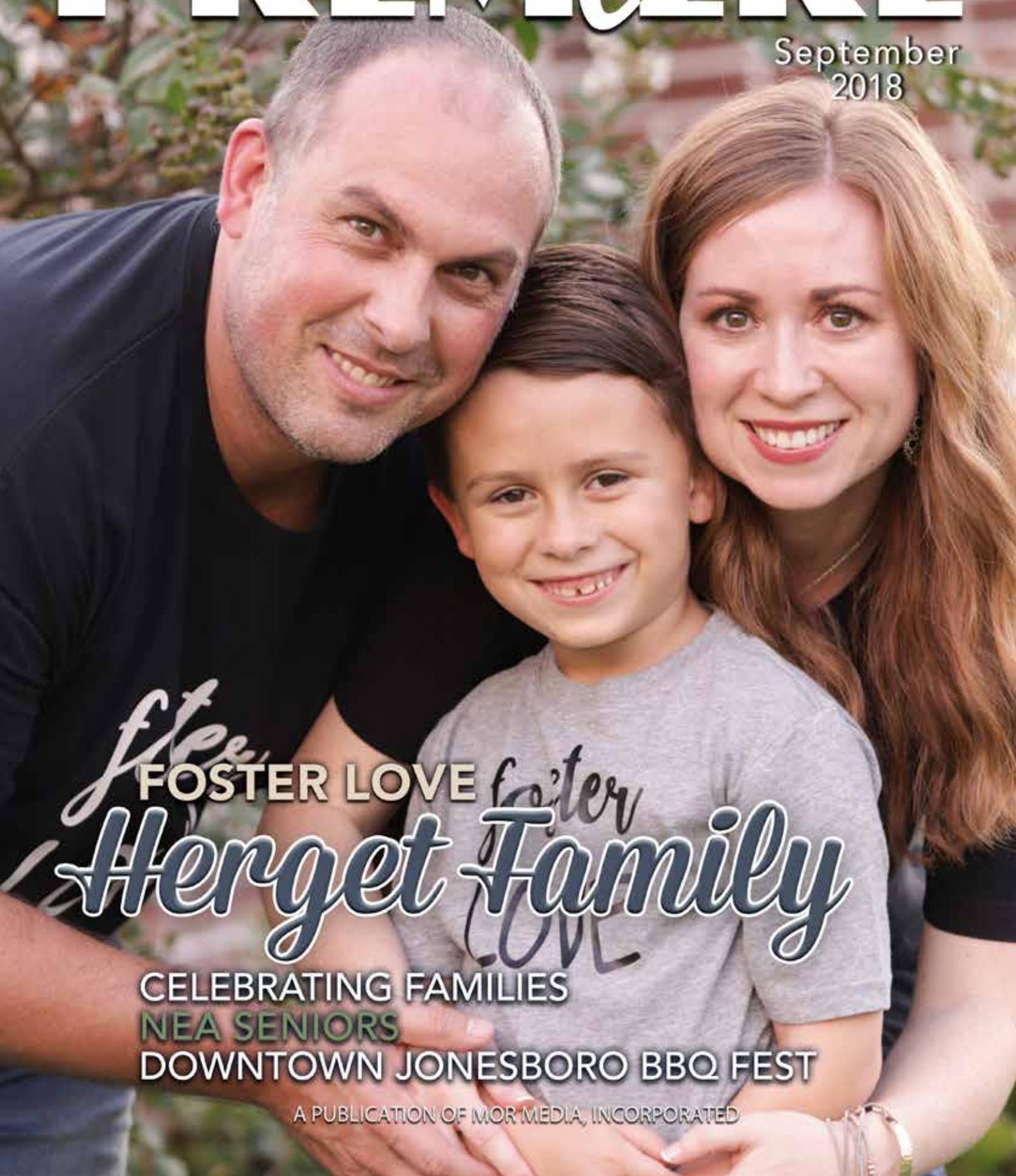


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CORRECTION:

In the August Edition, we missed giving credit to photographer Cobi Murdock for her beautiful wedding photos at the Weaver wedding.

On The Cover: Nate Herget Family
Photo By: Amy Reeves Photography



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From The PUBLISHER... DINA MASON

September may not feel like Fall yet but it has enough hint to make me giddy for my favorite season. I love the colors, the weather, the holidays and, of course, Pumpkin Spice! Starting the holiday season made us think of family and hearing so many stories of our society's failing family made us look for the heroes stepping up to help mend and improve the situation instead of just complaining about it.

Fostering may not be for everyone but there are many heroes who commit to the process and make the effort to improve even just one child's life, or even several within the parameters of their own family situations. The message of ways others assist and support them along the way is what I hope our readers get out of these features. Believe me, it took some convincing to get these features, as the subjects don't see themselves as heroes at all; but I certainly do and I am sure the children whose lives they enrich do, as will you when you read their stories. Don't miss the sisters feature for the other side of the foster story, as these ladies open up about their personal experience.

As you read these stories, if you cannot see yourself opening your home at least consider ways you might be able to help. Respite -- which means you get certified to be a home available for placement but instead of having children placed with you, other foster parents are able to have a break while you "foster

sit" for them. There are so many other ways from financial donations or items you no longer need to just encouragement to these heroes! And there is CASA volunteering, too. See the article on page 17 and if you don't have time for that then support the efforts by signing up for their Golf Tournament!

The fall season also brings festivals and celebrations, so don't miss out. Keep your Premiere Magazine handy and plan to attend events like Taste of the Ridge, the Downtown Jonesboro BBQ Fest and so much more.

It may be early to talk Veterans Day festivities but our feature on Sgt. Wesley Foster will spark the idea of learning the story behind the monuments in our town. Will Lonergan sent us the article on Ed Hudson's quest to fulfill his promise to his grandmother and how that will lead to Greene County's having the opportunity to honor and celebrate veterans this year. So stay tuned for more information in the next issues of Premiere. Premiere is packed so don't miss the NEA Seniors section and our regular features with Get Rich; Living a Better Story; and Chuck Long's Outdoor column on Dove Season.

Thank you for reading Premiere and remember we are always looking for the "Good News and the People who make it Happen" so if you know of someone we should feature, tell us at premiere-magazine.com.



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GREENE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT REUNION

By Richard Brummett

The second version was bigger and better than the first as almost 100 people currently or formerly connected to local law enforcement got together for the Greene County Law Enforcement Reunion in August.

Last year's turnout for the inaugural event surprised organizers and convinced them this year's version needed more space to accommodate the crowd, so the Paragould Community Center played host to officers with the Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Game and Fish, police departments from all over the county and the Greene County Sheriff's Department, as well as family members and friends of those who have served.

Organizer Omer Overbay said one of the main reasons he and Paragould officer Brad Snyder decided a year ago to stage the event was to let members of all branches of law enforcement know how much their efforts are appreciated, and to help the men and women reunite with fellow officers they may not have seen for many years.

Overbay said his favorite part of holding the reunion is watching officers get to catch up

and share stories and laughter as they recount their days together on the job. After opening words from Mayor Mike Gaskill, Overbay, Snyder and the Paragould Police's Chris Bunch, attendees dined on a meal catered by representatives of John 3:16, then settled in for continued conversation and camaraderie. Overbay said he hopes the tradition continues for years to come and gets even bigger in the future.



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ASHLEY SPEAKS

By Joy Robinson

How can a woman manage to be the wife of a politician, a personal assistant, a princess – even a cat? Ashley Speaks, a performer with the Greene County Fine Arts Council of Paragould, is still a relatively new face to local theatre, but has played many roles already.

Since 2015, Ashley has been involved in the Collins Theatre production of “Cats” and “The Man Who Came to Dinner”, and the GCFAC productions of Neil Simon’s “Rumors”, Disney’s “The Little Mermaid”, “Beauty and the Beast” and “Mary Poppins”, “Miracle on 34th Street”, “Charlotte’s Web”, “The Addams Family”, and more.

Speaks, originally from Lake City, lives in Paragould and works for the Paragould School District as the Junior High Special Education Language Arts Teacher. As a teacher, she believes the Arts are essential to education as a whole. “By educating our kids in the Arts, we are investing in their futures and building self-confidence,” Speaks says. “Being a part of the Arts has brought about many new sides to myself that I never even knew existed. Our kids should have the same opportunity to grow confidently in their own skin.”

While she’s played many characters, the role of Rumpleteazer in the Collins production of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Cats” is her favorite. “Rumpleteazer is half of a mischievous duo of cats,” she stated, “and I loved being able to ‘become’ a cat.” She adds that it was extremely rewarding, and she learned a lot about herself and her abilities as a performer.

She also mentioned the role of Mara from “Miracle on 34th Street,” where she played a lawyer who doesn’t believe in Santa Claus. “I just happened to play the role opposite by husband, Aaron,” she said, “who played the role of Fred. Which was fun because we argued most of the show.”

She credits support from Aaron and family, because being on stage has always been one of her dreams, the main reason she decided to start performing with the GCFAC. “We didn’t have a large drama department at my high school,” she said. “Being able to have new and wonderful experiences with the GCFAC has been such a blessing.”

“You never know what can happen on stage,” she said. “So much time and effort goes into the shows and the end product is always rewarding.”

Ashley recalls high school, where she played the role of a character who was poisoned and had to “die” on stage. “My family said the

death looked real,” she said, “but I ‘died’ in the line of the curtain. So when the curtain closed, my upper body was still sticking out.”

Speaks then decided to slowly push herself back under the curtain, and the crowd roared with laughter. “I was embarrassed, but I laugh about it today. And I make sure that if my character ever has to ‘die’ on stage again, I’ll do it behind the curtain.

“I believe more youth should be involved with community theater organizations like the GCFAC,” she adds. “Kids today can sometimes be too serious in school or athletics, or too worried about what others think about them. By being involved in plays or musicals, they can learn about accepting themselves. They learn how to process constructive criticism, and most importantly, being able to laugh at themselves when they make a mistake. I’ve met so many kind and dedicated people through acting. I wouldn’t trade the memories we’ve made for anything.”

Speaks will be part of the ensemble in the upcoming production “Little Shop of Horrors” presented by the Greene County Fine Arts Council October 25-28 at the Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould. You can visit the GCFAC on Facebook or at www.gfcac.org.



BEATLES AT THE RIDGE 2018

By Harry Truman Moore

Beatles at the Ridge, one of the South's fastest growing festivals, will roll out its sixth edition September 14-15, 2018, in Walnut Ridge.

BATR was named the "2017 Festival of the Year" by the Arkansas Festival and Events Association. In 2013 BATR was named the "Top New Festival in Arkansas."

This year's festival lineup is "bigger and better," with expanded musical offerings as well as an outstanding "Authors and Artists' Symposium." Admission to all events is free.

John Lennon will be showcased in at least three events. On September 7 the U.S. Postal Service will release "The John Lennon Forever" stamp in honor of Lennon's 77th birthday. The stamp, and a special postmark commemorating the BATR Music Festival, will be available both days.

Author Jude Sutherland Kessler, symposium moderator, will be selling *Should Have Known Better*, the fourth of her ten editions in *The John Lennon Series*. The book covers the period of February, 1964, through January, 1965. One of the chapters is simply titled,

"Walnut Ridge," and recounts the Beatles' stopover in the town during the weekend of September 18-20, 1964.

The "Featured Author" is Vivek Tiwary, whose graphic novel, *The Fifth Beatle*, (on the life of Beatles manager, Brian Epstein) is being made into a television series. The book reached #1 on the New York Times best-seller list in 2013.

Author and film maker David Bedford, a lifelong resident of Liverpool, will share his vast knowledge of Beatles' history, and will talk about his recently released book, *In Search of the Fourth Beatle*. There will be a showing of Bedford's film, "Looking For Lennon."

Saturday's Grand Finale symposium speaker will be Dr. Kit O'Toole, whose topic will be "10 Ways the White Album Changed Music Forever!" Other speakers and artists include Alan Bernhoft, Marti Edwards, Sara Schmidt, Lanea Stagg and Enoch Doyle Jeter, artist in residence at the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

Friday at 6 p.m. a featured panel will



The author with the late Sonny Burgess at the 2016 festival. The Legendary Pacers will be playing again this year.

discuss "Memories of 1964." The panel will include Ivor Davis, a British reporter, and Art Schreiber, an American reporter, who both covered the 1964 tour; Reed Pigman, Jr., whose father owned the American Flyers Airplane that landed in Walnut Ridge; John Trusty, who spent time with the Beatles in Key West in 1964; and Harry Truman Moore of Paragould, who covered the Beatles' 1964 visit for the *Walnut Ridge Times Dispatch*.

Musical offerings for BATR have been expanded with dual tracks, one featuring contemporary Christian artists, and the other featuring traditional and Southern Rock n' Roll.

Saturday's Christian artists will include After Grace; We Are Vessel; Justin Teseniar; and the JJ Weeks Band.

Friday night's rock artists will include the Legendary Pacers, the group founded by the late Sonny Burgess. Saturday's performers include Drive South (from Paragould), and the Arkansas Brothers. The Grammy nominated Liverpool Legends Beatles Tribute Band will close out the festival.

Chairing the event is Mayor Charles Snapp, assisted by his wife, Jackie; the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce; the City of Walnut Ridge; and Downtown Walnut Ridge.

For complete schedules and more information, check out the award-winning "Beatles at the Ridge" website.



This is Jude Southerland Kessler at last year's symposium. To her left is John Trusty of Key West, FL, and on the screen is Eva Zavala, the American Flyers stewardess who was on the plane with the Beatles when it landed in Walnut Ridge in September, 1964.

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By Deborah Carter

We got Lib and Giz's mother, a Nigerian goat, around five years ago at a live auction. Last year, we bought their dad, a Lamancha Earless goat, and in the fall of 2017 Lib and Giz were conceived. In the spring of 2018, a male and female twins were born. Giz, the brown one, found a home shortly after weening, and we still have Lib with us.

Both are very smart and determined, getting out of any pen they want. They are also quite social, letting almost anyone pet them and play with the dogs.

Like most goats, they love to jump and climb but always stay near their parents if they're around. Grabbing them by the horns is a no-go, but they love having their noses rubbed while you talk to them. Lib and Giz also love children, and are a little more tolerant of their horns being grabbed if it is done by a child.

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Wandering Veteran

FAMILY HISTORY OF A LOCAL VETERAN

By Will Lonergan

When Ed Hudson first gazed at the names inscribed in stone on the War Memorial at the Greene County Courthouse, he had no idea how much he would learn, or how far his journey would take him.

He was on a quest, aiming to solve a mystery and keep a promise he made to his grandmother more than forty years ago. Among the names on the War Memorial was Sgt. Wesley Foster, who was killed in World War I. Sgt. Foster, who lived in Paragould, was Hudson's great-uncle.



Sgt. Wesley Foster

"My grandmother was one of Wesley's younger sisters, and she just adored him," said Hudson. "I grew up hearing stories about Wesley, and he became a hero to me, too."

But there's more to the mystery and to the quest. Hudson grew up in the shadow of two heroes: Wesley and David Crockett. According to the family history, the Fosters were related to Davy (David, as he called himself) Crockett, the famous frontiersman, statesman, and hero of The Alamo.

"I always wondered if it was true, or just a legend," said Hudson.

Following leads, doing some solid genealogy and detective work, Hudson, a cousin in Paragould, and friends proved it to be true.

"That was pretty exciting," said Hudson. "Wesley grew up in that big shadow; it really affected his life and the way he thought. I'm glad we were able to prove the connection." Sadly, Wesley was among that "Lost Generation" of young men swallowed up in WWI, the "War to End All Wars." He was killed in action on October 11, 1918, just one month before the Armistice.

The family was notified that Wesley had been killed. Later, they received kind, thoughtful letters from two officers who had known Wesley. One was his company captain who had served with him and endured the same hardships. But they received practically no information about where he had been, or

any details of his service record. His remains were eventually returned home for burial at Linwood Cemetery.

"The family didn't get answers, and they didn't get closure," Hudson said.

To make matters worse, the U.S. Army made some clerical errors about Wesley's rank and unit, so getting information was difficult. Even his grave marker was incorrect.

That's where the mystery and the promise come in.

"Many years ago, I promised my grandmother that I'd find out what happened to Wesley, and make sure he was treated with honor and respect," Hudson said. "It has taken me over forty years to do it!"

Hudson's quest led him from the War Memorial at the Greene County Courthouse to the battlefield in France where Wesley died, and beyond.

"It was a very humbling experience, standing there in that quiet patch of French woods overlooking rolling hills and farm fields. I tried to imagine what had happened there 100 years ago," he stated. "It was very moving, to be there, where Wesley and so many other brave young Americans sacrificed their lives for our liberty."

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Wesley and his sisters, 1907

Hudson had many of Wesley's letters and postcards, so he set about following his footsteps after he left Paragould in 1909. "Riding the rails," finding day labor and migrant work, Wesley traveled all over the country, and had many interesting experiences.

To try and understand what Wesley's life was like, Hudson extensively researched the social, economic and political conditions in pre-WWI America and around the globe.

"I was stunned at how little has changed in the human story," Hudson said. "One hundred years ago our country was going through great upheaval. Social, economic, and political systems were being challenged. Immigration was a hot topic. At home and abroad, America was redefining itself. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?"



Wesley home on furlough, with family and friends, 1917.

They say "travel broadens the mind" and that certainly seems to have been true with Wesley. He fled the hard life of a sharecropper and the timber industry in Greene County, but got quite an education and found out that home wasn't so bad after all.

After joining the Army in 1914, Wesley served in Central America, in the Philippines,

and other parts of the world. When war was declared, experienced non-commissioned officers were very rare, and the Army put Wesley to work training and preparing troops for deployment.

As soon as possible, Wesley requested transfer to the 33rd Division, one of the first to be sent to France.

Going "Over the Top"

Wesley fought in many battles, especially the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of 1918 which succeeded in breaking Germany's will to continue fighting.

"It is a compelling story, with a message for our times," said Hudson. "Wesley was like any other young man, just trying to find his way in life, to do what is right, but in a world gone mad."

2018 is the WWI Centennial year, and Hudson has plans for keeping that promise he made to his grandmother.

Hudson will give a presentation on the life and times of Sgt. Foster on Friday, November 9, 2018, at 2 p.m. at the Greene County Library. Sgt. Foster's weathered grave stone will be replaced, and a new monument will be dedicated in honor of Wesley, and all veterans, on November 10, 2018, at Linwood Cemetery.



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Marcy Doderer, president and CEO of Arkansas Children's Hospital, announced that Arkansas Children's Hospital Jonesboro Clinic will expand pediatric sub-specialty care.

Arkansas Children's Foundation Board member Kim Fowler and her husband Chris Fowler, President of Fowler Foods, Inc., donated \$750,000 to Arkansas Children's Foundation. The funds were used to purchase the building that houses the Arkansas Children's Hospital Jonesboro Clinic at 520 Carson Street in. In 2015, the Fowlers gave \$250,000 to create the Fowler Diagnostic Center, bringing their cumulative total giving to \$1 million in support of the local clinic.

"Serving the children of Arkansas is a top priority for our family," said Kim. "By donating the funds to support the purchase of the Arkansas Children's Hospital Jonesboro Clinic, we know we've made a positive investment for future generations as well as provide greater access to specialized pediatric healthcare for children in the region."

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FOSTER SISTERS *Kirsten & Sherri*

By Richard Brummett

Sisters Kirsten Ditto and Sherri May have strong opinions about foster care, knowing their lives could have taken a much darker turn had not someone been willing to rescue them and surround them with love when they were both very young.

"Our parents were on meth," Kirsten says, getting right to the point. "The night we were taken, there was a raid. They were cooking meth and selling it out of our house. I was 7, Sherri was 3. There were people in and out of the house all the time. We were watching television, *SpongeBob SquarePants*. There

were 10 to 15 people in the house at a time. A large group of police rushed in and yelled, 'Get on the ground!' It was pretty scary. They were all arrested and we were put in foster care that night."

That began a winding, twisting journey through the system, one in which the girls were returned to their biological mother for a time before finding themselves back in foster care. Eventually they were both adopted and life at long last had a silver lining, even though the circumstances of the past forced them to mature rapidly. As the older sister, Kirsten assumed the role of mother and protector for Sherri. "From the day they brought Sherri home, me as a 3-year-old had to take care of her," Kirsten said. "I remember climbing up on the kitchen counter to get a can of corn for her to eat. It forced me to grow up. I talk more; it's the roles we've taken on."

"I think I still see her like that," Sherri said of her sibling, explaining that maybe that's why she defers to Kirsten during most situations. "Your mother is supposed to love you. She's been more like a mother to me. I remember the night they took us, even though I was only 3. *SpongeBob* ... that's something I remember. I feel like she's more my mom than our real mom. Mother loved drugs more than she loved us."



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Kirsten said an aunt, who often kept the sisters on weekends, actually tipped the police off to the parents' illegal activities. "She asked me when was the last time I had a bath," Kirsten recalled. "We had gone to school all week and I said no one had given me a bath. She said I was old enough to run the water and take my own bath, but I said, 'I can't. The tub is full of tubes and containers.' She knew they were cooking; she was a blessing for sure. I think we understood what happened. It was scary but better that way, even at that age; I knew we were better off."

The girls landed in the home of Ella and Terry Sullivan, called "awesome, awesome people" by Kirsten, and stayed for six months before being placed back with their mother for a year. Her mother and her new partner were still wrapped up in the drug world and "just left one day and left us alone with the babysitter." Because of the uncertainty comprising their home lives, Sherri missed a lot of school and was given a court date to address the issue. Their father re-entered the picture and made a small effort to take control of them, but he was not their legal guardian and still had drug issues of his own and "they said they were going to take her back to foster care, and me too. We were blessed enough to go back to the same foster home. We transferred schools,

which was definitely less traumatic and no more were we with our parents. We stayed in foster care before being adopted."

Sherri, 19, remembers life being so much better once their foster family showed them what love looked like. "They actually had, like, meals for us to eat," she said "The first night ... soup; vegetable soup. We were clean and we dressed nice. It helped us appreciate life. There's no telling where we would be."

"When we went to foster care, we had one black trash bag with clothes that we took for us," Kirsten said. "They had holes where the mice had chewed them, then we went to having nice clothes. At 7, I saw a lot of bad stuff. It took me years to realize what I saw. One time a man was demanding money from Mom; I realized she was prostituting herself to pay for drugs, and he was her pimp. At 7 I didn't know it, but at 15 I realized the gravity of the situation. When we went to foster care we got really sick and learned we were addicted to meth. We were like drug addicts coming down, and it made us sick for a while."

Kirsten, a digital sales specialist for KAIT, lifts her foot to show a tattoo. "8/29/08, our adoption date," she said in explaining the artwork. "Monavee and Robert May. She was

my 5th grade teacher at Tech. She was very caring and open. I could talk to her. Being my teacher, she knew my story. She prayed about it and talked with Robert, and God knew what we needed long before we did. God knew we needed both of them as our parents. He had His hand over the whole situation."

Even though the Mays already had five children, they welcomed the sisters into their family and life has been on the upswing ever since. Now 23, Kirsten puts a positive spin on a checkered past: "We are definitely blessed. If I could go back, I wouldn't choose a different path. It made us who we are. I know we were blessed to stay together, to stay in Paragould. I don't know if we'd been split up. I was mature enough at 12 to have a say in what happened to us. When they would say someone wanted to adopt just me, or just her, I would say that wasn't going to happen. Then when the Mays wanted us, I said, 'That's it. We don't have to look for anyone else.'

"I hope to adopt one day," she said. "I want to be that person I needed. We had a tough entry into life, but we are the picture-perfect foster care story. I think we're better people for it. We have pretty beautiful lives but it took a lot of pain to get us where we are."

Women's Health Fair



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RESTAURANT'S INSIGHT

SANDY'S MEXICAN BAKERY

By Calli Perkins



Last year, officially on April 7th, Sandy's Mexican Bakery made its appearance on Caraway Road in Jonesboro thanks to Sandy Morales. The journey, however, began a while before that. Sandy used to bake goods with her grandmother and sell them on the street, but otherwise doesn't actually bake often, especially with running the bakery and her janitorial service business, J&S Cleaning. Sandy also hasn't necessarily dreamed of owning a bakery, but her story of inspiration and faith is certainly meant to be.

During her family's 21-day fast, a local baker offered her some bread from his shop, a shop which happened to be for sale. She fell in love with the product, and thought the asking price for the store was such a steal that it felt like something bigger was happening, and that God has a plan for her.

"God just threw it in my hands and I caught it," Sandy says.

So she partnered with her current baker, Pedro, and moved forward with God's dream to open Sandy's Mexican Bakery.

"Pedro is the best baker I could ask for," Sandy says. "He tries every single day, and has improved so much, given the liberty to bake whatever he wants."

Pedro is self-taught as a baker from watching



his brother-in-law. He has been baking his own for three years, starting out making sourdough in California.

Sandy says, "We have the best conchas, snowballs, sugar cookies, and churros, which we sell fast!"

Sandy's doesn't only have small baked breads and sweets, but elegant tres leches cakes, 24 flavors of ice cream, beverages, and more. Special to this shop is their mangonadas, treats made from fresh diced mango, mango ice cream, and chamoy that are sweet and salty, with a bit of a kick.

"This business wasn't meant to make me a millionaire, I just care about money enough to pay my bills and workers," Sandy explains, "... it was meant for me to bless others through."

Part of her goals with the bakery is to spread God's love and work, even if just by making their day a little better with a delicious homemade Mexican pastry.

"I remember an elderly couple that came in on a whim after seeing our store across the street as they were leaving Lazzari. She wanted to try something new, although he wasn't so sure," she recalls. "After some conversation about how the bakery came to be, I spoke about my beliefs in God's plan and my mission to serve Him, and this man had let go and began crying because he was so touched. I told him that I am just the messenger, that those weren't my words but God's. They were passing through town from Ohio, and told me they knew they were sent by God to my bakery for a reason."

Although her path has seemed clear to her, it hasn't come without trials.

"At one time I had no profits for almost a month, and was considering closing due to not being able to pay my workers. When I went to church that Sunday, the pastor spoke on fear and I felt the Holy Spirit. He disciplined me with his love and care and said, 'I want you to not be afraid, I've got you,' and I listened, leaving it in His hands and trusting in Him," Sandy explains.

She continued working to keep things in motion, and soon she would get the answers she was looking for. Sandy and her family rearranged the store, created new products, produced a commercial, and watched as everything fell into place. In May, Sandy's had a Facebook Live to bring in business, which had over 3,000 views and had people



steadily coming in all day on a typically slow Monday. During that day, Sandy's Bakery brought in enough profits to be caught up on all expenses, including paying for the commercial. "I thanked God, because I knew it was him," she says.

At Sandy's, their mission is to make guests feel welcome and comfortable. Fluent in English and Spanish, they will be happy to make you feel at home and explain everything they have to offer.

"I was coming back from a mission trip when I was asked about the possibility of expanding to a second location, and without a second thought I just said, 'Yes!' and spoke it into existence, so now that's the next step."

Location and opening date will be announced soon, so be sure to keep an eye out for a second Sandy's location that will also feature meal items.

"Come out and give us a try in Paragould or Jonesboro, we will show you a different side of a Mexican bakery," says Sandy.



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Duck Classic

NEA BAPTIST CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation will host the 16th anniversary Duck Classic Banquet Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center. The fundraiser supports the six free programs of NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation, including Center for Good Grief, HopeCircle, Center for Healthy Children and Teens, ShareHope and Medicine Assistance Program.

Duck Classic is an annual fundraiser that takes place over two days, day one being a large, family friendly banquet and day two being a competitive duck hunt. The banquet on Dec. 6 will include dinner, both silent and live auctions, raffles, prizes and Duck Classic merchandise. Information about the event, donating spots for duck hunting, or registering a team can be found online at www.duckclassic.com. You can also follow the "Duck Classic – a fundraiser for NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation" Facebook page for updates and new information.



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Herget Family

FOSTER LOVE

By: Richard Brummett

There are many reasons for families to become involved in foster parenting but for Kersten and Nate Herget it was things they had seen, things they had experienced, some they felt.

Nate's 12 years in law enforcement exposed him to some terrible home life situations for others, and Kersten's role as a kindergarten teacher at Greene County Tech allowed her to see how those circumstances often influenced children in a negative way. But there was more.

"Fostering has always been something that's weighed heavily on our hearts," Kersten said, "but because of our struggle with infertility, it really opened our eyes to this enormous need. After we had Barrett, we both told each other that if we couldn't have more children, maybe this was what God was calling us to do. We were hesitant at first and were terrified to take that leap of faith. When our home initially opened, we spent the first six months providing respite care to other foster families and just easing into the process."

Things changed when the Hergets learned a little girl needed a safe haven and they were called to action. "One night we found out about a baby girl and felt God was telling us that we were ready and that it was time," Kersten recalled. "We didn't even think about it. We just said 'yes.' She arrived an hour or so later. We got to care for her, love on her, and treat her as part of our family for 351 days. As hard as it was to say goodbye, we'd do it all over again in a heartbeat and that's what we want others to understand."

Since opening their home to foster care in January of last year, the Hergets have housed seven or eight children for various lengths of time. Nate said their training helped prepare them to know a little of what might transpire and how to react to certain situations, but also said, "I don't know that anything is ever what you expect. You get calls in the middle of the night and each one is unique. You never know what you're getting ready to deal

with. Since we started, it maybe is a little more than what we'd thought. Sometimes it's supposed to be overnight, and it turns into two weeks. But whoever is here, for however long, they are our child. It's just a kid who needs help, and you love them."

Kersten agreed that much of the process is making adjustments on short notice, but understands their phone would not ring if some child didn't need help, and need help in a hurry. "I'm not going to lie and say that it's easy," she said. "Some days are really hard, especially when kids don't understand why they've been removed from their home, but at the end of those hard days, it's rewarding to know that you've provided love and security to a child when they've needed it most. We just pray that we can be what they need in that moment and provide peace and comfort to them during a very difficult time."

"You get calls when you least expect it, and you wish you could always say 'yes' but we've got standards. We don't want to take anyone older than Barrett. We've learned that it's okay to say 'no.' But any child that comes to us, they need to feel like they have a safe place. A lot of them have seen so much. I was driving through the neighborhood and had a 7-year-old in the car and he said, 'These are nice houses.' What 7-year-old is aware of that? They need an opportunity to be like normal kids. I took Barrett to swim and bragged on his improvement and the other little boy said, 'No one ever tells me I'm good at anything.' They struggle. They don't understand. I don't understand. How could you not love your child?"

Having been foster parents for a while, they are aware of the doubts and concerns some people express about entering the program. "The number one concern and statement that we hear repeatedly is, 'I just couldn't do it. I would get too attached.' We understand completely and even said those words ourselves," Kersten noted. "However, in our training we were told, 'You aren't doing it right if you don't get attached.' You truly do have to put

your feelings aside and make the decision to love a child, regardless of the outcome, because that's what they need and that's what they deserve. I often think of my own son and how if the roles were reversed, I'd desperately want someone to think he was worth loving and caring for, even if that meant heartache for them. These kids have had their whole world torn upside down and they need someone to believe they're worth the heartache, too."

Like so many other foster families, the Hergets would like people to understand there are numerous ways to help children in foster care through donations of time or goods, or even by just speaking words of support. "Even if you aren't feeling called to foster, or maybe it's not the right season in your life, you can still help," Kersten said. "Foster families also need support. Whether it's providing items the child might need, providing a meal for the foster family, or even offering to babysit, there are multiple ways to help. You can also get involved with CASA or sign up to provide respite care to a foster family you know. It can be difficult to find someone to watch your foster child for an extended period of time, especially if their home is full. So there's a huge need for respite families, as well. Oftentimes they just need a home for children to rest for the night. There have been a few times I've woken Nate up to tell him that DHS was on their way with a child."

The Hergets have not set a time frame on their fostering plan and figure they will know when the time is right for them to stop. Until then, their home will serve as a safe stopover for young people in need.

"We knew when it was time to say 'yes.' I think we'll know when it's time to say 'no,'" Kersten said. "I'm sure people burn out; it's a hard thing to do. I would absolutely do it again, knowing what I know now. Having that little girl for a year was rewarding. It could have been us in that situation. Our son is so fortunate. This has taught all of us to have empathy for others."



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Lifestyles

Roberts Family

FOSTER LOVE

By: Richard Brummett

Lindsay and Quincy Roberts sort of traded roles in their approach to becoming foster parents. She had considered doing it for some time, but he was not on board right away. Then, they went to a meeting outlining the process.

"Since I was a teen, I thought it would be a neat thing to do," Lindsay said. "We started talking about it in 2016 but he was not into the whole idea. I got him to go to a meeting, and all of a sudden he says, 'I'm in.' He was all ready to go. I'm a planner, I have to plan everything out, and suddenly I wasn't sure if I was ready. But in October of '16 we started the classes and opened up in January of '17."

Quincy said his change of heart wasn't so hard to explain. "I prayed about it," he said, as simple as that.

Since they have a young daughter, Ella, they did not want to house an older child. A three-year-old boy seemed a perfect fit and all their lives have changed for the better since his arrival. "We said we'd take one child," Lindsay recalled. "We always talked about one being no big deal; but it's a big deal to that one kid. People don't realize you can select your ages. You set the limits: one kid or five. We have a six-year-old, so we wanted a child two or younger. We get phone calls for kids 17 or 18 but we have the option of saying, 'No, that's not for us.' It took some adjusting. They call you that night and then you have a kid in the house. We like for him to experience things. We go and do things like we always have. We want to provide the chance for a child that may not otherwise have those experiences."

"It's been up and down," Quincy added, "but overall a blessing. That little boy, from the time we got him until now, he's been a blessing."

As a kindergarten teacher in the Greene County Tech system, Lindsay knows many

children are not adequately provided for and need a temporary home when their lives are disrupted. "We're called to help people," she said. "Our church family and our family ... that first week, people cooked for us, brought us clothes because they knew we had a girl ourselves... we have a good support system."

Yet, they say, there is so much more people can do. "Go to classes, then work in respite care," Lindsay said. "If we have to go out of town, you can sub for us. Also, be like emergency placement, where a child can just stay for a night. Donate clothes at DHS. There's plenty you can do."

"Midnight and 2 a.m. calls aren't for everyone. I always hate to say no, but we want to give him the best experience we can for a child. He has blessed our lives as much

as we have blessed his. We always said we would do the same for any kid in our home as we would our own. We want to give them life experiences."

The rural setting of their home -- 21 acres complete with horses and goats and fishing opportunities -- has allowed them to expose the children to the benefits of country living and Quincy summed up what being a foster family has come to be for all of them.

"He's just a part of our family," Quincy said of the little boy in their care. "People say they could never do this because they are afraid they would get too attached to them. You're supposed to. They need that love."

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TORNADOES MAKE HISTORY

By Erik Wright

Monday, August 20, 2018 was an eventful day for the citizens, and the history, of Greene County. According to Gary Woodall, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service field office in Memphis, the multiple tornadoes which touched down that day were the very first (in recorded history at least) for Greene County in the month of August.

From an emergency management perspective, the tornadoes proved an especially dangerous situation. Not only were the tornadoes unexpected that day, but seasonally, as the record would suggest, they were far from the norm. If I may write frankly for a moment to you, the citizens of Greene County, I must say I was disappointed in what I saw as I and many first responders were scrambling to make sense of what was occurring. Over the radio chatter coming from the centralized dispatch center I began to quickly hear rumors of not one, but two tornadoes touching down in Greene County. I had just made it to my home in the western part of the county when the warnings were sounded, but quickly

retreated to the city and while en route saw a dropping and somewhat disjointed funnel cloud dropping from the west over the Pine Knot area of Paragould. As I drove down Highway 412 and entered the Center Hill part of town I found that most homes and businesses had been vacated and their occupants were now outside watching or taking pictures of the struggling tornado. Needless to say that I was alarmed.

While this particular tornado would be officially designated as an EF-1 the following day by meteorologists from the National Weather Service who surveyed the damage path, we didn't know what it was or what it had done or what it was capable of doing. Nonetheless, EF-0 and EF-1 tornadoes are overwhelmingly the most common type of tornadoes found in the United States each year and an estimated 80 percent of all tornadoes are such. Though their official classification is "weak" their wind speeds can reach as high as



Photo courtesy of FEMA.

112 miles per hour and structures can suffer roof damage, vehicles can be moved off the road, and mobile homes can be pushed off their foundations. In one case on Monday a mobile home was shifted from its foundation and was turned over on its top. Other sites of damage include large trees snapped in the middle or toppled over at the base, a work trailer was thrown from its parking space and roofs of barns were ripped to shreds.

None of this happened in a populated area. But it could have. In April 2006 an EF-1 tornado began near Shannon in Randolph County and quickly enhanced to a high-end EF-3 tornado as it crossed east into Greene County. In the tornado's wake were 130 houses and 25 mobile homes which were destroyed. One car was thrown 80 miles from a Marmaduke residence. The Marmaduke tornado of 2006 was part of a much larger, six hour and 43-minute outbreak that caused an estimated 1.1 billion dollars in damage across the Midwest.

Tornadoes are no joke. Just ask the people of Joplin, Mo. On May 22, 2011, what is perhaps the most violent tornado ever recorded slammed into the western Missouri city. With winds exceeding 200 miles per hour it killed 158 people and caused 1,150 injuries. A staggering 7,500 homes were damaged or destroyed and nearly three billion dollars in damage was reported. The Joplin tornado was so intense it even ripped manhole covers from the street and scoured out pavement on the roads. Incidentally, the Joplin tornado had a duration of 38 minutes and began as an EF-0.

When sirens blare or when warnings go off on your television, weather radio, or phone, heed the message and seek shelter. Leave the storm spotting for the professionals and don't become a victim because of your natural curiosity. If you or your business have questions or need input on storm safety, please reach out to me at oem@greene.ar.gov.

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Pictured are AMMC Director of The Foundation & Marketing Shay Willis, Danny Ford, AMMC Foundation Assistant Teresa Vangilder and Salesman Mike Reed.

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Watson Family

FOSTER LOVE

By: Richard Brummett

Lindsey Watson went on a mission trip to Nicaragua and came home convinced she wanted to adopt a child. When her husband, Stephen, wasn't certain that was the best decision at the time, she kept the option on the table for discussion.

"He didn't really want to think about it," Lindsey said. "It was not 'no,' but it definitely was not 'yes.' We prayed about it; we knew it would have to be a family decision. And then, we knew we were supposed to do it. When you know, you know."

The Watsons went through training with Christians 4 Kids in Jonesboro and then "he signed the papers quicker than I did," Lindsey said of Stephen. "We had nine weeks of classes for certification, and they opened us in August two years ago. We said we wanted kids age two or younger because of the ages of our kids. We felt God was calling us to do this. Every kid that has come into our house

... it's meant to be. We've had at least 15 to 20 from newborn to age 7. In fact, our very first placement, we adopted. He's been ours since. Very first one, Kyson, the baby."

Their other children -- Camdyn, 13; Keyton, 11; and Kynder, 7 -- play an active role in welcoming the new children they foster. "Our kids are in sports, so we're very busy, we have a car full all the time," Lindsey said. "We have taken this on, and it's a huge blessing and our children have been so incredible. Their love and compassion for these kids, I could not have expected. We make family decisions. They go to the visits to see the transition. I want my kids to see. I want them to see kids who have nothing more than a bag of clothes that don't fit. The heartache is so real, but it needs to be."

Lindsey said not everyone is called to be foster parents but they can contribute in other ways. They can donate clothes, take

foster families to supper, babysit, or do something as simple as "tell them 'good job' and encourage them," she said.

"The experience is more emotionally than I expected," she added. "We had a little boy for nine months and he had my heart. Every day is something different ... a happy day, a court day. I thought I was prepared, but I wasn't. I still feel it's what I'm called to do and we have a big 'fostering village' where we talk a lot to others, and have good communication and that helps a ton.

"Every single child, whether they were with us for a night or a month, has taught me a lesson. They have brought me to the feet of Jesus. I turn everything over to God. Even in court, I trust that God has a bigger plan. We're a part of every kid's story and they're a part of ours. That makes me want to keep doing it."



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Adoption Impact

SMITH FAMILY

By: Caitlin LaFarlette

In just four short years, Tammy and Robert Smith of Paragould have become parents to five children through the process of adoption. Even though their day to day life is “one spilled milk away from being the end of the world,” the parents wouldn’t trade their busy schedules for anything.

After the passing of their 8-month-old son Fletcher Kyle in 2013 due to a genetic disorder, the Smiths knew more biological children would not be possible for them. The couple took time to process their loss but eventually began paperwork for adoption. Tammy, adopted from foster care herself, knew the impact they could make.

“One day while at work I received a phone call from Robert that we had been matched with a lady from Springdale who wanted to place her baby with us,” Tammy said. “Three weeks later Jonah was born and it was love at first sight.”

The Smiths continue to have contact with Jonah’s biological parents and spent two years as a family of three. They soon realized something was missing and decided to open their home again.

“We knew there were a lot of kids who needed homes and we wanted to help,” Robert said. “We had enough room for three more kids in

our home but didn’t expect to get three more at one time.”

But that’s exactly what happened: the Smiths’ caseworker asked if they were interested in adopting three brothers and Robert said they couldn’t think of a reason to not keep the boys together.

“Less than one week later they were brought to our home and our family doubled in size overnight,” he said.

Corey, Sawyer and Justin were welcomed into the Smith household with an outpouring of love.

“For the first two weeks after getting the boys, every single day there would be a package on our front door with things we needed for our kids,” Tammy said. “We were given showers for the babies and even had meals that were cooked for us for over two weeks. Our family and friends have been so good to serve us and love us during these transitions over the last two years.”

The Smiths still have one more transition to make. Corey, Sawyer and Justin’s baby sister, joined the family in April and will officially become a Smith in October, bringing the family total to seven.

“Often, parents will have another child while they have children in foster care. In these situations the child will almost always be placed in the same home as their siblings and that’s how our baby girl made it to our home,” Robert said. “Keeping siblings together is the highest priority when they cannot return to their parents.”

Tammy said many people see “adoption” as a scary word but she wishes to ease that fear. She said children in the foster care system are just looking for parents to love and take care of them.

“So often we are told that people cannot afford it or that they aren’t perfect enough for adopting children, but all of those things are myths,” she said. “These children are not looking for perfect parents who have it all together. They are looking for parents who love them, feed them and have an interest in them first over all other things.”

Robert added that while adoption is hard, so is everything else in life. He said when talking to others about adoption, many of their uncertainties surround false statements.

“Robert and I wanted to change the lives of these kids,” Tammy said, “but in the end it’s our lives that are changed for the better.”





Downtown Jonesboro

BBQ & MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

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

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

Ritter Communications Stage. Also taking the stage on Saturday will be the Whyte Caps, a progressive rock band from Gulf Shores, Alabama.

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

"The Express Clydesdales of Express employment Professionals are coming to Jonesboro and Paragould. We invite you to share in the awe and wonder of these majestic creatures," a press release states.

"You will experience up close and personal the grandeur of these rare, black and white Clydesdales. Have your picture taken with these magnificent gentle giants and talk with their trainer and handlers for some great inside information. This is an event you won't want to miss!"



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WHAT'S COOKIN'?

MAKE-AHEAD FAMILY RECIPES

ENTRÉE

CHICKEN WITH TOMATOES & THYME

Ingredients:

1 lemon
1 28-ounce can diced tomatoes
8 sprigs thyme
1 tablespoon capers
4 small chicken thighs
4 small chicken drumsticks
Kosher salt and pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 1-quart resealable plastic freezer bags

Directions:

1. Slice the lemon into rounds. In a small bowl, combine the tomatoes and their liquid, lemon,

thyme, and capers. Divide them among the 4 plastic freezer bags.

2. Season the chicken with 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Add 1 leg and 1 thigh to each bag. Freeze, for up to 3 months, until ready to cook.

3. Heat oven to 400° F. Remove the bags of chicken and tomatoes from the freezer (you'll need 1 bag of chicken and tomatoes for each serving). Empty the contents of each bag into a baking dish. Drizzle with the oil, using 1 1/2 teaspoons for each serving. (For 4 servings, use 2 tablespoons oil.)

4. Roast until the chicken is golden brown and cooked through, about 50 minutes.



Recipe courtesy of www.realsimple.com.

SIDE DISH

TOASTY MAC & CHEESE

Ingredients:

6 tablespoons unsalted butter plus more for the baking dishes
1 lb cavatappi, penne, or another short pasta
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
5 cups whole milk
Kosher salt and black pepper
1 lb Cheddar, grated (about 4 cups) 1 cup grated Parmesan (about 4 ounces) 1 cup crushed buttery crackers (about 16 crackers)
2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350° F. Butter eight 6-ounce baking dishes or two 8-inch square baking dishes. Cook the pasta for 2 minutes less than the package directions suggest; drain and

return it to the pot.

2. Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the flour and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes (do not let darken). Gradually whisk in the milk; add 1 1/4 teaspoons salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Bring to boil, reduce heat, and simmer, whisking occasionally, until the sauce thickens slightly, 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from heat and gradually whisk in the Cheddar and Parmesan.

3. Add the sauce to the pasta and toss to combine. (The mixture will seem wet.) Dividing evenly, transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dishes and sprinkle with the crackers and parsley.

4. Bake until golden, 15 to 20 minutes OR this dish can be frozen, unbaked and covered in plastic wrap, then foil, for up to 3 months. To



bake, let thaw overnight in the refrigerator. Remove the plastic wrap, re-cover with foil, and bake at 350° F until heated through, 20 to 25 minutes for 6-ounce baking dishes or 50 to 55 minutes for an 8-inch square baking dish. Uncover and bake until golden, 5 to 10 minutes more.

Recipe courtesy of www.realsimple.com.

DESSERT

LEMON ICEBOX PIE

Ingredients:

1 can of Eagle brand sweetened condensed milk
3 eggs
3 lemons
1 graham cracker crust
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. cream of tartar

Directions:

1. Mix egg yolks, sweetened condensed milk, zest, and juice of three lemons. Pour in graham cracker crust and bake at 350° F for 30 minutes.

2. Beat egg whites, sugar, and cream of tartar until stiff peaks form.

3. Spoon whipped topping on top of pie and bake until brown. Let cool and refrigerate.



Recipe courtesy of Sarah Dawson



LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

We live in a cultural moment defined by divisiveness and chaos. Every day there is something new to be afraid of, something to fix or avoid. School shootings, Hep A virus, economic instability, and political upheaval all foster feelings of powerlessness. If I turn to social media to look for comfort or joy, I end up more discouraged. There's no perfect antidote for all this pain, but in the garden I find hope.

Although planting a garden might seem like an insignificant act, it offers us something deep and enduring: a reminder of God's provision and care for the earth, along with a practical, incarnational way to participate in His created order.

Every year, my wife, kids and I plant a small vegetable garden in four, 5-by-10 raised beds. We delight in every new razorback pea, okra pod, cucumber and pepper. In the process, I discovered the timelessness of gardening and why it matters for our particular moment.

First, in a culture driven by immediacy and instant gratification, gardening forces us to cultivate patience. Each time I work my fingers into the soil to plant seeds I have to wait for the harvest, a reminder that waiting is the fertile soil of our personal growth. We all like things now. The reality is, anything worth having takes time.

Second, gardening reminds us of our finitude and fallibility. Several of the plants we were most excited about this year never grew. Although we expected our large tomato plant to produce dozens of tomatoes, it only gave us one. There was nothing we could do about it.

Not everything we plant comes to fruition on our timetable, but as Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, God makes everything beautiful in its time. Some seasons appear dormant and fallow, but all the while, God is working His purposes for our greater good. Tending to a garden each year gives us fresh eyes to see his long-term, redemptive work.

Men are more likely to be diagnosed with melanoma than women.

JOEL EPPERSON, M.D.

If found early, melanoma is highly treatable and with summer nearing its end, it is still important to practice sun-safe behaviors and to get your skin checked for suspicious moles and lesions.



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September

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Info: www.mallatturtlecreek.com

8

Tai Chi Class

When: Saturday at 10 AM

Where: Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library

315 W Oak Ave, Jonesboro

Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.org

5, 12, 19, 26

Story Time

When: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

Where: Greene County Public Library

120 North 12th Street, Paragould

Info: www.mylibrarynow.org

School may be in full swing but there's still plenty of time for Trav Burton to enjoy being a baseball fan. Trav, 4, is the son of Bill and Shelly Burton of Jonesboro.



SEPIO

TECHNOLOGY

Sepio Technology, LLC is a full service information technology (IT) services company specializing in medical office IT. We can set up any size network to allow businesses to easily expand their system as business grows. Our backup and disaster recovery services have proven performance advantages, and we are the only IT company in Jonesboro with an FBI clearance, as well as HIPAA certification.

The company was born from the idea that Jonesboro needed a local IT company providing concierge level services. Ken Reese, along with Frank Hofsteden and Adam Browning, founded Sepio on that very premise. With more than 60 years of combined experience in the information technology field, Sepio can address the most complex and demanding IT business needs.

Sepio's white glove service is unique -- unlike any other IT service provider in the region -- offering a single point of contact for all of a company's information technology requirements, tailoring IT solutions to a client's specific needs and actively monitoring a company's network. Issues are addressed and resolved BEFORE they become a problem, giving business owners peace of mind that their data and networks are fully protected.

Our process begins with understanding an organization's specific IT challenges, initiatives and goals. We then work to design and implement a customized, comprehensive solution using best-in-industry hardware and software to provide a deterrent and protect data before it is lost or stolen by malicious acts, such as ransomware. Sepio also provides around the clock customer support to assist with any issues that may arise.

Sepio offers free consultations to determine the best solution for a company's specific needs. We are located at 101 S. Church, Suite 207 in Jonesboro. Give us a call today to discuss your company's IT service solutions at (855) 737-4624. Act now before disaster occurs.



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Fall 2018

A photograph of Claude Clement, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a light pink polo shirt and khaki pants. He is standing outdoors in a garden setting, with a brick wall and a window behind him. To his right is a black metal trellis structure holding several large pots of flowers, including white and pink petunias. The background shows a brick building and a window with white trim.

Claude Clement
MASTER GARDENER

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Host of Honor

BILLY FELTY

By Richard Brummett

His walls are filled with citations and awards, his mind is packed with vivid memories and his heart is full of love for his family. All that is immediately evident when sitting down for a conversation with Billy Felty, a resident of Chateau On The Ridge in Paragould.

In March of 2016 Felty, now 90, took a bad tumble, and his glasses shattered and cost him his sight in one eye. After undergoing the necessary treatments, he alternated spending time at his daughters' homes until July of that year, when he settled in at The Chateau and completed a round-trip journey much like one his parents had enacted many years before.

Felty was born in Stanford in December of 1927 and soon thereafter his parents -- Joseph and Bessie -- rented some ground at Lake Village. "We moved down there to farm but got caught in the '27 flood," he recalls. "We stayed two years but the flood messed us up one year and the cockleburrs the next year. We moved to Holly Grove and I started school there for the first and second grades. Then in 1936 we moved to Walcott and then back to Stanford in '38, as I recall. My dad said when we were at Holly Grove, 'If I ever get back to Greene County, I'm never moving again.' And we didn't."

His own travels took him to the nation's capitol for a time, to West Memphis for many years, and finally back to Greene County. After

graduating from Stanford High School in 1948 he worked in St. Louis for a year or two, then "got my call to the Army. It was at Fort Smith that they checked us in and they gave tests in the Morse Code. I took it and they played it along and said, 'Now you do it.' I thought I could, but I was just a young boy, 18, from Greene County. Anyway, I was selected for the Signal Corps school and they trained me. We boys were separated when we shipped out and they said they were keeping me for school. The others, they went to Korea for war. After a couple of weeks I was transferred to the White House in communications, in D.C."

Felty said it took a while to get clearance to work at such a delicate, high-level position, and detectives actually went to the Stanford community to find out all they could about him and his past: "I imagine everyone was saying, 'What's Bill done now?' That's what

I imagine all of them were saying, but after all that was over I spent two years in the White House. Truman was the President at the time and I would see him every morning that I walked to work. He was outside every morning in the same place and I would salute him and he would say, 'Good morning, soldier.' We had the run of the White House in the East Wing."

In December of 1952 the President invited Felty and others to share a Christmas celebration with his family. "Christmas was all in the White House upstairs and he walked us up the stairs and we shook hands with Bess and Margaret and himself," Felty said. "We got a Christmas card each from him. There can't be too many of them around," and Felty's remains on his apartment wall today, proudly framed for all to see.

Upon his return home, Felty said he had to go clothes shopping because he lacked appropriate civilian attire. While in the local Belk store, he said one of the most important moments of his life occurred. "I served my time out and came home and found the woman of my life, Joan Harris," he said. "Sam Witt, I think it was, was in charge of the Men's Department. I was buying all kinds of clothes,



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going on like a rich man. Sam said, 'I need to go to the office for a minute' and then he went up to Joan and said, 'You see that young man buying all those clothes? You need to get acquainted with him. He's just out of the Army and seems like a real nice fellow.' A couple of weeks later I had a blind date with her. The next morning my mom and dad were in the house and she was making breakfast and I was aggravating her like I used to do and she said, 'I wish you would find someone and get married and move out of here' and I said, 'I met her last night and if she plays her cards right, she's going to catch me.'"

Soon thereafter he started work for the Corps of Engineers and eventually wound up in the West Memphis office in flood control.



"I took the job and said after a while I'd come back up here," he remembers, "but I couldn't leave." For 43 years he served in the St. Francis Levee and Drainage District in Eastern Arkansas, hiring in as an assistant engineer helping rework the delta floodways. "We dug several ditches and channels. I surveyed and ran equipment myself when I had to," Felty said. "When we caught up on construction I moved into maintenance. From '87 to '02 I was the Chief Engineer. I had to go to Washington the first few years to appropriation hearings to fund our area. As the chief, I had to go twice a year to meet with people in the Congressional office. I got to know my way around Washington."

In fact, that's where he was on Sept. 11, 2001, when the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. "We were there on a business

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2000

House of Representatives

Statement of the Honorable Marion Berry
Tribute to William J. Felty
July 25, 2000

MR. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan, and I am proud to recognize Billy J. Felty in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Next week Bill will retire as Chief Engineer of the St. Francis Levee District, thereby completing a distinguished career that spanned more than four decades. He was first employed by the district as an assistant engineer in 1959 — shortly thereafter he became a member of the engineering committee of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, and has since served two terms each as the committee's secretary and vice-chairman, and was named chairman in 1982 and 1984. In this capacity he headed a committee that studied the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway, concluding that the floodway is an essential part of the approved flood control plan for the Lower Mississippi Valley, and recommending that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be prepared to utilize the floodway immediately in emergency circumstances.

This kind of leadership naturally led to Bill's promotion to Chief Engineer in 1989, which made him responsible for the maintenance and operation of the approximately 160 miles of main line Mississippi River levee and 70 miles of interior levee in the District. His work in this capacity earned him the Army Commanders Award for Public Service, the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, the Army Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal, and a Plaque for Dedicated and Devoted Service from the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association.

In addition to this outstanding record of accomplishment, Bill also found time to be an active member of his community, assuming many influential roles, including President of the West Memphis Jaycees, Charter Member of Senator Blanche Lincoln's State Agriculture Advisory Committee, Chairman of the West Memphis City Board of Adjustments, President of the J.W. Rich Girls Club, and chairman of church committees.

Bill dedicated his life to protecting the lives and fortunes of his fellow citizens, and he deserves our respect and gratitude for his contributions. On behalf of the Congress, I extend my best wishes to my good friend Billy Felty on his retirement.

Marion Berry M.C.

trip for the district," Felty said. "We were in Tim Hutchinson's office when the planes hit the towers. It was a bad day up there. After they hit the towers, they cleared out all of the government buildings. It was late in the week before we could get a ride back to Memphis; there were no planes leaving."

He's proud of the work the Corps and St. Francis Levee District accomplished during his time on the job, helping maintain hundreds of miles of levees on the Mississippi River and keeping flood waters under control. For instance, the W.G. Huxtable Pumping Station, located near Marianna, is one of the largest stormwater pumping plants in the world and was completed in 1977. It prevents backwater from the Mississippi River from entering the lower St. Francis Basin when the river is in a bank full stage. And it removes excess surface water impounded by the Mississippi River and St. Francis Basin levees in a watershed of more than 2,000 square miles.

By the time he retired, Felty had earned the highest honor given to a civilian employee by the Corps of Engineers and a Congressional Citation from Marion Berry among numerous other honors. "The district did a good job of maintaining everything," Felty said. "The levees are in good shape. We did a lot of improvements throughout the years. We did a lot of good."

He recently hosted a family reunion in Norfolk because he says, "Well, we won't all get to have too many more of them. I have a home up there. My daughters Dianne and Gail -- they both live in West Memphis -- helped put it on. They started contacting people, then people started contacting me and the crowd kept growing and growing."

Before long, family members -- including his brother Bonnie and sister Mary and their



Where Life Truly Happens



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spouses -- filled the air with stories and laughter. "We told everyone to bring pot luck and we had lots of good food," he said. "People started showing up, from Bentonville and Fayetteville in Arkansas and six from Fort Worth, Texas, and two from St. Louis and two from Augusta and, of course, West Memphis and six or eight from Malvern ... Paragould and all the surrounding areas. Most that came were family or had married into the family. We had a total of 65. We had a good, good visit. Some we hadn't seen in years. This thing went off real well. All that were there I greeted, or tried to.

"When I moved up to Norfolk I bought an old house to fix up. You can see the lake good from it. It was a good gathering. The group was so eager to visit. About 2:30 they had the boats and pontoons lined up to enjoy the lake and several went to my house to visit; some had to turn and go back home. Dianne and Gail really helped on this thing. We had a jolly, jolly good time for all of us. It was really wonderful for me. I can't see very well but I could talk to everyone and shake hands.

"It was a real good day. I've seen a lot, done a lot, had a lot. I've had a very good life," he said.

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Hope for the Future

ALZHEIMER'S ARKANSAS EVENT

By Calli Perkins





On August 25, St. Bernard's Auditorium hosted Alzheimer's Arkansas "Hope for the Future" event. Eight keynote speakers were featured, each speaking on different aspects of senior caregiving, focusing on everything from the early signs of Alzheimer's to dealing with it at its worst. Also discussed were the upcoming trials of medications and cures for this disease that affects millions of people, and that there is now hope for a future with a cure for Alzheimer's. Perspectives from doctors, surgeons, nurses, and caregivers were presented in a way to educate and understand what to expect when your patient or loved one starts to show signs. Booths set up by many different businesses tailored to senior citizens such as Home Instead, Unity Health, Dierksen, BelleMeade, and more.



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Fear of Dementia

By Richard Brummett

According to recent polls, older people are more fearful of developing dementia than they are of getting cancer. Two thirds of people over the age of 50 fear that they will develop the condition, while just one in 10 said they were frightened of cancer.

Within the United States, there are at least 5 million people currently living with age-related dementias. As the population increases, these numbers are expected to rise. To put this into perspective, it's estimated

that one out of every six women and one out of every ten men, living past the age of 55, will develop dementia. Symptoms can include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language and occur when the brain is damaged by diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease or a series of strokes.

While the fears are understandable, it's important that education around the condition is enhanced to give a greater

understanding of the benefits of early diagnosis - and how that can help those living with the condition continue to lead fulfilling lives.

Everyone has memory slips from time to time -- the word that's on the very tip of your tongue or the house keys that aren't where you swear you left them. As you get older, these kinds of slip-ups may happen more often. But you don't have to resign yourself to memory loss. These simple steps can help keep your brain sharp.



1. Step It Up

A 30-minute daily walk is one of the best things you can do for your body, including your brain. Physical exercise has the best evidence for preserving memory and mental function with aging. Exercise can help prevent things that can lead to memory loss, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity and stroke.

Some studies show physical activity also triggers the release of a protein called BDNF that promotes healthy nerve cells in the brain. That could give your memory a positive boost.

2. Watch what you eat

A healthy diet is always good for your brain. One eating style may save your memory best. There's evidence the Mediterranean-style diet is beneficial. Lots of fruits and



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vegetables, fish rather than red meat, and olive oil seem to be on the plus side. One study found people who closely followed this diet were nearly 20 percent less likely to have thinking and memory problems.

3. Engage Your Brain

Just as physical exercise is helpful, mental exercise is also good for you. Play cards, join a book club, watch a ballgame with friends, or play a brain-training app. Any mentally challenging activity will keep your mind sharp.

4. Stay Social

Another plus for your brain is keeping socially active -- playing card games or taking part in a book club, for instance. The more social connections someone has, the better they are at preserving mental function and memory. Social interaction also helps memory as it helps your mood. Professionals see a lot more depression in people who are socially isolated. "Depression itself can cause dementia," one survey suggests.

5. Sleep Right

Attention and concentration go down when sleep is restless, and mental function is not as sharp as it is in those who have normal, restful sleep. Try these tips to get better sleep:

- Avoid having big meals right before bedtime.
- Try to go to bed at the same time each night and get up at the approximately the same time each morning.
- Don't drink caffeine or alcohol close to bedtime.
- Avoid smoking or other forms of nicotine.

6. Stop Stress

Being under stress is very bad for your brain, studies show. High levels of the stress hormone cortisol make it harder to pull information from your brain's memory. Try different ways to relax, like meditation, yoga, or massage.

7. Stub Out Cigarettes

Smoking speeds up memory loss as you age. If you smoke, quit. Smoking's effect on memory is probably due to small strokes it can cause in the brain. Professionals suggest you try nicotine replacement, medicine, or counseling to help you kick the habit for good.

8. Get Checked

Sometimes, medical conditions can cause memory loss. Examples include:

- Depression
- Diabetes

- Thyroid disease

- Vitamin deficiency

Certain medicines, such as sleep and anxiety drugs, can also affect your ability to remember. See your doctor to get checked and treated for these problems and to go over all your medicines.

9. Use Memory Tricks

When you have trouble with everyday memory, it helps to have a few tricks up your sleeve. Every time you learn a new name or word, say it out loud to seal it in your brain. Write things down on a piece of paper to mentally and visually connect each new name with an image.

To help with recall, post sticky notes around the home and office or set reminders on your phone so you'll know when it's time to take your medicine or head to an important meeting.

Trying some -- or all -- of these tips can help you keep your mind sharper for a longer period of time, something all seniors want to do.

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UAMS CENTER ON AGING PRESENTS

Second Annual Senior Expo

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Center on Aging-Northeast and UAMS Schmieding Home Caregiver Training program in Jonesboro will offer the second annual Senior Expo on Nov. 9 at Nettleton Baptist Church in Jonesboro.

The free event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church (formerly the Northeast Arkansas Fairgrounds), 7001 E. Johnson Ave. Seniors, their families and caregivers can learn from vendors and demonstrations about the valuable resources available to them in the region. Several community partners will co-sponsor the event including the presenting sponsors, St. Bernards Healthcare and Chad Oldham Law Firm.

Flu shots will be available at no charge as well as free health screenings including mammograms, bone density screening, eye and dental screenings, hearing and depression screenings. A panel of doctors from adult medicine specialties will be available for a question-and-answer session from 11 am - noon. During that time a free catfish meal will also be provided.

“Whether it’s financial planning or how to deal with grief, to learning how and whom

to ask for assistance all the way to long-term care and even funeral planning, information will be available at the expo,” said Senior Expo co chair, Valerie Fielder, a certified dementia practitioner and program coordinator at UAMS Center on Aging-Northeast and Schmieding. “Many seniors want to live healthier lives and make sure they are not a burden on their families. Therefore, preparing for their golden years is important.”

If concerned about leaving a loved one at home while attending the event, an area of respite will be available on-site to provide a safe place for persons with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. Certified Dementia Practitioners from St. Bernards Total Life Healthcare will staff the area. For more information on it, call 870-207-7595.

More than 80 vendor booths will be set up representing about two dozen services and products geared to senior adults — from banking service to mental health services, Palliative care, estate and trust planning, and travel.

“This event, held in conjunction with National Family Caregiver Month, is in our second year,” said Senior Expo co-chair Samantha Hollis, B.S.N., R.N. Site Leader for the Center on Aging-NE. “We strive every day to help our senior adults live longer, healthier lives and this expo is just another way we can reach out. We all have grandparents, parents, friends or others in our lives that could benefit from the invaluable resources we will showcase all in one day.”



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MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

The UAMS Center on Aging-Northeast will once again assist Medicare participants with their prescription drug plans during the Open Enrollment Period by providing non-biased evaluations and enrollment assistance.

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period to join or switch Medicare drug and health plans begins Oct. 15 and will end Dec. 7. To make an appointment for assistance, call Cynthia Abel at 870-207-7595 or 1-800-745-0557. Don't delay, as appointments fill quickly.

The Center on Aging-Northeast has been assisting Medicare recipients with their plans since 2006. The assistance is free and participants will need to bring a list of medications, current drug or health plan card and Medicare card. The Center on Aging-Northeast is located at 303 E. Matthews, across from St. Bernards Hospital.



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To be buried in a veteran's cemetery you will need your discharge papers (DD-214). You can be pre-qualified to be buried in a veteran's cemetery and we will gladly help you with that process.

If you wish to be cremated, your remains may also be interred in a veteran's cemetery.

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CLAUDE CLEMENT MASTER GARDENER

By Caitlin LaFarlette



Claude Clement turns 94 in December but he hasn't let age slow him down in his favorite activity: gardening.

Clement, a resident at the assisted living facility Morningside of Jonesboro, has fostered his love for nature nearly his entire life.

"My mother always had a bunch of flowers and I noticed them growing up," he said.

When Clement was out on his own and married, he did the landscaping and gardening for each of the homes he owned. While residing in Harrisburg he even won "Yard of the Month" one year. Clement joined the Morningside community in the

spring of 2017 and, according to Business Office Manager Lauria Baker, said he would only come on the condition he could do the gardening.

Baker said Clement started a gardening club and gave lectures on how to take care of the plants, and he also built the facility's small garden into a larger one with decorated pathways. "It's just kind of flourished from there," Baker said.

Thanks to Clement, the residents now have their own potted plants that he assists in caring for outside their rooms. "He's got everybody interested in their flowers," Baker said.

Clement's project began with planting tomatoes last year and he said while that didn't last long, the gardening grew even bigger this year. "We have made a great big change," Clement said. "I probably work 15 hours a week watering and helping plant, and doing whatever is necessary."

Before Clement stepped in, the residents at Morningside were responsible for watering their own plants. He said some weren't able to do that, but he does the job without pay, just to stay busy.

"I'm just thankful I can do this," he said. "It's a God-given talent and He's blessed me with health and age to do it."

Morningside buys the materials needed for the gardening and Clement typically spends two and a half hours watering and caring for the plants on the days he works. Clement said since last year, the morale and enthusiasm of the residents have improved thanks to the landscaping.

"I don't do it for recognition," he said. "I like to do things that show beauty and nature. Flowers are really part of the whole universe."



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AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Monday, September 3rd
Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at AMMC

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary is hosting a fall membership drive starting Monday, September 3. Membership is open to all community members. The AMMC Auxiliary provides volunteer services in the Critical Care Unit, at the Information Desk, Ambulatory Care Services and on the patient floors at the hospital. Volunteers also run a successful gift shop that raises money to purchase equipment and other items for AMMC. The AMMC Auxiliary is an active member of the Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association. Membership enrollment forms are available at the Volunteer Services Office, location in the main part of the hospital, Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-12:00 PM. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, or if you have questions, please call 870-239-7097.

BREASTFEEDING CLASS

Monday, September 10, 2018 from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Education Computer Lab in the Professional Office Building at AMMC
 This class is offered to moms who plan to breastfeed, dads and other support persons. Registration is required one week in advance of the class. Call the AMMC Lactation Services Department at 870-239-7013 or e-mail baby@arkansasmethodist.org to register.

For each prenatal education class that you register for and attend, your name will be entered into a quarterly drawing for a gift from the AMMC Women's Services Department.

RETIREES MEETING

Friday, September 21, 2018 from 12:00-1:00 PM
Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
 This luncheon is held so that employees of the hospital who have retired have the opportunity to come together for good food, fun and fellowship. This meeting's guest speaker is AMMC President/CEO Barry Davis.

COMMUNITY DIABETES PROGRAM

Thursday, September 27, 2018 from 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Professional Office Building, Auditorium 1000 W. Kingshighway
 AMMC Certified Diabetes Educator Allison Hitt, RN, will explore healthy foods and prepare and share diabetic-friendly, easy-to-make breakfast recipes: steel cut oatmeal; healthy freezer burritos; peanut butter breakfast bites and a smoothie. Come hear a patient's testimony about living with diabetes. The event is free but a reservation is required. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 26, 2018 by calling (870) 239-7016.

BLOOD DRIVE WITH AMERICAN RED CROSS

Thursday, October 11, 2018 from 11:00 AM-5:30 PM
Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
 According to the Red Cross, one in 10 people entering a hospital needs blood. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims due to accidents and burns; heart surgery; organ transplants; women with complications during

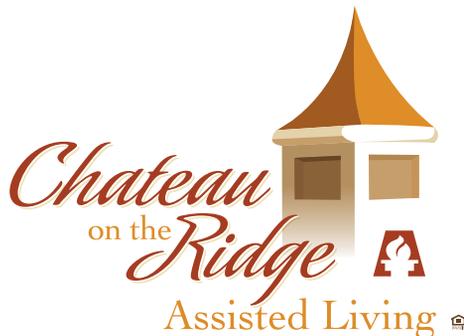
childbirth; newborns and premature babies and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer and other diseases such as sickle cell anemia. At Arkansas Methodist Medical Center alone, approximately 100 units are transfused monthly.

To give blood for transfusion to another person, you must be healthy, be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law (includes Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee). You must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks (56 days) or double red cells in the last 16 weeks (112 days). "Healthy" means that you feel well and can perform normal activities. If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure, "healthy" also means that you are being treated and the condition is under control. Each person who successfully donates blood at Arkansas Methodist will receive three \$5.00 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station.



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September

EVENTS CALENDAR

2-3

What: Labor Day Annual Guided White River Kayak/Canoe Floats

When: Sunday, September 2nd or Monday, September 3rd.

Where: Bull Shoals - White River State Park Trout Dock

Info: The annual guided kayak/canoe float trips down the White River are so popular the state park is offering two float trips this year. Join park interpreters for a floating adventure. The floats will depart from the park's trout dock and travel approximately two to three hours depending on river level downstream to the White Hole Access. Along the way you will learn about the unique ecosystems the White River provides and get a chance to see some of the wildlife that makes the White River its home. Space is limited, so please register early at the James A. Gaston Visitor Center or call (870)-445-3629. The cost is \$20 per person and \$10 for children 12 and under, plus tax, includes shuttle and all gear. (You may bring your own boat and gear but you must shuttle yourself from the White Hole take-out) Please note that the trip may be canceled and refunds made due to adverse weather and/or river conditions.

8

What: Fall Arts & Crafts Fair: Space Fight

When: Saturday, September 8th

Where: The Craighead County Public Library (315 W Oak Ave)

Info: The library hosts bi-annual art and craft fairs on the front lawn of the library. There will be live music, more than 50 art and craft vendors and food vendors. There will be a science fiction theme and library staff members will be dressed in costumes for the event. The event is free to attend and everyone is welcome!

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

graphics@mormediainc.com

8

What: Childbirth & Breastfeeding Class

When: Saturday, September 8th

Where: NEA Baptist (4802 E. Johnson Ave)

Info: Expecting parents are encouraged to attend one of the childbirth and breastfeeding classes during pregnancy. This class will provide education and resources to be prepared for childbirth, breastfeeding and caring for a newborn. Participants will also tour the Women's Center Labor and Delivery floor. Call 870-936-3025 to RSVP or for more information.

11

What: Greene County Master Gardeners Brown Bag Lunch

When: Tuesday, September 11th from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: The Legacy Room of the Greene County Library (120 North 12th Street, Paragould)

Info: Do you want to learn more about your garden? Join the Greene County Master Gardeners for lunch!

15

What: Trial by Jury Dinner

When: Saturday, September 15 from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Where: Powhatan State Park Courthouse (4414 Hwy 25 Powhatan, AR 72458)

Info: Admission: \$20

Are you a fan of TV shows that portray trials? Ever wanted to "object" in a courtroom? After enjoying a home cooked meal and making dessert, guests will take part in a trial that occurred in the same courtroom. Dress casual, or wear your favorite 19th century costume. Reservations are required; limit of 40 participants. For questions and reservations, call (870) 878-6765.

22

What: The Great Arkansas Cleanup

When: Saturday, September 22nd from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Crowley's Ridge State Park (2092 HWY 168 N.)

Info: Join in keeping Crowley's Ridge State Park litter free and beautiful at this annual event! All volunteers need to sign in at Pavilion 3 to collect supplies and further instructions. After the cleanup, all volunteers will receive a free pizza lunch. The first 30 to register before the day of the event will be given a free t-shirt! To register, call 870-573-6751 or email crowleysridge@arkansas.com. The contact person for the event is Park Interpreter, Elizabeth.

24

What: Taste of the Ridge

When: Monday, September 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: The Crossing, Downtown Paragould (101 S. Pruett Street)

Info: You're invited! Taste of the Ridge presents the best food from local restaurants, music, & more. For more information, call 879-240-0544.

28-29

What: The Downtown Jonesboro BBQ & Music Festival

When: Friday, September 28th to Saturday, September 29th.

Where: Downtown Jonesboro

Info: The premier BBQ event for the state of Arkansas, BBQ Fest will have BBQ contests, sampling, vendors, live music & other entertainment. Featuring a special appearance by Express Clydesdales!

GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



A lot of people don't know I was a heavy drinker back in the '60s. Once I reached the age of 9 or 10, my parents let me earn my own spending money by mowing lawns, which allowed me on the days the guys and I met up at Baldwin Park to play sandlot baseball games to also venture to the adjacent Ford's Grocery and check out the drink cabinet.

I tried a bunch of them ... Coke, Dr. Pepper (with the period back in my day), Pepsi, all drinks that would give you that good carbonated burn all the way down to your stomach on a hot summer afternoon. Sodas only cost a dime back then so it wasn't unusual for most of us to drink four or five in a day. We would play our game at the park, climb the fence and get on our bikes

and go over to Ford's, where we would lift the lid on the rectangular drink box and survey the many colors and shapes of the sodas and bottles contained therein, then down a couple and head back to the park for more baseball.

Sometimes I would venture out and choose something other than the dark-colored soft drinks I favored, settling for something orange, or a Nehi grape or a Sundrop Cola (by the time I reached Babe Ruth baseball, that was my team sponsor) or even wacky choices like Fresca or Pomac. I can't accurately describe the taste of the last two, but "not very good" is what comes to mind. What can I say? I was a drinker. I even tried Faygo and Grapette and Tab. At home, I sometimes mixed Tang and on days when we didn't want to leave the ballpark I drank from a faucet or a garden hose. At last report, I was still alive.

Those were different times, I suppose, and many places and things from those childhood days no longer exist. I had a Super Ball. A Super Ball was a small, rock-hard ball that, when thrown at something solid, would bounce back at supersonic speeds. Lots of black eyes and chipped teeth can be attributed to that toy, one almost as dangerous as the first versions of skateboards, which were just flimsy pieces of wood with cheap wheels attached. And we had Clackers, a contraption sort of like Super Balls on strings and you were supposed to get them swinging back and

forth, smacking into each other in order to make a loud clacking noise that irritated your parents. You could also come out with a pretty nice knot on your head if you held them too close to your body.

I had a Slinky but we didn't have any stairs so it was basically a giant spring that was sprung and just sat there in the floor doing nothing, and I got an Etch-A-Sketch I never mastered and eventually threw away. I was elated on the day I finally managed to write a squiggly version of my name on it, only to visit a friend up the street and learn that he had drawn Mount Rushmore on his. I think he drank Pomac, too. Apparently I was more suited for making copies of the newspaper comics with Silly Putty or opening a can of Play-Doh, which I never really understood. All I knew was, it stank.

I remember sleepovers at our house where teenage girls came down the hallway with their hair wrapped around orange juice cans, looking more like the reception base for alien correspondence than cover models, and I seem to recall that some of them ironed their hair. Yes, with an iron. They took stacks of records known as 45s and put them on the record player, dancing to the tunes until the music stopped and the next disc dropped down into place and started another song by another group. And then sometimes the phone on the wall would ring, and everyone would wonder, "Is it for me?" No cell phones, no Caller ID, no answering machines. We had to pick up the receiver and say, "Hello" in order to find out who was on the other end of the line.

Simpler times, for sure. I rode my bike all over town, from one ballpark to another, into neighborhoods searching for vacant lots, on the back streets and quickly darting across any major thoroughfares ... and my parents never worried. They knew I would ride only long enough to find the next ballgame, and then I would retrace my path and be back home by suppertime with dusty, grass-stained bluejeans and a sweat-bead necklace.

Good times.

I've traded in the heavy soda drinking for coffee now, a habit my Grandfather Burton introduced me to when I was very young. He would sit at the breakfast table and pour a bit of coffee from his cup into his saucer, blow on it, and then sip it. "Saucered and blowed" is what the old-timers called it, simply one more thing that has disappeared ... just as my youth has.





CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education
Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Shots rang all across the corn field and a few birds fell, but more kept on their trek to the center of the large field. Birds began to fly across the corner of the field I had chosen and a few of my shots connected. Each time a bird fell brought a pause in the action as I made a retrieve, then it was back to my spot to hide and wait. The birds came, more and more, and soon the hunt was over as I had a limit of fifteen doves laid at my feet.

The moist, predawn air became thicker from the dust thrown up by our line of trucks as we headed down an old field road. After a few minutes of passing cotton fields and rice wells, we came to a large cut corn field and the caravan came to a halt. I looked at my watch and we still had at least half an hour before the eastern sky would show signs of a new hunting season. We dropped the tailgates, got out the honey buns and powdered donuts, passed around some coffee and sodas and visited as we waited. A chorus of mosquitoes tried to entertain us, but the scent of Off soon filled the air and the mosquitoes left for easier targets.

We sat in the predawn hour, talked some talk, heard a few jokes and took some time to reflect on the previous year and plan for the upcoming year. Those times are some of my favorites each outdoor year. The black sky began to turn pink as the sun tried to awaken our corner of Earth and that signaled it was time to disperse across the field. It may seem random but, after a brief discussion, each hunter knew where to post himself to insure enough space between him and others to make for a safe hunt and keep the doves moving.

I made my way out into the field and began the wait for shooting time. These have to be the longest minutes of the year. The hands on my watch seemed to slow as if they would never reach the appointed time of thirty minutes before sunrise to begin the new hunting season. Finally the watch indicated it was time and I began to focus on the horizon and sky instead of the watch.

As is often the case, the special sound of the whistling of dove wings gave away the presence of a few early arrivals, but they traveled so low and fast they were gone in an instant. The sun was working hard to lighten the horizon and an occasional bird could be seen or heard making its way into the corn field. An occasional shot indicated someone had seen one of the early fast fliers and had an opportunity to shoot, but my gun still sat cold in the early morning light. Then it started. A few at a time, finally with a little altitude to make them easier to see and safe to shoot. Once the first few came, more followed and it seemed like someone had turned the dove faucet on.

I eased my way back to the truck to break out a few more snacks and drinks and visit with the other hunters as they made their way in. Soon there were several of us gathered around the truck talking about the morning's hunt, missed shots, limits taken and life in general.

I like to hunt most anything, but dove hunting is at the top of my list. One of the main reasons for my affinity for dove hunting is the social interaction and relationships that are developed through the hunt. Whether it be with kids or other adults, strong bonds can be built as we sit in a corn field and attempt to put a few birds in our game bag. Misses might bring a little ridicule, but hits often bring congrats and the camaraderie helps build strong bonds of friendship.

Dove season will begin in September and runs a rather lengthy span of time. It is a great opportunity to get out early in the fall and do a little hunting and have fun with family and friends. I hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity to spend a few days in the field. Once again, if you have any questions, give me a shout. Good luck and I hope to see out there!!



HAPPENINGS

CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSES NOMINATED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



The State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program recommended 12 Arkansas properties in eight counties — including the Clay County Courthouses at Piggott and Corning — for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places when it met August 1st.

GARDENING CAMARADERIE

Workday at Bland Park in Paragould represents what Greene County Master Gardeners' are all about. Master Gardeners share the workload of pulling weeds, removing grass and trimming scrubs with some of the Agape house girls along with conversation and camaraderie.



NEW KASU DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

Kristy Cates has been named development director for KASU-FM, the National Public Radio (NPR) member station licensed to Arkansas State University. In announcing the station's newest staff member, station manager Mark Smith said Cates brings a wealth of experience to the position.

"I am looking forward to continuing and enhancing KASU's fundraising efforts," said Cates. "I am prepared to promote KASU by speaking to individuals and organizations that are interesting in supporting the various programs offered only at KASU."



Beth Damphousse (with family dog Maple) and Student Government Association President Jon Mark Horton.

HYDRATION STATION REVEALED

Beth Damphousse joined her husband, Chancellor Kelly Damphousse, and Student Government Association President Jon Mark Horton to unveil the first of several projects in a new campus beautification effort.

They unveiled a newly installed hydration station near the north entrance to the Humanities and Social Sciences Building. It is conveniently located near Aggie Circle and the Red Wolf statue, which often marks the start and finish of campus-based walking, running, and cycling events.



JUNIOR AUXILIARY 2018

The ladies of the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould would like to introduce the incoming provisional class for the 2018-2019 year. The group of twenty-one ladies alongside their four provisional trainers, Kenley Boyd, Rachel Haynes, Jarrah Kuenzel, and Whitteni Lindsey, will train for six months as well as attend Chapter meetings and projects to prepare themselves for the role of active membership for five years.

Front Row (L to R): Rebekah Bateman, Carissa Winn, Brandi Sheffer, Carson Gill, Nicki Smalling

Middle Row (L to R): Joanna Ko, Allyssa Sellmeyer, Sarah Yopp, Kayla Gramling, Marti Bunch, Scarlett McMunn, Johna Washington, Lexi Clayton

Back Row (L to R): Sonni Tripod, Whitney Vassar, Aynsley Broom, Paige Mosley, Jordan Smith, Chandler Weber

Not pictured: Julie Matthews, Aly Shourd

BIRTHS



Emma Forsythe

Proud parents Edward and Jenna Forsythe of Paragould welcomed their daughter, Emma Forsythe, into the world on July 10, 2018. Emma was delivered at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 19 3/4" inches long.

Photography credit Hannah Tagge



Kendra Ann Moore

David and Skye Moore of Jonesboro announce the birth of their daughter, Kendra Ann Moore.

Born July 21st at St. Bernards Medical Center, Kendra weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Photography credit Hunter Photography

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ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS



Jessie James & Tanner Hoke

Engaged couple Jessie James and Tanner Hoke, both of Jonesboro, have announced their plans to marry on December 21st of this year at Nettleton Baptist Church.

The bride's parents are Rodney James, and Starlia and Billy Rowsey. The groom's parents are Kevin and Sheryl Hoke.

Photography by Catie Sullivan.

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engagement, or newborn included
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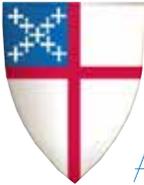


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excerpts from "I am an Episcopalian".
www.episcopalchurch.org

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@
10:00 A.M.

Stay Tuned

What's in store next month?
Lots of Manly
Interests



Simon McBride, golf protégé.

Taste Of The Ridge



Coverage of Downtown Paragould festival, Taste of the Ridge.

Paint The Town Red



A look at activities related to Paint the Town Red in Paragould and Jonesboro.

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An advertisement for Centennial Bank's on-campus branch. It features a red background with a white jagged-edged speech bubble containing the text 'On-Campus Branch NOW OPEN'. To the left, there are images of two credit cards with a red and black wolf head design. To the right, a photograph shows the interior of the bank branch with two staff members in blue shirts behind a white counter. The website 'MY100BANK.COM' is visible on the wall above the counter. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, along with the bank's name and website.



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