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On The Cover: Dennis & Kay Noell  
Photo By: Amy Reeves Photography



2018  
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# From The PUBLISHER... DINA MASON

I have been thinking about changing up my page 6 column.

I'm not sure anyone reads it anyway, since it just tells you what is in this edition and you can just read that, right? So here it is. My first installment of Ponderings of a 50-something, inspired by an article in GH (Good Housekeeping, for the generations that remember titles spelled out).

Is Beauty Really only Skin Deep?

We have all heard "beauty is only skin deep" but we all still devote so much time to that layer of beauty. Beauty routines, from my quick survey of a few friends, take thirty minutes to two hours a day. I know, right!

How much time do you spend on the beauty within? This can be as simple as speaking positively to yourself or taking some "me time" to strategize what actions you should take to be a more "inside" beautiful person.

What does a more beautiful inside person look like? I believe that is simple ... Do Good. Make your world a better place. Contribute your talents. Lift someone else up. Let's all spend some time on our inner beauty ... at least as much time as you spend on your outside beauty routine ... and I believe the beauty within each of us will make the world a more beautiful place.



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# VETERANS DAY EVENTS



The public has an open invitation to line both sides of Pruet Street on Friday, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m. when Downtown Paragould hosts its annual Veterans Day Parade.

"Everyone is invited to participate or to show up to honor our veterans," said Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, Inc. "This year we are delighted to have for the first time Mickey Hoggard, a Purple Heart winning veteran, who has helped organize Chapter 708 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and they will participate. We're excited about that."

Jarrett said other groups already signed up to take part include the Paragould Pride Band,

Greene County Republican Committee, Greene County Sheriff's Department, Paragould Army JROTC, the local American Legion Post, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paragould Police Department and "the Vietnam Veterans, the Legacy Veterans, who are always so great to visit with area veterans and get them here and let them ride in the parade."

The lineup will begin in the 300 South block of Pruet Street and run all the way to the 200 North block. There are no scheduled speakers or other ceremonies in conjunction with the parade.

"It's almost, 'Yes, you can show up and ride.' There's no necessary registration," Jarrett said. "Just give me a call at 870-240-0544 or email [Mainstreet@paragould.net](mailto:Mainstreet@paragould.net) to let us know you are interested in participating, and we'll take it from there."



"Nettleton High School EAST would like to invite all of those who have served or are presently serving in all branches of the United States Military to the 'Letters from Home' luncheon. The luncheon will be on Friday, November 9, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the campus of Nettleton High School, 4207 Race Street. This year the event will be held in the high school gymnasium. Parking will be available at the gym parking lot.

"We would consider it a great privilege for you to attend and allow us to show our appreciation for your service to our country.

We realize that you have made many sacrifices and contributions to preserve and protect our freedoms and would like very much to give back to you in this small way.

"If you are able to come, please notify us no later than Wednesday, November 7, 2018. Please RSVP by calling (870) 897-0020 or through email to [sandra.taylor@nettletonschoools.net](mailto:sandra.taylor@nettletonschoools.net) or 870-530-1376 anita.belew@nettletonschoools.net.

"At that time please tell us if you are bringing a guest or guests, and whether you would like to display your memorabilia. Please share the word about this luncheon to all other veterans that you may know.

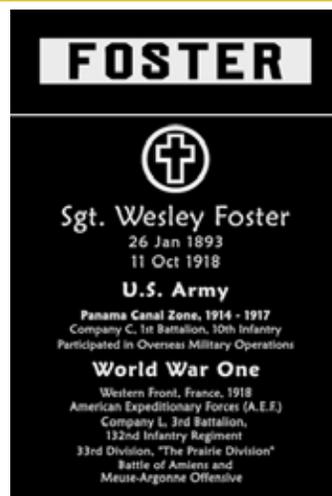
"We sincerely hope that you will be able to attend the luncheon and program that are especially designed to honor you. We look forward to having you with us this special day. Remember to please mark your calendar for November 9, 2018."

Sincerely,  
Nettleton High School EAST



Each year, Greene County Tech hosts a Veterans Day Program including inductions to its Veterans Hall of Fame.

The program this year is on Thursday, November 8, at 9 A.M. at the high school auditorium.



Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill will sign a Mayoral Proclamation on November 7 declaring Saturday, November 10, as The Sgt. Wesley Foster Day.

Arrangements are set for the dedication for Sgt. Wesley Foster's new memorial on Saturday, November 10, at 2:00 PM at Linwood Cemetery.

# CASA SERVES AS A Voice for Foster Children

The Inaugural CASA Classic Golf Tournament was held on October 16 at Sage Meadows Country Club. A total of 21 teams competed to be crowned the first-ever champions.

The Paragould Kiwanis Club team combined to shoot a score of 18 under par to take home the trophy. All proceeds from the tournament benefited Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the 2nd Judicial District. Over \$16,000 was raised from the event.

CASA recruits, trains and supports volunteer advocacy for children in foster care. Advocates become friends, mentors and ultimately someone a child can trust to be their voice in court and ensure all of their needs are met while they go through a very difficult time in their lives. For more information on how you can become a CASA visit [www.neacasa.org](http://www.neacasa.org).



Angie Tate, Tobbye McClanahan, Clara Barnes, Allison McDaniel, Connie Lindley



Champions of the golf tournament - Charlie Rhodes, Mark Rowland, Noah Tullos, Ty Sims




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# NEA ARTS

## PARAGOULD PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

### EMERALD KEMP

By Caitlin LaFarlette

**E**merald Kemp is a sixth generation dancer who has now stepped back into the teaching role at the Christie McNeill Dance Studio.



Since the age of two, Kemp studied the art of ballet under the guidance of her mother, Ray Lynn Green-Holman, at the Performing Arts Academy in Paragould.

“My early years were spent in the studio for almost every spare moment,” Kemp said. “My first ballet solo was to the ‘Rainbow Connection,’ sung by Kermit the Frog. I still have the first trophy I won for that solo.”

It was the beginning of a long journey that included competitions, recitals and awards. Kemp was a member of the competitive Green Team and won not only regional, national and international dance competitions, but scholarships as well. In Las Vegas she took home the “I Love Dance Sweetheart” title not once, but three times. Back home, she had the

opportunity of playing nearly every role in *The Nutcracker* recitals over the years, from Clara to the Sugar Plum Fairy.

After high school, Kemp danced with the Arkansas Festival Ballet in Little Rock under the direction of Dennis Poole.

“We performed in the showcase of Regional Dance America Southwest in Beaumont, Texas,” she said. “I later became the Ballet Mistress of the Mid-South Ballet Theatre.”

During this time Kemp also choreographed and staged *Peter and the Wolf* and *The*

*Nutcracker*. Since then, she has gone on to become certified to teach ballet through the Dance Masters of America. For nearly two decades Kemp studied in master classes under teachers including Charles Goddertz, Marcus Alford, Annie Day and Judy Rice.

Kemp’s hard work is being passed on to the next generation of dancers, her two daughters, five-year-old Pearl and two-year-old Opal.

“Now that both of my daughters are old enough to take class I really wanted to get back into it. I wanted to pass on the incredible





ballet education that my mother provided me," she said.

Kemp said Pearl is now in her third year of dance and Opal is just beginning. Pearl is also on the competition team with her mother as her ballet teacher. Kemp added Pearl reminds her of herself dancing at that age. Classic ballet is the most difficult form of dance with only one way to perform each move correctly. But Kemp said her favorite part of teaching is when she sees a student's face light up when they execute a new move or remember ballet terminology.

"I have grown so much as a teacher after having children of my own. Ballet is an extremely difficult and demanding form of dance and I find myself being much more nurturing to the children in class at this point in my life," Kemp said. "It is truly a blessing that I was given the opportunity to teach ballet at the Christie McNeill Dance Studio."




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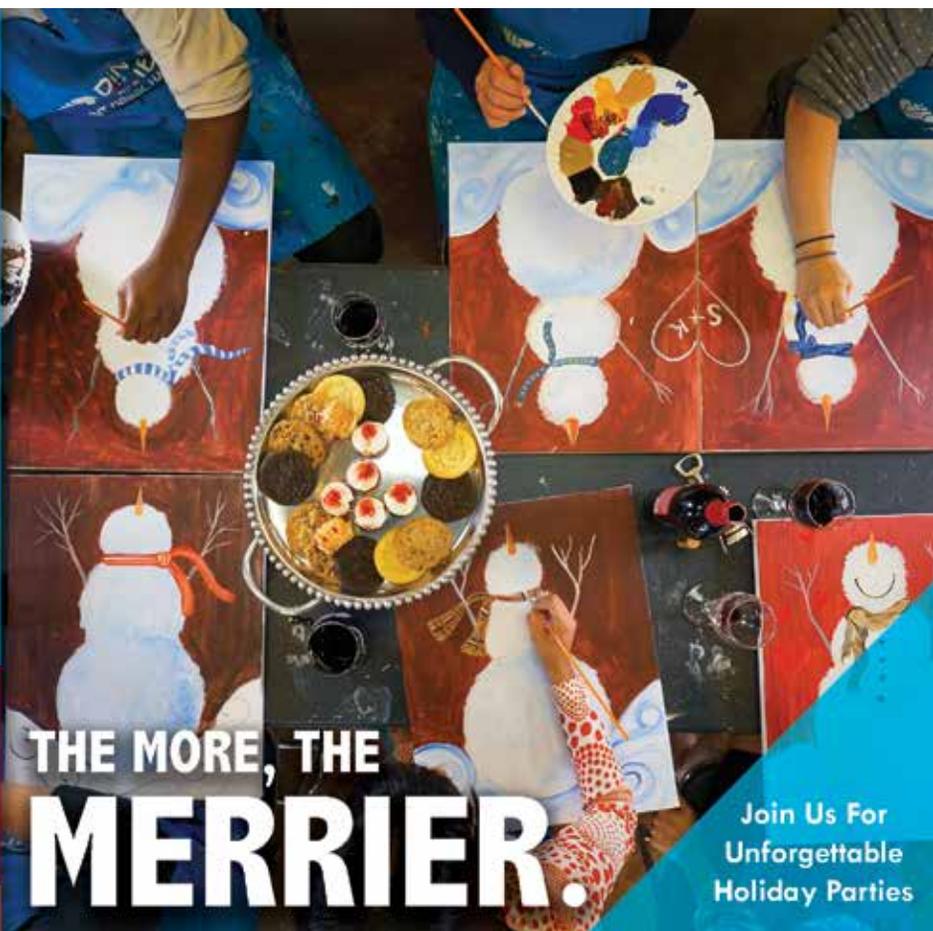
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# CALEIGH ROMINE

## Adoption Advocacy Month

By Lauren S. Isbell

**N**ovember. It is a month filled with traditions, a season where we often pause and reflect on the blessings we have in this life. For Caleigh Romine, those reflections are often tied to a personal passion -- adoption. Fittingly, November is also recognized as National Adoption Month.

Romine graduated from Arkansas State University with a Master's Degree in Social Work and went on to foster, then adopt two children. She quickly became a spokesperson of sorts for the plight of the orphan right here

in Northeast Arkansas. From getting local businesses involved in sponsoring children at Christmas or connecting post-adoptive families to counseling resources, there always seemed to be something on her to-do list that revolved around the task of advocating for the orphan.

This advocacy work took a turn in 2017 when she met a mother who asked Romine to adopt her child. She was not in a position to adopt again, but was able to connect the mother with a friend who was interested in growing

her family by adoption. Through this process, she began to look into what it would mean to formalize an adoption advocacy program.

In 2018, Romine connected with a local attorney, Jennifer Woodruff-Douglas, P.A., of the Woodruff Law Firm. Douglas has spent the majority of her career working cases related to family law, Division of Children and Family Services court and herself has been a foster parent for several years. The ladies bonded quickly and realized there was much work to be done creating a local, domestic adoption option for both birth families and families seeking to adopt. In August, Adoption Advocacy by Caleigh launched as a program of the Woodruff Law Firm.

The program prides itself on being affordable. "We basically have no overhead," Romine shared. "We aren't doing this to make money, we are just passionate about it. We want any American family that wants to add to their family by adoption to be able to do so." She said the initial fees for pre-adoptive families are nominal and cover a four hour intake interview and background checks. When a family is matched with a birth mom, additional expenses (to assist with health care, legal fees, etc.) can be paid incrementally as they occur. "This spaces costs out in a way that makes it attainable for families. That's important to us," she said.

On the birth parent front, Romine said they follow their lead. "We are as involved as she wants us to be. Our meetings with birth moms are on their terms -- sometimes at a local restaurant or wherever the mom is comfortable. We want to meet them where they are and serve as a resource for the long-term."

Birth parents have the option to be as selective as they would like as far as whom to



place their child with.

Furthermore, they can select to pursue an open or closed adoption. In an open adoption, they would continue to have some level of contact with the child after the adoption is final. In a closed adoption, they do not. No two situations are alike and they approach each family with the utmost respect and genuine concern in guiding them through the process.

The program offers a 24-hour confidential text line, 870-710-7872, where birth parents can get additional details, regardless of how far along they are in their pregnancy. Families looking to expand their families through adoption can reach out to Woodruff Law Firm via call or text at 870-237-4300 to schedule their initial consultation with Jennifer Woodruff-Douglas, P.A.

Check out Adoption Advocacy by Caleigh on Facebook for the program's latest updates and information.

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# JONESBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2018



The Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrated another successful year as outgoing Chairperson Ritter Arnold passed the gavel to the new Chairperson, Selena Barber.

Awards were presented as follows: Farmers of the Year: Delta Farms of Lake City, Greg Garner and Len B. Nall

Agri Business Person: Cash Family (Pictured Joan Cash)

Goodwill Ambassador of the Year: Brett Hall Barber

Betty T. Sloan Promotion Award: Brad Pietz/Jonesboro Open Professional Disc Golf Tournament

Ed Way Young Professional of the Year Award: Brock Ferguson

Roy H. Jolly Award: Tony Rampley

# AEDC ANNOUNCES ACHIEVEMENTS FROM PARAGOULD AND NEWPORT

Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) and local officials announced Paragould and Newport have completed the Competitive Communities Initiative evaluation that aims to ensure their preparedness to successfully compete for jobs and investments.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson said, “Our goal is not just to compete – our goal is to win,” when the program launched in March.

“Paragould has been a part of community development programs in the past, but this initiative is different in that it has made us take a good hard look at not only our community strengths but also our weaknesses,” said Sue McGowan, Director of Economic Development, Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce. “By providing insight on how we can reduce those weaknesses – and hopefully turn them into strengths – we feel that Paragould is now better equipped to compete for economic development projects.”

The program is designed to identify ways a community can be more competitive with regard to its economic development organizational structure, its economic development funding, the workforce, and product readiness.

Best practices in the field of economic development were used to determine the standards for the Competitive Communities Initiative. A structured and funded economic development organization is imperative, whether it’s focused on a particular town or a whole county, with a strong chamber of commerce partnership. Additionally, there must be a skilled workforce ready to fill jobs and a pipeline of ready workers in the future. Finally, sites should have appropriate infrastructure fit-for-purpose, according to the size of the community and targeted industries, or a plan to provide utilities to the site.

The evaluation for a particular community begins with a commitment to complete within 45 days an initial questionnaire detailing existing workforce, available and shovel-ready sites, funding sources and information from the community’s economic development organization.

A team of evaluators within AEDC and its partners uses the information to help



communities better understand any gaps or weaknesses that could negatively affect economic growth. With assistance from all stakeholders, communities can begin creating an action plan to improve areas that are lacking in their economic development efforts.

Once the four pillars are up to standard, a community will be designated through the program as a Competitive Community.

“We believe that Newport has the pieces to be a great location for new and expanding businesses,” said Jon Chadwell, Newport Economic Development Commission executive director, “and Competitive Communities helped us make all of those

pieces fit so that we can complete the puzzle.”

Communities that meet the standards of the initiative will be featured throughout AEDC marketing efforts. Competitive Communities in Arkansas must undergo a re-evaluation every two years to maintain their designation.

“We’re happy to recognize Paragould and Newport, along with their economic development professionals and stakeholders, for completing the process,” said Mike Preston, AEDC executive director. “These communities will be better positioned to win expansion and new location opportunities.”

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 7:00 pm**



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# PARAGOULD MCDONALD'S MARCHING INVITATIONAL

Photos By Joy Robinson



On Saturday, October 20, at Paragould High School Ram Stadium the 36th Annual Paragould McDonald's Marching Invitational was hosted. Sixteen bands competed, several from our area, including Rector, Piggott, Westside, Valley View, Pocahontas, Greene County Tech, Jonesboro, and a marching exhibition by the Paragould Pride Band.

Photos:

1: Valley View Blazer Marching Band, "Forever Wicked."

2: Paragould Pride Marching Band, "What I Learned" - Paragould Pride Marching Band Director Ritchie Williams receiving a new "lucky red blazer" from the Memphis Grizzlies Grizzline on behalf of his students. Williams lost his "lucky red blazer" in a fire the week prior.

3: Jonesboro High School Marching Band, "Chakras" - 2nd place overall with a score of 90.64, in addition to many other high awards.

4: Greene County Tech Marching Eagle Band, "The Greatest Show" - 3rd place overall with a score of 87.4, in addition to many other high awards.

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By Patti Johnson

Annie is a rescue kitty. She and her brother were found on a business parking lot when they were very young. Our son named them Anheiser and Busch. He kept and raised Busch and my husband bonded with Annie, so he made the decision to keep her. She is very demanding and vocal about her needs ... she requires being brushed while she eats ... naturally we drop whatever we are doing to accommodate her. She has never been camera shy, which is a good thing because I've had a camera in her face ever since she adopted us! Annie's favorite foods are tuna and yogurt. She will awaken from a deep sleep when she smells

it. She has the honor of being in charge of our neighborhood watch. Each evening around sunset she goes out to monitor the automobile and foot traffic on our street. If it is not to her liking she will give the "evil eye" to anyone that she deems needs it. She stays out all night to keep order in the neighborhood ... comes in around daylight to have breakfast and be brushed, before retiring to sleep the day away under the bed. The staff at Vetcare have helped her to become a healthy, active 8-year-old. The picture of her in the tree is when she was young kitten. Her humans are Steve and Patti Johnson.



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# VIETNAM VETERAN

## Mickey Hoggard

By Richard Brummett

Like many soldiers who came home from the war in Vietnam, not all of Mickey Hoggard's memories are fond ones. He was wounded twice, he and his fellow soldiers were vilified upon their arrival back in the states and for a long time he kept all of those feelings stored away in a mental lock box, not sharing much about his service with anyone other than family.

Having had time to reflect, Hoggard, who will turn 69 on the 11th of this month, now knows his time in the controversial and unpopular war was simply a matter of doing his duty, of answering his country's call, and he is somewhat more comfortable now that Americans seem to have a new attitude about the Vietnam veterans. "For 50 years I never told anyone I was a veteran," he said. "I didn't want to go through what I had already went through. It's a brotherhood. Unless you've been there, you don't know the feeling."

He's very different today. He makes a point of walking up to and speaking with veterans almost everywhere he goes, and for three or four years he volunteered at the Paragould Primary School helping kids get out of their cars every morning, playing music and dancing to help them greet the day. "A lot of them and their parents remember me as the Dancing Man or the crazy man," he said with a smile. "And when I speak to a veteran they can tell; they say, 'You're a veteran, too, aren't you?' They can always tell. There's a sincerity in it you can sense."

His display of medals includes the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart in recognition of his service to both the people of the United States and of Vietnam. Born in Paragould but raised in Hammond, Indiana, Hoggard volunteered to join the Army. "My number was fixing to

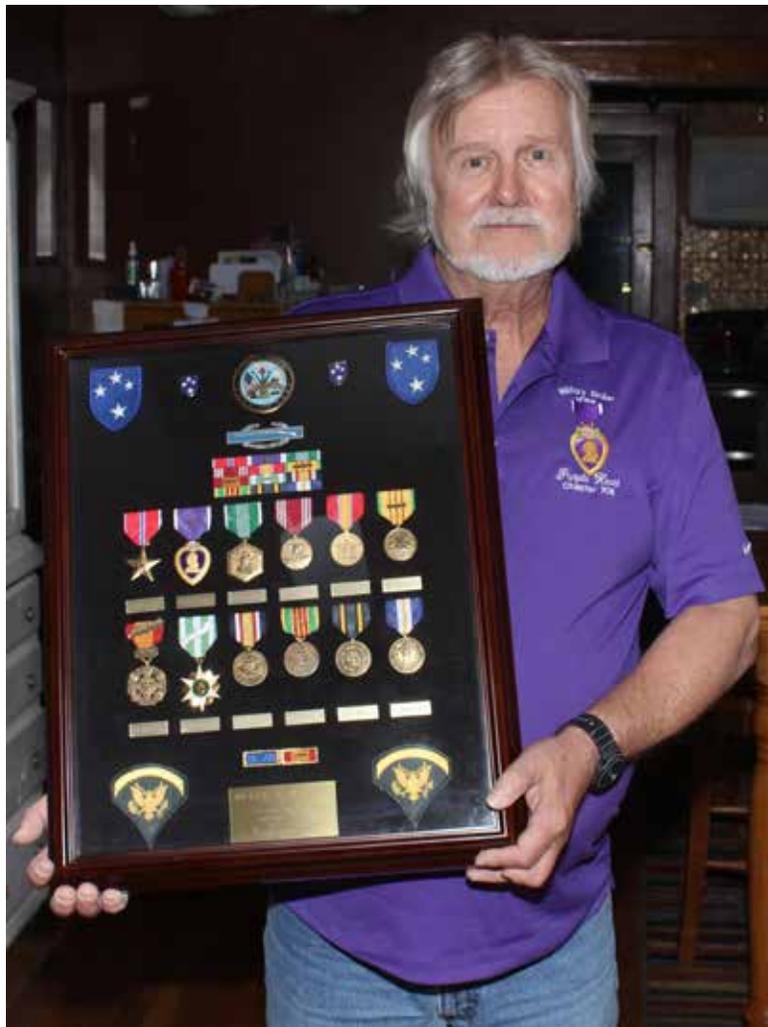
come up in the draft and instead of going into the infantry, I volunteered," Hoggard said. "In July of 1969 I volunteered and got made a mechanic. I went to Fort Leonard Wood for basic training, and for training and mechanic school on vehicles and trucks; then I went on to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for AIT

It didn't take long for the realities of war to sink in on the 19-year-old. Arriving in Vietnam in October, he discovered that "while I was supposed to be a mechanic, when you're in the military you become what they want you to be. I was in Chu Lai for two weeks and I was sitting around talking to all the mechanics -- there were seven of us that went together and got to know each other -- and they said they were hunting for me in the motor pool. I went into the field the next day. The first night in the field, we became targets. Three hundred and sixty degrees all around us you could see tracks. I got my Combat Infantry Badge that night.

"We went out, I was attached to the First Platoon, H Troop, 17th Cavalry. They went into the field, so I had to go too. In base camp I worked on their vehicles. I was with the short-timers ... guys with 30 days or under to go. Our Lieutenant and Platoon Sergeant said we were going through a known mine field. They were going ahead to scout it out and mark the way for us. They missed one. There was a 500-pound bomb on the left side and we found it."

The driver was sent to Japan to fix a broken leg. The tank commander was blown about 50 yards up into a tree. Two gunners went out on the sides while Hoggard "went up in the air, did a flip and landed on my head inside the APC (Armored Personnel Carrier). The

next thing I remember, I'm in the hospital at Chu Lai. They had had to cut my pants off and X-ray me and everything, and all that time I can't hear a thing. They said it would definitely be a little while before I could do anything, then they sent me back with perforations in both eardrums. The First Platoon went back out without me."



(Advanced Individual Training) on tanks. When I finished that up, in September of '69, they lined us all up out front, the whole class, all that had finished, and he said, 'All you that are 17 and under, go to the left. All you that are 18 and older, go to the right. Congratulations! You on the right are going to Vietnam.'

Barely six months in and Hoggard already had a serious injury. About three months later, he relived the moment.

"When I got better, I went back into the field again," he said. "We rocked on throughout the rest of the year and I was close to being a short-timer, myself. We were out in the field and the whole first and second platoons were to meet up on the beach. And bam! We had hit a mine, and we were like Guinea pigs out there in the open. The next morning I got a call in for parts and they said, 'We're sending your replacement.' My ears were bleeding again and hurting but I was prepared to stay and do my job, but they said, 'You're going home.' I asked them to repeat that and they said, 'You're going to the states.' I didn't argue. The blast had perforated my eardrums again."

But even getting home was a challenge. After boarding the plane at Cam'ron Bay, the pilot informed Hoggard and the rest that they were under attack and had been ordered to stay where they were. "The pilot, finally he said, 'I ain't sitting here' and decided to go for it. It was a bumpy ride, but we made it."

Landing at Fort Lewis in Washington, the soldiers were allowed to clean up and were given brand new uniforms. "All we had were our jungle fatigues," Hoggard recalled. When they exited the showers, "... brand

new uniforms with all our medals, all decked out, even new boots. We go to the Seattle-Tacoma airport and you wouldn't believe the soldiers that were there trying to get a flight. Couldn't get a direct flight at all. I had to go to L.A. and then on to Chicago. When we landed the captain came on and said, 'All military personnel remain seated.' Then he told us it was National Protest Day Against the Vietnam War and all military personnel were to be escorted with armed guards.

"I had two armed guards and we took off running. Protesters would break through and these guards wouldn't take nothing. They held the plane for me and when we landed in Chicago it was the same thing: 'All military personnel remain seated.' Again, armed guards to the door. They protected us on both sides, but it was like running an Indian gauntlet. They told us, 'Don't touch them unless they touch you first.' They pelted us with eggs, tomatoes ... and not fresh ones ... all the way to the bus. A girl got right up in my face, and spit in my face and screamed, 'Baby killer!' I noticed the bus driver in the doorway with a baseball bat. He said he was ready if something happened. They ruined my uniform, and I didn't know what was going to happen. I didn't have a weapon; all I had was my clothes and an envelope with my orders."

After the visit home Hoggard was eventually

sent to Germany for more than 30 months where he was a mechanic, Specialist 5th Class, and was there when his father passed away unexpectedly. "I had been there long enough that I was able to be discharged," he recalled. "At the time I had two little babies and I processed out in Virginia. I came out of there in civilian clothes; I was not going to let happen to my babies and my wife what had happened to us earlier."

That's where much of his earlier bitterness regarding his experiences arose, but he has learned to look at it differently today. "It's an experience I would wish on nobody, but at the same time it's one everybody needs to indulge in," he said. "I have a son who was sent to Kuwait in Desert Storm and he said, 'Dad, I know what you went through.' That's all that was said. It's something that will be with us the rest of our life. It's hard to deal with.

"The way I feel, I support all veterans ... I mean ALL veterans. I got no ticker tape parade when I came home, or when I left, but that's just the way it was then. Today I spend a lot of time recruiting for the Order of the Purple Heart. Those wounded in combat have lost something, something you can't regain. I value every day. I treasure it. Every day over there changed our lives."

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# Dig for the Cure

## BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FUNDRAISER

By Caitlin LaFarlette

In support of breast cancer awareness and research, Dig for the Cure celebrated 11 years at Paragould High School this October.

Dig for the Cure has raised funds throughout the community since 2008, when Lady Ram Volleyball mom Kim Smith was battling Stage 4 breast cancer. Jill Gill, a certified dyslexia therapist and reading specialist for the Paragould School District, said Sue Keel, another volleyball mom, wanted to do something to honor Smith's battle.

"She began researching and discovered that some college teams were hosting an event called Dig for the Cure to raise awareness and money for breast cancer," Gill said. "Sue got the parents together, we brainstormed ideas and decided to host our first Dig for the Cure."

The parents then contacted the Greene County Tech volleyball program to join the event and the program's first year raised a little over \$4,000. It has since grown into an organization with a support team including Tammy Davis, Jaime Freeman, Carson Gill, Kevin Gill, Tammy Gossett, Sue Keel,



Chandler Weber and Farrah Wilcox.

"In the initial planning stages, we had no idea that this was going to become an annual event," Gill said. "After we lost Kim in March of 2009, we knew that we had to continue this in her memory to help others who were bravely fighting breast cancer."

PHS was the first high school in Arkansas to host a Dig for the Cure event and it was the force that led to other schools hosting their own events. Gill said thanks to Dig for the Cure, many women have begun receiving their routine mammograms. Aside from education on breast cancer, Dig for the Cure also focuses on honoring a member of the community each year.

"Each year when we begin planning we think about who in our community we can honor," Gill said. "Sadly, I have found we never have to look far."

Gill's own mother-in-law was diagnosed in 2014 at the age of 76 with Stage 1 triple negative breast cancer. And this year, Dig for the Cure lifted up its first male honoree, Travis Hedge, who lost his battle in January. Gill said men often get overlooked when it comes to breast cancer and this year's game raised awareness that men can also become victims. Past honorees include Kim Smith, Becca Stallings, Lori Thompson, Kristina Moss, Tracy Rundel, Stacey Masters, Hazel Gill, Dana McDowell, Elizabeth Forehand, Sherry Brown, Wendy Harvey, Sherry Taylor, Tina Russell, Jan Heath, Sandra Hedge and Kristie Tagupa.

With the exception of this year due to scheduling conflicts, the game is always played against GCT. "Even though PHS and GCT are rivals on the court, they come together on this evening to support a cause that is much bigger than any volleyball game," Gill said.

To raise money for Dig for the Cure, businesses and individuals in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri sponsor the event or donate to the silent auction.



Last year, Tammy Davis, an employee of the Paragould School District, started a competition. Donation jars were placed at the gate for both PHS and GCT, and whichever school donated the most won a trophy. Gill added that Carrie Rowland, mammographer at Arkansas Methodist Hospital, also sets up an information table with pamphlets about breast cancer.

"Before the senior high match, we bring our honorees onto the court and share their stories. We also recognize those in attendance who have beaten breast cancer

and those who have lost a loved one to this disease," Gill said. "This is a very emotional time for everyone in the gym. We try to have an honoree who has ties to each school and then someone in the community."

Maggie Williams, PHS alumna, was a volleyball player at the first Dig for the Cure in honor of Smith. She has attended every year she has been near Paragould and has donated for the games she can't make.

"I know it has strengthened our community and shown how we can make a difference in people's lives," she said. "It's something that people look forward to attending and being a part of."

The community continued to raise funds throughout October but before the game on the 9th, around \$75,000 had been raised for organizations that help provide mammograms for underprivileged persons, and organizations providing monetary assistance to those people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. This year, St. Bernards Regional Medical Center's Imaging Center (where Smith was employed), NEA Baptist's Hope Circle, Misty's Mission and AMMC's Project Hope will receive money from the fundraising.

"It is humbling to see our community still supporting this event. We have people and businesses who have been with us since the inaugural event and their loyalty is heart-warming," Gill said. "Each year we have new ones join us. We are just appreciative to everyone who supports this event."

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# Cattle Baron's Ball

## AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

By Christa Burns

The inaugural Cattle Baron's Ball of Northeast Arkansas will be held at The Silos, in Bono, Arkansas on Friday, November 9, 2018, at 7 p.m. The evening will feature music from the Arkansas Brothers, dinner from JTown's Grill and a unique auction. Funds will be raised for cancer research, programs and services, including a new local transportation option for cancer patients.

The event will also serve as a platform to recognize those who have made a significant local contribution in the fight against cancer. True heroes in the fight against cancer, it's no wonder Fred and Susan Cathcart will be awarded the Inaugural Legacy Award at the first annual event for having raised over five million dollars for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "Fred and I are very grateful to be awarded the Inaugural Legacy Award. The American Cancer Society is very important to us since we are both cancer survivors and since we have lost so many people in my family to cancer and it's very special to us, to be awarded this Legacy Award."

The couple began fundraising in memory of their daughter, Donna, who was a patient at St. Jude, and who passed away at nine years old.

"We wanted a way to remember her, to honor her, and to give back to the community in honor of Donna's memory," Susan said. She went on to explain the biggest fundraiser they organize: the S'travaganza. The Cathcart's goal for the upcoming year is to surpass the previous \$522,000 raised, as well as hitting the 2,000 guest mark at the event.



The Cattle Baron's Ball will also highlight many local survivors through "Stories of Hope," and the committee selected local survivor, Kimberly Scutero, to serve as Honorary Chair. She received the phone call with her cancer-positive biopsy results on June 29, 2017. Since then, she has gone through numerous treatments, but had her final one in October. One more minor surgery in November, and then she plans on just having check-ups from there.

"Some days have been easy, some days are better than others, but the support from the community, our friends, and our family have been huge. My sister moved in with us and was able to help so that my husband could continue his work as the assistant basketball coach at ASU. I also work on the campus, so I was able to still go to work as well. Without my sister here to help us with the kids and everything, I probably wouldn't have been able to keep going to work. The community reached out and helped, I can't even describe the words it means to us to have so much support from the community."



Kimberly plans on sharing her full story of the battle she won with cancer at the Cattle Baron's Ball. She said about the event, "I'm excited to see the community come together, support this great event and watch it grow. As the years continue, it will continue to grow and become even better, year after year. So, it's exciting that it's finally here in Jonesboro!"

Tickets are limited and are going quickly, so visit [www.cbbofnea.com](http://www.cbbofnea.com) or call 870-316-2031 to reserve a spot, or for more information about this exciting new event.



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# JOHNNY CASH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Fans of Johnny Cash swarmed the Dyess Colony Visitors Center to watch a pair of films related to the 2018 Johnny Cash Heritage Festival during the event's opening day.

Dr. Heath Carpenter, American Studies, Harding University, served as the moderator of discussion following the noon showing of "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," while Michael Streissguth, Communication and Film Studies of Le Moyne College in New York, led the discussion after the documentary, "Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison."

Viewers from throughout Arkansas as well as Wisconsin, Montana, Iowa and Nevada were on hand for the three-day festival, with other states expected to be represented.

Released in 2000, "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" is set in 1937 rural Mississippi during the Great Depression and includes music by one of the festival's featured performers, Alison Krauss. The soundtrack from the movie won a Grammy for Album of the Year in 2001.

The movie was written, produced and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen and was



Dr. Heath Carpenter addresses crowd at showing of O Brother, Where Art Thou?

based on Homer's poem "The Odyssey." It stars George Clooney, John Turturro, Holly Hunter and John Goodman.

"Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison" is a video documentary written and produced by Streissguth. Released in 2008, the film

provides an in-depth look at Cash's 1968 concert for the inmates at Folsom Prison in California. The documentary includes recordings of the show with rare photos and interviews with those close to Cash.

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Presenters of "Memories of a Lifetime" (from left) Ben Manatt, Bentonville High School EAST Initiative; Dr. Michael Bowman, Media, Arkansas State University; and Dr. Ed Salo, Heritage Studies, Arkansas State University.

A full day of presentations and reminiscing dominated day two of the 2018 Johnny Cash Heritage Festival. The symposiums were part of the "Ties that Bind" academic theme for the three-day event.

Six seminars hosted by academic experts included public presentations Friday, beginning at 9 a.m., with "Ties of Childhood: Johnny Cash's Early Musical Influences," presented by Christian Stanfield of Memphis, with moderator Dr. Adam Long, Heritage Sites, Arkansas State University; "Reflections of Johnny Cash

in Popular Culture," presented by Jessica Kelleher and Lauren Zazzaro of LeMoyne College of Syracuse, N.Y., with moderator Dr. Cathy Calloway, English, Arkansas State University; "Ties Beyond Dyess: Little Rock, San Antonio and Beyond," presented by Dr. Revis Edmonds, Old State House Museum, moderated by Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, history, Arkansas State University.

Elementary and junior high students from the area, known as the Rivercrest Voices, performed on the Dyess Colony Circle outdoor stage during the noon lunch break.

An update on the Memories of a Lifetime Project, which invites past residents of Dyess to record their oral histories, was presented by Dr. Ed Salo, Heritage Studies, Arkansas State University; Dr. Michael Bowman, Media, Arkansas State University; and Ben Manatt, Bentonville High School EAST Initiative.

The trio offered a small sampling of the "Memories" project containing video interviews with past residents sharing their oral histories. "We wanted to start a project where people could learn and have a story about what people in Dyess experienced," said Dr. Salo. Manatt's students did work on the project with help from Dr. Bowman.

"Some of the interviews came from former residents about how they and families were impacted by the flood of 1937," added Dr. Bowman. "Also, everyone talked about what a great place Dyess was to grow up in."

Joanne Cash Yates, sister of Johnny Cash, was present and shared several stories about her family growing up in Dyess.

"Shared Voices: Johnny Cash and His Contemporaries," followed with Dr. Deborah Chappel Daniel, English, Arkansas State University, serving as moderator. Presenters were Anthony Childress and LaDawn Fuhr, both graduate students at A-State's Heritage Studies program.

Dr. John Alexander had the keynote presentation at 3 p.m., titled "The Man in Song: A Discographic Biography of Johnny Cash." Dr. Carl Cates, dean, College of Liberal Arts and Communication, Arkansas State University, served as moderator and the presentation was followed by a book signing.

Day two closed Friday evening with five musical acts with KASU Music Nights. Musical entertainment was Stephen Hardy, Marcus "Mookie" Cartwright, Harmony, The Zyndall Wayne Raney Band, and Cory Jackson.



Under blue skies and comfortable temperatures, talented performers closed out the three-day Johnny Cash Heritage Festival with a tribute concert to the singer in the former cotton field next to his boyhood home.

After Arkansas State University Chancellor Kelly Dampousse welcomed the artists and crowd on behalf of the university, John Carter Cash, the Grammy-winning son of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, served as the host of the event and got the music

under way with Shawn Camp and Bill Miller. Following an hour performance by each, artists Jamey Johnson, Alison Krauss, Ana Cristina Cash, Suzanne Cox, Heather Berry Mabe and Ira Dean took the stage to begin the main event, the Johnny Cash Show 50th Anniversary Tribute.

"It is a great thrill to be here today," John Carter Cash told a large and enthusiastic crowd. "I want to thank Arkansas State University for all they do." Along with his

emcee duties, he also played the guitar to accompany the band and sang solo as well as with other vocalists.

The concert was a "50th Anniversary Performance," paying tribute to The Johnny Cash Show tours that began in 1968 and led the following year to a television show that brought Cash into millions of households. The musical lineup brought back songs that were Cash staples 50 years ago. Among singing other songs, Grammy winners Johnson and Krauss joined together for a duet rendition of "Peace in the Valley" and "Daddy Sang Bass."

The Cash family familiar signature concert closer, "Will the Circle be Unbroken," featured members of the Cash family along with Krauss, Johnson and remaining singers and musicians. John Carter Cash invited the audience to join in. On cue, everyone sang the family finale.





# DNW Outdoors SPONSOR

## *Dennis & Kay Noell*

By Caitlin LaFarlette

From sponsorships and giveaways to recruiting and dinners, Dennis and Kay Noell have backed the annual Duck Classic, a fundraiser created by the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation, for over a decade.

This December marks the 16th year of the Duck Classic, and the Noells have been involved from the very beginning.

"It was just a great fit for our sporting goods business and a great cause for the community," Kay said.

The Noells, both born and raised in Jonesboro, opened DNW Truck Accessories in 1988 and DNW Outdoors in 2002 after Dennis turned his passion of hunting into a business. DNW Outdoors brings national sponsorships to the Duck Classic and uses vendors such as Drake Waterfowl, Frogg Togg and Yeti to sponsor the event through product donations or cash sponsorships. Kay said Drake Waterfowl specifically gives the Duck Classic over \$30,000 in sponsorships each year.

In addition, DNW Truck Accessories decks out the "Duck Truck" for the grand raffle. Glen Sain donates a truck outfitted in over \$15,000 of accessories from DNW, and tickets are sold for \$100.

Kay and Dennis don't stop there. Check-in for the hunters the day of the hunt is hosted by DNW, as well as a dinner to thank all of the landowners for donating their land for the hunt.

"Dennis and I even go out to the Convocation Center the day before the big event to help with set up," Kay added.

The years of philanthropy work have been enjoyable for the Noells, who love working with the NEA Baptist team and serving the community as a whole.

"We get much satisfaction just knowing we help serve thousands of people annually each year through the six programs the NEA Charitable Foundation serves," Kay said.

She added that bringing hope, health and support to those in the region who cannot afford it and working with the Duck Classic board members each year is an honor. The Noells acknowledge the Duck Classic was a perfect fit for their sporting goods business and over the years of participating, the two have learned it is the support of the community that makes the fundraiser a success. The Duck Classic is the largest fundraiser in NEA that addresses critical needs of the community, and the Noells are proud to be a small part of it.

That community support sticks out in Kay's mind as one specific event from a few years ago when an ice storm passed through the night before the event. Over 1,600 participants still arrived.

"The hunt the next morning was in snow and sleet conditions, and the hunters still braved the weather for such a good cause," Kay said. "I think this speaks volumes for the generosity of our community."

For more information on the Duck Classic or tickets, visit [www.duckclassic.com](http://www.duckclassic.com).



# WHAT'S COOKIN'?

## PUMPKIN INSPIRATION

### DIP

## 5-MINUTE SMOKY PUMPKIN HUMMUS

#### Ingredients:

1 15-ounce can chickpeas drained and rinsed  
1 cup canned pumpkin puree  
1/4 cup tahini  
2 garlic cloves  
1 tablespoon honey  
1/2 teaspoon McCormick Chipotle Chile Pepper  
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon  
2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds, optional

#### Directions:

1. Place all the ingredients (except the pumpkin seeds) into a food processor and blend until smooth. If your hummus is a little thick, thin it out with a little more honey or add a little olive oil or lemon juice.  
2. Transfer to a serving bowl and garnish with a sprinkle of smoked chipotle powder and pumpkin seeds. Serve with pretzels, popcorn, veggies, pita, etc.

*Recipe courtesy of theeverykitchen.com.*



### ENTRÉE

## RAVIOLI WITH PUMPKIN ALFREDO

#### Ingredients:

1 package (25 oz) frozen cheese ravioli  
3 tablespoons flour  
2 cups chicken broth  
1 cup milk  
2 tablespoons butter  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese  
1/2 cup canned pumpkin puree  
1/4 cup minced fresh parsley  
1 tablespoon minced fresh sage  
Dash of freshly grated nutmeg  
1/4 cup toasted pine nuts  
1/4 cup chopped walnuts, toasted

#### Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil and cook the ravioli according to the package directions. Drain.  
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together the flour, chicken broth and milk.  
3. In a large skillet, melt the butter. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, 30-60 seconds. Add in the milk mixture, Parmesan cheese, pumpkin puree, parsley, sage and nutmeg. Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 10-15 minutes.  
4. Stir the ravioli into the sauce. Serve topped with the pine nuts and walnuts.

*Recipe courtesy of tasteandtellblog.com.*



### DESSERT

## PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

#### Ingredients:

2 1/4 c. all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 tsp. kosher salt  
1 c. (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
3/4 c. brown sugar  
1/2 c. granulated sugar  
3/4 c. pumpkin purée  
1 large egg  
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract  
2 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375° and line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.  
2. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, pumpkin spice, and salt.  
3. In a large bowl using a hand mixer, cream together butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in pumpkin, egg, and vanilla extract until combined, then add flour mixture. Beat on low until no raw flour appears, then fold in chocolate chips. Refrigerate dough for 30 minutes.  
4. Scoop 1" balls onto prepared baking sheets, 2 inches apart, and bake until puffed up and golden around edges, about 12 minutes.

*Recipe courtesy of delish.com*



# JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF PARAGOULD

# *Cheers for Charity*

The Junior Auxiliary is celebrating its fourth annual Cheers for Charity, which raises funds for the children of Greene County. Each year, many children face hunger, literacy issues, and a Christmas without any gifts. Junior Auxiliary strives to provide these missing essentials by raising money through the Cheers for Charity event. Junior Auxiliary hosts its guests through the casual event with a great meal, music by Drive South, as well as a silent auction of items donated by area businesses and supporters. One fortunate guest will go home with a beautiful item generously provided by Sissy's Log Cabin that will be raffled off throughout the night. The Angel Tree will be donned with ornaments and guests will be able to choose a child to provide a gift and necessities to ensure a happy Christmas that extends into the upcoming year.

**4th Annual Cheers for Charity**  
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# LETA GRADUATION GUEST SPEAKER

## Robert Bemis

**B**RTC Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) Director Steve Shults announced the guest speaker for the Fall 2018 LETA graduation will be retired Pennsylvania State Police senior trainer and former Marine Robert Bemis.

In March 2015, Sergeant Robert Bemis was responding to a vehicle fire on I-81 in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, when a passing vehicle hit his police cruiser, throwing him into the air. He endured multiple surgeries and spent two years in rehabilitation before retiring from the state police in January of 2017. Today, he continues to serve as a senior trainer with the Pennsylvania State Police. Bemis was a state trooper for 24 years. Prior to this service, he spent six years in the U. S. Marines, even providing security for President Ronald Reagan’s helicopter, Marine One.

According to his website, “Bob now continues to serve others by sharing the experience of his final 22 months as a Trooper. His lectures have an inspirational message of resilience that spans a wide spectrum of audiences, and his book, “Forged in Scars & Stripes: A Trooper’s Victory Over Critical Injury” showcases the fraternal bond shared by all who are called to serve.”

Fall 2018 LETA graduation will be held on Friday, November 16, at 1:00 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus. The public is invited to attend.



16th Annual

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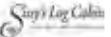
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# BARTON POWERSPORTS SUPPORTER

## Ed Vickery



By Richard Brummett



have really stepped up to make it something special.”

This year marks the 16<sup>th</sup> for the Duck Classic, the largest fundraiser in Northeast Arkansas. It is scheduled to be held Dec. 6-7 with a banquet, raffle and auction kicking the action off on the first night at the First National Bank Arena on the ASU campus. The duck hunt follows the next day, with all proceeds helping fund six key programs to address critical needs in NEA.

Vickery said Barton Powersports, a sponsor for seven years, looks at the participation a couple of ways. “It’s twofold with us,” he offered. “The primary reason is the Foundation it serves and the money goes to a very good cause. Being involved within the community is important to us. Making an investment in helping raise money for the NEA Foundation is part of it. But also, it’s the fact that this is also a good portion of our clientele taking part in this thing. A big portion are duck hunters; a big portion are not duck hunters, but are good customers who go to, and invest, in this event. A high percentage of the people

at the banquet or the hunt are already good customers, and then we’ve gained good customers by being involved.”

Barton’s is providing a Polaris Ranger as one of the grand prizes, and Vickery said that “people roll through here and you hear ‘Duck Hunt’ every day. Out of state people want to come and hunt during this time period. There’s a couple of cool things about it: People have a good time at the banquet; guys have a good time hunting. Like I said, it’s a very unique event, just a fun thing to be a part of.”

**B**arton Powersports of Jonesboro has been a longtime sponsor of the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation Duck Classic and General Manager Ed Vickery says it’s an easy decision to make.

“It’s a fun event. A lot of things about it are unique,” he said. “Lots of times events are not run or structured as smoothly as this one is. A lot of people put in a lot of time and all the money raised is going to a great cause. It’s a way to be involved with a class act. Pardon the pun, but they have their ducks in a row. It takes dedicated volunteers, and the committee meets for months and months ahead of time. People

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# GLEN SAIN MOTORS SUPPORTER

## Danny Ford



By Richard Brummett

**D**anny Ford echoes the sentiments of many others when he sings the praises of those involved in organizing the annual NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation Duck Classic.

“Everybody involved with this wants it to be done right,” said Ford, owner of the Glen Sain automobile dealerships. “You see projects come along all the time, but you don’t always see one take off like this one has. If something is going to have a positive impact on the people of Northeast Arkansas then I want to help in any way I can, and this one is a great one to be involved with.”

Ford said he decided to join in the gigantic fundraising effort about ten years ago after talking with good friends Dennis and Kay Noell of DNW Outdoors. The Glen Sain group provided a vehicle to be raffled off, changing from “a Yukon or a Tahoe after we decided it was probably better for a crew cab pickup. We thought that was probably more feasible, that people might rather win a truck instead on an SUV. This year it’s a late model Chevy four-wheel drive, but DNW gets sponsors and different companies to join in and they spend probably \$12,000 to \$18,000 doing what we call ‘upfitting’ it. It doesn’t look anything like the truck that we give them. It’s always on display there at DNW so people can go by and see what they’re buying tickets on.”

He said the Duck Classic appeals to him because he knows the large number of people who put in countless hours to make it successful. “Well, you know, it’s involved with the hunting and outdoors, so naturally we’re interested,” Ford said. “But it’s run in a way that it’s also about having your family and children involved. A lot of people have fun with it. Duck hunters enjoy coming and being a part of the activities and, of course, we all know the main focus is on raising money for the NEA Foundation.



“They do such a good job. Every year, such a good job and so organized. It’s not just a one- or two-day event. People look forward to this for a whole year and make their plans. This attracts people from all around, so it’s good for our economy, too. But the committee does it in a way that makes you feel proud to be a part of it, and you know the money goes to services provided to a lot of people in need. It’s good to see so many people involved. I have a saying that ‘things don’t just happen, you’ve got to make them happen.’ Every individual who works on this project knows what their role is and they work hard to make every year’s classic better than the last one. Any time an event like this is benefiting Northeast Arkansas and you have lots of good groups doing such great work, well that’s good for all of us.”

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# Celebrating 35 Years

## GREENE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

The Greene County Rescue Squad celebrated 35 years of service with a heartfelt awards ceremony in October.

Many former “Old School” members were on hand to remind current ones of the humble beginnings as current members honored their efforts to establish this asset for Greene County.

The Greene County Rescue Squad is a 100 percent volunteer force that is highly trained and has the tools because of the community support to perform in emergency situations. And “no one ever gets a bill,” said Curtis Davenport.

Donations from organizations, businesses and grants have funded the program. Squad member Brent Cox was instrumental in the recent and largest grant of \$75,000 that will fund a new truck.

Randy Aden, an “Old School” member, held up the tools they were equipped with in the early days: a wrench and a screwdriver. The brainchild of founder Butch Heath, the GCRS has come a long way in 35 years. And every one of the leadership members took the opportunity to thank the community, volunteers, volunteer family members and city, county and state government for the support they receive as they stand ready to help 24/7, 365.





"Old School" team members: Butch Heath, Randy Aden, Curtis Davenport, Jackie Minor, Brenda Davis and Viola Rogers.



Jeremy Heath congratulates his dad on 35 years of service and takes the opportunity to express his pride and appreciation for his passion and dedication over the years.



Sharon Knight, former Paragould Daily Press reporter, was recognized for her passion in covering the GCRS in the early days.



Curtis Davenport honors member Jimmy Vassar with a plaque presented to his wife, Debra, and one to start a Wall of Honor at the GCRS Headquarters.



Founder of the GCRS Butch Heath accepts his award and thanks his community and members for their support throughout the 35 Years.



Former GCRS member and current City Councilman Randy Aden shows how far the Squad has come compared to his original tools.

# Patti Roberts

By Richard Brummett

**B**y her own admission, Patti Roberts entered the military much later than most people but that certainly didn't keep her from making her mark. "I started rather late in life, in 1982," Roberts said, "and I was the last single female with a dependent accepted to the military in Tennessee."

By the time she retired from service in 2008, Roberts had worked her way from Administrative Clerk to being the first female promoted to Chief Master Sergeant in the 164th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee National Guard. "I wanted something worthwhile," she said. "I wasn't thinking of awards and accolades. I was just coming to work to do the best I can do, and I have to say I have been blessed by God with my military career."

She started out with the Guard in Memphis in an administrative position in the Maintenance Squadron's orderly room, then became the 164th AW's first travel clerk in the Accounting and Finance section. She later was the training NCO for personnel and a counselor for the Community College of the Air Force in the Education and Training section of the Military Personnel Flight. At each stop, additional training was required but Roberts sailed through and earned impressive honors along the way, including:

\* Base Junior NCO of the Year in 1990



\* Tennessee Air National Guard Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year in 1999

\* Mission Support Flights Senior NCO of the Quarter and of the Year

\* 164th Airlift Wing's Senior NCO of the Year

"In 2000 I was promoted to Senior Master Sergeant and I was pinned by my husband, Weldon," who is a retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant, she said. She was also recognized as the State Senior Airman of the Year and Outstanding Tennessee Air Guard Member.

While in the training sector, Roberts helped prepare officers for their advancement to Flight School and said while the number of women making their way through the military system continues to fall short of the number of men, "... we have really begun to shine in places like Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Afghanistan. A lot of women, as well as men, have distinguished themselves. It's funny; most men want to be in the Marines or the Army but quite a number of women have left bits and pieces of themselves overseas in the Army and Marines, too.

"I didn't do this with even an inkling that we would go to war," she explained. "I needed a job and I was thinking I might consider the military if I wasn't too old for them to have me. And if I was there, I wanted to do something more than fold bandages

-- and my scores showed that I was qualified for Administrative or Photography. When I was in administration, my husband pointed out that the highest I could ever go was 'Staff.' He said if I wanted to move up, I would have to venture out. So I ventured."

From Administrative and Finance she was able to make Staff Sergeant and Tech Sergeant, and once in the Travel section she "worked closely with flight crews and I kept learning a lot and was able to continue advancing. Once I was in Personnel it opened all the doors to advancement, even though every step had definite challenges and rewards. The powers that be named me NCO of the Quarter all the way to Senior NCO of the State. You don't take a test; you come to work and do your best."

At one point she went to Nashville to "help deploy 300 men and women, to make sure their paperwork was ready to get on an airplane and to go forward and serve their country. I feel honored to have been part of such an important process and to have been able to contribute in any way."

Roberts and her husband are charter/founding members of Chapter 100 of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) based in Paragould. The Lafe resident is also very active with both the Greene County Master Gardeners and Lafe Baptist Church among her many contributions to the community.



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 Jade Stanley  
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<sup>1</sup>APY= Annual Percentage Yield. Rate effective as of Oct. 29, 2018. One withdrawal allowed during the year with no fee. Any additional withdrawals are \$5.00 each. Maximum deposit amount in the Christmas Club is \$5,000 with a limit of one account per person and two accounts per household. <sup>2</sup> See bank for more details or to enroll.

# AREA VETERANS COMPETE IN NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

# FOSTER



**Sgt. Wesley Foster**  
26 Jan 1893  
11 Oct 1918

The John J. Pershing VA Medical Center congratulates two very special local veterans for competing at this year's National Veterans Golden Age Games. The event, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, took place in early August.

Perry James, Vietnam Veteran from Corning, has been competing in the event since 2012 and has medaled in several events since then. James says he has been inspired to improve his health while training for the games, noting that losing weight and learning to control his diabetes has him feeling better than he has in years.

Mary Bader, Operation Iraqi Freedom/ Operation Enduring Freedom veteran, attended her first competition in 2016. Bader is from Wappapello, Missouri, and has also lost weight and improved her health, despite a surgery setback that prevented her from attending the 2017 games. Over the last two years, Bader has

## 5A State Champions



**Rams Golf Team State Champions**

**Simon McBride, Chase Matthews, Wake Kasserman, Jas Malone, Chance Matthews**

**Lady Rams Golf Team Individual Medalist State Champion**

**Madison Holmes**



**Paragould School District**

returned with four bronze medals and two ribbons.

Both veterans emphasize the importance of the camaraderie with fellow veterans at the games. They describe how competitors form a special bond and support each other each year at these events. Many say the experience helps with PTSD and the ability to be around large groups.

Opportunities for veterans to take control of their health abound, given the various programs and classes offered through the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center. Classes include MOVE! ® (weight loss and nutrition), Whole Health, Smoking Cessation, Nutrition, Diabetes Management, Mindful Stress Reduction, and Chronic Pain Management.

Open to veterans aged 55 and up, the National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG) is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, and the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. The National Veterans Golden Age Games is one of the most progressive and adaptive rehabilitative senior sports programs in the world. The games also serve as a qualifying event for competition in the National Senior Games in a number of competitive events.

The 2019 games will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, and James and Bader say they hope to see more of their colleagues join the competition.

More information about the National Veterans Golden Age Games can be found at: [www.goldenagegames.gov](http://www.goldenagegames.gov).



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# Little Shop of Horrors

## TAKES A BITE OUT OF GREENE COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years, The Greene County Fine Arts Council presented "Little Shop of Horrors," the hit rock musical comedy, at the Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould in October, directed by Crystal Taylor with choreography by Mabry Massey of Cue The Applause.

A deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash, "Little Shop of Horrors" has devoured the hearts of theatergoers for more than 30 years. Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney's "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and The Beast," and "Aladdin") are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world.

Travis Rainbolt starred in his first GCFAC production as meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn. He stumbled across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" – after his co-worker crush Audrey, portrayed by Tara Vance.

The Greene County Fine Arts Council used custom puppets by local artists Joshua Hudson and Casey Wayne Cox, based on Martin P. Robinson's famous design, to bring life to Audrey II. The puppets ranged in size from a hand puppet to one weighing over 200 pounds.

Two actors worked together to play Audrey II – Joshua Hudson was the puppeteer, and Greg Mitchell provided the voice.



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## 2018 Kids' Events

# November

**3**

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**Info:** [www.mallatturtlecreek.com](http://www.mallatturtlecreek.com)

**10**

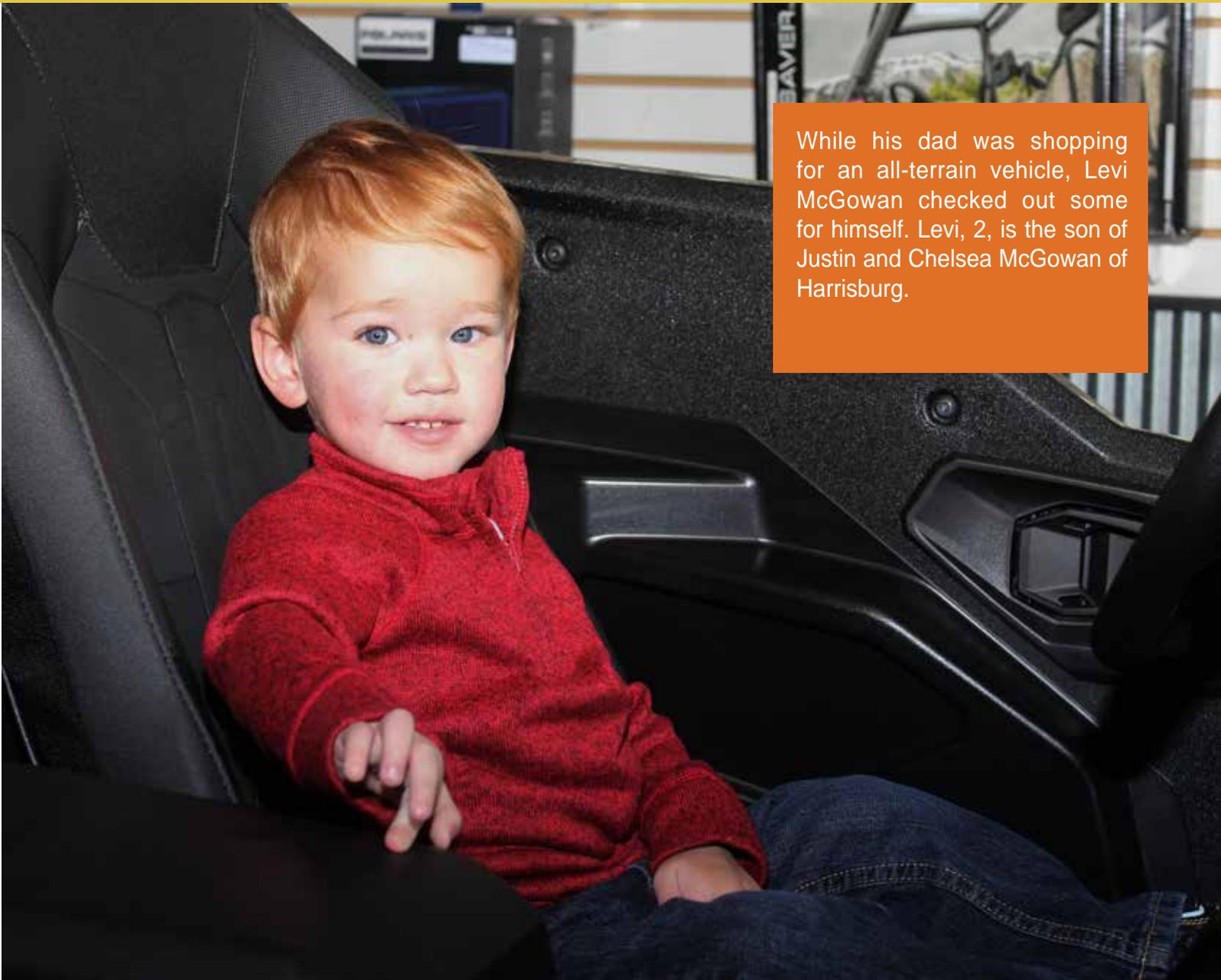
### Make Holiday Cards

**When:** Saturday at 10 AM-2 PM  
**Where:** Room 107 at Fine Arts Center  
at Arkansas State University  
2105 Aggie Road, Jonesboro  
**Info:** [www.astate.edu](http://www.astate.edu)

**12**

### Family Story Time

**When:** Monday at 6 PM  
**Where:** Craighead County Public Library  
315 W Oak Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401  
**Info:** [www.libraryinjonesboro.com](http://www.libraryinjonesboro.com)



While his dad was shopping for an all-terrain vehicle, Levi McGowan checked out some for himself. Levi, 2, is the son of Justin and Chelsea McGowan of Harrisburg.

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# GREENE COUNTY AWARDS NINE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE FALL 2018 SEMESTER

Nine single parent students were recently presented scholarship award checks by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Greene County. Karmen Esquivel, Jessica Bishop, Kasey Ellis, Michelle Espinoza, and Stephanie Judkins were presented awards funded in part by the ASPSF and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Brandon Lee was presented an award funded by a sub-grant from Entergy.

The Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Greene County is led by a team of volunteers who raise funds to support single parents in their pursuit of higher education or professional certification. The ASPSF Greene County team includes Mike Weaver, Joan Linnstaedter, Dana Hedger and Kathryn Warren. Their efforts are supported by the state office of ASPSF, headquartered in Springdale, and a Program Manager, Wendy Stotts, located in Northeast Arkansas.

When asked, “What is the hardest part about being a single parent attending college?,” one of the parents replied, “Being away from my children while attending school. I know it will give them a better life, but it is difficult.” Another recipient told a story of struggling to fix a water pipe under her house. When her father found her struggling on her own, he offered to do it for her. She begged him to talk her through it—to help her learn to do it on her own. “This is what the scholarships are about,” stated one board member, “helping people learn to stand on their own.”

With support from a number of partners and donors, Single Parent Scholarship Funds statewide award well over \$1.5 million in scholarships each year. A follow-up of 2017 scholarship recipients revealed that 87 percent of students stayed in school or completed their programs; 65 percent of graduates were employed full-time within 3-6 months of graduation, and 90 percent of working graduates earned above-poverty wages.

For more information about Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, go to [aspsf.org](http://aspsf.org).



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# HOSPICE HIGHLIGHT

## Alicia Seruya

By Richard Brummett

**A**licia Seruya knew from an early age she wanted to be a nurse some day even though she didn't necessarily see herself in that role with St. Bernards Hospice at the time.

"I've always known I wanted to be a nurse since I was a teenager," the Jonesboro resident said. "So that's what I did and one time I was asked by Donna (Lowe, her supervisor) if I would fill in every once in a while with Hospice and I did for a few months and then said to myself, 'This is something I would do. I would love to do this.' It's rewarding. I subbed and knew immediately it was worth doing."

At St. Bernards, Hospice is a special way of caring for terminally ill individuals. The team that delivers Hospice care consists of family, a nurse, the patient's physician, a social worker, a hospice aide, volunteers and clergy. Together, the hospice team enables the patient to receive care alternatives which nurture

human dignity and truly provide Christ-like care. Its hospice care is located in Jonesboro, but also serves Craighead, Clay, Greene, Lawrence, Poinsett, Cross and parts of Mississippi, Jackson and Randolph counties.

Seruya said it was easy to fall in love with the program because of the heartfelt method of services rendered, and because one begins to feel almost a part of the family being cared for.

In April Seruya will mark three years as a Hospice nurse and she says during her time serving in that capacity, she has come to admire the job done by primary caregivers. "I always said the hardest job in the whole world would be to be the caregiver," she said. "As nurses, we're there to check on people and we're in and out of the homes. Caregiver ... that's a whole different world."

She found out firsthand about the difference in June of this year when she switched roles,



Alicia, left, with her daughter Camille Jackson and her grandfather.

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assuming caregiver responsibilities for her grandfather, Alfred Kerley. As his situation worsened, the family had discussions about requesting Hospice care for a couple of weeks, and then it became necessary to remove Mr. Kerley from his defibrillator. "I had to have it turned off, and that did it for me," Seruya said. "We had a Hospice nurse for my grandfather and she would come in and I slid over to caregiver. The nurse helped him a lot. I provided care when he needed medications. It's hard ... yes ... yes. Just three months before, my mother had passed away. It was easier with her because we knew exactly what she wanted. She had taken care of all that ahead of time. That made it a little easier.

"I grew a little bit through this, though. I think I am better prepared for such things now. First my mom, then three months later, him. It was tough, but we made it. We really wanted him to make it one more month. Then, he and my grandmother would have been married 65 years."

She said in addition to her there are three more nurses in the family and their conversations throughout the ordeal helped her cope, and while her stint as caregiver led her to have even more admiration for people who accept those responsibilities, it is the Hospice Nurse title that she wears with pride.

"This is probably what I will retire from," she said, "and I've got a ways to go."





**A**lthough they each worked long hours and interacted with a multitude of healthcare providers and patients on a daily basis, Kenley Singleton and Dusty Boyd never anticipated meeting one another while working at St. Bernards Medical Center in 2015.

While growing accustomed to her role as a Physician Assistant for the Hospitalist program, Kenley began to notice a particular Family Medicine resident physician seemingly always initiating conversations with her and inquiring as to how her day was going. After six months of persistence on his part, Kenley finally agreed to go on a date with Dusty in March 2016. The rest, as they say, is history! After fifteen months of travel, cooking together, countless movie nights, and meeting each other's families, Dusty proposed to Kenley at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis on June 16, 2017.

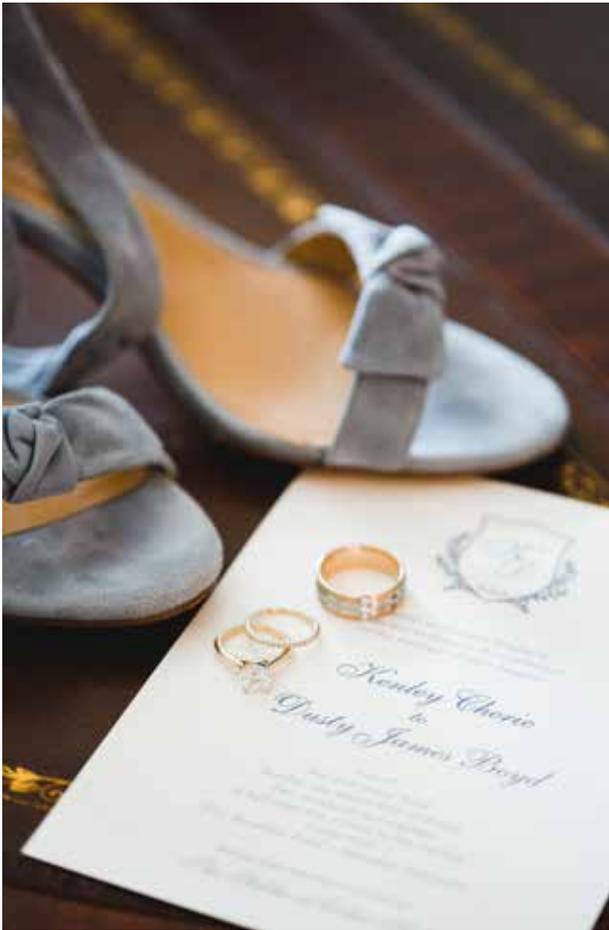
After months of planning, the couple was married on March 25, 2018, two years after their first date. Cedar Hall, a historic home and event venue in Memphis, served as the backdrop for their special day. The evening ceremony was officiated by the couple's pastor, Dr. Anthony Cherry of First Baptist

Church in Paragould, and took place in the garden at Cedar Hall. For something old, Kenley wore her mother's veil (which was also worn by her sister). A blue topaz ring of her mother-in-law's, along with Kenley's heels, served as her something blue, while a borrowed family necklace was attached to her bouquet. The couple gifted Peabody Hotel duck socks to the groomsmen and ushers in honor of their place of engagement and the bride carried a hand embroidered handkerchief with her bouquet, a gift from her grandmother. Each piece of wedding music was personally chosen by the couple and included the "Wedding Processional" from the Sound of Music (which her mother also walked to) for Kenley's processional down the aisle, and "Seasons of Love" accompanied the bridesmaids during their walk (as a nod to the Broadway musical Rent, which the couple saw in Memphis on the night of their engagement). After their ceremony, which included the warming and blessing of their rings as they were passed among family, and personally written vows to each other, the celebration continued in the nearby Stables at Cedar Hall. It was completed with dinner, dancing, toasts by family and friends, and plenty of delicious wedding cake.

The couple then honeymooned on the tropical island of St. Lucia before returning home to Northeast Arkansas. The Boyds continue to reside in Paragould and work at St. Bernards Medical Center.

Kenley is the daughter of Terriel and Donna Singleton of Paragould. Dusty is the son of Hal and Janice Boyd of Clarksburg, Tennessee.

Venue and Catering: Cedar Hall, Memphis  
 Printing: Hobart Print Studio, Bryant, AR  
 Wedding Dress: The Bridal Cottage, North Little Rock  
 Tuxes: Men's Wearhouse  
 Bridesmaid Dresses: Azazie, online  
 Flower Girl Dress: Hand made by the mother of the groom  
 Hair/Makeup: Mallory Christian  
 Rings: Sissy's Log Cabin, Jonesboro  
 Florals: Kacie Cooper Floral Design, Memphis  
 Cakes/Cookies: Cakes by Mandy, Mandy Elliott, Paragould  
 Sound and Entertainment: DeepBlu Entertainment, Memphis  
 Photography: Megan Burges Photography, Mountain Home  
 Videography: Austin Gilliam Cinematography, Mountain Home  
 Officiant: Dr. Anthony Cherry, FBC Paragould



# November

## EVENTS CALENDAR

3

**What:** Downtown Holiday Open House  
**When:** Saturday, November 3rd  
**Where:** Downtown Paragould  
**Info:** Main Street Paragould's Downtown Holiday Open House will be Saturday November 3rd. Whether you're shopping for bargains, looking for fresh décor for Thanksgiving, or starting (maybe even finishing?) your Christmas shopping...you need to add the One and Only's incredible shops to your list. Shopping and dining specials will be offered. You CAN find it Downtown!

6

**What:** Diabetes Education Series (DEEP)  
**When:** Tuesday, November 6th 9:30 am-11:30 am  
**Where:** Pocahontas Medical Clinic (2901 Medical Center Drive, Pocahontas, AR)  
**Info:** This free Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP) helps participants take control of their diabetes and reduce the risk of complications. For registration call 870-202-1233.

10

**What:** Holiday Letterpress Cards  
**When:** Saturday, November 10th 10am-2pm  
**Where:** Room 107 of the Fine Arts Center at Arkansas State University  
**Info:** Make your own holiday card from several options. Adults and children are invited to experiment with screen printing. Shelley Gipson, printmaker, will direct the activity. Interested individuals can drop by Room 107 of the Fine Arts Center anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The project will take about 30 minutes. Admission is free, and alumni are especially welcomed, according to Dr. Temma Balducci, professor of art history and department chair.

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

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

15

**What:** Fill the Food Bank  
**When:** Thursday, November 15th 6:00 am-6:30 pm  
**Where:** Kroger Marketplace Parking Lot in Jonesboro  
**Info:** Food and fund drive to benefit the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas. \$1 donated provides 4 meals! The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas provides hunger relief to people in need by raising awareness, securing resources, and distributing food through a network of non-profit agencies and programs.  
Contact: Amber Horton/Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas  
Phone: 870-932-3663 Ext. 114  
E-mail: [ahorton@foodbankofnea.org](mailto:ahorton@foodbankofnea.org)

16

**What:** Rock-A-Billy Legend Narvel Felts with Sugar Creek Band  
**When:** Friday, November 16th at 7:30 pm  
**Where:** Collins Theatre of Paragould  
**Info:** Rock-A-Billy Legend Narvel Felts with Gary Prince and The Sugar Creek Band at the Collins, 7:30 pm  
Admission: \$15.00

16-19

**What:** The Foundation of Arts: Nutcracker  
**When:** Friday November 16th to Monday November 19th 7:30 pm (Sunday show starts at 2:00 pm)  
**Where:** The Foundation of Arts Jonesboro  
**Info:** Christmas simply wouldn't be Christmas without the Nutcracker. This Forum tradition never fails to delight the young and old alike with the tale of Clara and her new Nutcracker doll. Stunning ballerinas take audiences on a magical journey to far-off dream lands through dance. Magical fun for the whole family!

18

**What:** Lights of Love Fundraiser  
**When:** Sunday, November 18th at 5:00 pm  
**Where:** NEA Baptist Hospital Lobby  
**Info:** As part of this holiday tradition, "Lights of Love" allows you to purchase a luminary in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. During the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, the names of those for whom luminaries have been purchased will be read. The luminaries will be displayed in the hospital lobby throughout the weekend. Each name will be placed in the Christmas Tree Lighting program and on a luminary. Proceeds will benefit the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation's Marc Ford Patient Assistance Fund. This fund helps chronically ill patients with needed day-to-day expenses. Luminaries are available to purchase for \$10 each. For more information, please contact Robbie Johnson at (870) 936-8479 or at [Robbie.johnson@bmnhcc.org](mailto:Robbie.johnson@bmnhcc.org). Deadline for purchasing luminaries is November 14th.

26

**What:** KASU Presents "Bluegrass Monday"  
**When:** Monday, November 26th at 7:00 pm  
**Where:** Collins Theatre  
**Info:** On the fourth Monday night of each month, KASU presents the "Bluegrass Monday" concert series at the Collins Theatre. The concerts feature acclaimed bluegrass musicians from across the country. Past performers include Chris Jones, Larry Stephenson, Valerie Smith, Nothin' Fancy, Eddie & Martha Adcock, Kenny & Amanda Smith, Jeanette Williams, the Little Roy & Lizzy Show, the Farm Hands, the Tennessee Mafia Jug Band, David Parmley, Special Consensus, Monroe Crossing, and many more. KASU will "pass the hat," collecting money to pay the musicians. The suggested donation is \$5 per person. For more information, contact KASU Program Director Marty Scarbrough at 870-972-2367 or [mscarbro@astate.edu](mailto:mscarbro@astate.edu).

# GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



Several weeks ago six graduating classes of Paragould High School -- 1970 through 1975 -- held a combined reunion, gathering at the Community Center on a Saturday night. The previous evening, everyone was free to get together with only their respective class members and that is when one of my longstanding beliefs was driven home.

I did double duty, stopping first by my wife Cindy's 1973 party at Reynolds Park before heading over to my own with the old folks from '70, graciously hosted by Riley and Barbara VanHorn. For several days I saw photos from other classes' meetings and some went all out with decorations and catered meals and what have you, but it was Cindy's class that came through with something I think we need to be doing all across America: Everyone wore name tags.

If you were a Class of '73 member you had a tag with your high-school-days photo on it; if you were an outsider like I was, you wore only your name, but this is something I have been preaching for decades, this belief that everyone, everywhere, should wear a prominently-displayed name tag every day of the week.

This happens to me frequently: I'm minding my own business, doing something important like eating a meal in a restaurant or staring at things in the grocery store, trying to remember what it was that Cindy reminded me not to forget as I said, "I know. I know. I've got it," only now I haven't got it and I don't want to

go home without it. And someone walks up and calls me by name, and then says, "You don't know me, do you?"

Well, the fact that I'm looking at you as if you are some alien being should be your first tip-off but, no, more than likely I don't know you. I have coached more than a thousand boys and girls over the years in baseball, basketball and softball and as my age continues to climb I simply can't recall everyone's name. Or their parents' names. Or their classmates' or best friends' or, often, even my own. Sometimes these people give me helpful hints, referring to a certain year or certain team -- "That's the only undefeated team I was ever on" or "I'm coaching my son and I know now why you yelled at me all the time in the old gym" -- but usually I'm just at a loss.

Not so at Cindy's reunion. Everyone who came up to me felt comfortable in jumping right into conversation, as did I, because we could just look at the tag and know who was who. I'd never felt so at ease in all my life, and I could concentrate on the words actually being spoken better because my brain was not saying, "Okay, look at her and smile while I try to figure out who the heck she is. And if you ever dated her."

People I knew, people I didn't really know all that well ... any time they walked by I felt confident that I could either contribute to a story from our past or say, "Nice to meet you."

I realize not everyone will be keen on the idea of wearing a name tag, especially if they have a heightened sense of fashion and would feel out of kilter if the tag didn't match that day's outfit or shoes, but I'm thinking as advanced as our society is today with all these hand-held beepy things and cars that tell you when something's behind you and the whole Internet right there in your pocket, surely someone can invent a program where you just point your cell phone at an approaching person and your screen will immediately give you their name, why you know them, and remind you whether or not you like them.

This all reminds me of a time about 10 years ago when I was playing on a Senior League softball team and one of the guys brought a new player one day. His name was Lomer Turney and, unbeknown to the rest of the team, he and I were friends from way back. I played basketball with him on a couple of different teams, dealt with him in the coach-sports reporter relationship, and I had played amateur baseball with his older brother, Jim.

When someone asked, "Lomer, do you know Richard Brummett?" he looked me up and down, then said, "Well, I know a Richard Brummett ... but he don't look like that!" After we informed our teammates that we were, indeed, longtime friends, everyone shared a laugh, mostly at my expense. I wouldn't have had to go through that if we'd all been wearing name tags.





## CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education  
Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

the memories made. One of my co-workers, Aimee Swaim, has been going to deer camp since she was six months old. Their camp, near Farindale in Cleveland County, was claimed by her granddad when her dad was just a boy. Aimee, as well as many of her family, took their first deer in the camp, but the memories and traditions are much deeper than the hunts. They have shared many Thanksgivings in the camp, many days of camp work and many other days of enjoying the outdoors in the familiar setting of their deer camp.

These old style camps are now being replaced by well-supplied campers and clubhouses. The memories of these camps, however, will live on for many of us and I hope each of us takes the time to pass on those memories. With all the memories people had from these camps, one thing noticeably absent were pictures. The folks in those camps were not worried about phones, communications or pictures, just about the enjoyable times, the pursuit of the game and the memories that were made. I finally found a few pictures and I want to thank each person who was willing to share a picture or a story. I hope to relay more stories and pictures in a later article.

We are very fortunate to have great outdoor traditions like these camps that have been passed down. We are also very fortunate to have great outdoor resources to enjoy in the Natural State. Whether it be hunting, camping, hiking or just a walk to the mailbox, make it a point to get out and enjoy some of the great things God has blessed us with. I hope to see you out there.

**I**t was a cold, crisp morning. Dad and I entered the woods early and found a spot to sit next to an oak tree overlooking an Ozark hillside. The morning was calm, which amplified the sound of squirrels scurrying through the crunchy leaves. With each rattle of leaves I would envision a big buck coming our way, only to see another bushytail bouncing along the forest floor.

We sat patiently and quietly and anxiously hoped for an elusive whitetail to make its way along the hillside below us. As the sun brightened the woods, two does worked cautiously down a trail about forty yards in front of us, occasionally glancing over their shoulders. We hoped there would be a legal buck on their trail, but the plaintive cries of a couple of beagles could soon be heard. The dogs made their way by us with their noses to the ground and never gave us a look. The woods once again became quiet and we sat patiently until the cold made us decide to head back to camp.

I was about eleven years old and this was one of my first recollections of deer hunting. It took place at a deer camp near Martin Creek. In the late '70s the deer herd in Arkansas was still in the early growth stage. Whitetails were almost non-existent in Greene County so most hunters would travel elsewhere and stay for a week or more in pursuit of the elusive whitetail. Destinations included the Ozark Mountains, Ouachita Mountains, the White/Arkansas river bottoms or the Gulf Coastal Plains of the southern part of the state.

No matter the destination, these camps often looked the same. I can still recall the smell and feel of the old Army tent that served as base for our camp. During November, these tents would spring up throughout the woods

and provide a base for the hunters to gather for meals and warmth. In my memory, only a select few got to sleep in these tents. The old hands or camp cooks would get preference while other hunters would pitch smaller tents or stay in the beds of their pickups with a camper shell as their shelter.

There was always a fire going in the center of camp and there was usually one person whose sole job was to tend the fire. The flames provided warmth and the dim light of the fire helped to illuminate the area. Many camp residents also had a Coleman lantern that provided a wonderful glow to the camp each evening.

A vast array of hounds, from beagles to walkers also resided in our camp. They waited in kennels or on chains around the camp to be released to chase a whitetail.

The total deer harvest each year in the late '70s was around 40,000, compared to near 200,000 today, so the number of deer taken in these camps was often minimal, but that did not stop the enthusiasm of the hunters and



# HAPPENINGS

## CATCH ALLIE COLLEEN IN CONCERT



Billy Palmer and his wife purchased The Opera House in Kennett, Missouri, to bring fun activities to the area. "There is never anything to do," he says, "and we want to change that!"

They plan to bring a couple of big name artists to the venue each year, starting with Allie Colleen. You can catch her performance November 9th with supporting act Iron Mountain Railroad Revival. The doors open at 6 p.m., show starting at 7:30 p.m. General Admission tickets are \$25 each before tax, VIP tickets are \$50, which includes the first five rows in front of the stage, a meet and greet backstage with Allie, with food and drink provided. Tickets available at: [operahousekennett.com](http://operahousekennett.com). You can check out Allie on Facebook.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MELISSA LAMB



Mrs. Lamb received the JAG Peak Performance Award and the Outstanding JAG Specialist Award at the 35th Annual JAG National Training Seminar in New Orleans.

Mrs. Lamb is the Career Ready & JAG instructor at Paragould High School.

## RIVERS OF RECOVERY GOES FISHING



National organization Rivers of Recovery takes veterans from Northeast Arkansas to a fly fishing trip in Cotter, Arkansas, for four days to enjoy professionally led trails and chef-cooked food at a fisherman's lodge. Rivers of Recovery is a national organization specializing in the rehabilitation of combat veterans suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), minor Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI), stress, anxiety and depression. They combine outdoor recreational activities with instruction on the self-treatment of symptoms of stress, depression and anxiety, empowering veterans to live a life that is no longer restricted by psychological or physical disabilities.

## GCT TEACHERS AWARDED GRANT



Congratulations to Greene County Tech Elementary teachers Cassie Foster and Stephanie Newberry, who along with Dr. Brent Cox wrote a grant for safety and crisis supplies and received \$1,200 from the Greene County Endowment Foundation. The GCT staff members were presented the grant by Paragould Police Officer and a member of the Greene County Rescue Squad, Arron Schenk, during the yearly Safety Team Meeting held October 5 at West View Baptist Church. GCT is very proud of the grant and all of the hard work to secure these supplies for students.

# BIRTHS



## *Kily Mae Williams*

Proud parents Kurt and Lisa Williams of Paragould welcomed their daughter, Kily Mae Williams, into the world on September 26, 2018.

Kily was delivered at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 1/5 inches long.

Photograph by Cammy Higdon



## *Maddie Brady*

Austin and Allison Brady of Marmaduke announce the birth of their daughter, Maddie Brady. She is welcomed by brother Case, and grandparents Richard and Tammy Brady of Marmaduke, Bill Potter of Oak Grove and Aaron and Denise Smith of Paragould.

Born September 3rd, 2018, at NEA Women's Center, Maddie weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Photography by Allison Brady



## *Anna Crook*

On September 24th, proud parents Steven and Shay Crook of Jonesboro welcomed baby Anna Crook into the world.

Anna measured 19.5 inches long and weighed 5 pounds and 11 ounces and was delivered at Methodist Germantown in Memphis. She was welcomed by big brother Eli Crook, uncle Sean Glenn and cousins Brea, Tessa, Tabitha and Austin Crook. She is granddaughter to Linda and George Glenn, Jr., and Pat and Ron Crook; and niece to aunt Shannon Crook and uncle Ronnie Crook.

Photography by Jessica Henninger

# ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS



## *Lindsey Killough & Devin Quearry*

Engaged couple Lindsey Killough, of Paragould, and Devin Quearry, of Blytheville, have announced their engagement and plans to be married.

The bride's parents are Topper and Suzette Killough. The groom's parents are David and Sue Quearry, and Wes and Sania Craft.

Photography by Janie Claire Photography

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# LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

Loneliness is everywhere in the U.S., across every sector of society. A survey of more than 20,000 American adults conducted earlier this year by the health insurer Cigna found that a majority of us are lonely. The highest scores were reported by the youngest adults, ages 18 to 22. The researchers describe it as a “loneliness epidemic.”

None of this should surprise us. Americans today have fewer shared projects than our parents and grandparents did. We change jobs more often, we have fewer lasting work friendships. We delay marriage, have fewer children and live in larger homes that are designed to isolate us from our neighbors. We move from place to place in search of greater economic opportunity.

The smartphone has further undermined any sense of place by allowing us to mentally “escape” our homes and neighborhoods. We can instantly connect with the supposedly more exciting lives of others, only further exaggerating our sense of loneliness.

None of us want to be left out. The same isolation we felt at the edge of the cafeteria or as the last kid picked for kickball is the same isolation many of us feel today.

How do we fix this?

Six years ago, my wife and I made a commitment to put down roots in our hometown of Paragould when we decided to plant a church.

Meagan and I have worked with our children, along with other families in our church, to develop an imperfect strategy for engaging more meaningfully with our own community. We’ve tried, through what our church calls “missional communities”, to become friends with people from every race and income bracket. We’ve become intentional about meeting refugees, recovering addicts, veterans, athletes, single moms, at risk teens and foster children where they are.

Though often difficult and messy, this is the way forward. To rebuild our communities, we need to launch safe communities that will welcome the lost and lonely, offering them a new form of family. A place where they can belong, be loved and be accepted, and in return, learn how to give life and love to others.

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# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month?  
**Santa Clause is  
Coming to Town!**



## Holiday Traditions



Old ones and new for your to add to your family.

## Events



Veteran's Day, Cheers for Charity, & more!



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