

DECEMBER 2012

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DECEMBER

In The Spirit

– Mary Johnson gives the greatest gift: Her time

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Mary Johnson is representative of the great volunteer spirit found throughout Greene County. Read her story on page 22.



RON BELLOMOY

DAVID VANHORN



CHRISTMAS IN DEERELAND



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On the Cover: Mary Johnson
Cover by Tim Rand Photography

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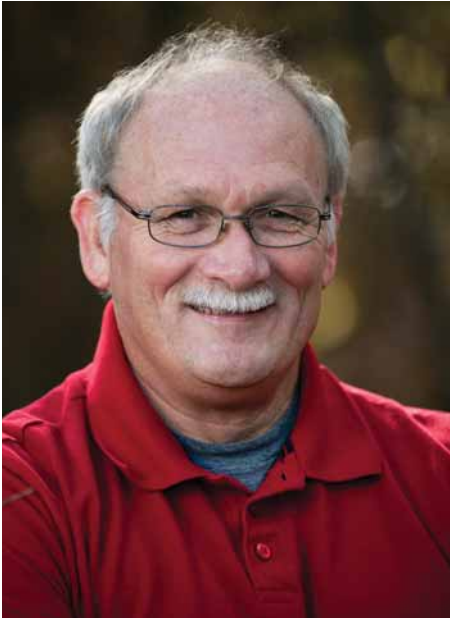
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Owner, Jira Jewelry Collection and Line-X of Central Missouri

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From the Managing Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

When December rolls around we naturally think of Christmas and gift-giving, but sometimes we forget the best gift of all is giving of one's time and oneself.

Our feature story this month profiles one such person -- Mary Johnson -- who isn't content to stay at home and do nothing. She's out, she's active and she's productive, and we were thrilled to get to talk with her about her many activities.

This month's feature stories filter all the way back to the end of October, when MOR Media and Main Street Paragould staged our first-ever Zombie Walk, a huge success by all accounts. Fans of the ghoulish format came from near and far to participate, and plans are already in the works to make next year's event bigger and better.

The community Tailgate Party, a precursor to the annual Tech-Paragould football game, was also staged again this year on the PHS campus, and was a big drawing card.

MOR Media is happy to be a major sponsor of both events, and we were there to capture the action in photographs. Picture pages appear elsewhere in this issue.

Still one more annual production is Greene County Tech High School's salute to veterans and the induction ceremony for its Veteran's Hall of Fame.

The students and faculty go all-out to put on an entertaining and meaningful program to honor those currently in the military, and those who have served to protect our freedom.

GCT students perform song and dance routines to elicit plenty of smiles, and there is always a touching ceremony at the end of the show that makes many in attendance wipe a tear from their eyes as they recall friends and family members who have given their lives in service to our country.

This year was no exception, and GCT is to be commended for both an outstanding program, and for its willingness year after year to honor our veterans.

That's just for starters. There's plenty to keep you reading in this month's Premiere, from Outstanding Teachers to a Christmas house to a local couple's wedding story.

Take time to read the excellent features by Jennifer Thompson and Gabriel Cook, look over the photo pages and see if you recognize a neighbor, then go back and look them over again. ♦

We've been very good this year.

Dear Santa,

These are just a few of the many awards our dedicated staff at AMMC has received this year.

- Arkansas Methodist Medical Center was named one of the nation's *Top Performers on Key Quality Measures* by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in America. AMMC is the only hospital in the region to receive this honor.
- AMMC received a *Clinical Excellence Award*, the highest award in the category, for outstanding performance related to the treatment of heart attacks, pneumonia, heart failure and prevention of surgical site infections from the VHA.
- AMMC Home Health was named to the 2012 HomeCare Elite, a compilation of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States.
- AMMC Emergency Department received the *High Performance Award* for performing equal to or better than the CDC national benchmarks.
- Arkansas Methodist, is one of only five hospitals in Arkansas to receive a *High Performance HCAHPS Award* for patient experience.

 **Arkansas Methodist Medical Center**

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LIVING

Christmas House

From the outside, Tommy and Amy Lane's house looks like many others



lining their street. It is an older home in an older neighborhood, a house with character.

At Christmastime, however, the interior takes on a decidedly new look with holiday decor teeming from every angle.

Amy leaves no room untouched -- with a tree in almost every one -- as visitors get a definite yuletide feel upon entering. Stockings and Santas and wreaths abound, and it's difficult not to be in the holiday spirit when walking from room to room.

From antique items to recently purchased decorations, the Lanes' home features a wide array of holiday-related items, all meant to put visitors in the Christmas spirit. ♦



The main tree in the living room. The theme and color change every year.



Tommy, Lydia and Amy Lane



The fireplace with homemade stockings Tommy's mom made for their first Christmas as a family of three.



Dining room entryway



The Theatre Room tree



The beginning of Amy's Nutcracker collection.



Lydia's first tree



In their bedroom, their "memory" tree has ornaments they made as kids, as well as an ornament from every place they have been together.



The front porch's festive welcome



An antique rocking horse as a dining room centerpiece



Antique Santa and Mrs. Claus, passed down from Amy's great-grandmother

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM AFGHANISTAN

Greetings Paragould Arkansas, I would like to take this time and wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The soldiers of the 1039th En. Co. based out of Harrisburg and Marked Tree Ar. are out daily doing Route Clearance Patrols in Afghanistan, clearing roadways of Improvised Explosive devices (IEDs) for civilian traffic and other military vehicles. This company is made up of dedicated soldiers from Paragould, Harrisburg, Marked tree, Memphis, St. Louis, Trumann and southern Arkansas. Without the support that we have received from people that live in Northeast Ark., this deployment would be that much more challenging and stressful. Northeast Arkansas has always led the state in support of their troops, and I for one am very grateful for the gifts and prayers that have been sent our way.

To my wife Janet, my children: Clint Dickson, Brandi McCarty, Whitney Siebert, Kayla Mealer and my grand kids: Jax Russom, Madden Russom,



SPC Nathan Reeves, SSG Micael Sanders, SGT Randy Joe Davis, SPC Nathan Greer, SGT Tyler Fraysher

Knox Sugg, I love each and every one of you very much. To my mom, Mary and my brothers and sisters; I love you and wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas.

To all my friends; THANKS! I will be home soon and once again thanks for all the prayers and support that you have shown us.

Very Respectfully,
1SG Frederick Siebert

Merry Christmas to all my family. Love you very much, can't wait until I see you all again.

SPC Nathan Reeves

Merry Christmas Everybody, love you all!!!

SGT Randy Joe Davis

Merry Christmas to all my family and friends. Claude, Dinah, Jason, Devon, Megan, and Lily. Love you, miss you, and I'll see you all soon!!!

SPC Nathan Greer

I want wish my wife, Caroline, and family a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. I can't wait to get out of this place.

SSG Michael Sanders

Merry Christmas to my wife and unborn child. I love you very much, I'll be home before you know it.

SGT Tyler Fraysher

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Larry Griggs accepting awards from Meredith Baine for himself and his brothers, James and Roger.



Mickey Hoggard



Charles Roe



Johnny McCarroll



Wallace Howe



The placing and display of the patriotic wreath and cross signal the end of the ceremony.

GCT honors veterans, inducts seven into Hall of Fame

Seven men, including three brothers, were inducted into Greene County Tech's Veterans' Hall of Fame at the school's annual Veterans Day program.

Brothers Larry, James and Roger Griggs were named to the prestigious group, as were Mickey Hoggard, Charles Roe, Johnny McCarroll and Wallace Howe.

Students entertained the capacity crowd at the GCT auditorium with a USO-type program featuring song and dance routines.

Special guest speaker was Major Brian Mason of the United States Army. ♦



Major Mason lights the memory candle.



Greene County Tech students performed a patriotic song and dance routine for the amusement of veterans and their family members.

Compassionate Friends here to serve community

By Jennifer Thompson

Every parent understandably admits they can't fathom the pain and sense of helplessness and desperation that the loss of a child would surely bring. But, for some, it is a reality that must be lived with on a daily basis.

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Northeast Arkansas is determined to support those suffering from such terrible circumstances with their mission to "provide highly personal comfort, hope and support to every family experiencing the death of a child, brother or sister, or grandchild; and helps others better assist the grieving family." TCF members will be participating in a worldwide candle lighting ceremony on December 9 in memory of children lost and the families that survive their untimely deaths.

Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill recently signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in December 2012 as Worldwide Candle Lighting Day. "The proclamation



Mayor Mike Gaskill signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in December 2012 as Worldwide Candle Lighting Day.

encourages all residents to observe this day by lighting a candle for one hour at 7:00 p.m. in support of bereaved families of Greene County," said Toni Baker, TCF of Northeast Arkansas' Chapter Leader. "This has become a symbolic day when these children are remembered around the world. This is a symbolic gift to the ones we have lost, and a tribute to them at the same time. Losing a child is a very hard thing, and you never

really get over it. But you learn a new normal, and that is what we are here to help with."

Baker said TCF of Northeast Arkansas was a new chapter in Paragould, having held its first meeting in June. Baker continued, "We are serving Greene County and the Northeast Arkansas region. We are here to help others who have lost a child of any age (miscarriage, stillbirth all the way through adulthood), grandchildren and siblings. There are no membership fees or dues to belong in our chapter. We are a non-profit organization so funding is through love gifts, grants, businesses and are tax deductible. This will not be a religious or holiday ceremony; rather, it is a time to remember children that have passed away. Anyone who has suffered the loss of a child is encouraged to attend."

This year TCF will host its annual Candle Lighting Service in the Conference Room of the Southside Community Church (2211 Jones Road — up the hill from the church building) with services starting at 6:30 p.m. The event will take place as a non-denominational service to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and comfortable when attending the affair. Baker said there will be refreshments as well as a memorial table. Anyone wishing to bring a picture of the child they are remembering for the memorial table is welcome to do so. For more information on the Candle Lighting service, or about TCF of NEA, contact Baker at 870-476-6025.

TCF also holds monthly gatherings offering support for anyone in this difficult situation.

"Our meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Southside Community Church Conference Room," Baker added.

TCF's mission statement is, "When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provide highly personal comfort, hope and support to every family experiencing the death of son or daughter, brother or sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family." ♦



"Rockin' On The Ridge"



James Branch flashed back to the past in 1950s' garb, complete with a pack of cigarettes rolled up in his sleeve, while below, fellow resident Mary Esther Herget chatted with Cheddy Williamson.



With staff members and residents getting into the '50s theme, Chateau On The Ridge marked its one-year anniversary



Chateau residents, above, smiled at the antics of staff members who danced to a number of musical offerings; at left, Diann Roming, Nacole Maxwell, Lexi Covington, Brandi Rannals and Irma Thomas showed off their best 1950s hairstyles and attire. Chateau On The Ridge is a retirement community and assisted living facility located in Paragould.

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Who is Greene County?

I AM GREENE COUNTY

Kortney Clayton Age: 20

Where I'm from: Paragould

Family: Carolyn, my grandmother. Greg, my father. Erin, my stepmother. Cole and Clair, my brother and sister.

Occupation: I am a teller at Simmons First Bank and a student at Arkansas State University.

What I like most about my job: I really love working with the public. I am a big people person!

Something few people know about me: I am an open book!

What I like about Paragould/Greene County: This is home. I love that "everybody knows everybody." No matter where you go, there's always a familiar face.

What I like to do in my free time: Running, Shopping, Spending all of my spare time with my awesome friends and family.

One of my most interesting experiences: College: Moving out on my own, going to class without someone having to tell me to, and making good grades without being forced to or punished. Growing up has definitely been an interesting experience.

Kortney is photographed at her home.



Our Wedding Story: From preschool PALS to pals for a lifetime

Heather Reed and Tyler Scudder first met in preschool at PALS. Little did they know what kind of pals they would eventually become.

They lost track of each other for a few years until they met again in the band room in junior high at Paragould. On October 27, the band they shared was the wedding band they placed on each other's hand in marriage at East Side Baptist Church.

Tyler and Heather became best friends during their band years and that friendship blossomed into a deep love. They each played clarinet in the school band and they each now play it in the East Side Baptist orchestra. And, Tyler says, "Everyone knows a clarinet boy needs a 'reed'."

Tyler bought Heather's engagement ring and took it to Belk, where she works. When she got off work, he had candles that said, "Will you marry me?" and got down on one knee and proposed on the dock in front of her



fellow employees. Of course they were all in on what he was doing, but Heather didn't have a clue. After a teary "yes" they started making wedding plans.

The wedding at East Side was beautifully decorated with flower arrangements, bows on the pews, and wreaths on the doors, all made by Tyler's grandparents, Bill and Rosalee Lott. The couple was united in marriage by Tyler's grandfather, Rev. Dennis Scudder.

The couple was whisked away by limousine to the Paragould Community Center for a dinner and dance. A meal of salad, pasta, a four cobbler bar and a S'mores bar was provided by the Lead Apron Catering of Jonesboro.

Following the reception the bride and groom were escorted to their car with a sparkler ceremony, with a sign on the table that said, "Let the sparks fly for the Tyler/Heather sendoff." They then left for Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., to see Harry Potter. Heather is a big fan and had wanted to go since hearing of the show's opening, and was asked to come up on stage and participate. She received a box with her own magic wand for doing so, and said she had a magical wedding and honeymoon and that her dreams really did come true.

Her parents are Perry and Alice Reed of Piggott. Tyler is the son of Jim and Darla Scudder of Paragould. ♦



Outstanding Teacher Awards



Tonya Vanhorn, Marmaduke

Why did you choose teaching? I chose teaching because I enjoy children. Since I was going to have to work, what could be a better job? Besides, what other job would allow me to be home when my kids were?

What do you enjoy most about it? I love it when that "Hey, I get it" look comes across their face. Or, when they realize, "I just read that book."

How long have you been teaching? 17 years.

Tell us about your family. David and I have been married for 29 years. We have two children. Our son, Jacob, has been married to his wife, Krystal, for two-and-a-half years. Our daughter, Alison, has been married to her husband, Alex, for a year-and-a-half. We have two dogs, Chloe and Duchess.

Nancy Mangrum, Greene County Tech

Why did you choose teaching? Teaching has been an area of interest for me for many years prior to the pursuit of my degree. I always had a great deal of admiration for teachers during my public school educational years. That admiration progressed into a strong desire to touch and influence the lives of the young people. Whether working with young children or teenagers, I feel that every student needs a "cheerleader" to prompt, encourage, and applaud their efforts. This is what I feel separates a mediocre teacher from a valuable one.

What do you enjoy most about it? I thoroughly enjoy the challenge that I face every day when I walk in the doors to the high school. Each day presents a new and different set of obstacles and rewards. I am so fortunate to be able to have a career where I enjoy getting up and going to work each and every day. This is not to say that there are not demanding situations that I face on occasion; instead, it is something that I look forward to and accept as a part of my career. Greene County

Tech has been my only educational employer. I loved my job from Day One, and continue to have that same feeling today.

How long have you taught? Longer than I care to remember!

Tell us about your family. My family consists of my husband, Nippy Mangrum, and two lovely daughters: Mimi Jumper, of Paragould, and Ali Mangrum, of Fayetteville; and one dog, Betsie, of the home. My parents are Bernadeine Coy and the late Don Coy. I have seven brothers: Mike Coy, of Jonesboro; Ron Coy, Dale Coy, and Tim Coy of Paragould; Doug Coy, of Little Rock; Stephen Coy, of Boston, Massachusetts; and Mark Coy, of Los Angeles, California ; and one sister, Angela Cothren, of Fayetteville.



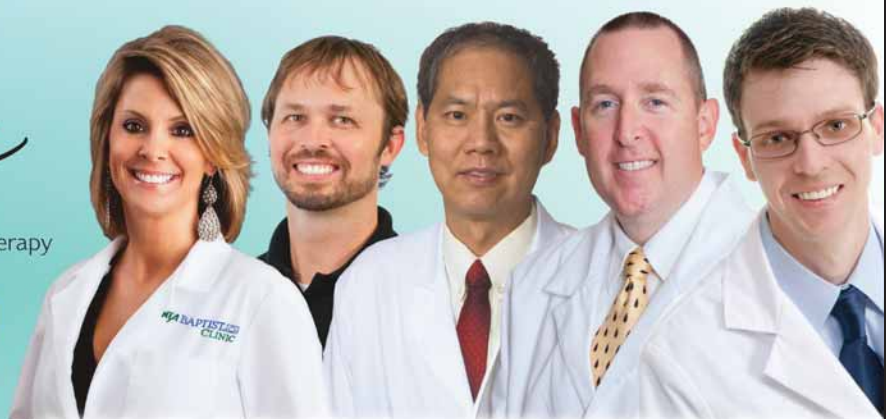
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Above, JA members Mimi Jumper, Morgan Johnson, Melissa Jones and Mallory Pickney; below Lissa Tabor, Cindy Prichard and Kelly Roswell enjoy the evening.



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Junior Auxiliary hosts Blue Jeans and BBQ

Junior Auxiliary of Paragould hosted its signature fund-raising event, Blue Jeans and BBQ, in November at the Red Goose Deli.

Junior Auxiliary members provided a dinner, live and silent auctions, as well as a live band and a fun atmosphere.

All money raised at Blue Jeans and BBQ is used for future Junior Auxiliary projects. ♦



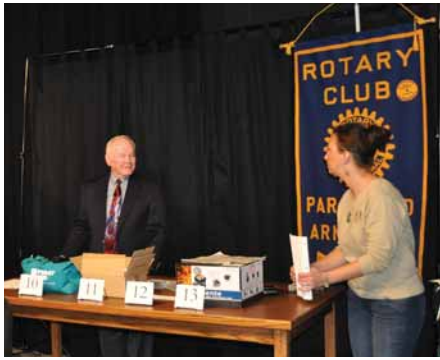
Jason and Dr. Jami Veal



John Lindsey and Katrina Hall



Lora Crossno and Amber Farmer



Tom Kirk and Chairperson Malissa Lewis present items up for bids.

Paragould Rotary Club holds annual auction

The Paragould Rotary Club staged its annual fundraising auction in conjunction with the Greene County Tech High School TV crew.

The two-night event, with Rotarians manning the telephones and describing items, raises money for the club to use in its many efforts to serve the community. ♦



Carolyn and Jeff Block



Above, Rotarians Lynda White, Amy McPherson and Mimi Jumper. At right, Tech students in the control room.



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Art show staged to emphasize message of Peace, Love, Joy, Hope

By Jennifer Thompson

Fellowship Bible Church of Paragould is making an effort to remind its members and the community of the advent season, or the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, and what it is really all about: Peace, Love, Joy and Hope.

Lead Pastor Jared Pickney said the Christmas season has become all about “us” as opposed to being about God’s gifts to us.

“Instead of buying more gifts for each other, we should use that (money, donations) to give to people in our city, our community and our world. We are focusing a lot on providing clean drinking water to those without it; it only costs one dollar to provide clean water to someone for a lifetime. We are thinking about Paragould, but we are also thinking beyond Paragould as well.”

Going along with that theme, Pickney said, he has asked the members of his church to raise

money for the Mission Outreach in Paragould, and Water International. The Advent Conspiracy is a movement designed to bring a deeper meaning to Christmas based on four primary principles: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All.

“We are asking our people to raise their offerings, adopt a family at Christmas and we have our Advent Art Show coming up on December 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 203 North Pruet. There is a vacant building there that is owned by Dina Mason and she is letting us use it for our art show,” Pickney stated. “We are hoping to recruit local artists to participate.

“Anyone can enter from the community and the art doesn’t necessarily have to be religious

... As long as the focus, or theme, of the art is Hope, Love, Joy and Peace,” he added. “We

will have doughnuts and coffee for everyone that attends the art show and we are asking artists to donate half of the proceeds you make on any art you sell to Mission Outreach and Water International. There will

also be a donation box set up at the art show. This is a great way for artists to publicize their artistic ability to the community while giving to a good cause. People in the city will also have an opportunity to vote on their favorite artwork, and the winner will receive a prize.”

For more information about Fellowship Bible Church of Paragould, visit www.fellowship-paragould.com or find the church on Facebook under the full church name.

“...we are asking artists to donate half of the proceeds you make on any art you sell to Mission Outreach and Water International.”

**-- Jared Pickney
Pastor at Fellowship Bible Church**



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Mary Johnson works at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's gift shop as a volunteer.

Photo by Tim Rand

Volunteer spirit: Mary Johnson gives her time

By Richard Brummett

There are countless volunteers in and around the Paragould area, all willing to answer the call when help is needed.

Indicative of that volunteer spirit is Mary Johnson, who finds that giving of her time -- and of herself -- helps her as much as it does others. She works in the gift shop at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould.

"I mostly just volunteer at the hospital with the Pink Ladies," said Johnson, now 79. "I work about twenty-eight hours a month. I work Saturdays all day unless they call me in to take someone else's place on some other day."

Johnson said she worked at Emerson Electric for 31 years and at the shirt factory before that, but after retiring "didn't want to sit at home and just do nothing, so I got out and found something.

"I've stayed active over the years," she said, pointing to the two bowling leagues in which she still takes part today.

Her hospital duties allow her to remain a part of everyday life. She said she not only meets and greets visitors to the gift shop, she also helps out in other ways if the situation arises.

"One day there was a couple, and they couldn't find their grandson," she recalled. "They knew he was in the hospital, but they didn't know where to go to find him. They said they had been to ER and he wasn't there, so I said, 'Well, come with me; we'll see if we can find out something. I took them back to ER and asked around and we found him... there he was.'

"I enjoy doing things like that," she said. "I get to see people I wouldn't get to see or meet otherwise. And it's rewarding when you are

able to help someone else to do something. That's the best part of it for me, really ... being able to help someone out a little bit."

Johnson said she sometimes does "a little sitting with my cousins' dogs when they're out of town, and I used to sit with the elderly. I call them the elderly; some of them were younger than I was. But I don't do that anymore. I've got plenty to keep me busy."

Keeping busy is a large part of her wanting to be a volunteer worker.

"I like staying at something," she said. "I've been bowling since about '82 and I've even won a trip to Reno because of bowling. And I've got lots of kids and grandkids that keep me doing something all the time.

"I just want to stay active, and if you can do that and be helpful at the same time, that's a good thing. ♦

Volunteer spirit



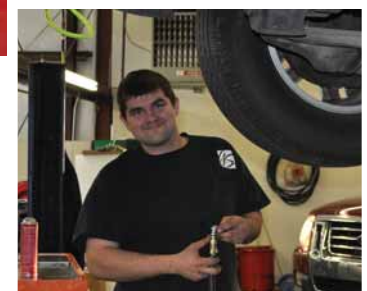
Benson Law Firm employees help 'Cram The Crate' for food pantries

Employees of Benson Law Firm in Paragould collected food items to "Cram The Crate" to the tune of more than 1,000 pounds of food.

Collected items were shared equally between Paragould and Greene County Tech school districts for their food pantries.



The banner for the promotion was donated by Cupples Sign Company while the crate was provided by Keith Morris. Shane May of Turner Dairy also donated milk crates in which to haul the food. ♦



Chris Johnson and Drew Brown, above, and Aaron Nobles, at right, were among Glen Sain employees donating time and labor to the company's efforts to honor members of the military.

Glen Sain workers join volunteer effort

The Glen Sain network of local automobile dealerships staged a promotion to honor area members of the military, offering a free oil change.

Glen Sain's Randy Wright said the local Ford dealership serviced more than 65 vehicles in the short time allotted, and he said workers donated their time and labor to show respect for the service men and women.

"It was huge," he said, "and I am so proud of these guys, so grateful for what they did. The guys didn't put their time down; they just served because they wanted to." ♦

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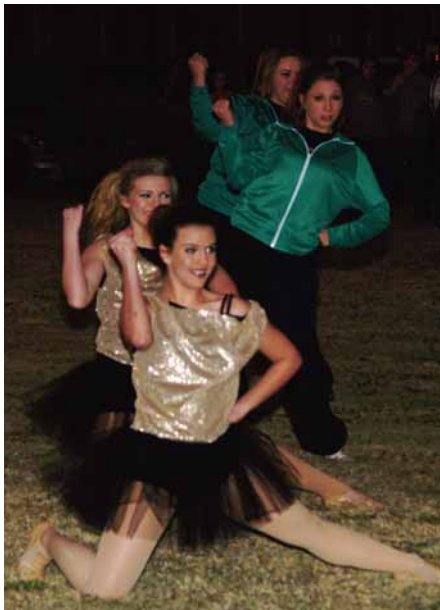

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Citywide Tailgate Party

Supporters of Greene
County Tech
and Paragould high schools
gathered on the PHS campus
for food and
entertainment before the annual
football showdown



While performances by the dance teams, cheerleading squads and bands from both Greene County Tech and Paragould pumped fans up before the game, it was the socialization that made just as big a hit. Parents brought out their little ones to take part in the festivities, top, and the MOR Media/Jack FM booth proved a popular place to stop by and visit. Below, several businesses set up tents and provided attractions to draw visitors their way.



Citywide Tailgate Party



Food was prepared by the staff of Higginbotham Dental, left, and Paragould School District employees, above. Below, event sponsors like Swirlz, Southern Bank and Ridge Kids Dental greeted visitors with food, drinks and games. MOR Media provided music and coordinated the Tailgate Party efforts while serving as a major sponsor of the annual event.



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Attempts to assemble tree had us out on a limb

Years ago, my school chum, Gary, asked me to help decorate his parents' Christmas tree. The holidays being my favorite season, I arrived eager to begin. My eagerness turned to concern when I saw the tree laid out in a million pieces on the floor: Limbs, trunk, topper, stand, fake bark, and various other bits. It took three hours to assemble it ... only to discover we'd put the short limbs on bottom and the long limbs on top. It looked like a big, green ice cream cone.

Down came everything to be reattached in the correct order. Hours later, we had something vaguely resembling a tree — some limbs were missing — ready to be dressed. The search for decorations commenced, and I don't mind saying that the search for the Loch Ness Monster has nothing on the search for those unmarked boxes. We found picture albums, old clothes, toys, family heirlooms, items lost and forgotten, a dead mouse, and a host of other things before hitting pay dirt.

First to be discovered was a knot of tangled lights. I suggested that Gary straighten them

What's The Fuss?

By Fuss



while I sorted the decorations. For hours I sat at the kitchen table, matching bulbs and plastic candy canes and a hundred other oddments. I put the organized decorations back into the box and made my way to the living room.

I should've mentioned earlier that the lights sported three sharp tines around each bulb ... resembling, I suppose, a crown. Unbeknownst to me, Gary had lined the strands across the floor. In sock feet, my vision obscured by the box, I crunched across the little glass shards. My resultant dance of pain did not improve the situation. I dropped the box, jumped out of the nest of barbed wire, and sung a litany of profanity so heated I'm surprised the tree didn't catch fire.

After doctoring my feet and picking through

the surviving decorations, Gary and I, disgruntled, went to work. The rest played out in normal fashion — except for what should have been the closing tradition of putting the angel (it might've been a star) atop the tree. As Gary fetched a stepstool, I noticed a bulb fallen from a bottom branch. I slid under the tree to replace it. Gary returned, climbed the stepstool, reached out to the place the angel (or star), and promptly lost his balance and fell. Gary, angel/star, decorations, and tree tumbled ... me beneath it all, thinking the sky had fallen.

After resuscitating the tree, Gary drove me home. Stopped at a red light, we noted before us a truck of candy apple red. At the wheel sat a round man in a red suit trimmed with white fur — a cap of similar design on his head, his face obscured by a beard.

Gary and I stared in disbelief. The light changed; we drove on in silence. I've a feeling we shared the same thought: Could that have actually been ...?

Twenty years later, I'm still not sure. ♦

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Something Sweet provided the cake for Allen Warmath's 50th birthday celebration.

Warmath has guests give gifts to Backpack Program

Local attorney Allen Warmath celebrated his 50th birthday in style, but also added a unique twist: He asked friends to give gifts to others instead of to him.



Kim and Allen display some of the many items collected for charity.

In lieu of gifts party goers brought food for the Greene County Backpack program. The party was held at the Warmaths' home. ♦



Warmath and his son, Levi, enjoy a bike ride, above. At right is one of the shirts made by New Creations for Warmath's riding club members.



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Business Is Good

Fergus opens new office



MOR Media extends congratulations to Kelly-Gwynne Fergus, DDS, MDS on the opening of the new Fergus Orthodontics building, located at 2812 Harrisburg Road in Jonesboro. Staff members and local dignitaries attended the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the new location recently.



The Crowley's Ridge College softball and baseball teams recently made a donation to the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Foundation. Funds were raised through a Strike Out Cancer 100-inning game. Proceeds of \$1,146 from the event will be used to provide funding for Project Hope, a health initiative at AMMC. Project Hope provides free mammograms for women who are at risk for breast cancer but unable to pay for the potentially lifesaving screening. To date, 115 mammograms have been provided to women through Project Hope. Pictured left to right are AMMC Mammographer Carrie Rowland, softball player Hanna Burgess, Coach Cindy Henry, baseball player Logan Buck, Athletic Director Paul McFadden and Foundation Director Terry Austin.

Lana Williams is Chief Nursing Officer for AMMC

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has named Lana Williams, RN, BSN, ACPHQ, as Chief Nursing Officer. As the CNO, Williams is responsible for the practice of nursing by ensuring consistency in the standard of nursing

practice across all clinical areas. As a member of the administrative team, she will support and facilitate the team approach in strategic planning, development, implementation and evaluation of clinical programs and services; assuring appropriate resources for the delivery of quality healthcare to patients, families and the communities AMMC serves.



Lana Williams

She has more than 25 years of nursing and healthcare experience in such areas as case management, utilization review, quality improvement, risk management, cardiac rehab, general medical/surgical and critical care nursing and has worked at AMMC for 11 years total, and as Assistant Chief Nursing Officer for the past five years. She holds an Associate of Nursing Degree and a Bachelor of Nursing Degree from Arkansas State University. She is currently seeking her Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis in Healthcare Administration from ASU and expects to be finished in May of next year. ♦

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Wallace named Director of Quality and Patient Safety

Sydney Wallace, RN, BSN, CEN, has been named the Director of Quality and Patient Safety at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

Her responsibilities include monitoring and maintaining a safe environment of care for all patients, visitors, and family members; developing and implementing the facility's Patient Safety Plan and Performance Improvement Plan; monitoring and evaluating internal quality data as it affects each department and relay performance improvement data to the Executive Board of Directors through the medical center's quality council and working with staff to maintain compliance with Core Measures, consistent with publicly reported data.



Sydney Wallace

Wallace has worked at AMMC since 2003. She earned her Bachelor of Science of Nursing Degree from Arkansas State University and is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing program at ASU and intends to graduate in the near future. She is a member of the Emergency Nurses Association. ♦

B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens attendance doubles after Premiere feature story

The B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens, Inc., had an article in the September edition of Premiere Magazine spotlighting our Sing-A-Longs at the local nursing home and assisted living facilities.

Our attendance for this event is usually 20-24 Senior Citizens, but after the article in Premiere we have had an amazing attendance of 42-44 Senior Citizens. I feel this increase in our attendance is due to the Sing-A-Long article in the Premiere Magazine. The BEES love Premiere and look forward to more articles of our wonderful events!

Carol Fleszar, Executive Director
B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens, Inc. ♦

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It is with heartfelt thanks that my family and I wish a very happy and healthy Holiday Season to all of our friends, family and supporters!

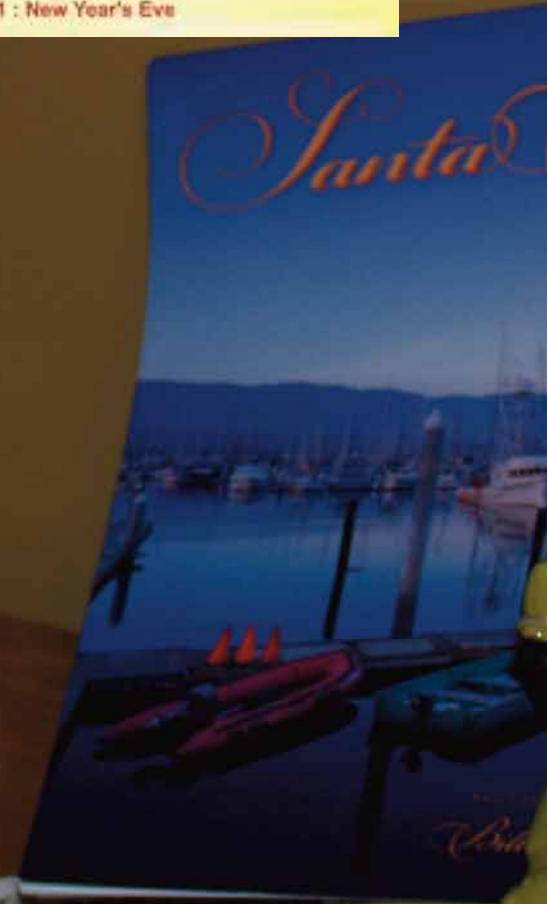
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

24 : Christmas Eve 26 : Boxing Day
25 : Christmas Day 31 : New Year's Eve



The staff of MOR Media wishes a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Premiere Magazine readers.

LIFE *style*

holiday parties



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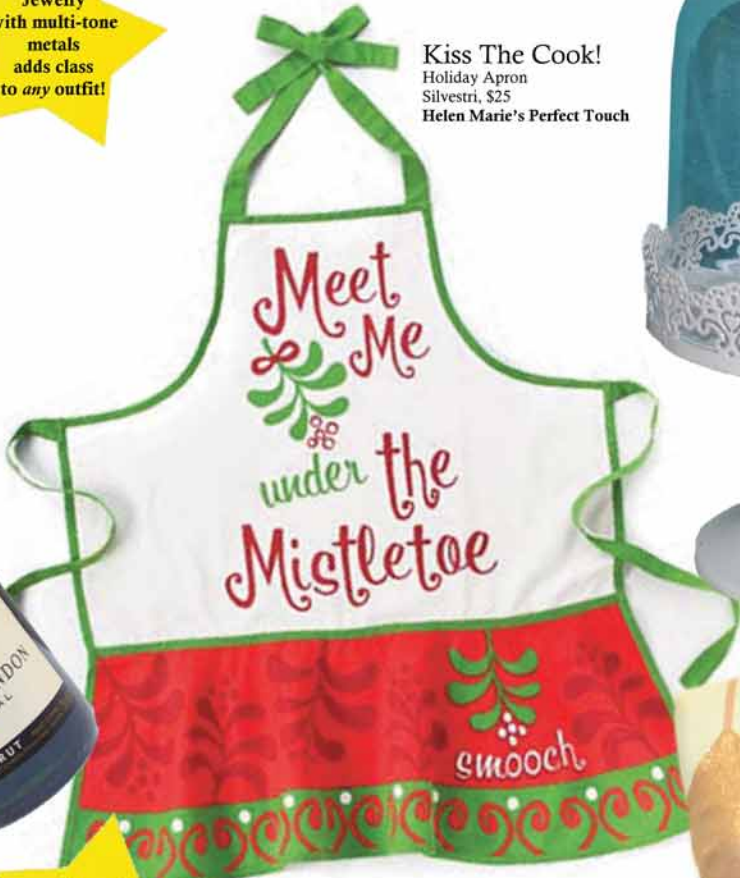
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The annual Harvest Craft Show brought in record numbers of vendors this year.

Craft Show draws record crowd of vendors, guests

The Paragould Parks and Recreation Department played host to the 37th Annual Harvest Craft Show at the community center in November.

A record number of vendors set up shop on the gymnasium floor and in surrounding classrooms, showcasing items like wood work, candles, jewelry, holiday decor, baked goods, children's clothing and much more.



Holiday-themed items were a big hit at the craft show, with something for just about everyone.




This season, may your days be decorated with love and laughter. May your time be spent with those who mean the most. And may the wonder of the season live in your hearts long after the calendar says it has passed.

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ZOMBIE

Downtown Paragould was alive with "dead people" when it played host to the first-ever Zombie Walk, sponsored by NEA Jack FM 107.1 and Main Street Paragould. Folks dressed up in their most ghoulish attire and enjoyed a night of entertainment.



WALK



Photos by Joy Robinson and Richard Brummett





Trunk or Treat was a big draw at Paragould's First United Methodist Church.

Big crowd turns out for FUMC Trunk or Treat

First United Methodist Church in Paragould hosted all sorts of ghosts and goblins on Halloween night, staging its annual Trunk or Treat event.

Hundreds of children and families took part in the candy giveaway and enjoyed the various activities provided.

FUMC stages the event to provide a safe activity for children. ♦



1st place trunk: Liz and Shane May, with Evelyn and Kathelyn McHaney.



Above, Hall Benson, Parker Harris, Henry Thompson, Nate Griffith and Owen Newby were all dressed up for the occasion; at right, 70 full-size cakes were given away during the Cake Walk;



Linwood ANIMAL HOSPITAL

With Christmas quickly approaching, many of you are spending every free moment in search of that perfect gift. You may even be considering a new puppy or kitten for a friend or family member, so I'd like to take a moment to give you some things to think about so that you can make the best gift-giving decision.

To put it simply, pets are generally not the best "surprise" gifts. I may at first sound like a farmer who hates rain showers in July. However, adding a pet to a family brings on a lot of responsibilities for what should be many years to come, so it important to do your homework to ensure that this decision is the right one.

Unlike the new iPod or blu-ray player, pets are not inanimate objects. They are members of the family. Gift givers tend to forget that there is often a 10 to 20 year commitment that comes with being a responsible pet owner. Humane societies report that about half of all adopted pets for Christmas gifts end up back at their doorsteps, while others are unfortunately neglected and not given the care and love that they deserve.

There are also important financial considerations. The initial cost is relatively small as compared to the overall cost of responsible pet ownership over time.

Pets can be wonderful additions to any family, but there is a right time and right place to begin that long-term relationship. That new puppy with a red bow around its neck may be just the perfect gift this Christmas, but be sure you've done your homework. Is the pet owner ready to take on the financial,

emotional, and time commitment responsibilities that go along with having a long-term animal companion?

The Reddick family and the staff at Linwood Animal Hospital would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas. Of all gifts that you receive this holiday season, please take the time to remember His eternal gift, the greatest of them all... God Bless!

Brent Reddick, DVM



Merry Christmas from
Amber, Stary, Dr. Reddick,
Kristen, & Sherry



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Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



Christmas Eve surprise remains just that, even now

Each of us, I suppose, has some sort of Christmas memory that sticks out above the rest. It may be related to a unique present or to a family adventure, or to the woes of shopping for that special someone and coming home empty-handed.

One of my favorites dates back to my childhood, when my sister and I were young enough to still believe in Santa Claus and the idea that sometime on Christmas Eve he was going to deliver gifts. I was probably six or seven; or maybe I was 17, I don't recall. I just remember that somehow my parents pulled off a well-constructed ruse and I am content to let it be rather than try to figure it out. Some things are better left unsolved.

Mom and Dad convinced us that we needed to get into bed or else Santa might pass us over. We had twin beds in a room we shared at the end of the hallway, so we hurried in there to resemble obedient children, just in case Santa was near. Dad escorted us to our room while Mom finished up washing dishes; we could see her at the kitchen sink while Dad told us some story to keep us occupied.

Suddenly, we heard the front door slam shut: Santa! It had to be! Sure enough, when we hurried into the living room, there were those special "must-have" gifts under the tree and they had not been there when we left the room moments before.

I didn't know then -- and don't know to this day -- if our parents enlisted the help of a friend or neighbor, or if they simply performed some sort of grownup magic. What I do know is that the gifts somehow appeared and, when we hurried to the picture window, my sister said she saw Santa riding off over the hill across the street.

I'm not sure I want to know the answer to that one, either. ♦

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Residents crowded around Centennial Park in Paragould to visit with Governor Mike Beebe, right, and to listen to local politicians, as well.

Voters gather to hear governor, politicians

Greene County Democrats gathered for a “pep rally” of sorts in Paragould’s Centennial Park before the November elections.

Governor Mike Beebe’s appearance in his “Move Arkansas Forward” tour was the drawing card for the Saturday morning observers, but others on the ballot also took time to address the crowd. ♦



Mary Broadaway and James Ratliff



AG Dustin McDaniel and Senator Robert Thompson

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Witt House provides meals for more than 100 people before Thanksgiving

The food pantry at the Witt House gave away Thanksgiving meals to 113 people on the Monday before Thanksgiving.



In a four-hour span, volunteers

Payton Brown spent his birthday assisting at the Witt House.

crammed into the house, once belonging to Emmy Witt, for whom the home is named, and gathered the food assembly-style. Food was given to existing clients of the food pantry, which gives away groceries every Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning to qualified individuals. The food pantry's main goal is to provide assistance to the working poor. The Witt House houses various ministries and is under the umbrella of First United Methodist Church. It is located on N. 4th Street. ♦

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Birth Announcements



Max Shelton Gray

Brad and Abby Gray of Light announce the birth of their son, Max Shelton Gray.

Max weighed 8 pounds and 14 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. He was born at NEA Baptist of Jonesboro.

Grandparents are Phil and

Debby Smith of Stuttgart, and the late Lee and Cathy Gray of Stanford. Great-grandparents are the late Herman and Betty Buerkle, the late Ethel Mae and the late Keneth Smith, Jerry and Karen Clifford, the late Ed and Francis Rushing, and the late Lavern and the late Velma Gray. ♦

Harleigh Alexis Banks

Brittany Wallace and Bret Banks of Paragould announce the arrival of Harleigh Alexis Banks.

Harleigh was born October 4, 2012, at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and weighed 6 pounds and 1 ounce, and was 17 1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Shane and Mabelle Wallace, and Linda Banks all of Paragould. Great grandparents are Linda Washington and the late Bill Washington, Joe and Sandra Wallace and the late Bettye Wallace, and Evelyn Banks and the late Charles Banks, all of Paragould. ♦

Wedding Announcement

Meg Bradley and Justin Davis will be wed on December 7, 2012, in Cancun, Mexico.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Rusty and

Janet Bradley, and Ralph and Denise Cheshier. She is from Jonesboro.

The prospective groom is the son of Jack and Rhonda Davis of Paragould. ♦

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Tracy Mothershed and Kim Workman of Something Sweet

Family:

Tracy: Husband, Winston, three children – Cody, Meagan and Mollie and two adorable granddaughters – Landree and Ryker

Kim: Husband of 17 years, Fritz; Children – Kaleigh, Noah and Lexie, Grandson - Zayne "Z"

Who taught you to cook?

Tracy: I had no idea how to cook when I got married. I learned all of the basics from my husband.

Kim: My Grandma, Lucille Newsom, was always cooking something or canning veggies from the garden. My Mom, Sandra Lyles, taught me how as well.

When did you start cooking?

Tracy: After I got married, and learned a few things from Winston I started playing and experimenting in the kitchen.

Kim: I don't know at what age exactly, but we always had people at our house to cook for.

Favorite cooking memory:

Tracy: Making my first birthday cake. It was for my daughter's 2nd birthday.

Kim: Frying bologna during the ice storm with a skillet and tea light candles.

Favorite thing to make:

Tracy: Holiday meals. I find everyday meals become boring and routine. I love creating feasts.

Kim: Recently with our long hours at the shop, anything that's home cooked and not fast food.

Who do you like to cook for?

Tracy: My family, friends, just about anyone

NEA Cooks



Meagan's Favorite Trifle

Ingredients:

- 2 containers (12 oz.) Cool Whip
- 1 package (6 oz.) Vanilla pudding
- 1 Angel Food Cake Cut into 1" cubes
- Sliced fresh strawberries
- Fresh blueberries
- (Or other fruit combinations of your choice)

Prepare pudding according to package directions in a medium bowl. Then in a trifle bowl or other tall bowl (a clear one is best for presentation), layer the ingredients as follows: 1/3 Cool Whip, 1/2 of the cake cubes, 1/2 of the pudding, layer of strawberries, 1/3 Cool Whip, remaining cake cubes, remaining pudding, blueberries. Finish with remaining Cool Whip. Keep refrigerated. ♦

that likes to eat.

Kim: Anyone who's hungry – friends, family, it doesn't matter.

What is your family's favorite dish for you to make?

Tracy: They love it when I make Shrimp Etouffee.

Kim: They each have a favorite. Fritz would be burgers, Kaleigh – Dumplings, Noah – French Toast, Lexie – Mac 'n Cheese

Worst kitchen disaster:

Tracy: That would be when I was going to boil



Raspberry Almond Shortbread Cookies

Ingredients:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Dough: 3/4 cup | Sugar |
| 1 cup | Butter (not margarine) |
| 1/2 Tsp | Almond extract |
| 2 cups | Flour |
| 1/2 cup | Seedless raspberry jam |
| Icing: | |
| 1 cup | Powdered sugar |
| 1 1/2 Tsp | Almond extract |
| 2 Tsp | Milk |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixer bowl combine sugar, butter and almond extract. Beat at medium speed until creamy. Reduce speed to low and slowly add flour. Continue beating until well mixed. Shape dough into 1" balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Make indentation in each cookie and fill with 1/4 tsp jam. Bake 14-16 minutes. Remove from oven, let stand 1-2 minutes, and then transfer to cooling rack. In a small bowl, stir together icing ingredients. Drizzle over cooled cookies. ♦

some eggs and I went outside, ended up having an hour-long conversation with the neighbor. The smoke alarm got my attention. Needless to say, that pan went in the trash.

Kim: Setting a pan on fire and trying to put it out.

What is the one ingredient you can't live without?

Tracy: Chocolate – It's really not an ingredient, it's a food group.

Kim: Fresh garlic and my garlic press. ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 1st

Holiday Traditions

The one time of year horse drawn carriages are seen on the streets of Downtown Paragould. And, of course, shopping in the "One and Only Downtown" Paragould, from the unique shops and from many art and crafters.

Greene County Fine Arts Council's production of "A Christmas Carol", 7:30 p.m. at the Collins Theater

This is an adaptation by Gabriel Cook and directed by Amy Lane. Bring your family and enjoy the show. You can buy tickets online at www.gcfac.org. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under.

Benefit Concert, For Our Troops, Kennett, Mo., 7:00 p.m., at the Opera House

Operation First Response and the Kennett Jaycees present a night to remember the men and women of the Armed Forces. Blackjack Billy with Declan McGary will headline the entertainment, along with Carla Joiner and Limmie Pulliam. A silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. Concert tickets are \$15; call 573-888-5828 for information.

AMMC Childbirth Education Class, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building Auditorium at the hospital. For more information, 239-7467.

Sunday, December 2nd

Greene County Fine Arts Council's production of "A Christmas Carol", at the Collins Theater, 2:30 p.m.

This is an adaptation by Gabriel Cook and directed by Amy Lane. Bring your family and enjoy the show. You can buy tickets online at www.gcfac.org. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under.

Monday, December 3rd

AMMC Auxiliary Christmas Tree Lighting and The Foundation Auction, 6:00 p.m.

Beautifully decorated Christmas trees, swags, wreaths, poinsettias and centerpieces donated by local individuals and organizations will be auctioned off with the proceeds benefiting The Foundation at AMMC. Entertainment will be provided by the Baldwin Elementary choir. In the Herget Atrium at the hospital. For more information, call 239-7077.

Tuesday, December 4th

Paragould Christmas Parade, "A Dandy Christmas"

In the One and Only Downtown Paragould.

Saturday, December 8th

Elite Performing Arts "Mardi Gras Christmas" Dinner Theatre, 6 p.m.

The show is set at The Red Goose Deli in Paragould. Contact Misty Gibson at 476-9908, Heather Claude at 476-6302 or Lora Crossno at (870) 215-6747 for information. Cost: \$25.00 per person (includes meal). Corporate Sponsorships, benefiting the Greene County Community Fund and other charities.

Heath Funeral Home's Tree of Memories, 2:00 p.m.

Please join the Heath's staff in remembering loved ones who have passed by bringing an ornament to hang on the tree in their memory. A reception follows at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel, located at 321 W. Garland St. in Paragould. Call Heath's at 870-236-7676 for information.

AMMC Breastfeeding Class, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building Auditorium, at the hospital. For more information, 239-7467.

Christmas At The Museum, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

The annual Christmas program will be held at the Greene County Museum, located at 130 South 14th Street in Paragould. The program will feature local entertainers, holiday decorations, and Christmas cookies and hot apple cider. Everyone is invited; admission is always free at the museum.

Chad Garret and Friends, 7:00 p.m. at the Collins Theatre

Musical entertainment at Paragould's historic Collins Theatre.

Sunday, December 9th

Holiday Tour of Homes, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Clubview Estates Subdivision

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Foundation and Women's Council presents its annual Holiday Tour of Homes at Club View Subdivision off of Pruett's Chapel Road across from the Paragould Country Club, including the homes of Tim and Sue McGowan; Matt and Chandra McGowan and David and Janie Stone. Don't miss your opportunity to tour some of Paragould's most exquisite homes while they are decorated for Christmas.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call The Foundation at (870) 239-7077. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 the day of the event. Parking and a shuttle will be provided. Proceeds from this event will help to establish the Dr. Tory Stallcup memorial scholarship fund. The scholarships will be given to medical school students who commit to practicing at AMMC, with preference given to students who are natives of Paragould and other communities served by the medical center.

Thursday, December 13th

American Red Cross Blood Drive, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

AMMC Professional Office Building Auditorium, at the hospital. For more information, 239-8031.

AMMC Auxiliary Jewelry Sale, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The Herget Atrium, at the hospital. For more information, 239-7097.

Friday, December 14th

AMMC Auxiliary Jewelry Sale, 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Herget Atrium, at the hospital. For information, 239-7097.

Sunday, December 16th

"It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year," 2:00 p.m. at the Collins Theatre

Dance students of A Time To Dance studio will entertain with a variety show at Paragould's historic Collins Theatre, raising money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

FUMC Chancel Choir Cantata at 6:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church in Paragould, located at 404 W. Main St., is the site for the performance.

Monday, December 17th

Mommy and Me Breastfeeding Support Group Meeting, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

AMMC Professional Office Building Auditorium. For more information, 239-7467.

Recurring Events:

First Monday of every month

Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon

Every Wednesday

Perking on Pruett, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

At Something Sweet. Find out what's happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

T.O.P.S. (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)

Wednesday mornings at the Paragould Community Center in Room E. Private Weigh in at 8:00 a.m.; support meeting at 8:30 a.m. May attend one meeting as a guest. Membership fees are \$26 a year and \$1 dues per meeting.

Second Thursday of every month

The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 p.m. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road.

For parents grieving the loss of a child. tolfortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

Second Saturday of every month

Special shopping activities in downtown Paragould

Advertisement for Gotay's gallery of custom jewelry designs, llc. The image shows a large, ornate ring with a central oval-cut sapphire surrounded by a halo of diamonds. The text "true beauty" is written in a cursive font in the upper right. At the bottom, the company name "Gotay's gallery of custom jewelry designs, llc." is written in a large, elegant script. The address "2604 E. Nettleton Avenue Jonesboro" and phone number "870-972-8743" are listed, along with the website "www.gotaysgallery.com". A small logo for "AGS" is visible in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.

STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month



Cover

We will focus on ways to stay healthy and fit and will feature on the cover Jazzerciser Susan Nanke, who exemplifies those efforts.



Feature

Personal trainer Suzette Baker is also a Bodybuilding Fitness competitor. She will share her story in the January issue of Premiere.



Events

December will be the time for the Paragould Christmas Parade, and we'll recap the event with plenty of photographs. ♦

Merry Christmas
to our customers, families, and friends.

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Merry Christmas

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Roger Cagle, M.D.

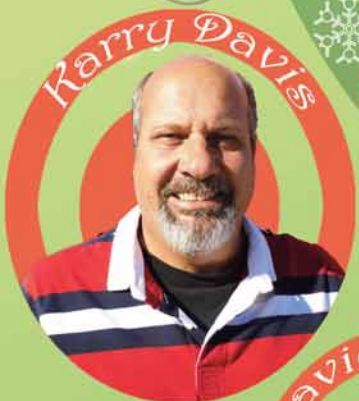
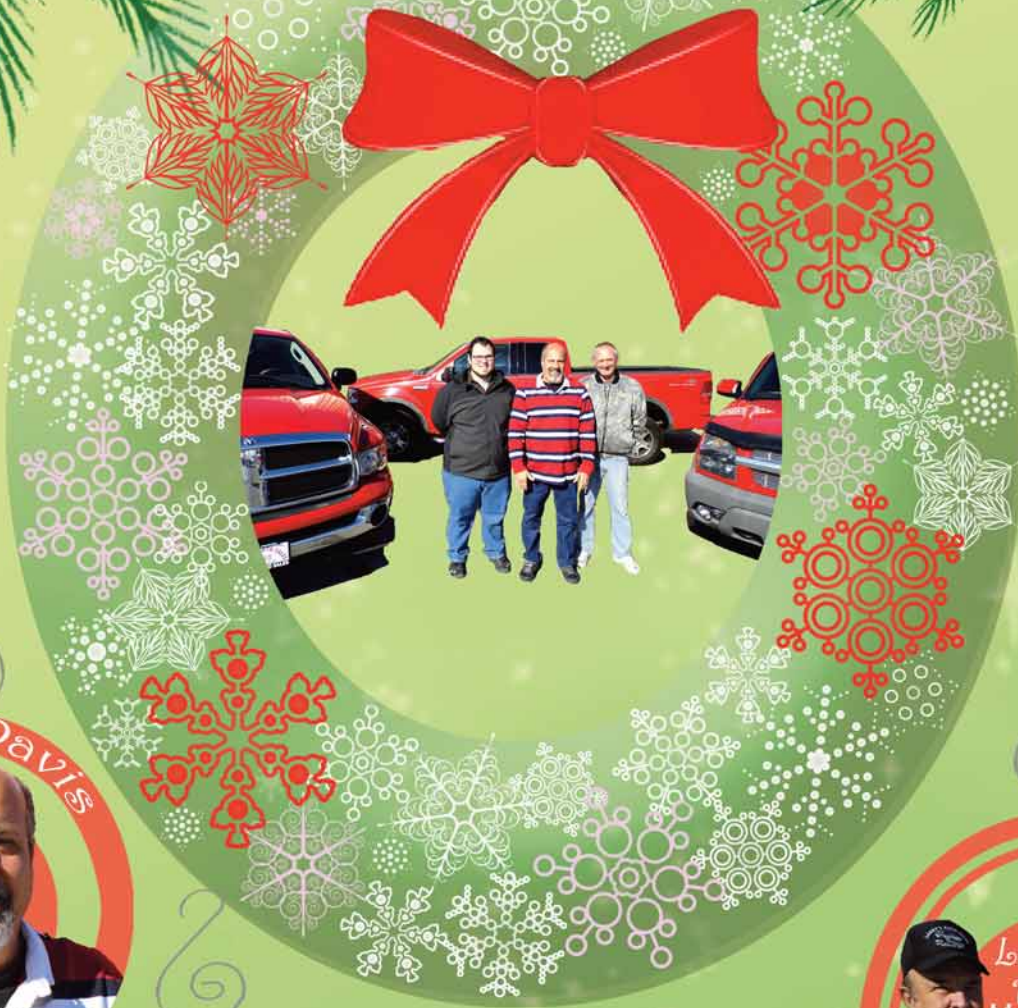
We are patient people.

Welcome
Cathy Young
DNSc, FNP-BC

Mon / Tues / Thurs / Fri 8am-7pm
Weds 8am-1pm / Sat 8am-2pm

2700 W. Kingshighway
870.239.3600

Merry Christmas



From our family
to Yours

Larry's Auto Sales

Hwy 49 North, Paragould
(across from Monroe)
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