boat with several dandy largemouth.

Both young men actively fish tournaments and participate in several tournament circuits. Some of those include NEA Youth Fishing, B.A.S.S. High School, The Bass Federation High School Fishing, and the Bassholes Fishing Club. These tournaments give the young anglers a chance to compete against the best and learn more about the water and the fish.

Like most fishermen, their thoughts on their favorite bodies of water and favorite lures varied. Both will fish anywhere, but Connor likes Black River while Jade prefers to fish Lake Charles. Both bodies of water are unique and can be very challenging for any fisherman. As far as lures go, both liked topwaters with Connor preferring a hollow bodied topwater frog while Jade preferred a Whopper Plopper. Jade also said he liked a speed craw when the topwater bite slowed.

I asked both young men what their dream fishing trip would be and they once again had differing opinions and even different geographical directions. Connor would like to head north to Canada or Wisconsin and pursue big smallmouth. Jade said he would prefer to head south and pursue trophy largemouth in Mexico. Could that possibly be a hint at a graduation present as these young men wrap up high school next year?

Finally, I asked both what the outdoors and fishing meant to them. A common theme in both answers was the joy of being out there, the challenge of fishing and the chance to learn something new each time on the water. Connor said, "The constant learning that goes on while on the water is what keeps me going and fuels the fire. Fishing is my passion." Jade said, "We love to get outdoors because we never know what it has in store for us. I will continue exploring the world for the rest of my life." It was obvious that their enjoyment and love for the outdoors runs deep and strong and will be with them for their entire lives.

Talking to young men like this gets me excited about the outdoors and the joy they find in it. They are only two of many youth in our community hooked on the outdoors. On almost a daily basis I get to see kids thrilled from spending some time on the water or in the woods. The love for the outdoors is still in our youth but it often gets buried under other things this world offers like video games, sports, television and other attention consuming activities. I ask you, please take some time to get your kids out there. Better yet, find that kid who has no one to take them and get them out there. I have said this before, I feel many of our societal problems could be helped if our kids spent more time outside. Don't know what to do or where to go? Contact me and I will be glad to help!

Thanks to Connor and Jade for their time. God bless and I hope to see you out there!





CELEBRATING LOVE

Shawnda James & Grant Weaver

Celebration was in order at the wedding of Shawnda James (parents Angela and Terry James) and Grant Weaver, on April 19th at Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs. The reception took place at The Crossing in Downtown Paragould on April 21st.

Photographer: Melissa Albey





August

EVENTS CALENDAR

2

What: Phi Mu Fall Fashion Show
When: Thursday, August 2nd at 11:30 a.m.
Where: Cooper Alumni Center, AState Campus (2600 Alumni Blvd, Jonesboro, AR 72401)
Info: Hosted by the Alumni of the former Phi Mu chapter at AState. All proceeds benefit the Arkansas Children's Hospital.
Tickets are \$30.00
For more information: 870-932-5125

8

What: Back to School Bash
When: Wednesday, August 8th at 2 p.m.
Where: Round Room of Jonesboro Public Library (315 W Oak Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401)
Info: Celebrating back to school! For more information, call 870-935-5133

11

What: Fall Gourd Workshop
When: Saturday, August 11th at 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Davidsonville Historic State Park (8047 Hwy 166 South, Pocahontas, AR 72455)
Info: Gourds have been used for centuries for a variety of purposes. Join park staff for a creative afternoon and learn how to shape and decorate these unusual plants. Unleash your artistic ability and get ready to create fall-

related gourd crafts. Please dress appropriately as some materials may stain. Must be 18 years or older. Space is limited and early registration is required. Please call 870-892-4708 to register for the workshop. Workshop fee is \$20.

12

What: A Day at the Ranch
When: Sunday, August 12th at 1 p.m.-6 p.m.
Where: Circle G Ranch (2355 Yokley Creek Rd, Lynnville, TN 38472)
Info: Circle G Ranch invites the public to the first official event at the property formerly owned by Elvis Presley. Admission for the event will be complimentary in celebration of the first event on the property. Festivities will include live music, food vendors, a meet and greet with the Memphis Mafia, children's activities, a preview of the Unknown Child Holocaust Memorial, photo ops and more. Experts will be on hand to talk about the history of the Ranch. Visitors will also have the chance to view conceptual plans for restoration of the Ranch and development as a culturally inspired entertainment destination that celebrates the heritage and achievement of the Mississippi Delta community. For more information, find Circle G Ranch on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

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

graphics@mormediainc.com

16

What: Medicare Savings Assistance
When: Thursday, August 16 at 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Center On Aging (303 E. Matthews Suite 201, Jonesboro, AR 72401)
Info: ATTENTION to those NEW TO MEDICARE - Save Money on Medicare Part B & D costs with Medicare Savings and Extra Help programs. Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) Counselors will be on hand for application assistance. Please bring a list of your current medications.
Call 870-207-7597 for more information.

25

What: Mud Ball
When: Saturday, August 25 at 9 a.m.
Where: The corner of Latourette Drive and Caraway Road, near the Child Support Office
Info: Brought to you by K13, Inc. - Jonesboro Mud Ball is a mud-volleyball tournament in Jonesboro. There will be 8 courts running simultaneously throughout the day, raising money for St. Bernard's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. This all-day event involves volleyball, music, special events, and contests with great prizes. Must be over 14 years of age. Register online at: www.jonesboromudball.com
For more information: www.marketing@k13inc.com or by phone: 870-627-5477
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10:00 A.M.

HAPPENINGS

ASBTDC ADDS 2 TO MILLIONAIRES CLUB



Robert Bahn, lead business consultant, and Laura Miller, center director, of the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center (ASBTDC) at Arkansas State University were recognized as top performers at the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center statewide meeting in Little Rock.

Bahn and Miller were named to ASBTDC's Millionaires Club.

The club levels represent the dollar value of loans and other forms of capital funding that staff members help their small business clients obtain in a calendar year.

Bahn made the \$5 Million Club and Miller the \$3 Million Club. While both have made a Millions Club before, this was the first time for both to earn the recognition in the same year.



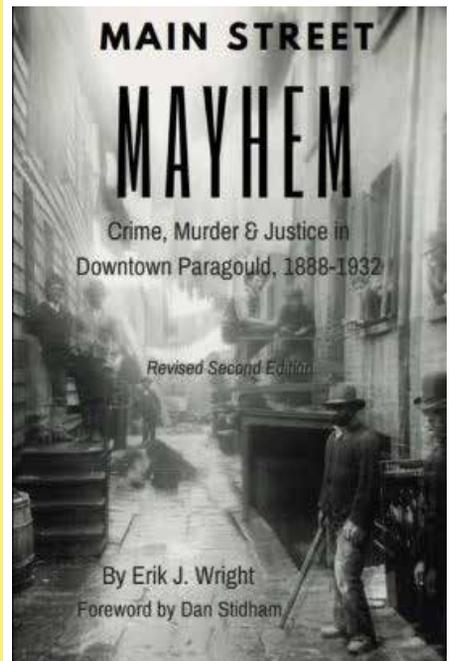
SUMMER OFFSITE PROGRAMS JONESBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library hosts free events all summer long for children and adults including games, movies, activities, and more.



PARTY FOR PAWS

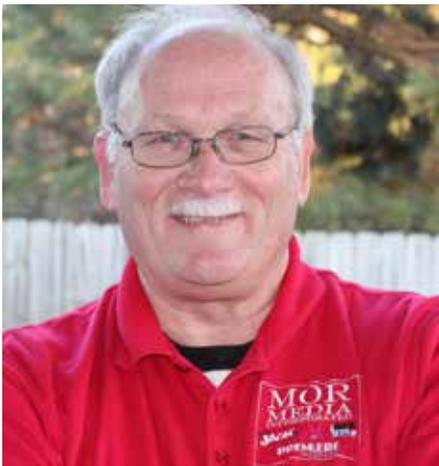
Skinny J's Jonesboro hosted a benefit for NEA Humane Society on July 19th, including a performance from Vikki McGee.



BOOK NEWS

Main Street Mayhem by Erik Wright, independent scholar, award-winning historian, and author of three previous books, was released in June. *Main Street Mayhem* explores some of the forgotten episodes of explosive violence in an Arkansas railroad town. Through extensive investigations and archival research the stories are uncovered. It is sure to please both the scholar and the casual reader.

GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



I have celebrated much over the years and look back at just over six-and-a-half decades with joy. In just this past year, for instance, my first grandchild graduated high school and my youngest was born, the latter only three months ago. I've seen lives come and go, I've laughed and cried and worried and rejoiced ... just as we are meant to. I supposed I have matured.

A year that stands out as important in my time among humans is 1961. Lessons laid out in that year have followed me to this day, much longer than most things I learned -- or was supposed to learn -- in school. I still can't do algebra, was never able to read and comprehend Shakespeare and know only enough geography, history and science to come in a distant third on Jeopardy.

But when I was 9 my parents pointed some things out to me that have helped make my life easier. When I got my first Little League baseball uniform, my dad came to my room and had me sit on one of the twin beds while he took the other. He pointed to my uniform -- white with green trim, number 7 centered on the back -- and said, "Once you put on that uniform, it's not about you any more. It's about what you can do to help your team win."

Dad went on to say that if I wanted to play shortstop but the coach wanted me to play right field, I was to say, "Yes, sir" and be the best right fielder I could be. If I wanted to bat first but he wanted me to bat last, I was to say, "Yes, sir" and be the best ninth-place hitter anyone had ever seen. And -- and this was the tough one -- even if I wanted to start every game but the coach wanted me to be in the dugout, I was to willingly accept that role and be the best teammate ever.

That's what I did because I soon learned being a part of something did not always mean being the star. A lot of kids never got that speech from their dads. I played basketball with one who I honestly believed cared little whether we won or lost; his first concern was how many points he scored and his first movements after a game were not to console or congratulate others, but to hurry to the scorebook to tally his points. And there weren't usually that many in his case.

By understanding the ebb and flow of teamwork, I was afforded the opportunity to play on championship teams at numerous levels. I don't know that I was ever the best player on any of those teams, but I contributed to making them better. I thank Dad for explaining how a winning team works and because of his talk with me, my passion for sports has been rewarded. I matured, I guess.

Earlier that year my mom said something I couldn't let go of. We had a kid in our school who was an easy target. He got picked on daily and try as he might he could never find a way to fit in. Even if he made it through a day without saying or doing the wrong thing, he was the one guy on the playground that a bird would pick out to poop on.

Fifth- and sixth-graders found out they could tease him to the point of anger and/or tears, pushing him to the point where he would just take off running to get away from the abuse. He would stay by himself for the rest of recess and then return later for another round. Only one day, when he charged into his sprint, he didn't stop. He ran past the school building, made a right turn on the sidewalk and sprinted for home.

Mom taught at the school and on the way home the incident came up. After recounting what I knew of it, I said, "Why does he always do such dumb stuff?" And my mom replied, "Well, Rich, everybody needs a friend and some people just don't know how to get one."

Can't tell you why that statement touched my heart the way it did, but the following day I befriended the guy. I picked him for my team in recess games, I moved over to his side when others dogged him, and we remained buddies all the way through high school when I was the only one who chose

to be his partner in basketball drills, the lone guy volunteering to sit by him on bus rides.

I felt good that first day when I was nice to him, but about a week later I was conflicted. I couldn't get rid of him. We'd get home from school and he would be sitting on the front step awaiting our arrival. Every day. Day after day. He would knock on our door early on Saturdays, he would show up when I had plans with other friends. So I did the only thing I could think of to keep from hurting his feelings: I told him my sister had a crush on him. I know he hounded her for a few days until she spoke her mind and told him he needed to quit bugging us.

I felt good about not disappointing him and, as far as I know, my sister never knew I was the one who sent him her way. Now that I'm older and more mature, I may apologize to her some day.



BATS, BRAINS, & BASES

BENEFIT FOR ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA

On July 21 the UAMS Center on Aging-Northeast hosted the 2nd Annual Bats, Brains, & Bases Adult Co-Ed Softball tournament in observance of Brain, Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness.

The charity tournament featured 13 teams from across Arkansas:

- 'Merica
- Cleats & Cleavage
- Team Riga
- Jobu's Rum Distillery
- BBB
- Ballers
- Paragould
- W.O.W.
- First Community Bank
- Jtown's
- CBDG
- Smokin' Bases
- Unity

Winners:

- 1st Place: Team Riga
- 2nd Place: W.O.W.
- 3rd Place: Cleats & Cleavage



Held at Southside Softball Complex in Jonesboro, teams came out to compete in support of UAMS Center on Aging- Northeast and also to help raise awareness and funds to support Alzheimer's education programs in Northeast Arkansas.

With this one-day softball tournament, \$1,300 was raised for Alzheimer's/Dementia support groups and other Educational Programs.

**Trophies were donated by Mr. Trophy in Jonesboro.*



1st Place: Team Riga



2nd Place: W.O.W.



3rd Place: Cleats & Cleavage

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What's in store next month?

Foster Family Stories



Celebrating families of all kinds, highlighting those brought together through fostering.

Wandering Veteran



Mystery and war, and family history of a local veteran. A quest for truth and closure.

NEA Artist



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