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2018

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From The **PUBLISHER...** DINA MASON

We hope this edition finds you finally enjoying real spring weather with lots of sunshine, because there are so many outdoor events coming up and so many have worked hard to plan them. They deserve good weather!

From Farmer's Markets to Art & Stroll and Alive After 5, to the June Get Downtown Festival in Paragould, volunteers and businesses continue to support efforts to make NE Arkansas a better place to work, raise a family, start a business of your own or fulfill whatever dreams of a better life you have. Even if you do not have time to volunteer, you can play your part by participating in any of these activities with your family.

In May we celebrate Mother's Day and Women in Business Month and you will read some great examples of women in NE Arkansas who are contributing through their efforts as moms and business people, who have the community in mind and serve up not only their services but their hearts in all they do.

Talking about people making things happen, Joey Pruett and his Rector crew did a superb job on the first Vietnam Veterans Home Coming Parade. Joey orchestrated the event in conjunction with the National Vietnam War Veterans Day with his brothers in mind. Rector has a wonderful Veterans Memorial Park and proceeds from this event will contribute to its upkeep. It was an honor for MOR MEDIA, Inc., to play a small role in the event and we look forward to next year.

Speaking of MOR MEDIA involvement, we are ready for the NE Arkansas Race for the Cure, but since it happens after our deadline we can tease you to our June edition to see all the Pink pictures as this second-year event grows!

Our regulars are all getting into the season and ready to spread some sunshine. Enjoy, and thank you for doing your part in spreading the word of the "Good News and the People who are making it happen" by reading and passing around Premiere Magazine.



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publisher/advertising sales

Dina Mason •
dina@mormediainc.com

contributing writers

Richard Brummett •
editor@mormediainc.com
Caitlin LaFarlette •
caitlin_lafarlette@hotmail.com
Anthony Childress •
tribalredwolf@hotmail.com
Chuck Long •
Charles.Long@agfc.ar.gov
Jared Pickney •
jared@fellowshipparagould.com
Joy Robinson •
joyrobinsonphotography@gmail.com

graphic designer — advertising

Jacklyn VanScoy •
graphics@mormediainc.com

advertising sales team

Dina Mason • dina@mormediainc.com
Perry Mason • perry@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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RESTAURANT'S INSIGHT

MEALS FOR MOMS

By Jennifer DeLong

No doubt if you've lived in Jonesboro for any length of time you've heard of Meals for Mom. This family "life saver" has been around since 2009, providing take and bake meals for families.

Lindley Williams Pipkins, former waitress and sales girl, was born to be in the kitchen. As she sat down to talk to us she laughed about how she grew up in the kitchen with her family and friends, baking treats and often stealing dinner ingredients to make something yummy for lunch for her friends -- leaving a surprised mom to scramble for ideas for the evening meals. "We always ate dinner at the table," she said, "That's something that doesn't, or can't always happen nowadays."

Lindley decided in 2009 to simply go for it, to start living her dream. If she never tried, she would always wonder. She started with one simple home refrigerator in the location on Parker Road, now located on Grant Street. She started cooking entrees and sides available for pickup, to take home and bake, allowing moms an alternative to dinner other than fast food or eating something filled with preservatives in the car on the way to a softball game.

Lindley's husband Trey joined the team when they got married and together they have made Meals for Moms what it is today. The key to their success is always listening to their customers' needs and wants. When looking for their new location, a drive-thru was a huge requirement. They now offer fantastic hot meal plates available on demand without calling ahead. Simply stop by any time while they are open and order off the menu. The deal can't be beat: Entrée, two sides, a dessert item, a roll, salad and a drink for \$7.50.

Lindley says as trends change, so do the meals. "Weight Watchers meals were big for a long time, now Keto is big. We're looking to start making clean Keto meals to start offering. Whatever the customers want. My staff tells me I need to be on one of those shows where they hand you a random basket of ingredients and tell you to make something delicious."

While balancing three boys, a husband and a thriving business she's learned how valuable her service can be. The quaint location on Grant Street allows many options for busy moms. Follow the daily menu on Facebook, and call ahead to have an order reserved (ask them to heat it for you if you'd like). You can stop in and decide by looking through the options, or you can drive through and pick something up.

Meals for Moms has branched into catering anything from small dinner parties to large events. "I can make anything for any event. You want grandma's famous chicken for your wedding, bring me the recipe and we can make it happen," Lindley said.

Meals for Mom is, at its core, hoping to help families find a way to sit and talk around the table again. If that means you call ahead and have a hot entrée waiting for you to pick up, so that you can spend time around the table rather than spending an hour in the kitchen, take the win and enjoy. Why not swing by soon and celebrate Mothers Day with a home cooked meal?





NEA ARcare Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is serving your community by focusing on HEALTHY FUTURES, DISASTER TRAINING, and OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS

Volunteering activities will include partnering with state and local programs to:

- Encourage healthy futures through education, and providing services
- Train volunteers to run volunteer reception stations during disasters
- Work in short term or specific projects to meet other community needs

ABOUT RSVP: AN ORGANIZATION LIKE NO OTHER

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

RSVP BENEFITS

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

Arkansas Early Learning Head Start and Early Head Start and Crowley's Ridge Development Council

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DECLARED HISTORIC ARKANSAS SITES

The State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program recommended 18 Arkansas properties in 13 counties—including Johnny Cash’s Boyhood Home in Dyess and the Sons Lumber Office Building in Jonesboro for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the National Register nomination, the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home is a New Deal-era, five-room farmhouse constructed by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) as part of the Dyess Resettlement Colony. The house was originally the home of the Ray and Carrie Cash family that included American country music legend Johnny Cash.

Farm No. 266 is located approximately a mile northwest of the colony center in a rural landscape that is currently used for farming.

Today, the C.A. Stuck & Sons Lumber Office Building is the last vestige of the lumber industry and its impact on Jonesboro and Craighead County.”

“The lumber industry was an important economic engine in Craighead County during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries,” according to the National Register nomination. “However, as the timber was all harvested from the area, one by one the companies went out of business and the buildings disappeared.

An advertisement for Paragould Plastic Surgery and PCA skin. The background is a close-up of a woman's face and shoulder, with her hand resting on her shoulder. The text is overlaid on the image.

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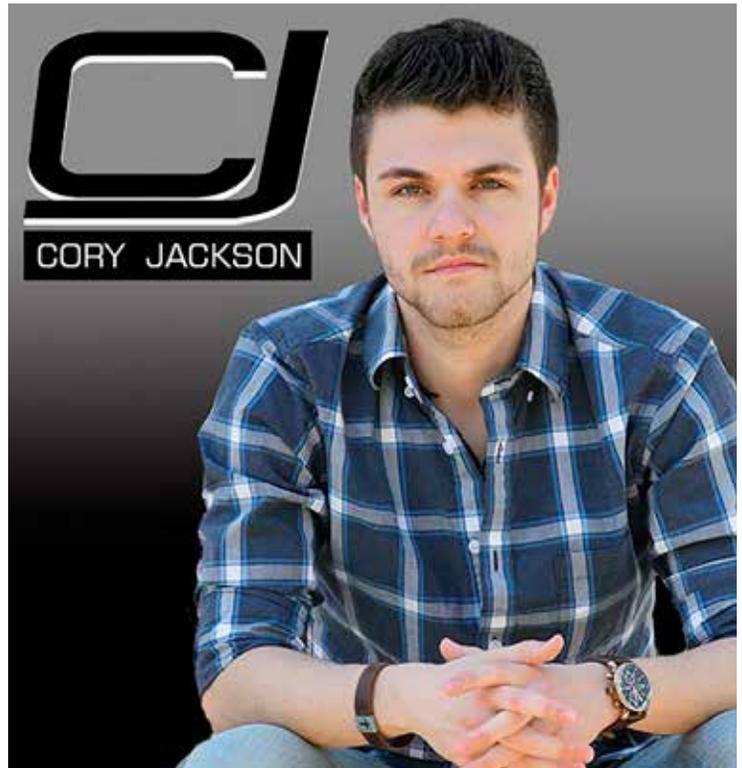
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On Thursday, March 14, the Arkansas Country Music Awards committee released the official nominees for the first ever Arkansas Country Music Awards show to be held at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock on June 4th. Awards are to be given in many categories and a Jonesboro local, Cory Jackson, has been nominated in three: Entertainer of the Year; Country Artist of the Year; and Video of the Year for "Row by Row." Learn more about Cory by visiting his website: www.coryjacksonmusic.com.

Other nominations from around the Northeast Arkansas area include: Drummer of the Year - Kevin King of Paragould; Bassist of the Year - Matt Thomas of Paragould; Fiddler of the Year - Tim Crouch of Strawberry; Producer of the Year - Randy Loyd of Jonesboro; Country Radio Station of the Year - KFIN (in Jonesboro); Country Radio DJ of the Year - Brandon Baxter (KFIN - Jonesboro); and Venue of the Year - Roundup Music Show (Brookland).



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2018 Kids' Events

May

2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Story Time

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

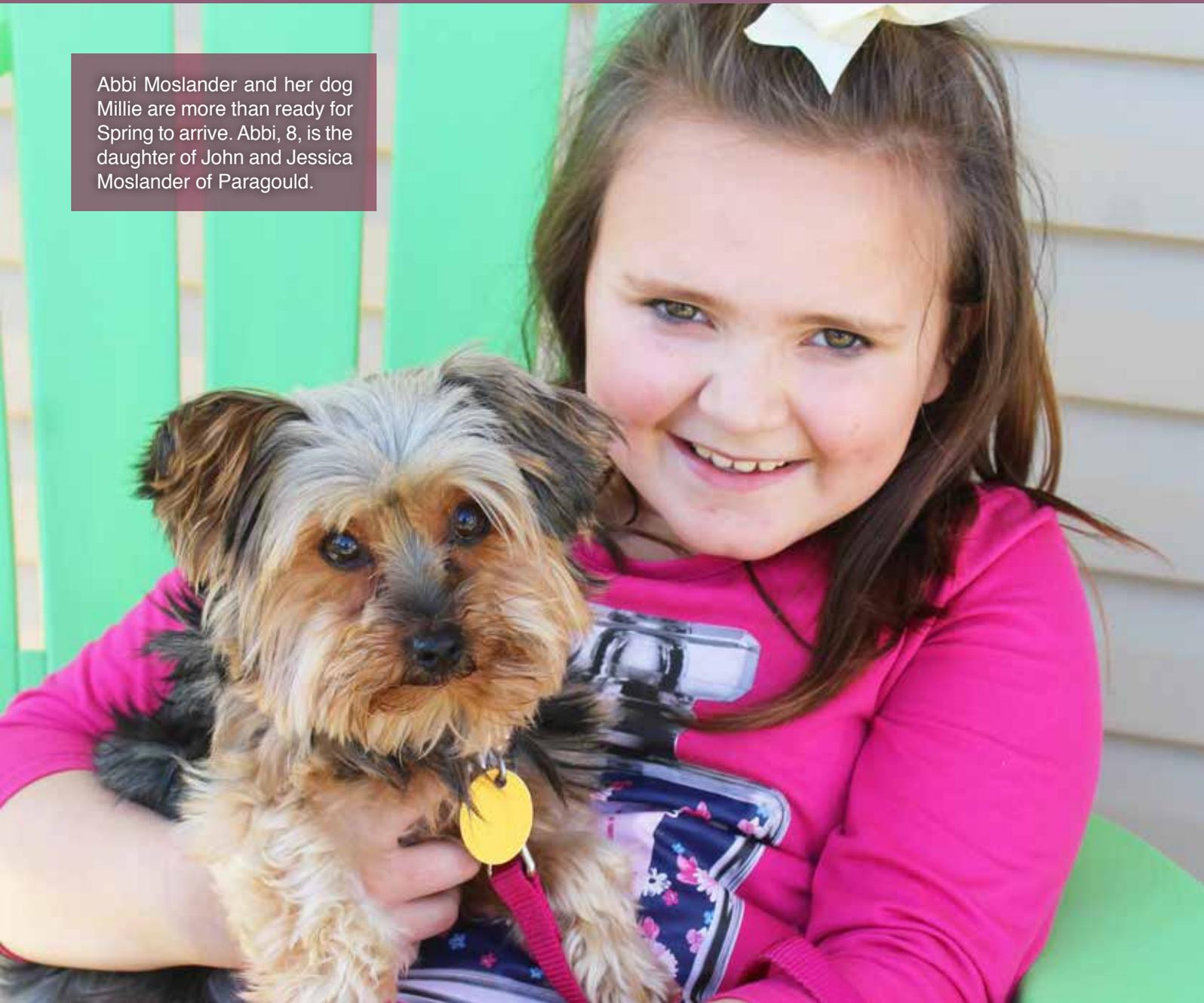
5, 12, 19, 26
Creature Feature

When: Saturdays 10:00 AM
Where: Crowley's Ridge Nature Center
600 E. Lawson Rd., Jonesboro, AR
Info: www.crowleysridge.org

19
Volunteer Work Day

When: Saturday, May 19th at 8:30 AM
Where: Spider Creek Trailhead,
Crowley's Ridge State Park
Info: (870) 573-6751

Abbi Moslander and her dog Millie are more than ready for Spring to arrive. Abbi, 8, is the daughter of John and Jessica Moslander of Paragould.



May

EVENTS CALENDAR

01

What: Wild About Wildlife School Days

When: May 1st - May 3rd
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where: Crowley's Ridge State Park

Info: School field trip season is about to start and Crowley's Ridge State Park will once again be offering Wild About Wildlife School Days for area schools. Individual schools or classes will choose the day that works best for them, subject to availability. The cost for attending school days is only \$2 per student, payable on the day of the event. For more information or to register, call (870)573-6751 or e-mail elizabeth.kimble@arkansas.gov.

03

What: National Day of Prayer Service

When: May 3rd 6:00 p.m.

Where: Senath Community Building, Senath, MO

Info: A community prayer service will be held in Senath in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer. The service will be held at the Senath Community Building at 6:00 P.M. Pastors from several churches will be leading the prayer, but everyone is invited to join in as we pray for our nation. For more information, email Richard at richarddoliver@juno.com.

04

What: Spectrum Music Performance

When: May 4th 7:30 p.m.

Where: Valley View Performing Arts Center, Jonesboro

Info: The Diamond Brass Band will present its spring concert, "Spectrum", free to the public. The concert title comes from the featured piece of the same name by Gilbert Vinter. For more information about the event, visit The Diamond Brass Band's Facebook page.

05

What: ASU Regional Farmers' Market Opening Day

When: May 5th 7:00 a.m.

Where: 3350 Aggie Road, Jonesboro

Info: The ASU Regional Farmers' Market welcomes back its vendors to serve residents fresh and local goods. Visit www.asuregionalfarmersmarket.org or the ASU Regional Farmers' Market Facebook page for more information.

What: Paragould Farmers' Market Opening Day

When: May 5th 8:00 a.m. (Every Sat. till August)

Where: 101 W. Emerson Street, Paragould

Info: The Paragould Farmers' Market will open up from its hiatus. Local vendors will sell vegetables, baked goods, eggs, homemade soaps and much more. Visit Paragould Farmers' Market Facebook page for more information. Also, the Greene County Master Gardener's Annual Plant Sale will be at Centennial Park with demonstrations starting at 10a.

What: The Learning Center 5K

When: May 5th 10:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where: The Corner of Union and Matthews, Downtown Jonesboro

Info: This is the third annual TLC 5K. This year's Celebration 5K will be celebrating the lives of all children who currently attend or have received services from TLC. The funds raised from the 5K help provide the highest quality training opportunities for staff, enabling them to provide the most up to date and proven treatment methods. Race registration available at www.tlcea.com and www.racesonline.com.

For more information please check the website at tlcea.com or contact Cindy VanHorn at 932.4245.

What: Art and Stroll 2018

When: May 5th 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Where: Main Street Paragould
At the Caboose

Info: Main Street Paragould's 2018 Art and Stroll is an all day Saturday celebration of the arts in the "One and Only" Downtown Paragould. Artists of all mediums will be displaying and selling, performance arts, classes, crafters, and music. For more information, call 870-240-0544 or email mainstr@paragould.net. www.downtownparagould.com

10

What: DEEP Peer Education

When: May 10th and 11th 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Where: UAMS Center on Aging -NE, Jonesboro

Info: A "Train the trainer" 2-day event for those interested in becoming diabetes educators. Led by Samantha Hollis, BSN, RN, CDP, Education Outreach Specialist, Center on Aging NE. For more information, call (870) 207-7595.

17

What: Alive After Five: Painting Into Summer

When: May 17th 5:00 p.m.

Where: Eleanor's Pizzeria, 211 S. Main St.
Jonesboro

Info: It's finally starting to get warm! That means it's time for the downtown festival to return to the streets. Alive After Five is a street market located in beautiful Downtown Jonesboro that features a farmer's market, art stroll, live music and movie night. The new Alive After Five will be in the large parking lot next to Eleanor's Pizzeria on Main Street. For more information, visit the Alive After Five - Downtown Jonesboro Facebook page.

21

What: KASU's Bluegrass Monday with The Trinity River Band

When: May 21st 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: The Collins Theatre, Paragould

Info: KASU's Bluegrass Monday with The Trinity River Band will perform at the Collins Theatre from 7 PM - 9 PM. For more information, visit collinstheatre.com or call 870-573-6456 for ticket reservation.

25

What: Something Different Tour in 3D!

When: May 25th 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Where: East Side Baptist Church

Info: This spring, don't miss The Something Different Tour (in 3D) featuring Sidewalk Prophets with special guest Bonray. On the heels of the band's first ever headlining tour, the Prodigal Tour, an event that visited over 75 cities and saw thousands of fans in attendance, Sidewalk Prophets have been working hard to put together a brand new one-of-a-kind tour experience. General admission is \$10, Early Entry admission is \$25 and VIP After Party admission is \$45. For more information, visit the Sidewalk Prophets' Facebook page.

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WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS CELEBRATION

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a U.S. holiday observed annually on March 29. It recognizes veterans who served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. The day was proclaimed in 2012 but in 2017 the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act was signed and brought the holiday to the attention of Joey Pruett of Rector. Joey thought about his brothers and the experience he had on returning from Vietnam.

Rector is known for a wonderful Labor Day Parade and Joey put the two ideas together to create the first Vietnam Veterans Home Coming Parade.

He and his Rector crew did a superb job on the first-year event with a parade, ceremony, fish fry and concert. Each veteran crossed the stage and received a pin in honor of their service. Families of soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice or had since passed were honored with certificates.

Rector has a wonderful Veterans Memorial Park and this event will contribute to its upkeep. If you are interested in encouraging them to make this an annual event or have a group that would be interested in participating, contact them on Facebook at Vietnam Veterans, Welcome Home.



SENIORS WALK IN MARMADUKE



Marmaduke students got a taste of the future and the past when the school district staged its first-ever “Senior Walk” through the junior high and elementary schools.

High School Principal Bill Muse said the initial version of the walk was met with great enthusiasm and will become a school tradition. “The seniors enjoyed walking through the halls wearing their caps and gowns and remembering the time they have spent here, seeing their journey coming to a close. And it was an opportunity for the younger students to see that this journey they’re on can have a real positive ending if they’ll stick with it.”

Muse said teacher Kelly Clayton, a senior class sponsor, came to him with the idea because “she had information from other schools that had done it and pitched the idea to me and Shane Robinson, and we both loved it. The first thing Shane said was, ‘We’re keeping this. We’re going to do this every year.’ So we went with it.”

Students in the senior class put on their caps and gowns to be worn during the graduation ceremony, then walked up and down the junior high and elementary hallways. Students from those grades were dismissed from classes and lined the halls, cheering, high-fiving and fist bumping the seniors as they made the grand tour. A few teachers even stepped out to share hugs with students making one of their last trips through the school halls.

After the event Rachel Taylor, Vice President of the senior class, called the walk “amazing, incredible. We learned about it a couple of weeks ago and have been excited ever since. It was a really neat moment. I think we all loved the interaction with the little ones. It makes you feel like, as a group, you’ve met your goals and it gives the younger kids something to strive for. It was a neat thing; everyone needs to experience it.”

Muse agreed. “I cannot think of anything negative at all about this walk,” he said. “I thought it was incredible and we’re going to be doing this for a long, long time.”



— 3rd ANNUAL —

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Lifestyles



JOY DAVIS, LPC
FAMILIES, INC. COUNSELING SERVICES
FOUNDER/OWNER

JOY DAVIS BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

By Caitlin LaFarlette



What began as a one-woman business in 2000 providing therapy services to individuals in Jonesboro has now grown into a company that serves 24 counties, with over 500 staff members.

Licensed Professional Counselor Joy Davis founded Families Inc. Counseling Services after envisioning a therapy model that would prove to have great success with her patients. Before coming to Jonesboro, however, she began her journey in mental health after almost randomly choosing counseling as a path for her Masters education. Not long after entering her studies, it clicked that mental health was the correct choice.

"It just kind of hooked me," she said.

Her career as an LPC started in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, at the Community Health Center from 1988-1991 as the clinical director. It was in 1991 when she moved to Jonesboro and became involved with children's therapy services for the first time. "That hooked me for sure," Davis said.

While working for another mental health provider, Davis soon realized she wanted to approach her style of therapy in a different manner.

"There was a small window of opportunity and I jumped on it," she said.

In March of 2000, Davis started Families Inc., with an alternative model of working within the homes of patients.

"You get to see the individuals in their environment," Davis said. "It gives you better insight."

"We have followed that same model for 18 years," CEO Mark Thurman said.

Director of Marketing Dawn Layer added "companies that came after Families Inc. followed Davis' model as well because it proved to be so successful."

Davis originally worked on her own and soon received so many referrals she was able to hire staff that now serve 11 locations. "Families Inc. provides services for nearly 13,000 individuals annually," Thurman said. The company is also one of the largest providers of school-based services in the state, partnering with over 60-70 districts. "I'm still a little overwhelmed by things," Davis said, adding she can't believe the large corporate office building in Jonesboro

"With great success comes great responsibility, not only to our clients but the communities in which we serve," said Layer. "We try to give back, particularly to non-profit organizations that are often a resource for our clients. You will typically find us as one of the sponsors for many of these organization's fundraisers. One of our favorite programs is Howl for Humanity, where we give away \$250 for each A-State home game touchdown to a non-profit organization. With the Red Wolves having such successful seasons the last few years, that has turned into quite a lot of money given away. We are also able to help create awareness of these organizations through this program. Coming up soon is another of our favorite events, Race for a Cure of NEA. A platinum sponsor in the inaugural race, this year we will serve as the Survivor Breakfast sponsor. Joy, herself, is a breast cancer survivor."

Although the reach of Families Inc. has multiplied exponentially since its beginnings, Davis remains humble and gives credit to her staff, preferring to stay out of the spotlight.

"I applaud them," she said. "I don't have to be the face of Families, Inc." The staff still takes note of Davis' leadership style and though she is out of the day to day operations, they continue to take seek out her advice.

is hers. "God has blessed me with the success of this business."

"She gives her words of wisdom," Thurman said. "She gives me guidance."



WOMAN IN BUSINESS

KELLY CHRONISTER

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Thirty years in healthcare professions has led to stepping up through executive positions for Kelly Chronister, who is now the chief administrator for Southern Eye Associates and the Eye Surgery Center of Arkansas.

Chronister started out in health care as a Registered Nurse and saw leadership as a natural progression to serve as many as she could, for as long as she could.

"My family has been in the service industry and I wanted to help others," she said.

Over time, Chronister worked her way to her current position as chief administrator and is now responsible for day to day operations for finances and human resources at Southern Eye Associates and the Eye Surgery Center.

"I create the focus and direction for our centers and ensure high quality and patient centered care is delivered efficiently," she said.

In addition to this administrative role, Chronister is also the only board certified Ophthalmic Executive in Northeast Arkansas. This elite designation promotes excellence and professionalism in ophthalmic practice management, according to the American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators. Chronister said the certification requires two years' experience in healthcare leadership as well as testing in core courses from financial to clinical.

"It was very rigorous and one of the hardest things I have taken since nursing school," she added.

Chronister's typical day at work begins before either center opens and continues after each closes, always being available. She



begins each day with her leadership team to ensure all systems and processes are in place to create the best possible experience for patients. She also monitors finances and billing, and audits and balances corporate records.

"One of the fun things I do is work with our marketing team to develop our branding process, and we are working on a new commercial right now," Chronister said. "There are many working parts to running a business that most people don't think about, from buying supplies and negotiating pricing, to ensuring compliance with local and federal regulations."

Chronister focuses on the importance of her staff, as well, providing them with tools they need to be successful for high quality customer care. Her team has skill sets different from her own, helping them all to not only think outside the box, but think like there is no box.

For other women in business and leadership positions, Chronister said to set goals, never settle for the status quo and be fearless. She drew her own influence for her career from her mother, who she said was wise and led a life of integrity with compassion at her core.

"At the end of the day every decision I make has potential impact on someone else, so I always use my mother as the test for those decisions," she said.

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WOMAN IN BUSINESS

LIBBY WAMOCK-GLASCO



By Richard Brummett

In order for a local business to succeed, it needs faithful contributions from the patrons of the community. When the business finds a way to give back to those same people it becomes an even more important relationship.

That giving spirit is one thing Libby Wamock-Glasco and her staff at Kiss The Cook in Paragould have come to be known for, taking all the tip money collected and donating it to a person or family in need. "We get together," Libby said of the KTC crew, "and someone will say, 'Here's a need' and God just tells our hearts what to

do from there. Lots of times we don't know until we've raised some money exactly where it is going to go."

Libby has owned the restaurant for 17 years and said the idea of making meaningful contributions started in 2013 when she heard of a tragic kidnapping and murder-suicide in Walnut Ridge. "I just felt like, 'Can't I be doing something more to help people?' after I heard that and I guess it really got started that day. We called it Pay It Forward Friday at first and we raised some money through donations, and Scott Pillow took it to the mother of the girl who had been taken and killed by her stepfather. Because of that she was able to buy a headstone for her daughter. Stuff like that makes you think, 'I can do more.' I think my business is a ministry of sorts; it's about more than money."

She said she pays her staff "good wages, so they readily agree to do it" and all tips go toward whatever cause seems to be the most relevant at the moment. They have helped families dealing with cancer, accidents, house fires and serious medical expenses, all in the name of giving back. Today there is a tip jar on the counter

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saying, "Your cash tips are 100% charitable. Thank you" and people seem more than willing to try and fill it. "It's ongoing and tips consistently run \$400 to \$500, and then we find someone to give it to," Libby said. "Sometimes there will be a discussion on social media, or maybe a customer has a suggestion ... we just see so much, and I honestly believe it's a God thing. He has shown me the way to do more through my business and the people and staff He sends me, the customers who still come and participate ... I just think we were put here to give back."

And she commends the Paragould area for its willingness to do just that. "There are so many good people in this community that we serve," she said. "It's a little unusual for this day and time. They are so giving and kind any time a need arises. Sometimes it is more prominent people giving to community people they don't even know; sometimes it's just the average guy giving without question because they want to help. Our customers trust us to use it appropriately, and that's what we do. It's a blessing for us as much as it is for anyone. It's something we do that makes us all feel better inside."

Kiss The Cook is located at 5301 Highway 49 South and may be reached by phone at (870) 335-2665 for more information on how you can help donate to local causes.



BREASTFEEDING CLASS

Monday, May 14 from 6 PM - 8 PM
Education Computer Lab in Professional Office Building at AMMC

This class discusses the importance of breastfeeding, breast preparation, feeding techniques and positioning options for mother and baby. This class is offered to moms who plan to breastfeed, dads and other support persons. Registration is required one week in advance of class. Call the AMMC Lactation Services Department at 870-239-7013 or email baby@arkansasmethodist.org to register.

COMMUNITY DIABETES PROGRAM

Thursday, May 17 from 6 PM - 7:30 PM
Auditorium in AMMC Professional Office Building
 AMMC Certified Diabetes Educator Allison Hitt, RN, will explore healthy foods and prepare and share diabetic-friendly, easy-to-make recipes. On the May menu, pineapple-peach sorbet; smoky shrimp tostadas with chipotle-mango slaw and black bean and papaya salsa. Come hear a patient's testimony about living with diabetes as well as guest speaker Liz Nelson. The event is free but a reservation is required. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 16, 2018 by calling (870) 239-7016.

RETIRES MEETING

Friday, May 18 from 12 PM - 1 PM
Auditorium in AMMC Professional Office Building
 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. This meeting's guest speaker is AMMC's Family Practice Physician Doctor Tasha Starks.

INFANT SAFETY CLASS

Monday, May 21 from 6 PM - 8 PM
Education Computer Lab in Professional Office Building at AMMC

This class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for the infant that focuses on topics including car seat safety, childproofing your home and crib safely, as well as infant CPR. Registration is required one week in advance of the class. Call the AMMC Lactation Services Department at 870-239-7013 or e-mail baby@arkansasmethodist.org to register.

BLOOD DRIVE WITH AMERICAN RED CROSS

Tuesday, May 29 from 3 PM - 7 PM
Auditorium at AMMC
 Donate blood to help victims of trauma, organ transplants, childbirth complications, and leukemia regain strength and health. In order to donate, you must be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law (includes Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee). You must weigh at least 110 pounds and not have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks or double red cells in the last 16 weeks. You must be "healthy," meaning you are not currently being treated for chronic conditions. Those who successfully donate blood will receive three \$5.00 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station. For more information, contact The American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS or www.redcrossblood.org.

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HOUSE MOTHERS

By Richard Brummett

Their official title is House Mother but the eight women wearing that crown at the Children's Home in Paragould are far more than merely moms. They are counselors, mentors, teachers and friends, doing their best to help young people realize there can be a better life ahead.

"They do a phenomenal job," said Micah Brinkley, Executive Director/CEO of Children's Homes, Inc., (CHI) of Paragould. "Our moms are human. Some days, every button they have has been pushed but they are a close-knit group, looking out for each other as well as the children in their care."

CHI was begun in 1955, established to provide a Christian home for children whose parents cannot care for them because of a multitude of reasons. "Generally, they had to be removed and have come to us because of a number of issues like abuse, neglect, abandonment, maybe drugs and alcohol or just being with the wrong people and maybe have done something so that they have to leave their home," Brinkley explained. "But our mothers are here to help them see they have options, that life can be different and to give them the tools and skills to accomplish that."

The current roster of house mothers arrived at the Children's Home for a variety of reasons; some were recruited, some saw it as an extension of counseling services they

were already providing, and some just felt called to get involved. They and their spouses and children move into a house and integrate kids assigned to them into one big, sometimes happy, family. Consider issues confronted when raising your own biological children, then add in several more associated with young ones from very different -- and most often, difficult -- backgrounds and you can see it is no easy task. They work a four-to-six-week schedule and then get a week off for family time of their own. "My husband and I are from Indiana," Kim Lucas said, "and we use that time to get up there as much as possible."

A typical day consists of getting everyone up for chores and breakfast, preparing for school, having devotionals, making it to school and then it's time for the moms to run errands or complete house chores and a mountain of paperwork, and that is all to be worked in around doctors' appointments and other necessary meetings. "We are not a stay at home mom, we're working," offered Mary Warren.

When all of that is accomplished daily, the moms try to make time for their own families. "My kids are teenagers, so I chase after them, too," said Mandy Sowell. "Often I have to miss their things because of my children in my care," and they all come to cherish something as simple as a night out. "Like gold," one offered. Still, all the mothers adhere to the belief that the consistency of having a routine is important

to help the children progress toward something better, some sort of structure in a life up to that point that might have drifted off course. "It's not just physical stability, but emotional stability," said Amalie Fields, who has a 9-year-old daughter in addition to working with six teenage girls. "We teach them to deal with emotional stress," which can include things "like parents not calling when they say they will," said Jenny Wellsted. "There are a lot of little mountains we've got to move."

That's where both the adherence to routine and the loving support of the other moms help so much. Mandy Mobley said, "We all follow the same program. There might be individual house rules about folding the towels this way or that way, but we know it's real important for there to be consistency in how we do things." Wellsted said, "If you do relief work for a house mom, the child needs to know we all do things the same way. We want to return them to the mother the same way they came to us."

But they want them to leave feeling differently. "We try to show them how to break the cycle," said Warren. "You can start the new way, you can have a loving family."

The moms live for positive feedback from those who were once in their charge, pointing to letters, phone calls and visits that make their efforts seem worthwhile. "Those successes are what keep you going," said Wellsted. "Some girls are still in contact about every other weekend. Sometimes they still need advice."

At the most recent Children's Home Homecoming event, Sowell said she had "my table full on one side of kids I have here, and on the other with kids I used to have. One of them was with a child, and she would never have known how to be a mother without the help of all the mothers here."

According to Mobley, the goal of all the mothers is the same: "These kids need something different than they have, and to be something different than they are. That's what we're trying to help them find."

Brinkley said the work done by the house mothers is life-changing for so many little ones. "It represents a time in their life when home was good," he said. "It represents love and protection, and that's the bond the house mothers create."

Pictured: Front from left ... Jenny Wellsted, Kim Lucas, Mandy Mobley. Back from left ... Mary Warren, Kara Magill, Miki Alexander, Mandy Sowell and Amalie Fields

RAYCOM WELCOMES BACK FAMILIAR FACES

Raycom Media has announced that Hatton Weeks will take the reins as Vice President and General Manager of KAIT in Jonesboro.



Weeks was News Director at KAIT from 2008 to 2015 and has served the same role at WDBD/WLBT in Jackson, Mississippi, for the last three years.

"I'm thrilled to be rejoining the KAIT team. KAIT is one of our nation's best television stations. It's made even better because of the great community it serves," said Weeks. "My family's roots run deep in Region 8 and I'm honored to be serving in this new

role at a station I grew up watching."

Weeks was just 16 years old when he started his broadcasting career at radio stations in Northeast Arkansas. He joined KAIT in 1996 while attending Arkansas State University and worked his way up to anchor/reporter. Weeks also worked as a reporter/producer at a station in Little Rock. He left the industry for a short time, but in 2006 Weeks returned to KAIT as Assistant News Director.

"Hatton has a proven track record of solid leadership in our company and the communities we serve," said Tim Ingram, Raycom Media Regional Group Vice President. "I am proud to see him return home to Northeast Arkansas and put those skills to work serving our consumers and clients in Region 8."

Weeks is from Harrisburg and has a B.S. in Radio/Television with an emphasis in News and a minor in Political Science. He is also a graduate of Raycom Media's News Leadership Program and active on many communications and advisory boards. Hatton and wife, Candace, are proud parents of three children: Chase, Lauren and Harper.



KAIT-TV is also pleased to announce the return of Amanda Hanson to the Region 8 News team. Amanda will be anchoring the 6:30 p.m. newscast on NBC Region 8 and the 10:00 p.m. newscast on KAIT. Amanda joined the KAIT team in 2010 and was a familiar face as an anchor on Good Morning Region 8 until she joined the sister station KFVS in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in 2015.

"We are excited to welcome Amanda Hanson back to Region 8. Amanda's years of experience in Jonesboro, Memphis and Cape Girardeau television stations combined with her knowledge of Arkansas and Missouri make her a natural fit in our newsroom," said KAIT Vice President & General Manager Hatton Weeks.

"I'm very excited to bring Amanda back to Region 8. Amanda was an incredibly hard worker during her first stint with us, and she's only grown as an amazing journalist, storyteller, an anchor during her time at KFVS in Cape Girardeau," said KAIT News Director Josh White.

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INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MOM

By Richard Brummett

It's not unusual for a "sports mom" to have children playing games at two different sites at the same time, hustling from one field or court to the other in order to catch parts of both contests. It's a little bit harder if you are Darlene Woods Horton, who on any given night might find one son playing basketball in Rector and the other playing in ... Germany.

Even if the Autobahn reached all the way to Northeast Arkansas she would still find it impossible to see both children play but she's just happy to have the opportunity. The story begins with her son from her first marriage, Skyler Bowlin, following his love of basketball first from Greene County Tech High School to play collegiately at Missouri Southern, and then to play professionally overseas. "Absolutely not, no, absolutely not," Darlene said when reflecting on the prospects on having a pro player in the family. "It never even entered my mind Skyler would play ball in college away from home. He's like me, he's a homebody. When we settle somewhere, we like to stay. He went to Missouri Southern in Joplin for four years and had a very nice career there

... MVP of the league, I can't tell you all the stuff he won. He got noticed -- an agent for pro players noticed him and asked him to sign with him. Next thing I know, he's in Augsburg, Germany.

"I thought he'd come home, get a coaching job around home, and I would have been perfectly happy. But another country? I was devastated."

Professional ball proved to be a tougher assignment than Skyler bargained for at first and his confidence waned. Darlene got a call from one of his college roommates, indicating he was contemplating quitting. "So you want to talk about God's perfect timing?" she said. "I had quit coaching volleyball that summer, and being the mom I am I got in touch with his coach and he said, 'He needs his mom.' I bought a ticket and was on my way. If I was still coaching volleyball, I couldn't have gone. I flew to see where he lived, the people he associated with, the beauty of the country -- amazingly beautiful and full of history. I traveled with him for a week, we talked and he was good to go."

The importance of the visit and the motherly support was not lost on Skyler, who has performed at the MVP level as a pro. "Mom has always been my number one fan," he said. "She would drive four and a half hours after school to come watch me play in college and then drive four and a half hours straight back after the game. I told her every time she did it that she was crazy, but she said she wouldn't miss it for the world. As far as coming over to Europe, she has been over to see me all seven years that I have played over here in three different countries (Germany, Denmark, and Sweden). It's been a lot of fun getting to share these experiences with her over here. We live a completely different lifestyle here and she really enjoys coming to experience that and, of course, coming to the games. The games are quite a bit different as well, and she fits right in with everyone yelling and whistling and screaming.

"She really has sacrificed more time and money than I could even imagine to come and support my career over here in Europe. I couldn't be more appreciative of her and all she has done."

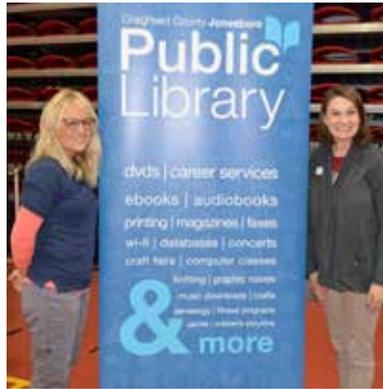
The second half of the story is a little closer to home. Even though she said she had not pictured herself remarrying, that's exactly where she found herself. When she and Michael Horton tied the knot, another son came along with the package. "I call him my child, Trey," she said. "When I got married to Michael, all of a sudden here's a nine-year-old boy I've got to start all over with. I thought, 'What have I gotten myself into?' I never realized this kid, a great kid, would treat me so wonderful. I didn't know that I needed him, but I did. He keeps sports going for me, and he's easy to raise. My life has been filled with ball. First me playing and then Meagan came along ... ball; Skyler came along ... ball. College is over, I'm devastated. No more ballgames, or so I thought.

"I never knew how much I needed another sports-playing kid in my life, but here we are."

She tries to make sure not to hold one son's accomplishments or abilities beside the other, and wants Trey to know that. "I don't ever want him to get the feeling that I'm comparing them," she said. "He is a pretty good player in his own right. I want him to know that I just want him to be a good kid and to know I'm proud if he scores points or not. I'm just loving still being a basketball mom."

ST. BERNARDS HEALTH EXPO

St Bernards Healthcare hosted its 11th Annual Health and Fitness Expo at First National Bank Arena on April 14 - 15. The expo kicked off the day Saturday with the Doc Rock Half Marathon and 5K. The event also featured local chefs and restaurateurs giving healthy cooking demonstrations. Local doctors also gave health talks on different topics throughout the two-day event. Participants were able to take advantage of various free health screenings and sports physicals, as well as picking up information from different vendors that had booths set up.



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As I was scrolling around my Facebook page the other day I came across what I feel must be some sort of mistake. It was a picture of a young man named Sam Shelby holding his baby daughter, but I know for a fact that just the other day Sam Shelby was a little boy, so this can't be right.

Wasn't it just a few months ago that I was coaching elementary school girls' basketball and when I swept the floor in between games Sam Shelby would run onto the court and be my helper? I would hold the janitor's floor mop at the top of the long handle and Sam would get right in front of me and hold it near the middle and together we would make the trips up and down the court to wipe it clean. I remember thinking at the time that I didn't know what Sam had in mind for his adult years but I thought he showed great promise as a custodian.

And now he has a kid? That seems so wrong.

I guess it's right, though. He was at the games because I was coaching his big sister, Brooke, who has three boys of her own now. I swear it was only yesterday that I finished my well-thought-out pre-game speech and had the girls ready to burst out of the dressing room and onto the court, only to hear Brooke shout, "Crap! I've got my shorts on backward!"

Could it be that long ago that -- on the same team with Brooke Shelby -- I finished yet another rousing locker room speech that ended with Karla Edgar's meekly calling for help because she had locked herself in the bathroom stall? And now she's a school teacher with two daughters?

Seems like a short time ago that I coached my older daughter, Kelly, when she had the ball in her hands as the clock was winding down and fans were chanting out loud, "... three, two, one" and then the buzzer sounded with the ball still in Kelly's hands. As she came to the huddle I asked, "Babe, don't you ever look at the clock?" and she glanced up, briefly looked at it and said, "Hardly ever."

Several years down the road it was Lindsey Birmingham who did the exact same thing and when I asked her if she ever paid attention to the clock, she said, "Not really."

And both of those girls are now moms, wondering for themselves why their kids don't pay attention.

I can still vividly see my sixth grade team's best shooter, Kim Phelps, knocking down shots in the old Lafe gym against a really good Marmaduke team, running up and down the court with her report card stuffed into her tennis shoe because it had an "F" on it and she wasn't taking any chances that her parents would see it before that all-important game and make her stay at home. I recall repeatedly standing and yelling, "Emilee! The other way!!!" as one of our fastest guards ever, Emilee Staggs, almost weekly took off with the ball headed for the wrong basket. I can still picture us trying to get Tara Holifield's ponytail freed from the referee's whistle lanyard without pulling her hair out by the roots.

Was it really decades ago that I sent five subs to the scorer's table, with one of them being my younger daughter Lindsay, and instructed her upon taking the court to tell all five players out there to come to the bench. And when they were buzzed in Lindsay, looking very much like a stick figure drawn by a first-grader, yelled at the top of her lungs, "EVERYBODY OUT!" while waving her thumb back and forth like an overactive hitchhiker, as if to say, "There's a new sheriff in town!"

Long ago but yesterday.

So I guess it's okay for Sam Shelby to have a child after all and I hope he is as good at being a dad as he was at sweeping the court.

An advertisement for Glen Sain GMC. At the top, the text "Glen Sain GMC" is written in a stylized font, with "GMC" in its signature red and white logo. To the right, the words "BEST PRICE" and "BEST SERVICE" are stacked in a bold, red, outlined font. Below this, a silver GMC pickup truck is shown parked in a grassy field with trees in the background. At the bottom, the phone number "870.565.4352", the address "6345 US 49", and the website "GLENSAINPARAGOULD.COM" are listed in a red, outlined font.

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WHAT SPRING WILL BRING

BY CHUCK LONG

I was not sure if the winter of 2017-18 would ever end. We saw snow and freezing temperatures in April and that seems to have pushed spring out of the way

and we may transition directly into summer. Hopefully, May will offer some warmer temperatures which will kick the fishing into gear.

By the first of May, bass and crappie have usually spawned, but this year that may linger into the middle of May due to the cool water temperatures. Spawning time causes the fish to go shallow and group up and offers some of the best fishing of the year as the fish are more accessible.

With the first full moon of May, bream will look to spawn as the water temperatures approach the upper 60 degree range. Bluegill and redear bream will gather in large colonies and this makes them very fun to catch as large numbers of each can be caught in one area as they gather to "bed." At this time of year, I like to fish pretty fast down a bank with a small jig or cricket suspended about a foot and a half under a float. Cover lots of ground and when a dark-colored red/black male bluegill is caught, stop and fish the area carefully. The males are a great indicator there is a congregation of bream in the area.

Catfish will spawn in late May and June but their spawning habits are a little different than crappie or bream. Catfish are typically solitary nesters and look for a cavity to lay their eggs. Hollow logs, holes in a mud bank, gaps in rocks and old cans provide great places for a catfish to carry on their spawning attempts. For this reason, catfish may become a little more difficult to catch at that time, unless you want to try handgrabbing. This age old art of catching catfish is successful because of the aforementioned characteristic of catfish using a cavity to spawn. I have never been a fan of going underwater and sticking my hand in the deep recesses of a mud hole or root wad, but some call that fun. I can hurt myself above the water enough without worrying about sticking my hand in the mouth of a beaver or snapping turtle.

It will be a great time to be on the water as we transition to summer and I hope you will take some time to get out and enjoy some of our great rivers and lakes. Make sure you have your fishing license and I hope to see you out there! God bless!



CHUCK LONG
Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

THE PIGGY BANK PROGRAM



In an effort to teach children the importance of saving, First Community Bank has partnered with Andson Inc., a non-profit educational organization, and Nettleton Public Schools for the academic year.

Bank employees will work closely with fourth grade teachers at Fox Meadow and University Heights intermediate schools to facilitate in-class financial literacy lessons once a week for the school year. The objective of the Piggy Bank program is to enable children to make financial choices and guide them in managing their money effectively. The lessons center on differentiating needs and wants, setting attainable long- and short-term goals, and how to make a functional budget.

First Community Bank is the first institution in the state of Arkansas to sponsor the Piggy Bank program. They are committed to improving the financial literacy of the children within the Jonesboro area. The curriculum they are implementing is generated by Andson Inc., and is based on common core standards in English, Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies/Economics.

According to Andson, having a college savings account containing even \$1 will increase the likelihood a child will attend college from 45% to 71%. The

curriculum also includes interactive lessons and in class discussions to keep the subject fresh and engaging to students.

Bank employees volunteer their time and services to go to the schools, and the students are then introduced to the banking experience. Employees take in the students' deposits, teach them how to fill out their deposit slips, and show them how to keep track of how much money they are saving in their deposit booklet. There is also an interactive app where students and their parents can monitor their progress toward their goals electronically.

According to Gabe Roberts, assistant vice president/lending and Piggy Bank volunteer, "It isn't about the dollar amount, but about getting children in the right mindset. The sooner they begin envisioning their future, be it college or purchasing a first home or first vehicle, the sooner they will realize the importance of setting budgets and a game plan to help them achieve their goals."



As stated by Brian Emison, vice president of retail banking, "We wanted to do something different that would forever impact a child's life. Anyone can write a check and move on to the next sponsorship. It's when we interact with a 4th grader every week and hear how they're saving money for college or to help their parents with bills, that we know this partnership is affecting lives and making our community better."

"As bankers in the Jonesboro area, it is both our obligation and our privilege to teach useful saving techniques to future generations so that they may grow and thrive in the years to come," said Allen Williams, Jonesboro's community president.

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**THE GET DOWNTOWN
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Family fun is in store at the 3rd Annual Get DownTown Festival hosted by the Greene County Future Fund on June 9th in Downtown Paragould. The 13th annual Pedal The Ridge ride will start off the festivities at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Crossing. Pedal the Ridge is a family friendly ride with different levels of difficulty and various flats and challenging climbs.

Get Downtown and join the Future Fund for a fun evening of music and food. Food trucks will line the street to add to the already available variety of choices of food for guests throughout the day. Gets the kids involved with the 1 Mile Kids Fun Run at 6 and then enjoy live music from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. To register for Pedal the Ridge and for more information about the festival, visit www.getdowntownfestival.com.

**ADVERTISE YOUR DOWNTOWN
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NEA ARTS

EVERYDAY LIFE

Everyday Life is a Rock/Pop band from Paragould. Members include lead singer Shannon Freeman, drummer Aaron Hammon, lead guitarist Mark Owen, bassist Travis Gober, and on keys Bryce Anderson. They are a high



energy band playing a range of music from the 1950s to today.

How did you get into playing music?

How did Everyday Life begin? In 2008, Shannon Freeman and Aaron Hammon played one gig as an acoustic duo just for fun. They both realized how much more fun it would be to have a full band of musicians to play with and there were people ready to book them. They called the best guitar player in town, Mark Owen, and Everyday Life began.

Are you inspired by other musicians? If so, how does it affect how you play?

Each band member is inspired by someone different as an individual, but as a band we are heavily influenced by the pop and rock music of the '80s and '90s.



The staff of
FAMILIES, INC.
 counseling services
 would like to congratulate

JOY DAVIS

for being recognized in Premiere's Edition of
Women In Business Making A Difference

Joy is the founder and owner of Families, Inc. which was established in 2000. Her vision, leadership, and generosity over the years has been nothing less than inspirational. As an employer and a mental health service provider across Northeast and North Central Arkansas, you have truly made a difference!

Thank you and again, Congratulations!

LIFE IS MEANT TO BE ENJOYED!
 Toll-free: 877.595.8869 | familiesinc.net



Where do you see yourself in the future?

We are very happy with the current status of the band. Playing music together is fun and we are very lucky that we get to entertain at many different special events and weddings. We play just as much as we want to play right now and we have the perfect balance between this hobby and our work and family lives. We all hope that people will continue to ask us to entertain for them for many years to come.

To learn more about Everyday Life and to find out where they are performing next, visit their Facebook page.



PARAGOULD

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POCAHONTAS

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Locally owned & operated by Brandon & Heather Russom

Our Hometown Store is locally owned and operated by members of our community. Sears Hometown Stores have been serving customers in Paragould and Pocahontas for over 40 years.

As licensees of the Sears brand, Hometown Store Owners are independent local business people who control their own destiny and will be here for years to come.

Sears Hometown has many direct relationships with brands in many product categories. Whirlpool is one of those brands. We will continue to sell and service Whirlpool, Maytag, and KitchenAid appliances for years to come.

The buying power of more than 700 owner operated locations makes Sears Hometown Stores one of the largest appliance retailers in America. The only retailer that carries the Top 10 appliance brands. This means you don't have to sacrifice on price to support a locally owned independent business.

ALTRUSA LUNCHEON

By Samantha Risi

Altrusa of Jonesboro held its 14th Annual Administrative Professionals Luncheon on April 25 at the St. Bernards Auditorium in Jonesboro. The event honored the hardworking administrative professionals within the community for their dedicated service. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization dedicated to improving economic well-being and quality of life through a commitment to community services and literacy.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Nancy Hendricks, talked about Hattie Caraway, an Arkansas native who was the first woman elected to serve a full term as a United States Senator. With the help of Altrusa members and the A-State Sales and Planning Management class, over \$20,000 was raised in ticket sales and sponsorships. All proceeds from the luncheon will directly benefit three local charities: The Family Care Home, John 3:17 Ministries, and The Family Crisis Center.



AMMC appreciates our employees every day for providing health, hope and healing but National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week are great opportunities to take the time to celebrate.

May 6 - 12, 2018



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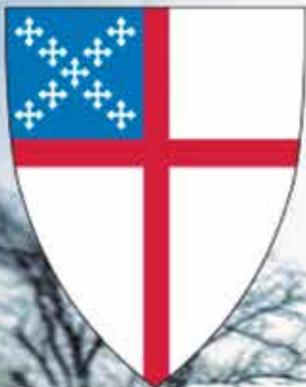
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excerpts from "I am an Episcopalian".
www.episcopalchurch.org

† We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves
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WHAT'S COOKIN'?

OUTDOOR COOKING FOR OUTDOOR FUN!

APPETIZER

FRESH BLACK-EYED PEA SALAD

Ingredients:

4 Cups Fresh Black-Eyed Peas
2 1/2 Cups Chicken Stock
1 Red Bell Pepper, Chopped
1 Jalapeño Pepper, Seeded and Chopped
1 Pint Yellow Cherry Tomatoes, Halved
3 Scallions, Sliced
1/4 Cup Olive Oil
1/4 Cup Apple Cider Vinegar
2 Cups Coarsely Chopped Baby Spinach
Kosher Salt
Freshly Ground Pepper

Directions:

1. Bring peas and chicken stock to a boil in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat.
2. Cover, reduce heat to low, and cook until tender, 5-7 minutes.
3. Drain and cool for 30 minutes.
4. Stir together peas, peppers, tomatoes, scallions, oil and vinegar in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Chill until ready to serve, at least 4 hours and up to 24 hours.
6. Gently fold in spinach before serving.

Recipe courtesy of www.countryliving.com.



MAIN COURSE

BEST BACKYARD BURGER

Ingredients:

1 Pound Lean Ground Beef
1/4 Onion, Diced
2 Cloves of Garlic, Minced
1/4 Cup Wild Mushroom
and Sage Infused Olive Oil
Salt and Pepper
Burger Buns

Directions:

1. Mix meat, onion, garlic, salt and pepper together in a bowl.

2. Divide and mold the meat mix into patties.
3. Brush olive oil on top of patties.
4. Sprinkle salt on top of the patties.
5. Grill burger patties to your desired level of doneness.
6. If you would like to toast your buns, brush some spare olive oil on the underside of the buns. Toast lightly on a low grill or on a griddle.
7. Assemble burger with desired toppings.

Recipe courtesy of Mt. of Olives.



DESSERT

BLUEBERRY LEMON TRIFLE

Ingredients:

3 Cups Fresh Blueberries, Divided
2 Can (15 3/4 oz. each) Lemon Pie Filling
2 Cups (8 oz.) Lemon Yogurt
1 Prepared Angel Food Cake, cut into
1-inch cubes
8 Ounces Frozen Whipped Topping, Thawed
Lemon Slices (Optional)
Fresh Mint (Optional)

Directions:

1. Set aside 1/4 cup blueberries for garnish.

2. In a large bowl, combine pie filling and yogurt.
3. In a 3-1/2-quart serving or trifle bowl, layer a third of the cake cubes, lemon mixture and blueberries.
4. Repeat layers twice.
5. Top with whipped topping. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
6. Garnish with reserved blueberries and lemon and mint if desired.

Recipe courtesy of www.tasteofhome.com.



CHANCE

PREMIERE PET OF THE MONTH - SPONSORED BY HOUNDS' HIDEAWAY-

Chance is a 7-year-old Weinmaraner who lives the life of luxury. His human sisters feed him treats each time he points his nose toward the treat jar. He always runs to where he needs to go, especially if it's to his human sisters and mom. His mom's favorite memory is when she was cleaning out some cabinets in the kitchen, her daughters were crawling throughout the empty openings and managed to get Chance inside. He ended up being stuck!



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Premiere Awards

2018



And the winner is...

Thank You, Premiere readers and Jack, Jill, and iRock Radio Listeners! The votes were overwhelming this year for our annual Premiere Awards and we appreciate your taking the time to participate.

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

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

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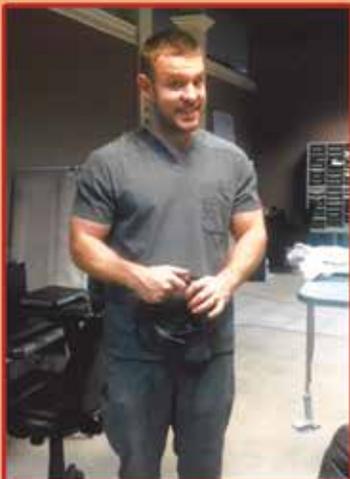


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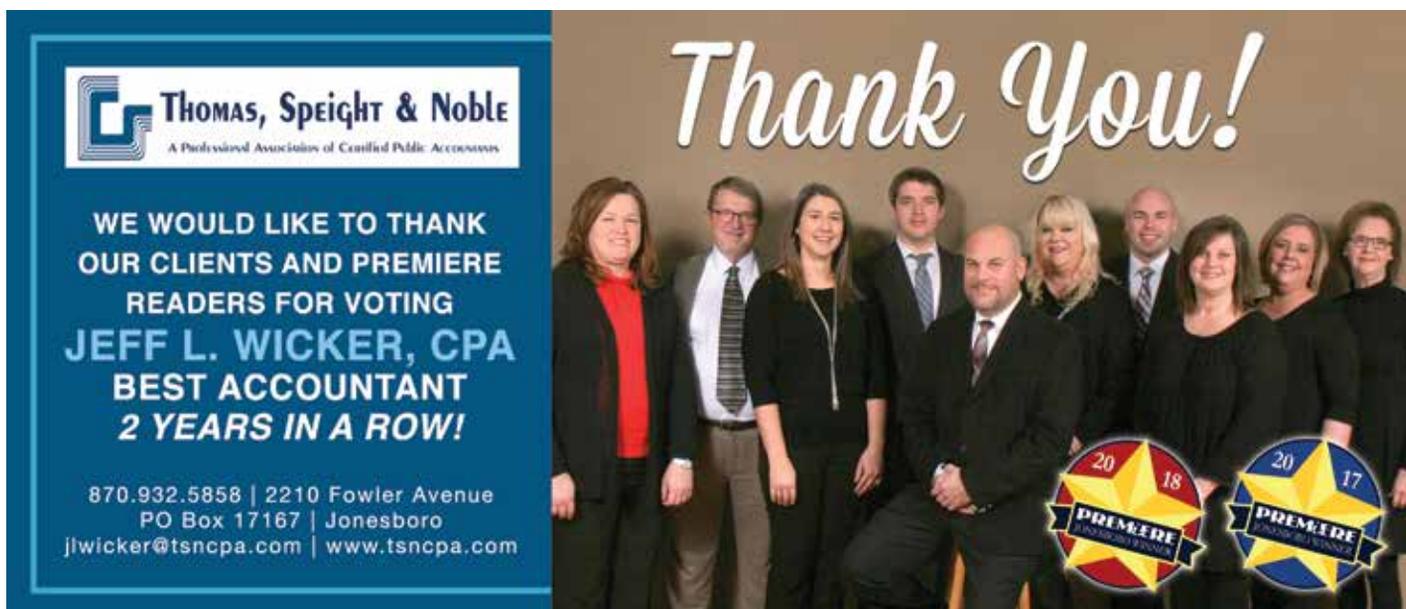
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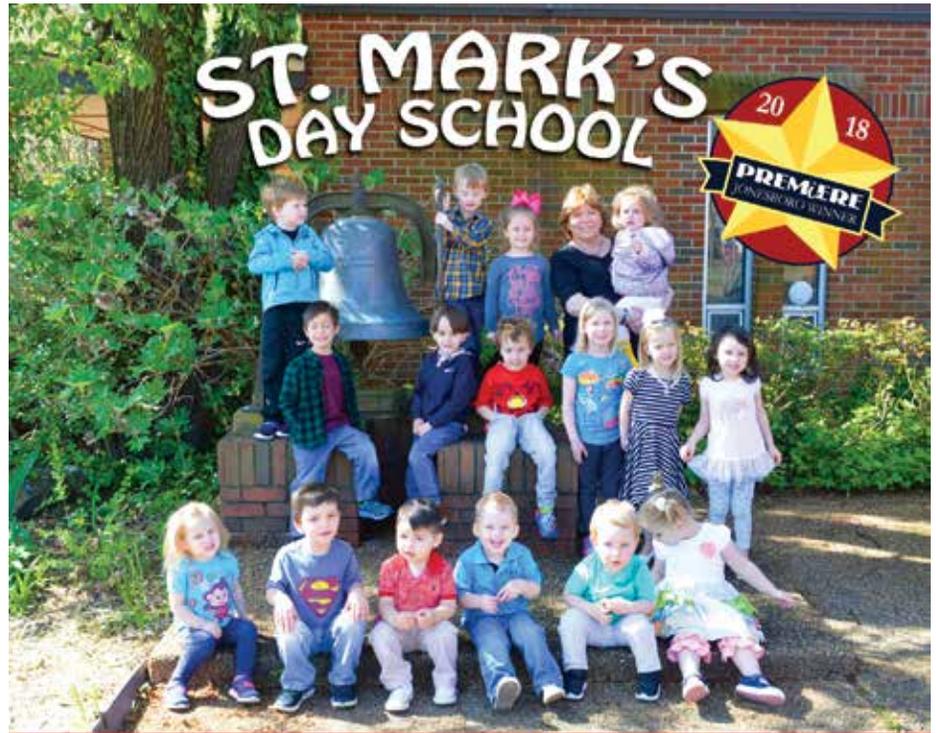
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BLAZIN' BBQ FESTIVAL

The Manila Fire Department Blazin' BBQ Festival was a huge success this year, bringing in about 5,000 people into Manila and surpassing the town's population of 3,300.

The event raised over \$15,000 excluding expenses. The proceeds will benefit Moving Manila Forward and the Manila Fire Department. The money raised by the 5 & 10K race will go to the Michael J. Fox for Parkinson's Research organization. Proceeds from vendors who participated in the craft fair will benefit the Manila Business Women group. The first place winner in the Professional Division and the Grand Champion, earning a trophy and \$1,500, was Porkchop Mafia. Porkchop Mafia also won Best Overall Chicken and Overall Ribs. Second Place in the Professional Division was Hog Heaven BBQ and Third Place was Big Racks BBQ. Hog Heaven BBQ also won Best Overall BBQ Butt. In the Ameteur Division, First Place went to Calvary Baptist Church, Second went to Southworth and Third Place was awarded to Danny Hoskins. Southworth also earned the People's Choice award and the One-bite Competition.



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HAPPENINGS



HAPPENINGS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Jonesboro and Paragould chapters of Habitat for Humanity have had some amazing things happen recently. In Jonesboro, E.C. Barton & Company presented a \$10,000 donation to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro towards its Build Up for Phillip Project. Along with their donation, they are donating shingles for nine Habitat homes and discounting building materials for the project.

Habitat for Humanity of Paragould recently revealed the family selected to become owners of a new home to be built this year. Alexander and Alysha McDougale were surprised by the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity and numerous community members at a reveal party hosted at Centennial Bank. The McDougales have three children, Thomas, Caleigh and Xander, who were all excited about having a new home and their own yard to play in.

CLEAN SWEEP

This president of project Clean Sweep 2018 would like to say a big "Thank You" to all the project leads, master gardeners and volunteers who came out in the rainy weather to help in getting our projects ready and looking good for the growing year.



OGE FUND RAISER

Congratulations to Oak Grove Elementary for raising \$1,454 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Students participated in a Math-A-Thon fundraiser. Abi Shirley raised \$600 for St. Jude this year and \$500 last year. Abi is a third grade student at Oak Grove Elementary.

PHS ROTARY INTERACT CLUB WINNERS



The Paragould Rotary Club recently invited students in the Paragould, Marmaduke, and Greene County Tech high schools to participate in an essay contest on the Rotary Four Way Test. The winners, all from the PHS Rotary Interact Club, are from left, Carmyn Brown, 2nd place, Kenna McCormick, 3rd place, and Berry Dickey, 1st place. First place received \$100, 2nd place, \$50, and 3rd place, \$25. The PHS Interact sponsor is Sara Dickey.

NEA BAPTIST CLINIC COMING TO BROOKLAND



Haag Brown Commercial is excited to announce the development of a new, state-of-the-art medical facility for NEA Baptist Clinic along Highway 49 North in Brookland. The medical office will be located at the corner of Highway 49 North and Honeysuckle between Jordan's Kwik Stop and the Dollar General store.

HOUNDS' HIDEAWAY Dog of the Month! BONO



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THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

By Jennifer DeLong

Most parents are so proud of their child's artwork they hang it on the fridge. On April 3, 294 students were lucky enough to have their work hung at the Arkansas State University Museum. These showcased items were part of Through a Child's Eyes, which is an art show celebrating works by children ages 4 years to 8th grade. This was always the favorite project of Dr. Charlott Jones, the former director of the ASU Museum, and the staff wanted to honor her passing by dedicating this year's event to her memory.

In addition to art, the children were encouraged to participate in "NanoDays," a STEM based hands on learning activity made possible by The Donald W. Reynold Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Guests enjoyed making wire sculptures, drawing with a microscope, painting with magnets and more. Combining art and science inspires children to think creatively and spur on innovation and imagination.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place were given in every grade level, and every child, ribbon winner or not, has the honor of saying they had artwork hung in a professional museum for a month. Jonesboro's Visual and Performing Arts student Olivia Daniels won the 2018 Charlott Jones Best in Show award with her piece "Got my eye on you." Four pieces were purchased by the museum to hang as part of their permanent collection. For more information on this and other displays offered at the museum, call (870) 972-2074.



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KIDS KRAZE

The entire Greene County community was invited to attend Paragould Junior Auxiliary's Kids Kraze and the 2nd annual 1-mile Superhero Fun Run. The event was held at 7th and Mueller Church of Christ. Indoor events were held after the Superhero Fun Run for kids and their parents.



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ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS



Chandler Gill & Mitchell Weber

Chandler Gill and Mitchell Weber announce their engagement and plans to marry. Chandler is the daughter of Kevin and Jill Gill of Paragould. Mitchell is the son of Brad and Hae Sun Weber of Rector.

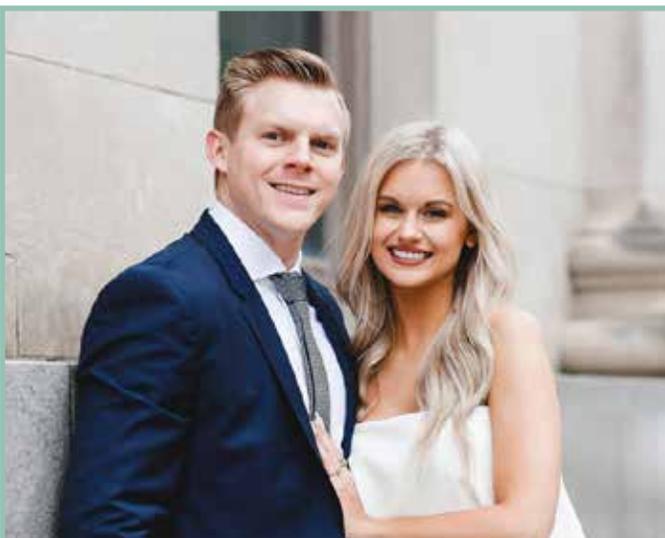
The couple plan to marry Saturday, June 16, 2018, at the Collins Theatre in downtown Paragould. A reception will follow at the Paragould Community Center.



Stephanie Clayton & Tanner Parish

Stephanie Clayton and Tanner Parish announce their plans to marry in September of this year. Stephanie is the daughter of Lynn and Teresa Clayton of Little Rock. Tanner is the son of Chuck and Tina Mitchell of Jonesboro.

Stephanie and Tanner plan to wed at the Bella Terra Estate in Cabot on September 22nd. Photography by Nikole Wells Photography.



Allison Howard & Lance Powell

Allison Howard of Paragould and Lance Powell of Salem have announced their plans to marry. Allison is the daughter of Wayne Howard and Tim and Arleen Brown. Lance is the son of Eric Powell and Dana Booth.

The couple will marry on October 20th at The Columns in Memphis, TN. Photography by Megan Burges Photography.



Anne Marie Steed & Dylan Sharp

Anne Marie Steed and Dylan Sharp of Jonesboro have announced plans to hold their wedding this summer. Anne Marie is the daughter of Phillip Steed and Joanne Gurley. Dylan is the son of Don and Debra Sharp.

The couple will be married on June 16th at the Harmony Gardens in Jonesboro. The photographer will be Chelsea Hudson.



BIRTHS



Benjamin Carter Huffstutler

Proud parents Kaleb and Stephanie Huffstutler welcomed their sweet baby boy Benji into the world on February 13th. Baby Ben weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces and measured 21 inches long.

He was born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould and was welcomed into the world by his two fur siblings, Mark and Jake!

Sawyer Blaire Lewis

On February 28th, proud mother Caitlin Lewis of Paragould welcomed baby Sawyer Blaire Lewis into the world.

Sawyer measured 21 inches long and weighed 8 pounds and 7 ounces and was delivered at NEA Baptist Hospital in Jonesboro. She was welcomed by grandmother Annette along with her late grandfather Jim Lewis' spirit by her grandmother's side.



ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S WEEK CELEBRATION

“In early childhood we have the unique opportunity to guide our young children into confident learners. Our focus on STEM during Arkansas Children’s Week paved the way to begin developing explorers to look at the world with curiosity and wonder.” - Angie Sheffer, Director of the Child Development and Research Center, Childhood Services. The events took place at Arkansas Early Learning, Inc. on Arkansas State University’s Campus.

On the fourth day of the week of activities, Police Chief Rick Elliott and Representative Jimmy Gazaway shared a fingerprint investigation. Cody Bennett, a civil engineer with the Arkansas Highway Department, attended and shared some of his knowledge with the group.

Throughout the week, guests appeared to impart knowledge and services including: Mayor Harold Perrin, Senator John Cooper, A-State Chancellor Kelly Dampousse, Representatives Jack Ladyman, Brandt Smith, Dwight Tosh and Dan Sullivan, Maria Sullivan, Engineer Ted Hardin and the ASU Art Department.



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MAKE-A-WISH ELIAS

The Paragould High School Rotary Interact Club granted a wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The high school students raised \$8,000 toward a wish to send Elias and his family to Key Largo to swim with the dolphins. Congratulations to Elias and his family and to the students at Paragould High School for making a difference in our community.



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