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CRA has blessed our family beyond measure. Robin says, "Our children are challenged daily to reach beyond their natural talents to develop into well rounded, courageous and confident individuals who have a sense of self-worth and accomplishment. Our children are truly loved by their teachers who are committed, not only to their field of study, but also to mentoring through Christian example. We are so blessed to live in an area with a Christian school that for sixty years has proven its value time and again by the quality and success of its alumni."

CRA's mission comes from Luke 2:52 which says, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man." The staff and family at CRA help every student grow in academics, with 99% of the graduates going on to college. Many of the graduates have already completed a year of college credit by the end of their senior year. Three years ago both the University of Arkansas' and Harding University's student body presidents were CRA grads. This year five of the eight members of Harding's Belles and Beaus musical performing group are graduates of CRA. Physical growth starts in PALS circle activities and continues on to state athletic championships. Socially, every student is valued as part of the CRA family. Spiritual values are integrated into every subject and activity including daily Bible classes and chapel.

Our family invites your family to join us and see for yourselves what is happening at CRA. We think you'll be glad you did. It is never too late to start this legacy with your family.

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 Don and Robin (Austin) Wilcox
 Grant, Aileen and Auburn Wilcox
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Doug D Jackson, D.D.S

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From the Managing Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

One of our goals at Premiere Magazine is to bring to the readers a mix of entertaining and informative features, concentrating on the good news and events that make our community such a happy place.

We would be remiss, however, if we didn't make mention of the fact that late last month -- in the space of only a few days -- the Paragould area lost at least three men who left lasting impressions on us by the lives they led.

We were saddened by the passing of both Rex Bouldin and John McKenzie, business leaders and men who understood the importance of giving back to a community that helped them prosper.

Through work, church and community involvement, both men built reputations worthy of praise and both will surely be missed by family and friends. Both were excellent at taking the reins and seeing community projects through, and both gave of their time and energies to see that things were done for the betterment of us all.

We also were touched by the death in Louisiana of Todd Dudley, a tremendous athlete at Paragould High School in his day and a young man who represented not only the Dudley family but also the city of Paragould in fine fashion.

It is hard to smile in such difficult times but

when we have time to step back and consider our memories of the three, we will recall that smiles and laughter played a big part for each of them. They greeted us with happiness, and sent us on our way with a smile.

That is how we should remember them.

In this issue we start a new feature, the PR (Premiere Reader) Page, to go along with our regular monthly efforts. The PR Page is reader driven, and we hope to see it catch on quickly. Your participation is encouraged, because the information comes from you.

We also take a look at several area musicians who are making a name for themselves, with that angle leading up to the annual Loose Caboose Festival, Paragould's very own weekend outing featuring food, fun, games, rides and excellent musical entertainment.

We invite you to sit back and thumb through the pages, taking in the recaps of several area events during the past month. We figure you'll see the faces of a lot of people you know, and some we hope you will read about and come to appreciate. ♦

<p>CARNIVAL</p> <p>Open Thurs, May 17th Fri, May 18th & Saturday, May 19th</p> <p>ARM BAND NIGHT</p> <p>Thurs, May 17th 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm</p> <p>Buy your Armband at the Caboose on Emerson from 3:00pm to 5:00pm for \$13. or at the gate after 5:00pm for \$15.</p> 	 <p>May 17-19 2012</p> <p>Loose Caboose DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD</p> <p>loosecaboose.net</p>	<p>FREE KID'S FUN</p> <p>PORK CHOP DOWNS PIG RACES</p> <p>PETTING ZOO</p>  <p>Open Friday, May 18th & Saturday, May 19th</p>
<p>SPIKE IT RICH</p> <p>Log on to the website or be a Facebook Fan or Listen to 107.1 JACK FM and read the Paragould Daily Press and follow the clues to find Spike and WIN \$500 cash!</p>		<p>T-SHIRT SALES</p> <p>Buy your collectible Loose Caboose T-Shirt before the Festival at: Natalie's Jewelry Box; Room to Grow and Something Sweet. Or at the Information Booth during the Festival</p>
<p>FREE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Friday, May 18th 8:00 pm</p> <p>Everyday Life</p> <p>On the Main Stage. Music starts at 7:00 pm with Everyday Life at 8:00</p> <p>YOUTH TALENT SHOW</p> <p>Friday May 18th at 6pm on the Pruett Street Stage</p> 	<p>5K WALK/RUN</p> <p>Saturday, May 19th 8:00 am</p> <p>Intersection of Pruett & Court. Pick-up packet 6:30am to 7:45am Run starts at 8:00am.</p> 	<p>MARY ESTHER HERGET'S BLUEGRASS & BAR-B-Q</p> <p>Doors open at 5:00 pm at the Red Goose Grand Hall with speeches from political candidates.</p> <p>The Cleverlys begin at 7:00pm. Tickets are available at Insurance in Paragould, all four Glen Sain locations, or on the Loose Caboose website at www.loosecaboose.net. Ticket prices are \$15 for the meal and entertainment in advance/ \$17 at the door. Entertainment only tickets are being offered for \$10 in advance/ \$12 at the door.</p>
<p>James Wesley</p> <p>Saturday, May 21st 8:00 pm</p> 	<p>IRON CABOOSE BIKE</p> <p>Saturday, May 19th 9:30 am</p> <p>On South Pruett Street. Registration is \$25. Go to RacesOnline.com to register for 5K or Bike Ride.</p> 	<p>HARDEE'S BINGO</p> <p>Saturday, May 19th 10:00 am to 7:00 pm</p> 
<p>Proceeds Benefiting</p> <p>for more info call 870.240.0544</p> 		

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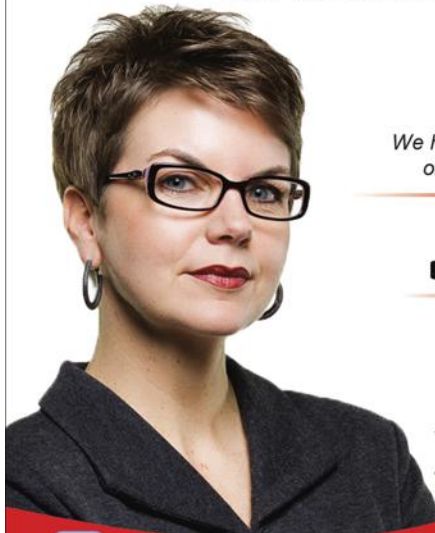
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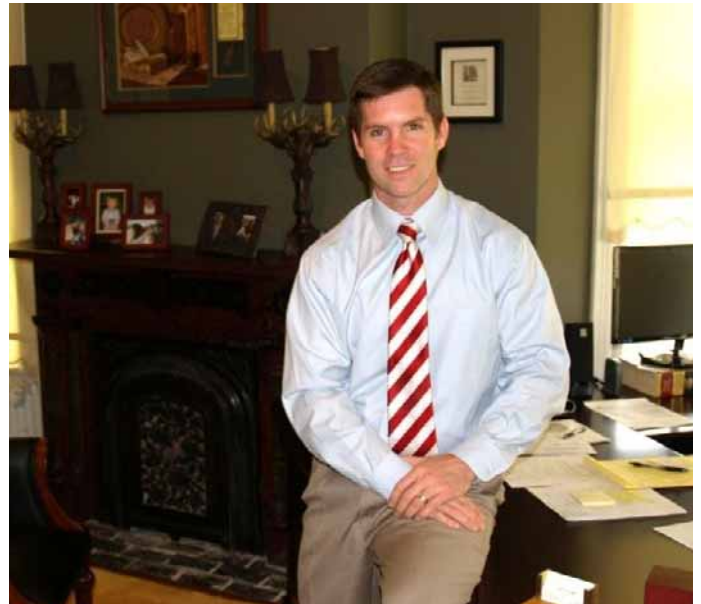
Living

The Jackson-Herget House has long been a treasure tucked in the midst of Greene County history.

Constructed in 1890 for Gainesville merchant Richard Jackson, the structure housed a family with direct ties to the Civil War.

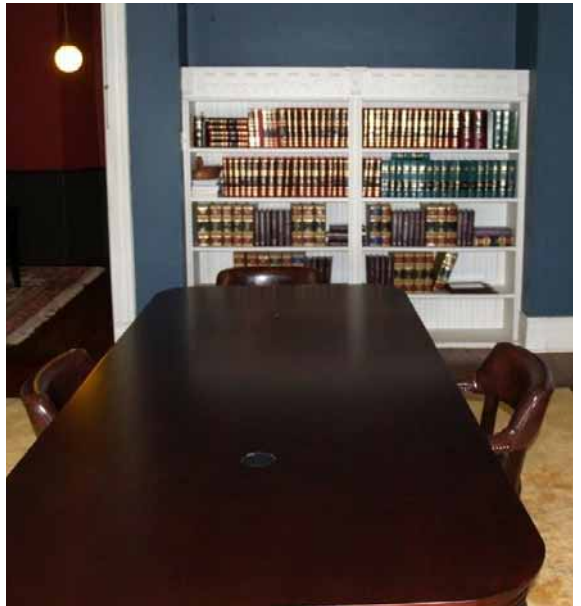
In modern times it was known as the home of Phil and Mary Esther Herget, household names in the Paragould community for their volunteer and philanthropic efforts.

Now the torch has been passed to attorney Curtis Hitt, who has turned the building into his place of business, adding some modern touches but keeping the ties to the past. ♦





Visitors are greeted by a beautiful foyer in front of the staircase, left, while the rest of house combines history with the present. At right is the Conference Room while below are Mary Esther Herget's church pew, retained to add a bit of the family atmosphere; one of several elaborate fireplaces; and Hitt's grandfather clock, a gift from his family.



Opposite: The building, located at 206 S. 4th St. in Paragould, presents a beautiful picture. Hitt has turned one room downstairs into a Billiard Room while upstairs, a radiator that runs the length of a wall serves as a link to the past. Below: Partner Curtis Kidd poses in his office; at right is the winding staircase that leads to a level Kidd said he "isn't sure yet what to do with. We are just so humbled that Mary Esther and the Herget family has entrusted us with this historic house, and we want to make sure it always stays a part of their family history and of Paragould."





Tim Blackburn, Kelly Dunn, Malissa Lewis, David Neighbors and Chuck Palmer show certificates acknowledging the Award of Excellence for their businesses' contributing over \$10,000 to the Greene County Community Fund.

Community Fund recognizes outstanding volunteers

"In this economy," said Greene County Community Fund Executive Director Joan Bradley, "I cannot believe we reached the money level that we have."

That level -- \$265,998 currently -- speaks to the incredible giving spirit of Paragould

and Greene County residents.

The Community Fund recently honored the outstanding volunteers and fund raisers with a luncheon at the Paragould Community Center. Businesses donating more than \$10,000 were ARI employees

(Paragould and Marmaduke), First National Bank and employees, Greene County Tech employees, Nidec Corp. and employees, Paragould School District employees, Tenneco Inc. and employees and Utility Trailer and employees. ♦



Director Joan Bradley, left, was presented the President's Plaque by Malissa Lewis. Those in attendance enjoyed a meal and program, and also had opportunity to visit a number of booths set up by Greene County Community Fund agencies.



Our Wedding Story: Married to a Jim, by a Jim, in a gym

On a lovely Saturday night 25 years ago, on April 25th, Darla Lott and Jim Scudder were married at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould.

Sometime before their wedding took place, the church building burned down to the ground. The obstacle at hand was deciding whether to go ahead with their wedding plans since they had already hired the caterer, and the photographer, Wayne Garner Photography; or should they wait until later in the year when the new church would be rebuilt.

They decided to continue as planned, only the ceremony would be held in the church gymnasium rather than the sanctuary. Darla's grandfather was battling cancer, and the wedding was one of the last things he ever attended. They were glad they didn't wait.

The minister was Rev. Jim Fowler. Darla makes light that she got married in a gym, by a Jim, to a Jim.

During the ceremony Jim's father, Rev. Dennis Scudder, led the adult choir in singing

"Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us." Darla recalls walking with her father, Bill Lott, down the aisle. As they approached the front of the church she said the choir members looked so beautiful in their new white robes (the original robes had been lost in the fire) they couldn't help but feel as if they were walking into Heaven. Darla noted that it truly took her breath away.

After their wedding ceremony, the two left on their honeymoon and spent a week in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. When they came home they settled into their one-bedroom apartment above Carl's Furniture House.



A few years after their wedding, much of Pruett Street -- including Garner Studio (their photographer's studio) -- burned down. A few more years passed and the main strip in Gatlinburg, including the hotel they stayed in on their honeymoon, also burned to the ground. Jim and Darla kid each other that their love has certainly been a trail blazer, and she says there have been lots of times in their marriage when she has made Jim turn around and go home to make sure all the appliances were turned off.

Jim and Darla are the parents of two sons, Tyler, 23, and Trevor, 21, both currently attending Arkansas State University.

On Sunday, April 22, they will attend East Side Baptist Church with their close friends and family where once again the choir will sing "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us" followed by a family lunch to celebrate 25 years of wedded bliss. Jim and Darla will then board a plane and head out for a week's vacation in Las Vegas where they will start another 25 years together. Now that's one "hunka hunka burnin' love." ♦



Jim and Darla Scudder didn't have the typical wedding ceremony, although things finally worked out. The church building burned down before they could have their wedding, but as the photos at left and above show, they managed to tie the knot after all.



Chamber of Commerce Banquet

New Arkansas State University football coach Gus Malzahn was the featured speaker at the annual Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Banquet, held at the Community Center.

Malzahn updated those in attendance as to the progress and expectations of the Red Wolves' football prospects for next season. ♦



Gus Malzahn, above, was the keynote speaker for the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet. At right, Alvin Samuel accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award from presenter Mary Ann Allen.

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Chamber of Commerce Banquet



Clockwise from left: Valerie Markum is presented the Member of the Year plaque by Dina Mason; Virginia Walls gives the Ambassador of the Year award to Rebecca Edwards; Mason's efforts as outgoing Chamber President were acknowledged by her successor, Darrell Phillips; emcee Brian Osborn and his wife, Lisa; Mason "crowned" Chamber Director Sue McGowan and her staff; Jeremy Cox and his wife, Camela.

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The PR Page

How the Premiere Reader (PR) plans to spend his or her summer



First thing the Premiere Reader does when Summer Vacation finally arrives: **Sleep In!**

PRs who plan to travel this summer: **100%**

PRs who say gas prices won't affect their roadtrip: **20%**

The breakdown in miles:

	\$3.75/gal	\$3.99/gal	\$4.19/gal:
Hardy: 66.3	\$19.89	\$21.16	\$23.81
San Antonio: 744	\$223.23	\$237.48	\$267.24
San Diego: 1,828	\$548.40	\$583.50	\$656.62



Round trip cost if gas is

*average fuel economy 25 mpg

Number one complaint of high gas prices: **It affects everything I do.**

Best way to beat the pain at the pump this summer: **Stay close to home.**

When it comes to lawn maintenance:

Hire it done: **33.3%**

DIYers: **66.6%**



Percentage who say the cost of fuel will affect their lawn care ritual: **0%**

Percentage who say laziness is more of a factor: **50%**

Favorite waterfront getaway: **Lake Norfork**

Other Favs:
Spring River
Greers Ferry
Lake Walcott



What the PR has cooking on the grill:

burgers chicken/pineapple kabobs steaks bratwurst hot dogs

How often the PR invites friends and family for a BBQ: **Once a month**




Grilling fuel source:
57% Charcoal
43% Gas



PRs who chose flip-flops over sandals or sneakers: **78%**

Where the PR ventures for ice cream:
Dairy Queen 42%
Honorable mentions:
Grocery Store
Bruster's
Dogs N Suds



Sound off! Participate in our polls on 

Local couple feels they have answered God's call

Today I'm taken back to my childhood. I've just made my first cheerleading squad and I'm rooting for my best friend as she serenades our team with Mariah Carey's "Hero" at our meet and greet sleepover. Preferring the spotlight, I take a happy second to her rendition of "Holy Night" at the yearly Christmas Parade. Although I was wearing a crown from my latest beauty pageant win, atop a corvette waving to what I perceived as an adoring crowd, I couldn't hold a candle to her. I don't recall ever wanting to, as I was equally mesmerized by her inner songbird. Ordinarily a little shy, she lost all her inhibitions when you gave her the chance to sing. Over the years, I shared all her heartbreaks and inner most thoughts. My favorite CD in college belonged to her. If I were homesick, all I had to do is listen to her words, and I was taken back to a safe haven.

Here we are, long from junior high, and she's still one of my most cherished friends. Sitting opposite from me on my sofa, she talks about her inspiration for her latest songs and demonstrates her humor, "You're so my Oprah right now," she says. Life is different as an adult, but some things never change.

Amber Gunn Randall is still that girl with wild ambition exploring the security of her roots. "It's hard to come back to your home town where you sewed your wild oats, especially as a pastor's wife. I think, though, that we all want our children to experience our childhood, climbing trees, running through the cotton fields. I always envisioned myself, name in lights, big dreams, big city — but I always wanted to come back home," Amber says.

Her husband, Chad chimes in, "The road of a Nashville writer is you're always a breath away from that next big break. Sometimes, though, you look back and you find you've been looking for that break for the last ten years. We knew that God had more in store for us."

There is no absence of accolades for this couple; they are both products of musical families. Amber is the daughter of an established musician well-known for her success as a Christian artist. Her mother was playing the piano by ear at eight years old.

"I really just think it was something I was just born to do. Music is in my blood," Amber says. "I really embraced what I feel like now is a gift from God. Not to sound vain, but I feel like a lot of people try very hard to do what I was just gifted to do, effortlessly."

Chad and Amber enjoyed the perks of their talent -- she was writing for the likes of Paul Worley who produced the award-winning Lady Antebellum and he was hosting a show at the Hard Rock, and both



by Tiffany Napier

working on a publishing deal originally scored with Epic Records. They spent twelve years in Nashville writing on Music Row.

"We thought we were going to be songwriters, making record deals, but all along Chad had our destiny in his back pocket. He didn't even know it," Amber says.

Through a series of circumstances, Chad and Amber were led to join a Nashville church after she witnessed the pastor on television. The church, Living to Go, promoted a contemporary worship service and elected the couple as worship leaders.

"I could never get away from my roots of gospel music. It was a cord that flowed through everything I did," Amber says.

Likewise, Chad was in his element. "My Dad was a gospel musician. We grew up in the back seat of a station wagon traveling Middle America. I grew up in ministry," he says. "I wanted to stop doing what I wanted to do and do what God called me to do. Music and ministry really thrive in Nashville. We wanted to share that experience with Paragould."

The couple packed their bags and relocated their two children in hopes of starting a new church with the help of their Living to Go family.

They said they "started with six people in the local Holiday Inn. We had \$19 dollars in our bank account and the rent was \$50 dollars. What we did have was faith and God delivered. In a short eight months, God has taken us from six to 138 people."

The money used to help build the church was, of course, collected through the offering of those in attendance. As they grew, however, Living to Go Nashville kept them under their umbrella asking its members to offer their support in renting a space to house the church in Arkansas.

"We had just signed the lease and we were standing outside looking at this new building. I said to Amber, 'It looks like God is building a church.' Knowing that God's in control, it takes the weight off our shoulders. We can just enjoy the ride and the excitement all the more," Chad says.

"I'm using my music as a tool to bring people into the presence of God. My song has a much greater purpose now. Every single word, I want to make it speak," Amber says. "I feel like I just turned the page on what is truly going to be my legacy. I think the songs that are going to come from this place in my life are going to define who I am and who I'm created to be." ♦

May is Mental Health Month

Local agencies offer variety of services for those in need in the Paragould community

By Jennifer Thompson

Mental Health Month, which occurs each May, was created more than 50 years ago in an effort to raise awareness concerning mental health conditions, and because of the importance of mental health for all.

In that same vein, we thought we would provide Paragould Premiere readers with some information about the local mental health facilities and the many various services provided locally, along with contact information.

The staff at Arkansas Counseling Associates, located at 100 N. Rockingchair Road, is trained to offer any and all types of counseling services from children to adults, including services for: ADHD, depression, anxiety, abuse, family concerns/problems, loss issues, eating disorders, substance abuse, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sharon Hartgraves, who has been the facility's office manager for 10 years, says the organization puts a large portion of its focus on children and their needs. The services provided to children through Arkansas Counseling Associates include an extensive summer program and after-school programs that go as far as to help children with their homework, or anything else the child might need.

Hartgraves said, "We are very caring (at Arkansas Counseling Services). We don't feel that the kids need to be out on the streets when they have nothing to do, so we try to provide them with services and activities to help keep them occupied at least a few days a week."

Arkansas Counseling Associates can be reached by phone by calling (870)335-9617.

Dayspring Behavioral Health Services, located at 1 Laubach Drive, also provides a wide array of services which include: Outpatient (individual, family, group children/adolescents and adults), case management, 24-hour crisis response, day treatment, psychological evaluations and testing, psychiatric evaluations, and medication management. Dayspring also offers bilingual services for those needing non-English speaking assistance.

The mission statement for Dayspring Behavioral Health Services is, "To be a leader in developing and providing innovative, customer-directed, quality therapeutic services and in forming community

partnerships that make a difference in the lives of the people served." Dayspring can be reached by calling (870)240-0671.

Open in Paragould since Spring 2001, Families, Inc. prides itself on providing the following quality services to the Paragould area: Individual, group, marital, and family counseling for children, adolescents and adult therapy services.

Families, Inc. also provides mental health paraprofessional interventions, psychological testing, psychiatric evaluations and medication management, screenings and assessments, play therapy, school-based services, and education and training for mental health providers.

Kendall Camp, clinical supervisor at the Families, Inc. facility, said, they provide services for "individuals, families,

couples, and groups. We also have specialists and those who provide paraprofessional services as well."

Camp said the Paragould Families, Inc. location has 18 therapists plus the paraprofessional individuals who provide home-based assistance. "Our facility is different from others in that we have a staff who is trained in such a wide array of services," Camp added.

The Families, Inc. location at 1101 Morgan St., Suite 8 can be reached by calling (870) 335-9483 .

Life Strategies Counseling, Inc., located at 2420 Linwood Dr., offers many of the same type of mental health services as many of the others, but also includes a few that are a bit different.

Life Strategies offers children, adolescents, adults, and couples with group psychotherapy in a warm, safe supportive environment with concerns including: Depression, anxiety, stress, childhood abuse and trauma, family and relationship issues, grief and loss, eating disorders and addiction recovery.

"We provide ethical and compassionate treatment of each person in our care," said Dawn Mitchell, clinical director for Families, Inc., when asked what sets her facility apart from other mental health facilities.

The Paragould Families, Inc. office can be reached by phone at (870)236-5880 .

MidSouth Health Systems started in Greene County in 1947 in the



MidSouth's Helping Hands program produced a banner to let area residents know it is Mental Health Awareness Month.

building in front of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center (the building that currently houses Arkansas Northeastern College nursing classes), but has since expanded into its very own brand new building located at #28 Southpointe Dr.

The services provided by MidSouth are broken-down into four main categories: Adult outpatient services, child and adolescent services, community support services and developmental disability services.

The adult outpatient services include: Individual, family and group therapy, emergency services, psychiatric services, and drug and alcohol safety education programs.

The services provided under child and adolescent services include: Individual/family counseling, school-based services, case management, therapeutic foster care, psychiatric services and also psychological evaluations.

The Community Support Program is an adult program designed to provide a continuum of service that will enable seriously mentally ill consumers to develop support systems and the skills necessary to function adequately in the least restrictive environment possible.

In addition to the services provided at the Southpointe Drive location, MidSouth also has a location at 1011 West Morgan St. which provides the Helping Hands program to the Paragould community. Helping Hands Director Karen Hall said, "Helping Hands is available to assist clients with psychiatric

disabilities/disorders or other behavioral health needs in maximizing their personal, social, and vocational competencies with the goal of living successfully in the community."

The Rehab Day Program focuses on intensive development of knowledge and skills which allow clients to manage their behavioral health condition in such a way as to maximize

Mental Health Month, which occurs each May, was created more than 50 years ago in an effort to raise awareness concerning mental health conditions, and because of the importance of mental health for all.

their ability to live satisfactorily and independently in the community. The services assist the client in moving toward optimal use of natural supports and self-help, greater self-sufficiency, choice, and control of their lives; and increased community participation.

Recently, Mid-South Health Systems has partnered with Mission Outreach in order to provide on-site counseling and life skills programs focusing on independent living skills.

Helping Hands is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Individuals who feel they may qualify, must go through the referral process from the outpatient facility located behind the Holiday Inn Express.

The Therapeutic Foster Care Program operated through MidSouth is the only one of its kind in the area. Director Carolyn Lewis said the program provides supportive foster homes for emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children and adolescents.

TFC families participate in on-going specialized training in order to offer a licensed placement home. They work closely with Mid-South children's services, schools, and the Department of Child and Family Services. "... And we are always looking for parents to foster these children," Lewis added. The Therapeutic Foster Care Program can be reached by calling (870)972-7917.

"We are a non-profit community health facility, no one gets turned away and we have a 24-hour community health assessment team of professionals that are available to all hospitals, jails and social services facilities," said Matt Knight, director of education and public relations for the company.

MidSouth Health Systems can be reached locally by calling (870)239-4222. ♦

Greene County Tech honors cheerleaders at annual banquet

The 2011-12 Greene County Tech Cheerleading Banquet was held at the Red Goose Deli in the Atkins Hall in April.

This year's Mardi Gras theme was selected by Darla McCreless, Sr. High Cheerleading Sponsor of 23 years. Many parents spent a great deal of time helping her make the event a huge success. Over 140 cheerleaders and parents attended. DJ Keith Palsgrove provided New Orleans Jazz Mardi Gras style music along with some of the cheerleaders' favorite songs. The cheerleaders were escorted into the banquet by seniors Nick Cothren, Alex Buhler, Matt Lashley, Nick Pillow and Seth Dearing.

Sr. High Awards were presented to the Spirit Squad Cheerleaders by Mrs. McCreless and to the Competition Squad by Sponsor Leigh Ann Rubio. There are 20 girls on the school's Spirit Squad and 17 on the Competition Squad, which includes both males and females. A variety of awards were presented for the cheerleaders' performance, abilities and attitude.

Awards were given to the Jr. High Squad by sponsors Angelic Davis and Christa Hudson. The Jr. High Squad consists of 8th and 9th grade students.

Both 9th grade and 12th grade cheerleaders were presented with monogrammed bags from the sponsors as an appreciation gift for service in Jr. High and to the seniors as they graduate.

The Sr. High Cheerleaders are scheduling things such as a highway clean-up in May. Mrs. McCreless wants them to understand the importance of giving back to their community and will be planning many things in the upcoming year to provide service in a variety of ways.

The current Sr. High cheerleaders on the Tech Spirit Squad and the Competition squad listed together include:

Seniors - India Perkins, Katie Lopez, Samantha Hampton, Chelsea Crouse, Brittany Reynolds and Joshua Stidman.

Juniors - Taylor Dickinson, Baylie Tabor, Ashley Meadows, Marti Bunch, Shelby Latting, Kayla Adams, Hannah Reeves, Emily Rollings, Caitlin Reynolds, Sarah Bailey, Brittne Cochran and Christina Gathright.

Sophomores: Madison Janski, Mariah Robinson, Abby Huckabee, Millie Crawford, Kailee Rowland, Mason Eddings, Rachael George, and Mallory Brown.

Junior High Cheerleaders include:

9th Grade: Maddie Hudson, Sahara Jacobs, Ciara Scott, Brittany Keasler, Devon Carter, Madelayne Ellis, Anna Schefano, Bryson Jones, Brent Huffman and Eli Rosten.

8th Grade: Whitney Williams, Kylie Hymas, Savannah Shelton, Alexis Slaughter, Olivia Manley, Madison Brown, Madison Foster, Taylor Williams, Gabrielle Krumholz, Abbie Head, Kaitlyn Colburn and Stefany Ruiz.

As this year comes to an end, so does the service of two wonderful sponsors from the Sr. High squads. Darla McCreless has served

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as the Sr. High cheerleading sponsor for 23 years. She said she feels it is time to step back and spend more time with her family. She has dedicated her time and efforts to the cheerleaders for so long, retiring was definitely a difficult decision.



The Cheerleading Booster Club parents provided a retirement reception for her on Sunday, April 22, at the new high school. Cheerleaders in attendance represented the classes from 1989 to present. A table containing numerous pictures, scrapbooks, and old uniforms was displayed for a walk down memory lane. Darla was awarded an Appreciation of Service award by the High School Principal Gene Weeks and Athletic Director Ted Cunningham. Darla also received an award on behalf of the Booster Club parents for her dedicated service over the years.

Leigh Ann Rubio, Sr. High Competition Sponsor, is also retiring after five years of service. Leigh Ann has dedicated her time and efforts, leading the class of 2009 to the state championship. It takes a lot of time and she enjoyed being with the cheerleaders but needs to spend more time with her husband and small children. The parents greatly appreciate these two wonderful ladies for all they have done. ♦



Greene County Tech Sr. High Cheerleading and Competition Squads combined for photo. Front from left: Seniors, India Perkins, Chelsea Crouse, Joshua Stidman, Samantha Hampton, Katie Lopez and Brittany Reynolds. Second row: Christina Gathright, Kayla Adams, Hannah Reeves, Caitlin Reynolds, Mariah Robinson, Millie Crawford, Rachael George and Sarah Bailey. Third row: Emily Rollings and Marti Bunch. Fourth row: Taylor Dickinson, Ashley Meadows, Brittne Cochran, Mallory Brown, Madison Janski, Baylie Tabor, Abbie Huckabee, Mason Eddings, Kailee Rowland and Shelby Latting.



GCT Jr. High cheerleaders are front, Madelayne Ellis, Sahara Jacobs, Brittany Keasler, Anna Schefano, Ciara Scott, Maddie Hudson and Devon Carter. Back row: Eli Rosten, Kaitlyn Colburn, Olivia Manley, Whitney Williams, Abbie Head, Taylor Williams, Kylie Hymas, Gabrielle Krumholz, Alexis Slaughter, Savannah Shelton, Madison Foster, Madison Brown and Brent Huffman. Not pictured is Bryson Jones.

Linwood
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

LAII loses a family member...

Most people that have visited my practice are familiar with my assistants and me. We are the "faces" you associate with Linwood Animal Hospital. However, there are other individuals that have played a very important role in the establishment and management of the clinic that don't always get the recognition they deserve. Rex Bouldin was one of these people.

Rex Bouldin

On April 17th I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of my friend Rex Bouldin. While Rex was my CPA, he was first and foremost a friend. You see, I've known Rex basically my entire life. I have very fond memories of playing football on his "Bears" team, at a time when I probably weighed less than a small bull Labrador Retriever! Through the school years there were many games, many teams, and many memories that were shared with the Bouldin family.

When I started my practice in the fall of 2009, choosing a CPA was not a difficult decision. Rex was quickly given the responsibility of handling all the tax related business at the clinic, and anyone that has ever owned or managed a small business can understand the complexity and importance of this task. It didn't take me long to realize, though, that Rex was much more than just a CPA for my practice. As I found myself calling, texting, or e-mailing him at least weekly if not daily, I began to see that Rex was as much a confidant and mentor as he was a CPA. He was an amazing teacher, never content with simply answering my questions. Rex was only satisfied when he had taught me how to answer the question for myself. Often times the questions fell into the "fatherly advice" category rather than business... Rex certainly took me under his wing, and always watched out for my business and family. I could tell he was proud of what was being established at the clinic and much of that was thanks to his sound advice. I took every opportunity to thank him for allowing me to sleep well at night!

Rex, you will be GREATLY missed! You were a huge influence during the infancy of my practice, and I can only hope to build on the many "pearls of wisdom" that you shared with me over the years. Thank you so much for everything you did and were for Linwood Animal Hospital, for me, and for my family. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Bouldin family.

God Bless!
Dreni Reddick, DVM

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Cancer study coming to Jonesboro area

A nationwide cancer study will be coming to Jonesboro during the Relay For Life of Craighead County on June 1, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

The Cancer Prevention Study-3 is seeking men and women, between the ages of 30-65, who have not had a diagnosis of cancer and who would be willing to participate in a 20-30 year survey.

The participants can go online to:

<http://www.cancer.org/cps3>

to register early.

Then at the Relay For Life event in Jonesboro, they will have their waists measured and have some blood drawn. That blood will be stored and should a participant learn of a cancer diagnosis, their sample and information would be pulled and examined to determine what factors may have played a role in the development of cancer.

This study could have an impact in the lives of our grandchildren or their children or grandchildren's lives to hopefully never hear the words "You have cancer" again. ♦

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Witt House Anniversary



Gary Newby and Bob Reynolds cook lunch for the Witt House one-year anniversary celebration.



Guyla Jackson and Mary Justice, two volunteers at the Witt House.

Austin is new director of Foundation

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has named Terry Austin Director of The Foundation.

He comes to AMMC from Children's Homes, Inc., in Paragould where he spent the last seven years as that establishment's Director of Communications.

Austin was born at Community Methodist Hospital, has lived in Paragould all his life and is a 1990 graduate of Crowley's Ridge Academy.

He is also a graduate of Arkansas State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism.

Austin serves on the board of Paragould's Habitat for Humanity affiliate, has been active in the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Community Fund, is a Leadership Paragould Class IX graduate, has coached Paragould Youth Baseball, volunteers at Crowley's Ridge Academy and attends Hillcrest Church of Christ.

He and his wife, Torre, have four children, Bennett, Simon, Hayden and Caroline.



Terry Austin

Austin looks forward to working with people who, by their collective commitment to the medical center, have made such an impact in our city and region.

Austin said, "It is my privilege to share the story of that commitment with our community. I'm excited to join the AMMC team's ongoing efforts to help Arkansas Methodist support and grow its facilities, programs and services." ♦

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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28	29	30	31			

In honor of the Loose Caboose Festival, the Main Street Paragould office is featured this month.

Outstanding Teachers

Beth Pace
Baldwin Elementary



1. Why did you choose teaching?

I have always loved children and wanted to see them blossom into young adults. I've been fortunate to teach in Paragould for 40 years and have been able to watch my first-graders grow up right before my eyes.

2. What do you enjoy most about it?

I enjoy learning right along with my students. They have taught me more than I could ever begin to tell. I've been blessed to have been able to remain at Baldwin and to have taught first grade in Room 109 for 40 years! I also love teaching the children of my previous first grade students. My students are my family, too.

3. How long have you been teaching?

40 years

4. Tell us about your family.

I have been married to Dick Pace for 40 years. We have two sons. Scott is married to Anne. They are both pharmacists and live in Little Rock. They have two children -- Cameron and Carter. Our second son is Stephen. He and his wife Brandy have a son named Tyler and are expecting Chloe in July. Stephen is a policeman and Brandy is a nurse. ♦

1. Why did you choose teaching?

Teaching chose me. I didn't originally set out to be a teacher. I think God had a plan for me at the beginning. I graduated as a studio artist from ASU in 1995 and four years later Crowley's Ridge Academy needed an art teacher. I accepted the job and enrolled in the alternative licensure program through the department of education and received my certificate. Looking back 13 years, I have never regretted that decision to be a part of this wonderful family.

2. What do you enjoy most about it?

I have the luxury of teaching a course that most students enjoy. I take enormous pride in watching my students improve and grow as an artist. I really like taking certain students who are not as confident in their skills and giving them the self-confidence to enter contests and even sometimes winning. We in the art department are involved in extra decorating duties that include Homecoming, sets for plays and banquets. And at the end of each year my final gift to the seniors is drawing their caricatures. We are blessed to have a small but growing school and this affords me the chance to give them this small token to tell them how much I love and appreciate each of them. I love all of these kids and they are the reason I am at this school.

3. How long have you been teaching?

This is my 13th year and it stills feels like my first.

4. Tell us about your family.

I have been married to Keith Chunn for 14 years. He is a alumni of

Bridgette Chunn
Crowley's Ridge Academy



CRA and CRC. Keith is a former Marine and a deacon of 7th & Mueller Church of Christ. He is also an owner and vice-president of Tate General Contractors in Jonesboro. We have two beautiful children, Austin and Molly, who both attend CRA. Austin is 9 years old and in the 3rd grade and Molly is 7 years old and in the 2nd grade. ♦

Mary Esther Herget honored at CRC's Spirit of America banquet



A familiar face joined Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill at the podium last month when Crowley's Ridge College announced the winner of its Spirit of America Award.

Mary Esther Herget was selected as this year's winner, earning a hearty round of applause from the audience.

The Spirit of America Award is given each year to a local individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary level of community service and involvement over the years in the Paragould community, according to CRC President Ken Hoppe.

Herget -- or as Gaskill said, "Everyone just knows her as Mary Esther" -- is certainly a deserving recipient after years of service to Paragould and the Greene County area. ♦



Good friends Mary Esther Herget and Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, top, shared laughter and hugs as she was presented with the Spirit of America Award. Guest speaker for CRC's annual Spirit of America banquet was humorist Dr. Wayne Ates, left. A good-sized crowd gathered to hear remarks from CRC President Ken Hoppe, right, and was entertained by a stirring rendition of The Star Spangled Banner by the CRC Ambassadors, above.

Local artists have proven to be big contributors to Greene County community


I often hear young people express a desire to leave their hometown, to get "where the action is" (so to speak). There's no denying that I once felt that way, but time spent here makes me glad I never wandered. There's no better place, in my opinion, than where I am now.

Of all its benefits, however, I consider Greene County's talent pool to be its most significant. Nowhere else have I seen such a collection of varied talents in one community. Singers, actors, directors, writers, artists — all live within our midst, and most are considered of the highest caliber.

It is no secret (nor, I hope, is it bragging to say) that I loom large in local theatre circles. Since performing as the second cop on the left in 1993's *Bye Bye Birdie* at Ridgecrest (now Paragould) High School, I've been involved in over 130 productions. I've also played keyboard in several bands, and have even co-founded a 501(c)3 theatre organization that

What's The Fuss?

By Fuss



raised many thousands of dollars for our local Senior B.E.E.S Meals on Wheels program. Perhaps some will remember the plays I've written, including a musical adaptation of *Night of the Living Dead* and last year's *Wonderland*.

These things, accomplished in my own backyard, were made possible with the help of incredible local talent. I've been fortunate to work with outstanding actors and singers, and I've made music with musicians of almost-supernatural skill. As for my fellow writers — our community sports an impossibly large number of talented scribblers, all plying their trade to tell a fascinating story, educate

their readers, and/or inspire. To my knowledge, there is no greater pursuit.

Adding to the benefit they bring to Greene County, many of these individuals use their talents to help needy or struggling organizations. More than one band has performed with the intention of raising money and awareness for local concerns, and several theatrical productions, both private and corporate, have been mounted over the years with the same intent. In our area, talent and philanthropy go hand in hand.

It is my sincerest hope that Greene County continues to support its local artists. If this piece lacks the humor of my previous works, it is only because the subject is dear to me. A community as rife with talent as ours should be attentive to its blessings, be they musical, theatrical, or artistic in nature. So far, this has been the case.

I can think of no place I would rather be. ♦

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ASSISTED LIVING





Members of the Loose Caboose Committee are ready to ring in this year's version of the festival, which historically presents a number of talented musical acts.

Local artist indicative of area's musical talent

By Kevin King

Music is a powerful thing. Whether you can play an instrument, sing, write or just enjoy listening to music, it is something that everyone can connect with.

For as long as I can remember (and according to my parents, ever since I could sit up), I've been involved in music. My dad was a bass player, and when he and his band would play shows, my mom said that she would always give me a couple of straws and I would play the drums on the table, chair or whatever was handy to beat on, and that would keep me occupied for a long while. And, at home, I would beat on one of my mom's pot lids ... which I still have!

I got my first set of drums when I was two. Of course, I wasn't really old enough to start actually playing, but as I got older and could understand, my dad showed me the basic rhythm to use on a drum set.

There's not ever been a time that I can remember not being around music. I mentioned my dad's being in a band. The band rehearsals were always held in our garage, which became more of a music place than an actual garage. For years and years, no vehicle ever saw the inside of that garage because it was always full of music



For drummer Kevin King, music is 'a powerful thing.'

equipment that consumed it..

When I got a little older, around 11 or 12, I started getting really interested in actually playing, and often my dad and the guys would leave their equipment set up. The first place that I would head to every day after school was the garage. I would crank up the radio or play a cassette (yes...that was before CDs) through the sound system, and I'd play

the drums with some of my favorite songs. I would listen closely to what the drummer was doing in the song and try to copy it exactly. That's how I taught myself to play. To this day, I have never had one single lesson on playing. I never got a chance to play in a band in school. I went to a school where band was not a part of the curriculum until my senior year, and there was no drum section.

When I was in ninth grade, I got asked to play drums in a band by some high school friends. To be honest, I was scared to death. ME????...PLAY????...IN A BAND??? I had to think on that for a while, but I decided to go for the chance, and me and those guys formed our first garage band. Of course we had to come up with a band name quickly.

We didn't know any songs yet but everyone knows that you can't have a band without a name. At that time there were a number of local bands around, and water seemed to be the theme for all of their names...there was Silver Creek, Cane Creek, Sugar Creek, and Cache River Express, just to name a few. So, sticking with the water theme, we came up with the name of Gold River, and jumped in the pool of bands.

After getting out of high school, I continued to play, and the group, which had had its

share of member changes, got the opportunity to do something that every musician and singer dreams of. In 1992, after working on a number of revisions on a demo project, our group was offered a major label recording contract with Mercury Records.

The band name changed to Twister Alley. We were with the label from 1993-1995. There were three singles and videos that were released – Dance, Nothin' In Common But Love, and Young Love.

While the time with the label was somewhat short lived, it did provide an opportunity to learn about a business that remains a mystery to most.

Playing music has given me more than my share of great opportunities, but one of the best things is the number of new friends that I've made through the years. There are a lot of very talented musicians, singers and songwriters in this area, and I've had the pleasure of sharing the stage with just about all of them at one time or another, and have enjoyed every minute of playing with them. Being a musician or singer and getting the opportunity to play on stage with other musicians and singers to create music for others to enjoy is a very satisfying experience.

I had mentioned the number of people that live in this area that possess many talents. I'm

proud to have been a part of a group of people that supports that talent. I have been a member of the Loose Caboose Festival committee since 2006, and the festival puts a great effort in supporting and promoting our local artists as much as possible.

This year's festival will feature seven different groups consisting of local musicians and singers. And, while I won't be a performer on the festival stage this year, I can watch and remember a time – 23 years ago – when that garage band formed by a group of high school kids, Gold River, played on a stage at the first ever "Loose Caboose Festival" back in 1990. ♦

Scatter Creek Band 'just guys doing something they like'

By Richard Brummett

Just a bunch of guys doing something they like to do.

That's how Jacob Cunningham describes the members of the local Scatter Creek Band, a collection of friends and relatives who enjoy providing entertainment for country music fans.

Cunningham said band members Lee Kingston and Allen Wooldridge began playing with other musicians "probably 10 or 12 years ago" but as happens with many bands, personnel changes quite often occur over the course of time.

"Three or so years ago," Cunningham said, "we all sort of just came together and it just went from there."

Where it went is Nashville, where the band recently recorded a CD it hopes to have out soon.

Cunningham said the band generally performs in about a 100-mile radius of Paragould and "used to play Jonesboro quite a bit. As we got a little better, we started to play some bigger and, I guess, better gigs."

He said he can't really say if the band's musical pursuits are something any or all of them hope to make a permanent thing, but he knows they plan to keep making their music



The Scatter Creek Band is one of several area musical acts lined up to play at this year's Loose Caboose Festival in Paragould this month.

for a long time to come.

"When we went to Nashville, we were ready," he recalled. "We blew through our songs and did a couple of them in just one take. The guy told us if we can play that well live 'you're going to do all right.' We sure seem to like doing it together."

Cunningham, who plays rhythm guitar, said the band is "probably like anyone else who does this. We like it and if we can move on and play bigger stuff, we probably would, I guess.

"But if someone just wants to listen to us

around here and buy a CD, that would be great, too."

In addition to Cunningham, other band members include:

Lee Kingston, bass guitar

Allen Wooldridge, lead guitar

Jeremy Wooldridge, vocals

Shannon Underwood, drums

Cunningham said the band is scheduled to perform at this year's Loose Caboose Festival in Paragould on Saturday, May 19. ♦

Nashville Skyline gives back to community

By Gabriel A. Cook

The rehearsal studio is a two-level affair that sports a Baby Grand, a set of drums behind an enormous Plexiglas cage, and a banner announcing the name of a new band: Nashville Skyline.

Kennon Mock, bass player for the group, talks excitedly about their previous gig, a private performance for friends and family. Their next appearance will be Saturday, May 5th, 7:00 p.m., at the Collins Theatre in Paragould. Ken, referring to his band mates, says, "There's not an act on tour they couldn't play with. There's real talent here, and it's being cultivated through community service."

In this case, community service means a benefit concert for Paragould's Agape House, an outreach home for women struggling with addiction. The proceeds from Nashville Skyline's May 5th performance will go toward the home's operating costs.

Backup guitarist/vocalist Shawn Boone says the band wants to help the community. "That's one of our goals. It's good to give back, and to be able to rock out in the process."

"We come from different backgrounds," adds Steve Cook, the band's lead vocalist, "but everyone here shares the vision of being different. To have a wide variety [of music] that anybody can enjoy."

A dry erase board on the wall testifies to such variety. Scrawled across its surface is the band's lineup, a conglomeration of adult contemporary, classic rock, and country hits of past and present.

"It's a fun show," says guitarist Jonathan Weese. "And I get to play music with my son. How cool is that?"

His son, Tyler, waves from behind the glass cage. When pressed to describe the importance of Nashville Skyline's mission, his response is simple: "I just like to play drums."



Nashville Skyline will perform at the Collins Theatre in Paragould on May 5.

"Don't print that," replies his dad, hand pressed against his forehead in parental woebegone fashion.

"We all love it," Ken says. "And we'll play any venue. Fairs, festivals, parties."

"Funerals," someone suggests. They jokingly begin a conversation about the benefits of playing wakes and memorials as Ken tries — without success — to restore order. He can't help but join the tongue-in-cheek debate.

They soon kick into their set with an up-tempo Keith Urban cover that doesn't miss a beat. Given their drive and desire to help the community, Nashville Skyline is poised to become a local favorite — and an asset to charitable organizations in need. ♦



Hailey Faulkner Reid is blossoming as a songwriter.

Original work important to local singer, songwriter Hailey Faulkner Reid

By Richard Brummett

One of Hailey Faulkner Reid's original poems was read at her grandmother's funeral in 1998 and she later put those words to music.

Now she hopes to keep putting words and music together and just see where that will take her.

"That's when I first discovered I could write," she said. "When I was in my early 20s I was in the Loretta Lynn Talent Show in Tennessee and I thought I did good as a singer, but I saw that the ones who were winning were also writing their own stuff. So I started writing my own, too."

She has produced one CD and said she started with the idea of doing mostly country tunes and a few gospel numbers but "about halfway through it the Lord said to me, 'I gave you this gift, do this for me.' So I concentrated more on gospel."

Not wanting to travel extensively because she has three young sons, Reid said she does "mostly local gigs since the boys are small. It's everyone's dream to hit it big but right now I'm just pursuing my writing."

"I think that's what sets me apart. Lots of people can sing; not all can write. I really don't try that hard. I have to be inspired, then the words just come to me." ♦

Collection of antique musical instruments on display at museum

By Hannah Gonzalez

Collecting antique instruments is one of the many passions of Lisa Wooldridge. She collects antiques from all over Arkansas, surrounding states, and even Africa. Her estate is filled with them, as is her office at Greene Acres Nursing Home where she is Facility Enhancement Coordinator. Between instruments, toys, kitchenware, tools, furniture and old guns, Lisa has a collection she is proud of.

Lisa showcased her antique musical instruments through the month of April at the Greene County Museum. Her collection ranges from old overseas radios, bugles, washboards and jugs to antique music boxes, African drums, Hawaiian ukuleles, trombones, and a zither/violin.

Lisa said “the rustier the better” when it comes to her treasures. It’s been a passion of hers for the last 10 years, collecting, rummaging and salvaging pieces that might otherwise go unseen. She loves to share her collections with the residents at Greene Acres Nursing Home. She said she loves to hear them talk, reminisce and fall in love with the pieces she displays.

Antiques bring a special ambiance to one’s home and workplace. They bring history to life with their stories, roots and wear and tear. Lisa’s next exhibit at the Greene County Museum will be throughout the month of May when she will showcase her collection of antique toys.

For more information on the exhibition call 870-215-2407 or visit the museum at 130 South 14th Street. Admission is free on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ♦



Lisa Wooldridge poses with her collection of antique musical instruments. She has allowed the Greene County Museum to display them at the Paragould location.





Ben Brand

Ben Brand making considerable efforts to 'get back into the game' with his career

By Richard Brummett

Ben Brand can't really tell you when the music bug bit him.

"You know," the Walnut Ridge singer/songwriter said, "I don't really know. I just did it. I have been around music all my life."

Brand is considered one of the better talents in the Northeast Arkansas area but said he is currently in a comeback of sorts.

"My first project was produced by Doug Phelps of the Kentucky Headhunters," he said. "We shopped it, showcased it, and things were going well, then I had a wreck. A big wreck."

Brand said he was set back for more than two years while he dealt with "a traumatic brain injury, four cracked vertebrae in my back ... I was airlifted to The Med and underwent eight weeks of hospitals and rehab. That set me back considerably."

Now, he said, he is "sort of starting over" but credits local support as being a driving force in his return. "I have had overwhelming support from local people," he said. "You don't know how grateful I am for that and for the Paragould people as well. It's a slow process, but I'm back in the game."

Brand said he started playing regularly at age 18, hitting "everything from festivals to fairs to nightclubs and honkytonks and baby contests... anything to get my name out there."

He hopes to get back to the level he had attained before the accident, and keep on going.

"It's hard to say if something big will happen or not," he admitted. "I just recently finished another project with Jimmy Ritchey and I hope to see that out soon. It's almost finished, I guess I should say. I think it will be out about the 15th of May."

"Then, it's back to shopping record labels and getting things going." ♦

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STAGES OF LIFE

MOR Media, Premiere celebrate birthdays

MOR Media turned 10 years old in April and Premiere Magazine marked its 5th birthday, as well.

Brian Osborn, Operations/Programming Manager and co-owner of MOR Media, said the group came together when he, Dina Mason and the late Peggy Richardson teamed to buy KDRS AM and FM from what is now the Jonesboro Radio Group.

"We basically bought our jobs," he said. "We formally became MOR Media on April 15, 2002, and in 2007 added Premiere Magazine. We couldn't get all the ink out of Dina Mason's blood ..." referring to her past as a newspaper publisher.

Over the years KDRS FM has gone from a pop format to adult hits, then country and on Feb. 29 of this year became Jack FM, which Osborn called "a clever mix of rock music from the '70s, '80s and '90s with a dash of today's hits.

"It's a music mix with attitude you won't find anywhere else in the area," he said. "It has definitely struck a chord in the Paragould-Jonesboro area."

The AM station "has been a broadcast staple since 1947 and currently offers talk, light hits and St. Louis Cardinal baseball."

Mason, General Manager and co-owner, said Premiere Magazine actually sprang from the company's unsuccessful efforts to bring a third radio station to Greene County, and admitted her newspaper background may have played some small part in returning to print media.

"Most people think I couldn't stand not being in print," she said, "but that's not totally true; maybe a little.

"I felt the magazine was another way to bring more good news and information about Paragould people to the public," she said.

"It is good for advertisers to have a multi-media marketing plan that we help them develop, and that they can afford." ♦



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Happenings!



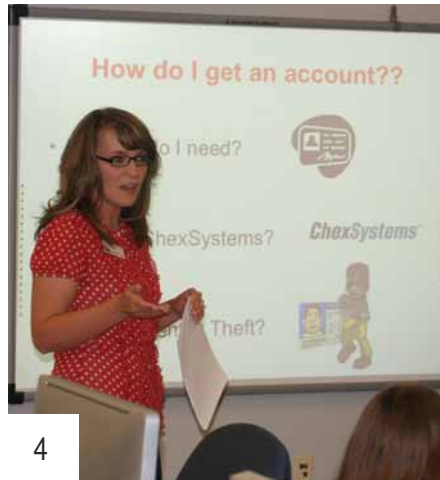
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2




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Happenings!

Partners In Education

1. Paragould School District's School of the 21st Century students in the pre-kindergarten program recently served as celebrity waiters at Kiss the Cook. School of the 21st Century and Kiss the Cook are Partners in Education through the Paragould Chamber of Commerce. The pre-kindergarten students help wait tables on a monthly basis and accept tips to raise money for playground equipment. "We are very grateful to Libby Taylor and the Kiss the Cook staff for helping us with our school needs and teaching our students the importance of community," said Vicki Shelby, director of School of the 21st Century. Pictured: Kiss the Cook staff member Julia Taylor and School of the 21st Century pre-kindergarten student Ella Starling.

4th Row: Kinan Alhallak, Grant Wise, Grant Ragsdal, Kristen Mangrum

Ladies' Spa Day

3. The ladies of First United Methodist Church were treated to a free spa day on April 3. The morning featured refreshments, pedicures, massages and hair makeovers, compliments of Royal Nails Salon. Sara Cole hosted the free event for the women.

Serving The Community

2. Paragould High School students in the Rotary Interact and Jr. Civitan service clubs recently held a fundraiser for Spirit Ridge Therapy, an equine therapy center located in Beech Grove. On February 13, the barn at Spirit Ridge was destroyed by fire, and these PHS students wanted to help give back to an organization that has helped so many. Students organized a celebrity basketball event at the PHS gym featuring members of the Paragould Rotary and Civitan clubs. The event raised \$1,374 for Spirit Ridge. Spirit Ridge is owned by Shelia and Kevin Coleman.

Teaching Children To Save

4. Representatives of Simmons Bank visited Paragould High School, presenting in Coach Kevin Coleman's Finance Classes the importance of saving and also talking about credit and loans. April 24 was National Teach the Children to Save Day. Simmons has been doing the presentations across the state for years but this was the first year to present in Paragould.

Front Row: Ellyn Piatt, Melanie Saunders, Carson Gill, Cheyenne Mauldin, Erin Dowler, Sarah Dicus, Keelee Rushing

Alumni Gathering

5. Michelle Rushing and Micah Brinkley smiled for the camera prior to the Paragould Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet. Both are graduates of the Leadership Paragould program, and former members gathered for a meet and greet session before the banquet, featuring new Arkansas State University head football coach Gus Malzahn, started. The banquet was held at the Paragould Community Center.

2nd Row: Chasity Neal, Katie Giles, Brittney Kahl, Mary Kathryn Bregard

3rd Row: Katlyn Wright, Alyssa Paskel, Coach Coleman, Mike Dixon, Sheila Coleman, Erin Dowdy, Bree' Ann Messer

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--	--	--	--	--	--

Historic Steam Engine Makes Paragould Stopover



Union Pacific Railroad's steam locomotive No. 844 made a brief stop in Paragould in late March. Flying both the American and Confederate flags, the engine was pulling a Civil War troop train for the 150th anniversary Battle of Shiloh reenactment. Several local residents pulled out cameras and cell phones to record the event.



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Mother's Day

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Cameo Club

Members of the Arkansas Cameo Club, representing participants of the Ms. Senior America of Arkansas pageants, performed song and dance routines for residents at Paragould's Chateau on the Ridge.



Members of the Arkansas Cameo Club, above, entertained at Chateau on the Ridge in March. Among those performing musical numbers were Queen Foye Shankle, Ms. Senior Arkansas for 2011, of Hartford, at far left; Paragould's own Donna Kingston, immediate left; and President of the club Lillie Agulair of Van Buren, at right.



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Kidz Kraze is staged locally

Paragould's Junior Auxiliary held its Kidz Kraze at the local Community Center.

The annual literary project features a book giveaway and vendors who provide activities and prizes related to children. ♦



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Marmaduke student Rachel Parker and news anchor Pamela Smith of Little Rock's KATV pose at an awards ceremony held in North Little Rock.

Marmaduke student earns recognition for artwork

Rachael Parker of Marmaduke won the top award in the Grand Prize Art category in the annual art and poetry contest

staged by the Arkansas Cancer Coalition.

Rachael is 16 years old, and is a ninth grade

art student at Marmaduke High School.

She placed first

in the 15-18-year-old category and was presented with a \$50 gift certificate and a trophy.

The awards ceremony was held in North Little Rock.

Rachael's winning poster was a charcoal drawing representing the Grim Reaper, who is smoking.

The contest promotes a tobacco-free Arkansas.

The ACC's goal is to have people work together to eliminate the progression of smoking and help Arkansas to become tobacco-free.

Rachael was honored at the reception on March 12 at a black tie affair where she received her awards.



Rachael's winning entry was a charcoal drawing, featuring a smoking Grim Reaper.



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Eastside Baptist Church to mark 100th anniversary

By Gabriel A. Cook

On May 12, 2012, Eastside Baptist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Worship Pastor Rob Schumann said the congregation will host festivities on Sunday, May 20th.

The celebration will start at 9:00 a.m. with a historical remembrance, which will include "choir specials, a quartet, soloists, and testimonies." Worship service begins at 10:00 a.m. and will feature current and past congregational songs, specials, and the message of the day. Throughout the service, current and past senior pastors and music ministers will speak. The festivities will wrap up with lunch on the grounds.

Eastside began life as a tent revival in 1912 under the leadership of Reverend G.A. Crocker. At the time, it was known as the Second Missionary Baptist Church of Christ. The current name "Eastside" was first recorded in 1931. Because of a "shared theological and doctrinal position," Eastside includes itself in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Many will remember the fire that destroyed a large portion of the church in 1985. The structure that we see today was built over time, and it now allows Eastside to minister to over 600 people a week. Various ministries include those for children, older students, men, women, senior citizens, and mission trips.

Eastside's current senior pastor is Jason Noel, who adds, "We are thankful to the Lord that He has allowed Eastside to minister the gospel to the community and the world for 100 years. May 20th will be a great day of celebration. We would like to invite the community to come celebrate with us."

Eastside Baptist is located at 529 East Court Street. If you would like to learn more about the church, log on to connect2eastside.com for information, worship schedule, video, and contact listings. ♦

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GCFAC holding auditions for 'The Wizard of Oz'

The Greene County Fine Arts Council will be holding auditions for the Wizard of Oz.

Audition dates and times:

May 5, 1:00: Children ages 8 and up and adults interested in being in the chorus

May 6, 1:00: Adults and teens interested in principal roles

The auditions will take place at the First Baptist Church (300 West Poplar Street) in Paragould.

Those auditioning for Dorothy (ages 16 and up) should be prepared to sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

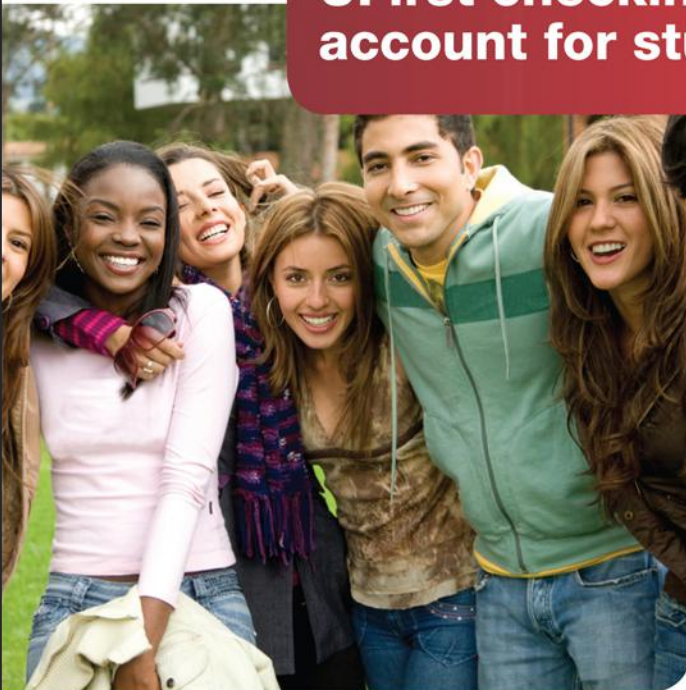
Those interested in auditioning for Scarecrow, tin man or lion should be prepared to sing "If I only had a heart/brain/nerve."

The show will be held at the Greene County Tech High School Auditorium July 19-22. Thom Fielder is the director.

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Morgan Tripod

PHS student takes 2nd place in Rotary Club contest

Morgan Tripod placed second in the Paragould Rotary Club Four Way Test Essay Contest.

Paragould Rotary sponsored the contest, which was open to all juniors and seniors in Greene County who are members of the Rotary Interact Club.

The Rotary Interact Club is a high school service organization sponsored by Rotary.

Morgan's essay focused on making our community a better place to live by preventing littering. For her efforts, Morgan received an award of \$50.

She is a senior at Paragould High School and is the daughter of Holly and John Tripod.

Sara Dickey, Paragould High School librarian, is the sponsor for the PHS Rotary Interact Club.

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Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



I'm not certain who dressed me

We have had cause recently to look through boxes of old family photographs and that experience has proven to be somewhat puzzling.

The oldest of the pictures, dating back to the late 1800s and early 1900s, often featured their subjects -- especially the females -- decked out in what today seems to be somewhat gaudy attire. They wore ridiculous looking hats, leggings, frilly things ... and they stared at the camera with an almost terrified look.

The glare, I get. Having dealt with photography for several decades now, I understand that back in the day if people did not stand perfectly still and freeze their facial features, the cameras of that era could not stop the action and there would be a blurred image on the final product.

I was not aware until just the last few days, however, that the outfits were often provided by the "picture man", generally a gentleman who traveled from place to place in search of business and thus carried with him the "fancy" clothes my ancestors wore.

Having moved on from photos of the old days to pictures taken when I was a young adult, the question I have is this: Who dressed my friends and me?

We had hair that was too long with sideburns to match and apparently showed up at various occasions wearing poofy shirts with checks and stripes and paisleys -- whatever they are -- accompanied by bell bottom pants and extremely colorful shoes. I suppose we were just following the style, but it seems that the trendsetters were also the one experimenting with mind-altering drugs.

Those of us who didn't pop pills have no one but ourselves to blame ... not even the picture man would claim those outfits. ♦

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ASU plans summer children's theatre

The 18th season of children's theatre at Arkansas State University will open with *Tales of Hans Christian Anderson* adapted by Carolyn Lane.

From an assortment of surprise packages comes four very special gifts: The stories of *The Tin Soldier*, *The Swineherd*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and *The Little Mermaid*. Told with high energy and audience participation, Hans Christian Andersen's beloved tales bring excitement and joy to all.

Performance dates are Wednesday, June 20, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; Thursday, June 21, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; and Friday, June 22, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

This production of *Tales of Hans Christian Anderson* is sponsored by The ASU Theatre Guild.

The second production of the 2012 season is *Patchwork* by Carol Lauck. A group of fun fables and foibles come alive as each story is told with audience interaction and fast paced fun and laughter.

Patches of stories intertwine to make a delightful family theatre experience, guaranteed to wiggle your giggle and tickle your funny bone.

Performance dates are Wednesday, July 25, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; Thursday, July 26, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; and Friday, July 27, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

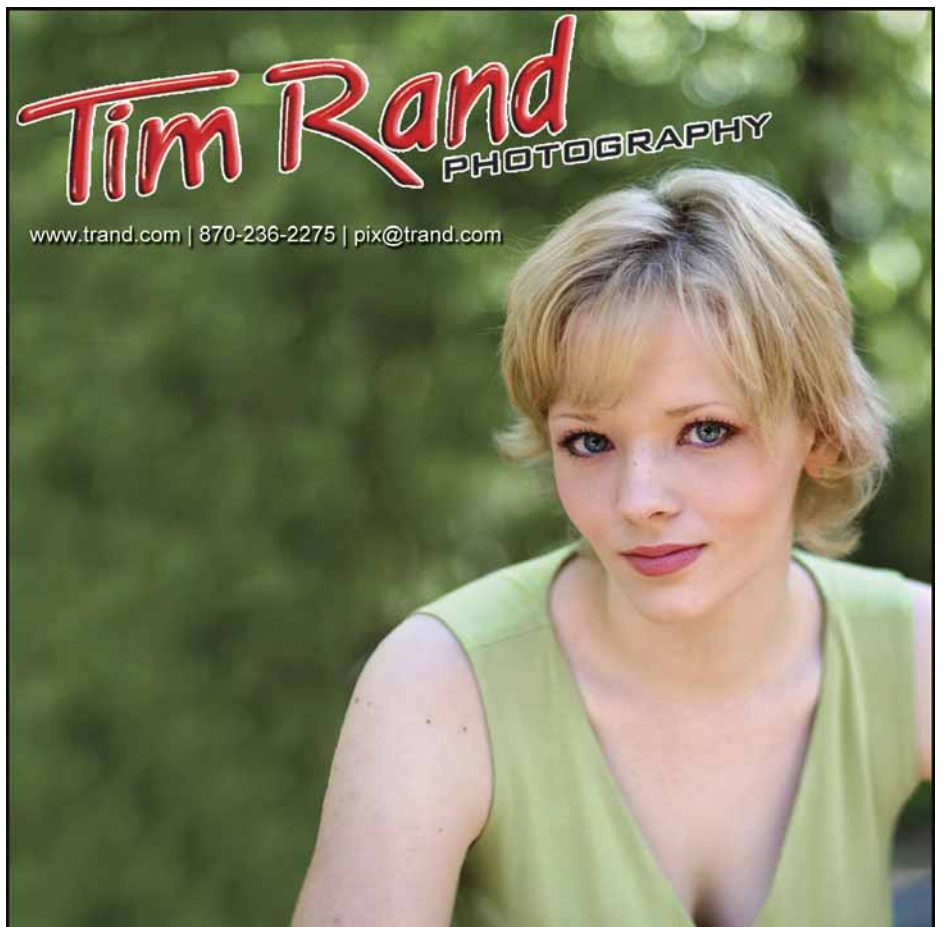
This production of *Patchwork* is sponsored by The Golden Grotto and The ASU Theatre Guild.

All performances will be held at Fowler Center on the ASU campus.

All seating is reserved. Tickets should be purchased in advance at the ASU Central Box Office in the Convocation Center for \$6.00 by calling 972-ASU1, or online at www.tickets.astate.edu.

Tickets may also be purchased at the door (if available) on the day of the performance for \$8.00 each. Reservations are highly recommended. ♦

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Business Is Good

Rick Wyatt is new president of Paragould's Southern Bank

Southern Bank has named Richard (Rick) Wyatt its Community Bank President at its Kingshighway location.

Wyatt brings over 30 years of banking experience to Southern Bank and will play a vital part as Southern Bank expands its footprint in the Arkansas market. With extensive ties to the Northeast Arkansas community, Wyatt is excited to be a part of a bank that prides itself in partnering with area organizations.



Rick Wyatt

Southern Bank has been included in SNL Financial's listing of top 100 community banks for 2011. Among all publicly-traded community banks in the United States, Southern Bank's 2011

performance was ranked ninth. Among all public and privately owned community banks in the listing, Southern Bank was ranked 25th. Southern Bank is a subsidiary of Southern Missouri Bancorp, Inc., which trades under the ticker "SMBC" on the NASDAQ Global Market.

March 22 marked Southern Bank's 125th anniversary of its founding as a building and loan association. The bank operates 18



Wyatt and bank vice president Keith Milligan visit with MOR Media's Gabriel Cook and Dina Mason at April's Radiothon for Arkansas Children's Hospital. Southern Bank served as the host site for the event.

branches in Missouri and Arkansas. Southern Bank was selected by SNL Financial based on criteria including its profitability, asset quality, efficiency, and loan growth. This marks the second consecutive year it has been included near the top of SNL's annual listing.

On December 31, 2011, Southern Bank reported assets of \$773 million, an increase of 12% from a year ago. Southern Missouri Bancorp completed a secondary offering of its

common stock in November of 2011, providing additional capital to support continued growth of the organization. "We're always looking for effective ways to deploy shareholder capital, provide a good return on that investment, and continue to serve communities in Missouri and Arkansas," said Greg Steffens, President and CEO. For more information, visit www.bankwithsouthern.com or call 870-236-2500. ♦

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AMMC names Barry Davis new President/CEO

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Board of Directors has named Barry Davis as its President/CEO.



Davis began his career at AMMC in 1981. He served as Plant Manager and later as Credit Manager, organizing the first Credit and Collection Department for the medical center. He was named Vice President of Operations in 1983.

Davis is an American College of Healthcare Executives Fellow, signifying that he is board certified in healthcare management.

In 2008, he received the prestigious American College of Healthcare Executives Regent's Award. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Public Administration from Arkansas College (Lyon College) and a Master of Public Administration degree from Arkansas State University.

He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce as Chairman-elect and the Executive Committee of the Northeast Arkansas Workforce Investment board, appointed by the Governor. He also serves on the board of the VHA Arkansas-Oklahoma region and the Arkansas Hospital Association's Workers Compensation Trust.

He is the former president of the Arkansas Hospital Administrators Forum as well as the former chairman of the Greene County Division of the American Heart Association.

Barry and his wife, Stephane, have two sons, Tyson and Trase.

He assumed his new role on Monday, April 2. ♦

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Hannah Dixon & Josh Watson
June 30

Crystal Richards & Jeremy Sullivan
June 30

Abby Jetton & Hunter Finley
July 21

Lauren Wiseman & Blake Schrepter
July 21

Mackenzie Thompson & Luke Foster
July 28

Lauren Edwards & Caleb McCaslin
July 28

Catherine Davis & Lance Bradley
August 4

Meredith Smith & Zack McMillon
August 25

Hannah Parsley & Dustin Rudi
August 25

Ashley Timmons & CJ Smith
October 20

*Free Gift Wrapping
Available*



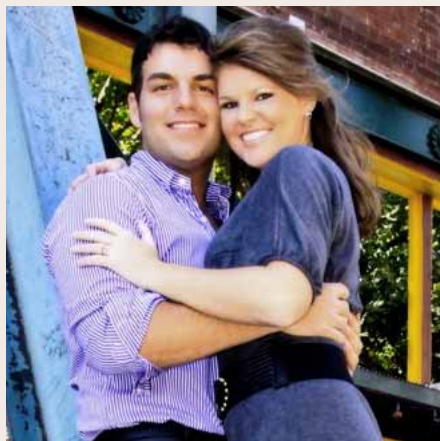
Sydney Lane Foreman and Michael Allen Miller

Sydney Lane Foreman and Michael Allen Miller will exchange wedding vows Saturday, June 2, 2012, at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould.

Her parents are Doug and Ellen Foreman of Springdale.

Michael's parents are Mark and Melissa Miller of Paragould.

The wedding will take place at 2 p.m. with a reception to follow at the Paragould Country Club. ♦



Joseph Tyler Carter and Hannah Johnson

Hannah Rae Johnson of Paragould and Joseph Tyler Carter of Kennett, Mo., announce plans to be married May 12, 2012.

The bride to be's parents are Teresa and Terry Reddick and Mark and Tonya Johnson.

The prospective groom's parents are Bart and Paula Carter.

The wedding will take place at Swindle's Farm in Paragould.



Hanna Turner and Lucas Hickman

Hanna Turner and Lucas Hickman will be married June 9, 2012, at East Side Baptist Church.

She is the daughter of Carmen and Wayne Crocker and Davy Turner, and lives in Paragould.

The prospective groom's parents are Bill and Paula Hickman. His home town is Monkey Run, Arkansas, near Mountain Home.

The wedding will take place at 2:00 p.m. and all friends and family are welcome. ♦



Charles Bearden and Amy Poindexter

Amy M. Poindexter and Charles B. Bearden have announced plans to be married June 2.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Cheryl and Keith Brown and Fred and Shari Poindexter.

The prospective groom's parents are Charles R. and Beverly Bearden of Boydsville.

The June 2 ceremony is scheduled to take place at Bessie Mae's Farm.

Engagement Announcements



Perry Mason, Jr. and Sarah Moore

Sarah Moore and Perry Mason, Jr. will exchange wedding vows May 26, 2012, at 2 p.m. at Riverview Compound in Hardy, Arkansas.

Sarah is the daughter of Doug Moore and Mary Moore, both of Paragould

Perry, Jr.'s parents are Perry and Dina Mason of Marmaduke. ♦

Birth Announcements



Photo by: Sweet Pea Photography / Cristie Lincoln

Barrett Nathaniel Herget

Nate and Kersten Herget of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Barrett Nathaniel Herget.

Barrett weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. He was born March 5, 2012, at St. Bernards Medical Center.

Grandparents are Carla Ellington, Dennis and Lisa Ellington, Harry and Brenda Herget, Larry Mitchell and the late Carol Rand Mitchell. Great-grandparents are: Mary Esther Herget and the late Phil Herget, the late Ted and Maxine Rand, Verbadean Ellington and the late Gordon Ellington, and Helen Boyd and the late Carl Boyd. ♦



Ella Bree Wineland

Brett and Destiny Wineland of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Bree Wineland.

The baby weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

She was born at the NEA Women's Clinic.

Grandparents are Tom and Tonya Wray, Kim and Vernon Lyles, and Joe and Jana Wineland. Great-grandparents are Norma Wineland, and Bill and Carolyn Pillow. Great-great-grandmother is Gertie Cox. ♦

got feedback?
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Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon

The Paragould Circle of Friends and MOR Media hosted the annual Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon in April.

Southern Bank was the host site while Michelle's Excavating and Turner Dairy were among those making major contributions to the success of the event. ♦



From top: MOR Media's Brian Osborn visits with five-year-old Kiersten Isom and her mother, Stephany, recounting their favorable impressions of the services offered by Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Center: Representatives of the local Hays grocery store chain present a check of more than \$3,500. Hays' staff and customers help raise the money each year.

Above right: Members of the call team compare notes inside Southern Bank, the call center.

At right: The Saints and Sinners Motorcycle Club presents a check in excess of \$8,000 to the cause. With their annual Angel Run and their hour working the phones in the call center, the club raised more than \$10,000 for ACH programs.



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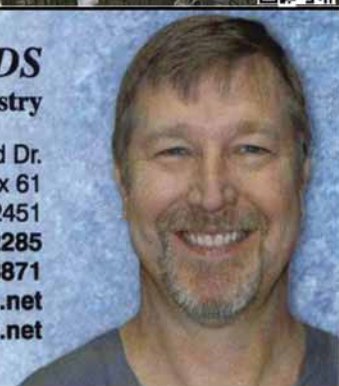
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DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD

Every Wednesday--Perking On Pruet

May 3rd--Art & Stroll 5:30-8:00pm

May 17th-19th--Loose Caboose Festival

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& keep up with all the DT events! Gina Jarrett 870.240.0544



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Greene County Circle of Friends



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 3rd

Art and Stroll, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., in the Downtown Paragould area

This Main Street Paragould's free event features artists, beverages, music, children's art stations, plus the shopping and dining only found in the "One and Only."

Thursday, May 3rd - Friday, May 4th

AMMC Auxiliary Jewelry Sale

For more information, call the hospital and speak to the Auxiliary.

Saturday, May 5th

Nashville Skyline is performing at The Collins.

The Nashville Skyline will be performing progressive positive country and rock. Tickets are \$6.00, proceeds benefit The Agape House.

Thursday, May 10th

Lauren Gray at the Collins Theatre

"American Idol" star Lauren Gray will be live at the Collins for "Every Red Cent Counts", a fundraiser for the local American Red Cross Chapter. For more information, please call Capri Lee at 870-565-3824.

Saturday, May 12th

Heritage Fair - Building our family tree one branch at a time, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society is hosting this event in cooperation with the Greene County Library and The Greene County Museum. Learn how to research your family tree. The GCH&GS is located at 212 W. Court Street. For more information call 870-240-8944.

Monday, May 14th

Terry's Café welcomes bluegrass enthusiasts.

Doors open at 4:30 pm and close promptly at 6:45 pm, just in time for KASU's Bluegrass Mondays. Terry's Café is located at 201 S. Pruett Street. Dinner specials are offered.

KASU's Bluegrass Monday, 7:00 p.m.

The Claire Lynch Band, at The Collins Theatre, 120 W. Emerson Street. The entertainment is free thanks to The Posey Peddler, Back Beat Music, the NE AR Bluegrass Association and Main Street Paragould. ***This date is correct, moved up to 2nd Monday because of Memorial Day.

Wednesday, May 16

Paragould Wound Healing Center Open House & Ribbon Cutting, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

A ribbon cutting and open house will be held in celebration of the new clinic located at 1 Medical Drive. Paragould Wound Healing Center is a collaboration between St. Bernard's Medical Center and Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

Thursday, May 17

Membership Golf Tournament, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Members of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce are invited to play in a 4-person scramble at the Paragould Country Club. Team registration is \$300. Call (870) 236-7684 for more information.

Thursday May 17th - Saturday, May 19th

Loose Caboose Festival

Plenty of food, fun and entertainment in the Downtown Paragould Area.

Monday, May 21st

KASU's Blues Monday, 7:00pm, at Red Goose Grand Hall-Pruett Street entrance.

Red Goose is located at 101 S. Pruett Street, Paragould. The entertainment is free thanks to KASU, Bibb Chiropractic, and MOR Media.

Tuesday, May 22

Paragould Regional Job Fair, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

At the Paragould Community Center. Presented by the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Department Workforce Services. Free admission. Call (870) 236-7684 for booth information.

Saturday, May 26th

Fishing on the Ridge Derby, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Bring your fishing pole, bait, and enthusiasm to compete for prizes and put your fishing skills to the test! The fishing derby is co-sponsored by Arkansas Game and Fish and is open to anyone ages 15 and under. At Crowley's Ridge State Park.

Saturday, May 26th

Memorial Day Madness, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

This weekend bring your friends and family to Crowley's Ridge State Park and kick off the start of summer with recreational activities, interpretive programs, swimming, and pedal boats while listening to music provided by a D.J. on the beach.

Saturday, June 9th

Greene County Master Gardeners' Garden Tour and Boutique, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Boutique will be located in Centennial Park, on the corner of Pruett and Emerson streets in historical downtown Paragould, The One and Only. Decorative yard art and garden décor will be available to purchase, as well as a variety of garden plants. Just look for the green canopy. Cost: \$8.00 per person with a special discounted price of \$5.00 for Master Gardeners wearing name tags.

Tuesday- Thursday, June 19th-21st

Discovery Day Camp, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$50

This fun-filled educational day camp for kids ages 7-9 at

Crowley's Ridge State Park includes programs, games, nature hikes, swimming, and crafts. Lunches, snacks, and craft supplies are provided. Registration is required and must be made by June 13.

Saturday, June 30th

Fun for the Fourth, 1 - 5 p.m.

Celebrate the Fourth of July at Crowley's Ridge State Park with interpretive programs, swimming, pedal boats, and games while listening to music provided by a D.J. on the beach.

Tuesday-Thursday, July 17th-19th

Discovery Day Camp, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$50

This fun-filled educational day camp for kids ages 10-12 includes programs, games, nature hikes, swimming, and crafts. Lunches, snacks, and craft supplies are provided. Registration is required and must be made by July 11. At Crowley's Ridge State Park.

Thursday-Saturday, July 19th-22nd

"The Wizard of Oz"

The Greene County Fine Arts Council presents "The Wizard of Oz" July 19-21 at 7:30 p.m., and July 21-22 at 2:00 p.m. at the Greene County Tech High School Auditorium. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under.

Recurring Events:

Several nights a week

Music at LA's downtown at 318 S. 2nd St., \$5 cover charge, 9:00 p.m.

Every Monday

Prayer for Israel at noon at First United Methodist Church

First Monday of every month

Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon

Sponsored by the Paragould Young Professionals. All members and prospective members invited. Contact (870) 236-7684 or lhobbs@paragould.org for more information.

Third Tuesday of every month

Low Vision Support Group, 12:30 p.m.

At the Senior Center. 236-8498

Every Wednesday

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

At Sugarbakers Coffee House. 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. artops599@yahoo.com

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What's in Store For Next Month

Hobbies



We will take a look at some area residents' rather unique and interesting hobbies.

Loose Caboose



The annual Loose Caboose Festival will take place in Downtown Paragould, and we'll be there to capture the excitement, from races to music to plenty of fun.

Events



Attend other events with us as Premiere Magazine covers Art and Stroll and more! ♦

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