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PTA LIFE



A True Miracle

MIRIC RICHARDSON

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THE PREMIERE AWARDS

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On the Cover: Miric Richardson, Photographed by Tim Rand

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From the Editor...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

Arkansas Children's Hospital is a private, nonprofit institution, the only pediatric medical center in the state and one of largest in the nation.

With 370 staffed beds, Arkansas Children's

Hospital is a tertiary care, regional referral center treating children, who come from every county in Arkansas and many nearby states.

That's the official word from the facility's website. What you will learn by reading this month's Premiere is that ACH is much more, a combination of people and philosophy that manufacture life-changing experiences for many of the patients and families who benefit from their services.

Starting on page 24 of this issue, we bring you the stories of some area families who sing the praises of Arkansas Children's Hospital, because they have first-hand knowledge of the incredible work done at the Little Rock facility.

We also invite you to attend the annual ACH Radiothon on Friday, April 19th, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. in the Paragould Plaza.

Also this month we turn our attention to Prom Night, an all-important event in the lives of many teenagers.

Paragould resident Tiana Nyland agreed to let us follow her around and photograph her

throughout the pre-prom preparation stage, and we present that feature for you on pages 12 and 13.

Our thanks to Tiana for letting us tag along. Remember to mark your ballots for The Premiere Awards, listed on the inside cover of this month's publication.

Voting will end on Friday, April 19, at 5 p.m. and winners of the various categories will be announced in the July edition of Premiere.

We have a nice story with Bill Orr of H&W Hardware in Paragould, one of the few remaining "true" hardware stores. His feature serves as a lead-in to spring planting season, and we have provided tips for the gardener on pages 22 and 23.

Orr's business is not the only good news coming from Downtown Paragould. Main Street Paragould Director Gina Jarrett fills us in on the new businesses coming to the downtown area, and it seems business is booming on and around Pruet Street.

Readers will also find our regular monthly features, along with other items of interest. We hope you enjoy this issue of Premiere. ♦

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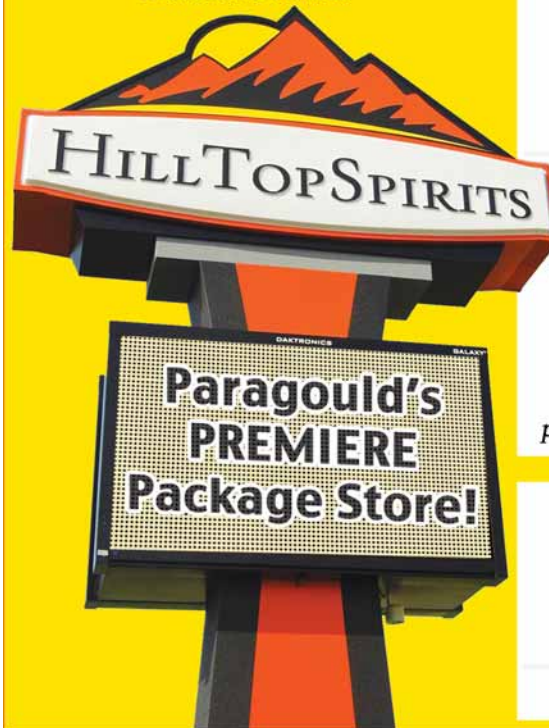
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Mission Outreach Chili Rodeo brings in more than \$5,000



The Teleflora team pulled off an impressive sweep of awards at the annual Mission Outreach Chili Rodeo.


Teleflora was chosen as the People's & Judges' choice winners, and had the best booth, as well, in the event held at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

The final tally was \$5,800 raised for the local charity. ♦



107.1 Jack FM was on hand at the 2013 Chili Rodeo, as were line dancers and those working the various booths. From left are representatives of Families, Inc., Unico Bank and Teleflora, which pulled off a clean sweep of the awards handed out by judges.






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AMMC offers classes, volunteer opportunities

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center will sponsor a monthly childbirth education class for anyone who is expecting Saturday, April 6, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The first class in each session will last all day. Participants will have a break for lunch. The second class in each session is a feeding class and only in the morning.

They are held in the Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, they are \$50. For more information or to register for classes, call AMMC Lactation Services at 870-239-7467.

Blood Drive

AMMC is sponsoring a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross Thursday, April 11, from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at AMMC.

To give blood for transfusion to another person, you must be healthy, be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law (includes Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee). You must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks (56 days) or double red cells in the last 16 weeks (112 days). "Healthy" means that you feel well and can perform normal activities. If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure, "healthy" also means that you are being treated and the condition is under control. Each person who successfully donates blood at the April blood drive at Arkansas Methodist will receive three \$5 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station.

Mommy and Me

AMMC sponsors a monthly breastfeeding class for new and expectant mothers Monday, April 15, from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room in the Professional Office Building.

This class is an opportunity for new and expectant mothers to meet other moms and share experiences. Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's Tritia McGrew, RN, International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and Greene County Health Unit's Leisa Kennedy, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, are available to teach and assist participants. For more information, call AMMC Lactation Services at 239-7467 or the Greene County Health Unit at 236-7782.

Bone Marrow Drive

AMMC is sponsoring a bone marrow drive in partnership with Be The Match Thursday, April 25, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Herget Atrium at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Adults between the ages of 18-44 can join at the drive. Adults between the ages of 45-60 must join by going online at www.bethematch.org/join.

For more information, contact Lee Sisk at 870-476-8276 or lee.sisk@arkansasmethodist.org or Mary LeSueur at 662-403-0091 or mlesueur@nmdp.org. Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.myammc.org. ♦

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Springtime is also allergy time for many Americans

By Dr. Lisa Hendrix

Springtime is a beautiful time of year but sometimes makes people crazy with sneezing, runny nose, sinus congestion, ear fullness, watery and itchy eyes, headaches, post nasal drip, and sometimes eczema. According to the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, approximately 7.8% of people 18 years old and over in the U.S. and 10% to 30% worldwide suffer with hay fever or seasonal allergies.

Springtime brings beautiful flowering plants and trees which release a deluge of pollen which becomes abundant in the air. Specifically, right now in northeast Arkansas, alder, cedar, juniper, and maple are the predominant pollens. Many times people cope with baseline allergies to dust mites, pet danders, and house dust, but when the pollens hit the air with full force, they become symptomatic to the point of needing relief.

Allergy symptoms are caused when the

immune system begins to overreact to air born allergens, and sometimes, even to foods. Certain immune cells make an antibody called IgE, which is specific to the process of seasonal allergies.

Also, in the body are cells called mast cells which contain histamine.

When the antibodies bind to a mast cell and then are exposed to a large amount of specific pollens or allergens, the mast cell bursts releasing histamine into tissues like the nasal cavities and sinuses causing itching, runny nose, sneezing, burning, and swelling.

Interestingly, people who are allergic to

certain pollens may also react to certain proteins found in fruits and vegetables. For instance, those allergic to ragweed may also react to bananas, melons, and tomatoes. Birch

pollen shows cross reactivity with apples, carrots, celery, and hazelnuts to name a few. When these foods are consumed in those who are cross reactive, they may experience symptoms of itchy mouth, runny nose, sneezing, or possibly

more severe and rare symptoms of swelling of the mouth, tongue, or airway.

Diagnosis of seasonal allergies is based on symptoms and then verified, most commonly, with skin testing by pricks, scratches, or needles using the offending allergen in purified liquid extract form. After allowing the ex-



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tract to be exposed to the skin for a short period of time, the reaction is measured and graded by measuring the exact size of the swelling, also called a wheal. The larger the reaction, a greater score of allergic reaction is assigned.

The type of treatment usually depends on the severity of the persons symptoms. For someone who is symptomatic only during certain times of the year and only for short periods, they may be treated with common antihistamines (medicines that block the reaction of the body to histamine release) either in a pill or nasal spray or both. They may also be treated with steroid nasal spray, which is a topical treatment to reduce the reaction of swelling in the nasal cavity.

If the frequency of a persons symptoms is more than a few times per year and more severe, they may be a candidate for allergy shots, also known as immunotherapy. Shots

are based on the allergy testing results and made according to the specific allergy tests that are positive.

Some natural remedies include vitamin C and quercetin. Vitamin C helps to stabilize the

mast cells, which reduces histamine release. Quercetin is also stabilizing and anti-inflammatory. Nettle, another herb commonly taken for allergies, also is anti-inflammatory and acts against histamine.

Additionally, there have been studies supporting the use of probiotics (beneficial intestinal bacteria) for those with allergies and eczema.

Other helps for allergies include eating a diet that loaded with fresh or fresh frozen fruits and vegetables and without processed flours and sugars. Even small amounts of refined sugar adversely affect the immune system.

Springtime brings beautiful flowering plants and trees which release a deluge of pollen which becomes abundant in the air.

Allergy mattress and pillow covers may also help to keep down exposure to dust mite allergens.

Last but not least is stress management. Stress also adversely affects the immune system and may increase severity of allergic symptoms.

If you think you may be suffering from allergy symptoms, contact your family doctor discuss your symptoms and options.

Lisa M. Hendrix, M.D., ABFM, Fellow
Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine

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BEFORE



AFTER



prom night. That magical evening that is the epitome of the High School experience. No single night is more important to a teenage girl. The preparation, the photos, the friends... the *dress*. Knowing where to go to achieve the Prom perfect look can prove to be difficult. *Premiere Magazine* wanted to show you just how simple it could be.

Enter Tiana Nyland. High School senior, Idaho farm girl, and *Premiere Prom Princess*. Tiana was gracious enough to go through the process of prom prep a month early to show that planning for prom readiness doesn't have to be stressful. It can actually be pretty fun!

Afterwards, Tiana expressed that her favorite part was definitely the spray tan and the makeup, both being new experiences. Tiana and her mother were pleasantly surprised at the outcome. We can't wait to hear what her date thinks!

The Ladies Behind ^{of} *style*



Amanda Williams
Nail Tech



Kristen McCracken
Hair Stylist



Lora Crossno
Makeup Artist



Ruth Jenkins
Dress Expert
THE WHITE COLUMNS



Judith Wheelis
Florist
ALVIN TAYLOR'S
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SHEAR ELEGANCE DESIGN TEAM



MANI



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HAIR

Pretty Prom

Story & Photography
by Megan Koller

Tiana, accompanied by her mother, Lynn, began (and ended!) the search for the perfect dress at **THE WHITE COLUMNS**. There, Tiana tried on several different styles with the help of shop owner, Ruth Jenkins, but fell in love with a strapless mermaid gown, complete with every girl's favorite accessory - *bling*. The dress perfectly accentuated Tiana's figure. The next stop was **ROOM TO GROW** downtown, where Tiana found a pair of chandelier earrings that perfectly complimented the sparkle of her dress. Shortly after, Tiana and her mother walked down Pruet Street to **ALVIN TAYLOR'S FLOWERS & GIFTS** where Judith Wheelis helped Tiana pick out flowers and accessories for her corsage. The one of a kind design featured a hot pink rose, green and purple accent flowers, and turquoise and orange feathers on a hand designed wire bracelet with rhinestone decorations. Judith also created a feather and gem stone hair piece to coordinate with the corsage. From there, Tiana made her way to **THE SHEAR ELEGANCE DESIGN TEAM**, where Amanda Williams treated her to a gel manicure (they last up to 3 weeks without chipping!) and a Rockstar pedicure. Next, Shear Elegance owner, Lora Crossno, provided a Fake Bake spray tan for that perfect fresh-off-the-beach glow without the harmful rays of a sun bed. This was Tiana's first spray tan, and she said that she loved the experience so much, she would have to continue with them in the future. After that, Lora expertly applied Bed Head and Bare Escentuals cosmetics to achieve a prom-ready look that included color-coordinated smoky eyes and glossy lips. Finally, Kristen McCracken gave Tiana soft curls that she swept to one side, creating a romantic style pinned back with Judith's hand crafted hair piece. Then it was back downtown, where Tiana and Lynn took a quick break for treats at **SOMETHING SWEET**. Tiana then went next door to **MOSAIC BOUTIQUE**, where owner Kandice Oglesby was kind enough to allow Tiana to use her dressing room to finalize her Prom ready look. Finally, Megan Koller of Premiere captured a lovely, smiling Tiana in Downtown Paragould after a busy Prom makeover morning. Tiana will receive all these products and services again for her actual prom.



Premiere Magazine would like to express infinite thanks to all of the generous business and individuals who provided products and services to the Prom Makeover. We would also like to thank Tiana Nyland, who was a beautiful and willing model. Without all of their kindness, this would not have been possible.



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Golf For Agape tournament will be held at Sage Meadows Saturday, April 20

The first Golf For Agape four-person scramble golf charity tournament is set for Saturday, April 20, at Sage Meadows in Jonesboro.

The event will serve as a fundraiser for the local Agape House.

Team entry fee is \$300. Sponsorships are available for \$500, with the tee box sponsor signs provided.

Check in and registration is set for 7 a.m.-7:45 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

For more information about the tournament, call Shannon Gambill at 870-565-8608 or Sunny Curtis at 870-450-4869.

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Paragould Rotary Club to present Fun Dog Show in May

The Paragould Rotary Club will present the "Paws for a Cause" Fun Dog Show at the Greene County Fairgrounds in May.

Pre-registration for the event will be \$10 per category; on the day of the event, the fee will be \$12 per event. The registration fee includes admission for two dog handlers.

Admission prices will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children under the age of 12.

There will be plenty of door prizes, vendor

booths, merchandise and entertainment available.

Categories for the dog show will be:

- * Best Tail Wagger
- * Cutest Puppy (under 1)
- * Looks Most Like Owner
- * Most Macho



- * Most Beautiful
- * Most Talented
- * Best Kisser
- * Most Handsome
- * Best Costume

The Fun Dog Show will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at the B.C. Lloyd Building in Paragould from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

For more information contact Malissa Lewis at 870-476-0727. ♦









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April signals the start of baseball season. Paragould's Bland Park will soon ring with the sounds of cheering fans.

Pocahontas hosts
'Stroll The Square'

Downtown Pocahontas comes alive the first Thursday of each month when the it hosts "Stroll The Square," an evening of shopping, sightseeing and entertainment.

Find more information on the Stroll The Square Facebook page. ♦



James Tinker, left, of Black River Beads performs the art of glass blowing during the "Stroll The Square" activities in March. Above are some samples of his work.



Jean Percy, owner of The Gallery On The Square.



Artist Kim Musser, "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer Joseph, of Wolfgang's, and some of the live entertainment.



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Lots of products will help remove stains from furniture.



Before: With the ink stain



After: The stain is gone

There are many solutions for removing furniture stains

While it seems like an unconventional Spring with the yo-yo weather, it's difficult to avoid the inspiration of sunshine. Spring cleaning isn't my first choice for warm weather activity, but I find my clients are getting to work. The question inundating my inbox: How do I clean my sofa?

I sell new furniture, of course, so I don't often have the opportunity to test the popular instructions for removing stains from upholstery. I have lots of recommendations on hand with numerous solvents: Magic Eraser, rubbing alcohol, hairspray, cleaners designed for fabric, toothpaste, baking soda and such. I tried a few of these popular removers on ink, one of the most resistant stains. I applied the ink to a leather match or vinyl fabric to test these products. When using one product or combining a few, use a dry cloth followed by a damp one. Then, saturate the fabric after the stain is removed to remove the cleaning product entirely from the upholstery.

Follow this process, first, on the back of your furniture cushion. The entire cushion may not be covered in the body fabric but there will at



least be a small portion that meets the seam on the backside. I advise starting there with a test spot, as you never know how your particular fabric will react. Never just jump right in on an eye-catching spot. There's always the possibility what you apply will damage the fabric all together. Often times, people are sold "leather" that is not leather at all. While you may think your leather is genuine, in actuality, it may be only a percentage of leather. Thus, it's a leather blend or a leather seat with vinyl backs and sides. Intense cleaners like rubbing alcohol may cause more harm than good on certain fabrics and should be used as a last resort.

I tried all of the spot removers pictured. The results were surprising. While the cleaners I've always heard to be the best partially removed the ink, random advice I got from a fellow mom and client was the overall

winner. I used Cascade liquid dishwashing liquid, her recommendation, and it worked. Faint lines of ink still remained, but for the most part, the stain disappeared! After my success with this product, I tried it on a carpet stain and it worked just as well. Keep in mind, this product may not work well with every fabric. Always try it on the an unseen portion first. Plus, this type of stain may be different from the one you are trying to remove. Search for a stain specific solution before trying anything at all.

There are a lot of helpful 'Step by Step' solutions on the web. On certain fabrics, non leather or vinyl, you risk a water spot even after your stain is removed. Remember to use a damp cloth on these fabrics and try to avoid spreading the cleaning solution beyond the stained surface area. Also, I don't endorse any one brand. The pictured products are what I had readily available at home.

In second place was the Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. I could still see the ink, but combined with hairspray, the stain lightened significantly.

Do you have your own stain removing solution? Share it with me at tiffanynapier@live.com. ♦



David Vanhorn invites area residents to attend the Drive Green Challenge at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Legacy Equipment hosts Drive Green Challenge

Area residents interested in the latest utility tractors, lawn and garden equipment, loaders and other equipment from John Deere are invited to stop by the Greene County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 20, as Legacy Equipment hosts the 2013 Drive Green Challenge.

Attendees who register at the event will also receive a \$500 discount on John Deere compact and utility tractors and a chance to win a John Deere 1 Series Sub-Compact Utility Tractor with loader and Frontier grooming mower. This is the fifth year that John Deere dealers have hosted Drive Green Challenge events; last year more than 10,000 people attended events held across the country.

David Vanhorn of Legacy Equipment in Paragould is confident attendees will enjoy the chance to check out different models of equipment. "The best thing about this event is the fact that we have lots of different John Deere equipment available so folks can check out all the features and benefits for themselves," he said. "At the same time, we want to make our event a fun, informative and rewarding experience for all who attend."

Representatives from Legacy Equipment will be on hand to answer questions about the equipment.

The John Deere Drive Green Challenge hosted by Legacy will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Admission is free. ♦



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Business Is Good



Downtown Paragould is adding several businesses. At left above, the owners of Skinny J's are in the process of remodeling the old Red Goose building, as well as the Ed's Cafe property next door. At right, is part of the interior of Just Pretend, a kid's play area set to open in the old Trice Brothers building. Below left is part of the update going on at Mosaic Salon. See the story below for additional information on the business boom in Downtown Paragould.



Downtown Paragould adding several new businesses

By Richard Brummett

There are exciting changes taking place in the Downtown Paragould area, with the biggest name on the menu being Skinny J's.

According to Gina Jarrett, Director of Main Street Paragould, Skinny J's Restaurant has already begun remodeling the old Red Goose building at 117 N. Pruet St. and will open as soon as possible.

"James Best and Sarah Reeves have already started talking up the restaurant," Jarrett said. "They will be in the old Red Goose building and they've bought the Ed's Cafe property as well. They're 'demo-ing' it right now, and expect a June completion. Sarah joined us at Perking on Pruet and will be very active in what's going on downtown. They're very thrilled about the Paragould location."

Jarrett also addressed additional businesses moving to the Downtown Paragould site.

"One I'm excited about, even though I don't have any little kids, is Just Pretend, at 206 S.

Pruett in the old Trice Brothers building," she said. "It's a gigantic building, and is going to be turned into a kids' play place."

She said the new business will have a birthday room, stage, dance studio, "a little Larry's Pizza, grocery store, castle ... huge innovations. They are getting all new electric and plumbing, a whole new look. The second floor will have a yoga studio ... a main room and a smaller one for hot yoga.

"The building has been underutilized or not utilized at all for too long," she said.

ThreeTenSouth Dining and Spirits, in the old Dave's Dawghouse property, will be "less of a late-night atmosphere, and more of a restaurant type," she said. "After the fire at Dave's they have completely renovated ... new trusses, jacked up the roof, all new electrical. It is going to be a nice addition."

Mosaic Boutique recently opened at 223 S. Pruet and Jarrett said it appears to be a hit.

"Every time I go in there, people are waiting in line to check out," she said. "It's a great

space, a cool, funky sort of place."

Soon to open next door at 225 S. Pruet is Mosaic Salon, another welcomed addition to the area.

At 203 N. Pruet, is Deja Vu, which Jarrett described as "an upscale consignment shop," and it is up and running.

She said a city wide cleanup is planned for April 20 "from Rotary Park to Harmon to the old courthouse. We'll have a crew working downtown, too. We plan to start at 8 a.m. and end with a cookout for volunteers at Harmon. There will be something for everyone to do, if they're interested."

She said new construction on another Pruet Street location "ran into some electrical issues but they hope to have new service active for the lights and fountain in Centennial Park by Art and Stroll on May 2nd.

"There's lots of stuff happening in Downtown Paragould," she said. "We've had people looking at properties almost every day. It's coming alive." ♦

Business Is Good

Got a problem? Look for the answer at Paragould's H&W Hardware store

By Richard Brummett

Bill Orr actually hopes when customers walk through the door of H&W Hardware in Downtown Paragould they have a problem.

"We sort of pride ourselves on being problem solvers," said Orr, who has owned the business since 1999. The site has hosted a hardware store for more than 50 years, having been purchased by Orr from the Kenneth Hamilton family.

Orr has an extensive background in the hardware, lumber and agri communities, growing up around the lumber yards his father, Houston, worked in, and teaching agri classes at Oak Grove and Russellville for three years himself.

"We were the typical '60s family," he said, "raising a garden, having chickens, having cattle. It wasn't hard to fall into this line of work."

Orr said more people seem to be planning on having a garden these days because of the economy, and they can find most of the basic needs at H&W. "We don't have the seed," he said, "but we have all the shovels, rakes and hand tools needed."

"In World War II we called them Victory Gardens; today they're more Lettuce Gardens, not so much a whole garden but things to supplement."

Orr said he likes the image attached to a true hardware store, although he knows they are part of a dying breed. "One of the challenges I enjoy is that you never stop learning," he said. "Sometimes you're even able to give some of the old-timers tricks to help them."

"Plumbing, for instance. I love to solve the problem and then try to



Bill Orr has owned H&W since 1999.

find a cheaper way to fix it. I'm my own worst customer. But I like solving the problems. Today we raise our kids to *work* problems, but not to *solve* problems."

He remembers a time when every hardware store had a "fix-it man in the back, where you dropped your merchandise off and came back for it; today, no one wants to drop anything off. They want it fixed immediately because we live in a 'throw away' economy: It's easier to buy a new one than to fix your old one.

"Every day someone comes in here and says, 'Wow, this is an old-time hardware store.' They can't believe we have such a wide selection in such a small building. Of course, they usually say they've been all over town looking for something and they found it here, and I want to say, 'Why didn't you come here first?' But we're happy to help everyone who walks in that door."

H&W is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon. Orr can be reached at 870-236-6730. ♦

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Tips for making that garden come to life

It's the time of year when gardeners begin to fidget. The perennial beds are bedraggled. The shrubs need pruning. Before you get your hands dirty, these tips from experts will help you save time and money — and make your garden easier to tend as the weather heats up.

Clean up

Your house isn't the only thing that needs spring cleaning. Instead of a mop and bucket, take a rake and pruning shears outdoors. Pick up debris. Rake dead leaves from flower beds, and remove them from trees and shrubs. Use a long-reach grabber for hard-to-get-to spots. (Look for one in a hospital supply store; not the local nursery.)

If you didn't cut back your perennials in the fall, do so now. Unlike autumn, when clippings can act as a layer of compost, spring's mantra is chop, but don't drop. "Take away all cuttings," says Shelburne, Vt.-based garden coach Charlie Nardozi. "You don't want new growth contaminated by any pests or disease that may have over-wintered in the garden."

Adds Melinda Myers, author, horticulturist and host of the TV show Great Lakes Gardener in Milwaukee: "As you move around, drag one of those plastic saucer sleds behind you to collect clippings and cuttings. Then it's easy to drag to your brush pile or to the street, if you have pick-up."

Weed 'em and reap

Weeding is every gardener's dread, but getting a jump on the chore as weeds come up will save time and energy in the summer. Myers suggests taking your morning coffee into the garden and pulling weeds for 5 to 10 minutes.

Plan first; shop later

Before you open your wallet, stroll around your yard, notebook in hand, to see which areas are sunny or shady. This walkabout will keep you from buying plants or seeds that won't grow under your garden's conditions — no matter your fantasy. "There is no sense in spending money on plants that need full sun for most of the day if the trees

around your property cast shade on the garden," says Myers.

As your spring bulbs bloom, mark their location on a sketch or plan of the garden, so you don't plant annuals or new perennials on top of them. While you're scouting, look for areas you can redesign for low maintenance. Consider planting shrubs, ground covers or ornamental grasses to cut down on lawns and flower borders.

Sharpen and prune

Some plants — ornamental grasses, roses, spring flowering shrubs — need pruning in the spring. Cut out all dead, diseased and damaged limbs, says Cayleb Long, curator of the annual and perennial borders at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. But don't overdo. "You don't have to prune everything into tight, meatballs or gumdrop shapes," says Rushing. "Allow some shrubs to grow out into their natural shape."

Before you wield the clippers, sharpen your tools: You won't have to make multiple cuts on a branch, and you'll get fewer blisters and backaches. The most basic sharpening tool is an 8-inch-long flat file available at any hardware store for about \$8 to \$10. Look for one with a handle to make using the file easier, and consider wearing goggles and gloves to avoid flying bits of metal. And don't forget lawnmower maintenance. "The best thing you can do for your lawn is to get the blades of your lawnmower serviced," says Myers. "Mowing will be easier, the lawn will look nicer and you'll use less gas."

A planting we will go

Plant perennials now so they'll be established by summer, and need less watering. If you want to skip the step of starting your annual and vegetable seeds indoors — and the accompanying financial outlay for peat pots, trays and lights — you can sow them directly into the ground at about the same time you would transplant the seedlings that matured in your basement. Wait until after there's no danger of night frost that can wreak havoc on the seeds even if the days are warm, which can be any time between mid-February and mid-June, depending on where you live. Sow in staggered rows and space the seeds as the packet suggests, so the plants can grow into a denser cover, keeping weeds down. ♦

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Miric Richardson

... not your everyday child

'A little miracle to us'

By Richard Brummett

Miric is not your everyday name, just as Miric is not your everyday child. "Miric is short for Miracle," said April West of her five-year-old daughter and bearer of the unique name. "She's a strong little girl; I think the name fits her."

From the early days of her young life Miric Thomasina Richardson has had an eventful existence, one full of doubts and fears, of medical procedures and endurance.

Starting with a premature birth in February of 2008 in which she weighed only four pounds, she has been "a little miracle to us," said April.

What was originally thought to be a cough related to allergies turned into something much more serious when Miric was only three. Her tonsils were swelling repeatedly and she began to become pale and tired much too often for her mother to be at ease. It was in March of 2011 when doctors said the results of blood tests were not good.

"The doctor said the blood count wasn't right, so he looked at it again," April recalled. "He took the blood counts again, and then another doctor came in, they went back out, then came back and said her platelets were low. I was very emotional; it took me back. And then we were headed for Children's Hospital."

Shortly after their arrival at ACH, Miric was diagnosed with Leukemia ALL-T cell, an aggressive form of cancer.

"They told me that it comes on fast, and that meant her chemotherapy must be aggressive also," April said. "And so we began a series of treatments where they put a port in to do her chemo, and she has been taking treatment ever since."

Chemotherapy and steroids keep the little girl's counts up, her mother calling them "somewhere close to normal. We basically lived in a bubble for over a year. We didn't get

out and do anything, she wasn't around a lot of people. Her life was filled with blood transfusions, platelet transfusions and spinal taps every Friday for a year, which she still has to do once a month. We still go every week to check her counts at Jonesboro and keep an eye on her levels and counts. It's scary; last week she was dehydrated and I wondered if something really bad was happening.

"Leukemia is cancer of the blood," she said. "We're trusting in God that it won't come back so aggressive. We still go to Children's

could be so she would be happy, too."

As for Miric, she made a definite impression on the ACH staff.

"She would have them laughing," April said, noting that the effects of her treatment often left her achy and weary, yet she never lost her spirit.

"She said funny things, and looked forward to playing with the staff and doing crafts. Like I said, she's our little miracle."

April said she "cannot say enough nice things about our experience at Children's Hospital. We weren't sitting around wondering what was going on or what we were supposed to do next. They sat with us, invited us to come along when they did things with Miric ... they treated us like a big family. Her doctors and nurses were wonderful."

She said the staff was not only a blessing to her daughter, but to her as well.

"I once went twelve days with no sleep and nine days without eating," she said. "I just wanted to be sure I was right there by her side in case anything happened or if they came in to say something I

needed to hear. That's just the kind of mother I am; I want to know everything about everything when it comes to my child.

"The staff there kept me up to date and gave me all the help I could ask for, but they told me I have to take care of myself, too," she said. "They just take you in and talk to you like you're family. They talked to me sometimes like I was their daughter, too."

April said Miric has lost her hair twice due to the chemo treatments, and because of that they have not taken any professional photographs.

"That's something you don't think about if this hasn't happened to you," she said. "Maybe we're where we can do something like that now." ♦



April West calls her daughter, Miric, "a little miracle to us."

Hospital for monthly chemo and spinal taps, and I think everyone there is so amazing. They helped put me so much at ease. They are very explanatory and they sit with you and talk to you, talk you through things in a way you can understand. They are very, very, very good to love Miric the way they do. But she is quite a character."

April said Miric produces paintings for the Gallery of Hope auction at the Governor's Mansion and "does a lot of acting. She is a unique child. She is such a strong little girl. I have tried not to cry and hold it together for her, but sometimes it's her making me smile instead. They said at Children's Hospital that cancer patients almost immediately become depressed so I wanted to stay the happiest I

Lange family thrilled with ACH

By Richard Brummett

Erica Lange doesn't remember too much about her stay at Arkansas Children's Hospital, but her mother, Judy, certainly does.

"We walked in and they said, 'Your child is in critical condition,'" Judy recalled. "They transferred her straight to ICU, and by 11 that night she had gone into a coma."

Erica, 12 at the time, had contracted Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and was suffering from swelling around her brain, but her mother said a combination of excellent treatment by the ACH staff and the hand of God reversed her fortunes.

She was in a coma for 28 days, and stayed at ACH from April 21 to July 28, "a big part of that in rehab," her mother said.

Judy recalled a time when family members were in the prayer room as Erica's doctor entered and encouraged them to continue

praying. "He said he had closed the medical books but she was still surviving. He said our God was a meaningful God, and we should keep praying."

She said the Lange family has "no idea what we would have done without the Children's Hospital staff. Even with family members they provided us counselors and talked us through how to handle situations."

As for Erica, now 30, much of that time is not easily recalled. She remembers the Teen Room and walks to different floors, but vivid memories are left mostly to her immediate family to relate.

Today, she is a volunteer worker at Marmaduke School and helps out with special needs students.

"She is a miracle," Judy said. "It's only through God and Arkansas Children's Hospital that she survived. She lives a wonderful life." ♦



Erica Lange

Dupwe calls ACH team 'wonderful'

By Richard Brummett

Mica Dupwe said she can't begin to describe the range of emotions she felt when doctors told her that her newborn baby needed to be flown to Arkansas Children's Hospital immediately.

"She was taken at 38 weeks because her heart rate was not good," Mica said. "She was born on May 5, 2012, and was flown to Children's Hospital. I got to be with her on May 6. I was terrified."

Baby Addisyn was hampered by numerous respiratory issues related to intrauterine growth retardation, a condition most commonly caused by inadequate maternal-fetal circulation, with a resultant decrease in fetal growth.

However, once she arrived at the ACH facility, Mica said her daughter could not have been in better hands.

"She had a wonderful team of doctors and nurses," she said. "They stayed on top of



Addisyn Dupwe

everything and helped her reach all her goals. She was there about two weeks and came home on May 19th or 20th, with no further complications."

Addisyn did fail her hearing screening and incurred some hearing loss, but according to her mother is "otherwise perfectly healthy. She will be 11 months old April the 5th and has some developmental delays, but she seems to be doing great.

"The Children's Hospital team held my hand every step of the way," she recalled. "There is nothing better anywhere than Arkansas Children's Hospital. I would go back to them in a heartbeat."

Mica said she and another mother who had a son treated by ACH plan to stage a fundraising event sometime this summer.

"We plan to have some family entertainment and a silent auction," she said. "What they did for us has touched our hearts.

"They were all so comforting and so much like family," Mica said. "My husband got to fly with Addisyn on Angel 1, which almost never happens, and from the moment we got there we had nothing but a positive experience." ♦

Friend felt like family on ACH stay

By Gabriel A. Cook

When Stacey Friend's son, Jaxson, was born, doctors discovered several complications. Now 3, Jaxson was born with two holes in his heart, a ventricular septal defect, an atrial septal defect, and pulmonary valve stenosis — a narrowing of the valve that transfers blood from heart to lungs. With no local cardiologists equipped to treat such conditions, a nurse practitioner sent Jaxson to Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Though a frightening time for Friend's family, she says her son spent only five days at Children's. "We went in on a Monday for the pre-op testing, he had surgery on Tuesday, and we were home by Saturday."

When asked about their stay at ACH, Friend said, "They were absolutely wonderful, especially while he was in surgery. In the cardiology unit, parents have their own waiting room. They came in every thirty minutes, telling us exactly what they were doing, when he went under anesthesia, telling us about any changes. They gave constant updates."

Jaxson returns to Children's for regular checkups, and Friend stresses the familial atmosphere of the facility. "They treat you like family. More importantly, they treat your children like their own children. It's a wonderful place."



Jaxson Friend

Friend lives in Paragould but teaches 6th grade social studies in Blytheville. Her other children include Kiera, 7, and step-daughter Lydia, 10. ♦

Brown: Thankful for ACH efforts

By Richard Brummett

Seventeen-year-old Shania Brown had a long stay at Arkansas Children's Hospital, starting in 1998, and her father is thankful that is where she landed.

"We spent about nine months straight there," said Bobby Brown, "... we never left. The staff there did everything they could to comfort us so we wouldn't be so scared. You never realize how bad something like that is until the day they tell you it's your child that has cancer."

While in preschool, Shania began running a low grade temperature, enough that the school would not let her return until it subsided. When it lingered, her parents took her to the doctor and eventually blood work came back that concerned the medical experts, so the child was sent to ACH.

"They told us they were 90 percent sure it was cancer," Bobby said. "So we went to Children's Hospital and they said she had

ALL (acute lymphocytic leukemia) after doing all the tests. We spent several months with a team of doctors and doing chemo, and I couldn't ask for anyone better. Just so I could get some sleep, the nurses would take her out to the nurses' station and do makeup. They would play with her and have water fights and they got her Valentines. It is unbelievable how good they treated her ... and us. The doctors and nurses joined in. They try to make the kids have fun, even when they're so sick.

"They came in and explained everything they were going to do in a way we could understand and not be so worried. They told us if you have to have cancer, the younger you are, the better, and if you have to have it, the best kind to have was hers."

Brown said Shania was known as "the princess of 3 Gold" while at ACH, and the staff did make her feel like royalty.

Today, Shania is a junior at Paragould High School and, according to her dad, "plays soccer, basketball, tennis. It is unbelievable



Shania Brown

what they have done. I don't know of anyone who can have anything bad to say about Arkansas Children's Hospital. If they do, it's because they haven't been there." ♦



Denise Middleton is the local chair of the Circle of Friends and a big supporter of Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Personal experiences connect Middleton to ACH

By Gabriel A. Cook

Arkansas Children's Hospital's mission is to improve children's health by providing "integrated

patient care, research, education, and prevention." It is the only pediatric medical center in the state, and one of the largest in the U.S. To say it takes an army of workers to run

such a facility is an understatement.

But to claim such a benefit for the state necessitates enormous funding, and ACH — which treats those with or without insurance — has large overhead costs. With a code of honor that refuses to turn away any patient, despite their ability to pay, how does such a facility continue to exist?

One local organization, The Greene County Circle of Friends, helps the ACH directly through fundraisers that are corporate-driven and pledge-driven. It is not unusual to see children, some who've benefited from ACH's care, raising money for the hospital.

Chapter Chair of the local Circle of Friends is Denise Middleton. Like several people who donate their time to such a cause, Middleton's own children were treated at ACH.

"My youngest son, Ty, had a blood vessel that needed attention, and he had to wear a special helmet for cranial development. And my oldest, Reece, fell in a fire and burned his hands. ACH is the only burn center around, and they treat adults as well as children."

The excellent care that each child received was not all that impressed Middleton. "You weren't treated like a number or a patient," she said, "you were treated as one of the family. There were no stupid questions; they were willing to answer anything and help out

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Despite the hospital staff’s nurturing attitudes, such an event would be enough to tax any parent’s faith and patience, but it was when her nephew, Case Kersey, received a heart transplant at 14 months old that Middleton knew she had to give something back to the facility.

“I’d received a card in the mail for a Circle of Friends membership drive,” she explained, “and I felt compelled to join then and there. That was over three years ago.”

Circle of Friends started in 1983, and it has grown to include more than 700 members. The combined members of each chapter have raised more than \$10 million for ACH.


“We have various ways of publicizing events,” Middleton explained. “We inform people of our fundraisers through outlets such as Premiere and JACK FM and Facebook. The community has been so gracious to step in and give when they’re called upon. I’ve been amazed by how much people will give because it weighs upon their heart to do so. They may have had a child or relative in Children’s, or they may have heard someone’s testimonial that touched them and made them want to join or give to the cause.

“ACH is a phenomenal facility,” she continues. “They do important things not only for Greene County but for the whole state and beyond. If you haven’t experienced it, ask someone who has and they’ll give you a heartwarming story of the good ACH has done.”

Those interested in donating to — or joining — the organization can find more at Greene County Circle of Friends on Facebook, or they can call Middleton at 870-476-0754.

“We are always happy to have new members,” Middleton said. “We had a membership drive last year, and we look forward to whoever feels compelled to join us this year.”

Anyone seeking more information will be able to talk to Middleton and a host of former patients, parents, and hospital staff at the annual Arkansas Children’s Hospital Radiothon, April 19th, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Paragould Plaza, brought to you by 107.1 JACK FM. ♦



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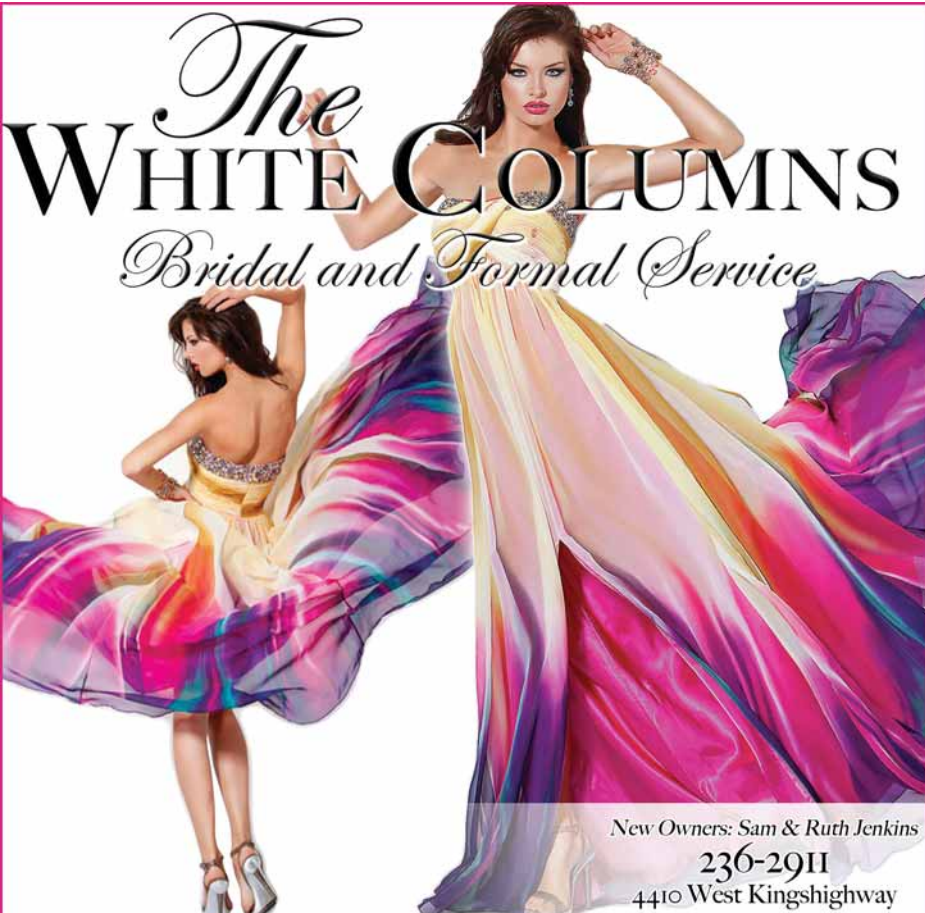
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PHS students place in Regional Math Contest


Paragould High School students participated in the Regional Math Contest at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Fourteen students placed in four categories.

Algebra I: Jada White - 2nd Place, Trevor Bateman - 3rd Place. Algebra II: Ashley McIninch - 3rd place, and Claire Rowland, Hannah Smithee, Madison Beasley, Kali Boggs, Amanda Robbins and Nate Tiner - Honorable Mention.

Geometry: John Wolz, Clayton Barrett and Josh Martin, Honorable Mention.

Calculus: Chantilly Steyer - 3rd Place, Grant Ragsdell - Honorable Mention.

Students who placed first, second or third will participate in the state contest on April 21 at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Math teachers who sponsored the event are Melissa McPherson, Nichole Winberry, and Angela Duncan. ♦




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GAME TIME



Like many of the other high school teams in Greene County, Marmaduke's girls hope to follow up a successful basketball season with a good showing on the softball field. The season is in full swing for all the county schools.



Top, Bree Upchurch tries to make a tag on a sliding runner during Paragould High School's Play Day. At right, Brittany Banning stretches for a ball at Cross County, while below, Jaime Clayton turns in a nice catch in left field at the PHS Play Day.



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ACH Radiothon always brings out the best of my tormentors

Since joining MOR Media five years ago, I've been involved in several community outreach programs. Of all such endeavors, the annual Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon is my favorite.

But not everything is beer and skittles. The Radiothon is a twelve-hour broadcast in which all MOR Media employees participate. This is the fun part; it brings me in contact with folks who've benefitted from the hospital's services. The problems arise not from the Radiothon itself, but those who enjoy tormenting me.

I've written at length of the misadventures visited upon me by Big O and Bobby Wilson. They've dragged me to haunted houses, convinced me we were in devil worshiper territory, and, in general, exerted their evil influence upon my innocence. It was during my first Radiothon that I realized what sort of deviants I'd taken for friends.

The day was stormy, the rain so torrential that

What's The Fuss?

By Fuss



our broadcast — based out of an RV — could barely be heard over the downpour. Bobby joined Big O and me for the afternoon shift. In between testimonials and pledge drives, we joked and had a good time. They stepped outside during a break in the rain while I listened to weather reports. Our county was put under a sudden tornado warning, and those in the area were to take cover. I turned to advise Big O and Bobby of this development in time to see them running for shelter inside a nearby restaurant. They did not attempt to rescue me — not so much as a text or knock on the window. The sirens blared and they were gone. Only when the skies cleared and the warning lifted did anyone look for me.

Big O and Bobby found me huddled in the RV. "This is a dumb place to be during a tornado," they said, shaking their heads at my stupidity.

The next year's Radiothon took place on a hot, sticky day. We had creamsicles for the public, and, toward day's end, I asked if any were left, as I hadn't had one in years. "There's only one," someone said, and I stepped out to claim it — just in time to see Bobby Wilson finish the last bite. It wouldn't have been so bad if, seeing my disappointment, he hadn't offered me the stick.

But the worst came last year, when — in an effort to increase pledges — someone suggested that, for \$500, I eat a liver cheese sandwich. Thinking we'd never reach the goal in the allotted time, I agreed. Imagine my surprise when the money rolled in. The liver cheese sandwich was acquired and delivered. A dozen people crowded round to witness my torture. I took a hesitant bite; it tasted like a mouse flattened by a rolling pin and put between two slices of bread, and I kept it down only with the greatest of effort. When I was informed that half the amount raised consisted of my own pledge made earlier that day, my stomach rolled and I made for the nearest necessary.

This year, for a \$500 pledge, I'll gladly eat a slice of pizza, drink a cold beverage, and sit under a box fan while watching television. It's the least I can do.

The very least. ♦

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Outstanding Teachers



Amy Austin, CRA

Amy Austin of Crowley's Ridge Academy said her experiences with teachers of her own made her want to follow in their footsteps.

"Growing up, I always wanted to be a teacher because of some of the awesome teachers I had as a student. When I graduated from high school and went to college I seemed to be pulled to the educational classes and really enjoyed them," she said. "The deeper I got into the education field, the more I realized how much I enjoy teaching something new to someone. I also really enjoy being around kids, so teaching seemed like the perfect fit for me."



One of her favorite parts of teaching is the one-on-one activities with students, and the bonds they create.

"I love the relationships I form with the students by being their teacher," she said. "I also enjoy getting to see them grow and mature throughout their junior high and high school career."

Amy has been teaching at Crowley's Ridge Academy for five years. She has been married to Darrell Austin for seven years.

"He and I have both lived in Paragould all of our lives," she said. "We have a four-year-old, Luke, who is in PALS and an eight-month-old, Clay. We are also expecting another child in October." ♦

Kathy Bowlin, GCT

Kathy Bowlin was looking for a job that would allow her to have a schedule similar to that of her children's, and teaching absolutely filled the bill. "I have a degree in Radiologic Technology and worked in that field for four years," she said. "That is a year around job with weekend hours most of the time. I saw the need to have a job where my schedule would better coordinate with my children's schedules, so I went back to college. I chose to teach high school math because I knew math jobs are always available. Also, my high school math teacher didn't think I was capable of much; I saw that as a challenge and had to prove her wrong. With all that said, I can't think of a profession I would love any more than teaching. Anyone who teaches knows it is definitely a calling."



She likes the relationships she builds with her students, and said she loves it "when I see those students who just want to blend in get excited and want to be involved. My goal is to encourage every one of them to feel important. I have learned to have a genuine love of math and I get excited when I see that in my students. I get just as excited with them when they come to class after they have just passed their driver test."

She has been teaching for 11 years and has been married to Scott Bowlin for more than three years. She has two children: Jordan is 22 and works in Oklahoma City; Briley is 18 and a senior at GCT. ♦

Tim Rand
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Get Rich

By Richard Brummett

Decision to keep old photos, share them turns out right

For some unexplainable reason I felt compelled to straighten up our garage, and came across several containers crammed full of old photos and negatives.

My first inclination was to throw them away, figuring if I hadn't bothered to look at them in more than a decade they didn't carry much importance. I have inherited far too many items to accommodate following the deaths of loved ones, and have been overwhelmed while trying to find a place to store them.

Something made me change my mind about discarding the photos and negatives, however, and not only am I glad that I did, so are lots of people who are followers of my Facebook page.

Having spent almost 30 years as a sports photographer, I have collected thousands of pictures of area athletes on the courts and fields. I would often shoot the assignment for the newspaper, then put in a roll or two of film -- we do remember rolls of film? -- and shoot some more for personal use.

Since both of my daughters were ballplayers, I would photograph them and their teammates; many times, I would have the film developed but have no prints made, so a great number of the photos now being scanned into my computer have never been seen by anyone, including me.

It has been both hysterical and touching to see skinny little versions of today's teachers, doctors, pharmacists and parents, all in action from decades ago.

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I must admit I often see adult family members in the photos, too, and I have to wonder who was dressing us back in the day. My wife likes to say, "But that was the style;" I don't know who the style setters were, but they could have used some input.

The old photos also show kids in elementary school plays and at birthday parties and team gatherings ... plenty of places where photo opportunities arose and I pointed the camera in their direction.

There are team photos, action shots, smiling faces; a little of everything.

Each day after posting a photo I am flooded with comments, because seeing ourselves and our little ones from so long ago makes us smile ... even if we don't want to. We have to laugh at ourselves.

"Where did you get that?" is the most common reaction, but in the end the grownup kids -- and their parents -- thank me for sharing.

The written word carries with it a certain power when done well and crafted into stories people want to clip and keep forever. Photos carry the same importance, linking us to a time when we were young and innocent -- and often poorly dressed.

I begin each morning by posting one of the Blast From The Past photos on my Facebook page. Apparently, lots of people are happy to start their mornings looking to see if they know who is there ... and sort of hoping it's not them. ♦

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Chateau On The Ridge holds Arts and Crafts show

Chateau on the Ridge Assisted Living Retirement Community will host an Arts and Crafts Show Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The facility is located at 2308 Chateau Boulevard, off of Carroll Road in Paragould.

Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact Chateau on the Ridge Activity Director Brandi Rannals at 870-215-6300.

AMMC Silent Auction

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center is sponsoring a silent auction to help raise money for the 2013 Relay for Life Thursday, April 25, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday, April 26, from 9-3:30 in The Herget Atrium at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center; 900 W. Kingshighway.

For more information, call 870-239-8031. ♦

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Harding University, Crowley's Ridge College team up to offer courses

Harding University invites area residents to take advantage of the new education site on the campus of Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould.

Classes are offered on week nights and on Saturdays. The school will also have online courses available.

Courses are offered in the following areas of study:

Advanced Studies in Teaching, Educational Leadership, Gifted and Talented, Masters of Arts in Teaching with Licensure, Reading, and Special Education.

For more information check the website: www.harding.edu/education/grad.html or call 870-215-0335.

Email: gradstudiesedu@harding or feharris@harding.edu for additional information. ♦

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Five generations ... twice

Members of Candace Campbell's family posed for a five generation photo in 1986, at left, and again this year, at right.

The picture at left was on Maud Wood's 100th birthday and included her and, from top left, Bill Wood, Judy Ashby, Candace Campbell and Tom Stickel.

The current photo at right features Tom Stickel, Judy Ashby, Elsie Wood, Noah Campbell and a grown up Candace Campbell.

All but Stickel (St. Louis) and Noah Campbell (Jonesboro) were born in Paragould or the outlying community. ♦



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True Sweethearts



Courtney and Trey were introduced by a mutual friend when Courtney was in the 10th grade and Trey was in the 11th grade at Rogers High School. They continued to date throughout high school and into college where they both attended the University of Arkansas. Trey moved to Little Rock after college to begin medical school and Courtney followed after her own graduation a year later. The rest, as they say, is history!

Seven years later, on August 6, 2011, Trey surprised Courtney at his home with old pictures and notes, each detailing a reason why he loved her. A candlelit path led to the kitchen where Trey proposed on bended knee. Courtney's answer was a resounding, "Of course!" They celebrated later that night with 25 of their closest friends and family.

The ceremony took place June 30, 2012, at Central United Methodist Church in Rogers, AR. The outdoor reception featured the Memphis based band, DMP, a dessert bar in memory of Trey's late mother, Melissa Becton, and tents adorned with beautiful lights and lanterns.

The couple honeymooned in Santorini, Greece. Courtney and Trey currently reside in Little Rock, AR. Trey recently received news that he will complete his Internal Medicine residency at the University of Kentucky. He hopes to continue on to a fellowship in Cardiology, where his true passion lies. Courtney works for Arkansas Children's Hospital as an Associate Development Officer, where she is a liaison to Circle of Friends chapters across the state. The couple hopes to return to their true 'home', Northwest Arkansas, after Trey finishes his medical training.



Courtney Kell and Paul (Trey) Becton III



DMP entertained with the bride and groom's favorite music, both old and new.



Flower girl Caroline, Trey's niece.



The favor bar featured desserts in memory of Trey's mother, Melissa, because she loved sweets so much.



Joshua Hudson's work, above left, was featured at the Greene County Museum.



Greene County Museum displays works of local artist

Artist Joshua Hudson displayed examples of his work at the Greene County Museum in Paragould.

Hudson's artwork is currently on sale in the IO Metro home furnishing stores in eight states. He has had works displayed in New York's Times Square and on the Lifetime Television Network. To view his work, visit jlh@joshuahudson.net.

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Birth Announcements



Paisleigh Danielle Goodman

Steven Goodman and Natalie Ryan of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Paisleigh Danielle Goodman.

Paisleigh weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Siblings include a sister, Madyson Goodman, and a brother, Conner Goodman.

Grandparents are Dianna Hatley (grandmother), Lindy Goodman (grandfather), Danny Ryan (grandfather), and Vicky Ryan (grandmother).

The baby was born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. ♦



Paisley Kate Dickerson

Kyle and Amanda Dickerson of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Paisley Kate Dickerson.

Paisley weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.

The birth took place at St. Bernards Regional Medical Center.

Grandparents are Alan and Pam Jeter, and Mike and Kelli Dickerson. ♦



Marion Kate Hobbs

Matt and Lesley Hobbs of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Marion Kate Hobbs.

Marion Kate was born February 6, 2013, and weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 19 3/4 inches long.

She joins siblings Harrison and Bennett. ♦

Include your child's birth announcement in *Premiere Magazine*. Just email the information to:

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by the 15th of the month for it to be included in the next *Premiere* issue.

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- Kelsey Huggins & Tyler Garnett
May 18
- Jordan Mallard & Holden Smith
May 18
- Kelly Drury & Aaron Reddick
May 25
- Whitney Weeks & Matthew Miller
June 1
- Jessica Davis & Tyler Nutt
June 1
- Haley Johnson & Spencer Price
June 1
- Kymberlee Hale & Garret Meier
June 1
- Casey Hosman & Jordan Drennin
June 8
- Jessica Bruce & Luke Brewer
June 29
- Hillary Tripod & Casey Jones
July 13
- Erica Schabbing & Jacob Pierce
July 20
- Gretchen Jetton & Tanner Smith
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Bethany Jarrett and Joseph Dodd

Jarrett-Dodd

Bethany Jordan Jarrett and Joseph Manuel Dodd have announced their plans to be married in a May ceremony.

Bethany's parents are Dean and Sheila Jarrett of Gillett, Arkansas. Joseph's parents are Lionel and Janet Dodd of Marmaduke.

The wedding will be held May 25, 2013, at 2 p.m. at the Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Marmaduke. ♦



Jessica Bruce and Luke Brewer

Bruce-Brewer

Jessica Erin Bruce and Luke Mitchell Brewer have announced their plans to be married in June.

The bride to be is the daughter of Michael and Nancy Bruce of Paragould. The prospective groom's parents are Eddie and Dianna Brewer of Rector.

The couple will be married June 29, 2013, at First United Methodist Church, 404 West Main St., in Paragould. ♦



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Strike Out Cancer Fun Run set to benefit PHS baseball coach

The Strike Out Cancer Fun Run to benefit Paragould High School baseball coach Anthony Faulkner will be held Saturday, April 6, starting at 10:30 a.m. at Rams Stadium.

Entry fee for the event is \$30, with all proceeds going toward helping Faulkner with medical expenses related to his battle with cancer.

Participants will receive an event T-shirt;

additional shirts will be available for \$15 each.

Make checks payable to: Strike Out Cancer Fun Run Benefit.

Forms are available at Paragould schools.

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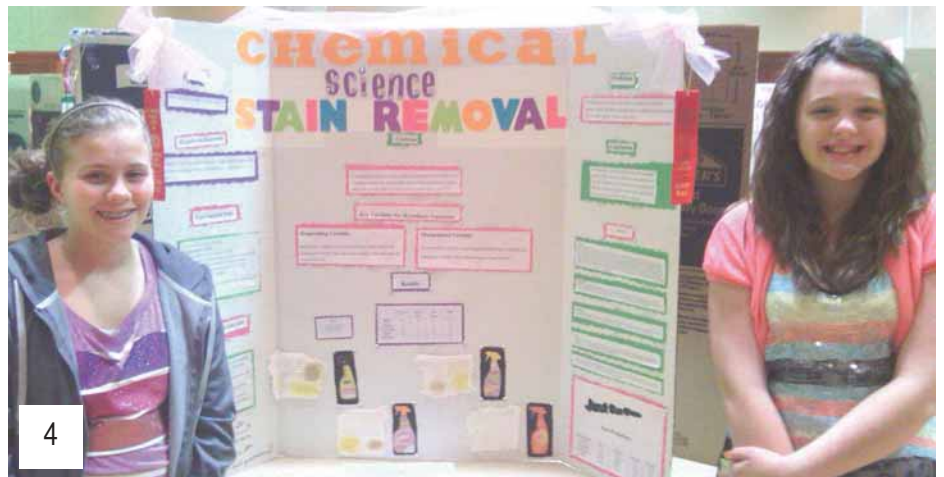
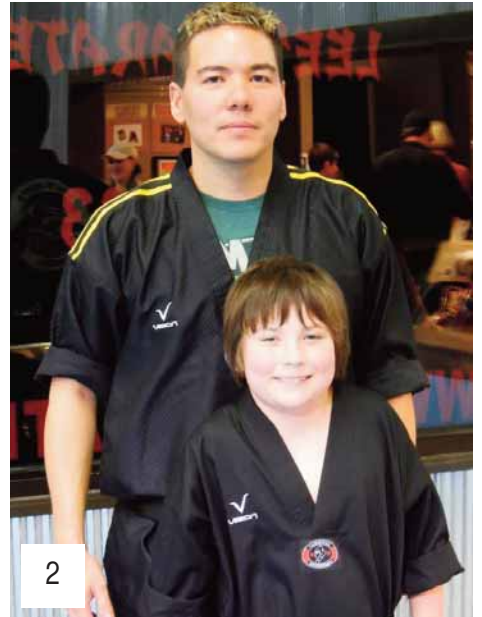
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Happenings



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Happenings

1. Advocates Make Donation

Blake Rogers (center), 2012 Advocates chairman, presents a \$150,000 check to Chris B. Barber (left), president and chief executive officer of St. Bernards Healthcare, and Michael K. Givens, administrator of St. Bernards Medical Center, from The Advocates, a group of community leaders who support the mission of St. Bernards. The money is for the new St. Bernards Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

2. Black Belt

Eight-year-old Luke Shinkaruk became one of the youngest Black Belt recipients in this region February 18, when he was awarded a First Degree Black Belt in Kenpo Karate by Master Logan Lee, owner of Lee's Karate, with schools in Jonesboro and Paragould. Luke, a Greene County Tech third grader, has been a student of American Freestyle Kenpo Karate since age 4. He is the son of Becky and Don Shinkaruk of Paragould.

3. Wise joins St. Bernards

Dr. Robin Forward-Wise has joined the staff of St. Bernards. She earned her M.D. from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

and completed a residency in psychiatry at UAMS.

Wise holds a bachelor's degree from Hendrix College in Conway where she graduated with honors. She holds membership in the American Psychiatric Association, the Arkansas Psychiatric Society, Arkansas Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Wise conducted research throughout residency and is a published fitness book author. Wise treats both adult and geriatric patients with mental health needs, including depression, anxiety, dementia and bipolar disorder. Her treatment philosophy is based on treating the whole patient, including each individual's biological, psychological, social and spiritual needs.

She and her husband, David, have two children. Born in Canada, she moved to the United States at a very young age and grew up in Camden, Ark., graduating from Camden Fairview High School.

4. Science Fair Winners

Oak Grove Middle School sixth grade students Mackenzie Jamison and Faith Jankoviak received second place at the Arkansas State University Science Fair. The students competed in the junior division team category and their project was entitled Chemical Science Stain Removal.

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History of April Fool's Day unclear

April Fools' Day is celebrated in many countries on April 1 every year. Sometimes referred to as All Fools' Day, April 1 is not a national holiday, but is widely recognized and celebrated as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other.

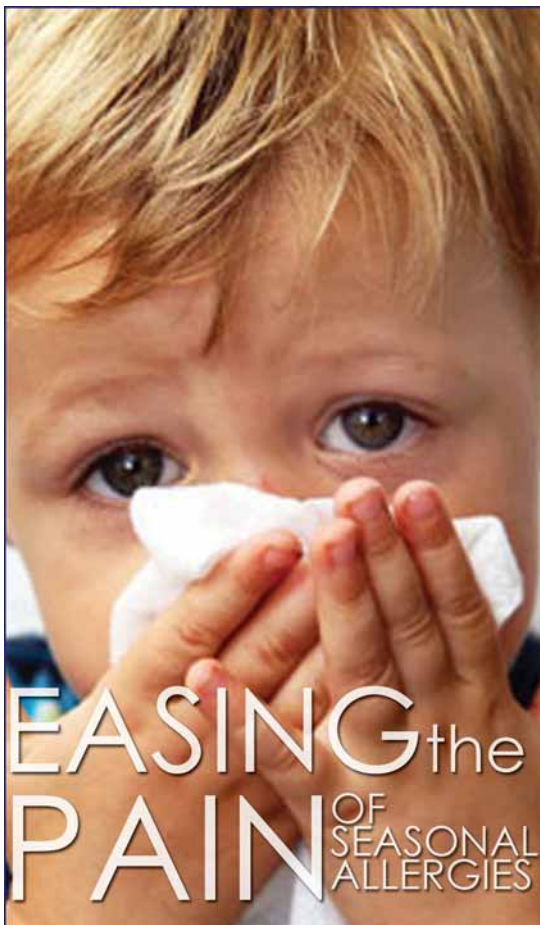
In Italy, France and Belgium, children and adults traditionally tack paper fishes on each other's back as a trick and shout "April fish!" in their local languages. Such fish feature prominently on many French late 19th to early 20th century April Fools' Day postcards.

The earliest recorded association between April 1 and foolishness can be found in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (1392). Many writers suggest that the restoration of January 1 by Pope Gregory XIII as New Year's Day of the Gregorian Calendar in the 16th century was responsible for the creation of the holiday, sometimes questioned for earlier references.

Precursors of April Fools' Day include the Roman festival of Hilaria, held March 25, and the Medieval Feast of Fools, held December 28, still a day on which pranks are played in Spanish-speaking countries.

In Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (1392), the "Nun's Priest's Tale" is set Syn March bigan thritty dayes and two. Modern scholars believe that there is a copying error in the extant manuscripts and that Chaucer actually wrote, *Syn March was gon*. Thus, the passage originally meant 32 days after April, i.e. May 2, the anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia, which took place in 1381. Readers apparently misunderstood this line to mean "March 32", i.e. April 1. In Chaucer's tale, the vain cock Chauntecleer is tricked by a fox.

In 1508, French poet Eloy d'Amerval referred to a poisson d'avril (April fool, literally "April fish"), a possible reference to the holiday. In 1539, Flemish poet Eduard de



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Dene wrote of a nobleman who sent his servants on foolish errands on April 1. In 1686, John Aubrey referred to the holiday as "Fool's holy day", the first British reference. On April 1, 1698, several people were tricked into going to the Tower of London to "see the Lions washed".

In the Middle Ages, up until the late 18th century, New Year's Day was celebrated on March 25 (Feast of the Annunciation) in most European towns. In some areas of France, New Year's was a week-long holiday ending on April 1. Many writers suggest that April Fools originated because those who celebrated on January 1 made fun of those who celebrated on other dates. The use of January 1 as New Year's Day was common in France by the mid-16th century, and this date was adopted officially in 1564 by the Edict of Roussillon.

A study in the 1950s, by folklorists Iona and Peter Opie, found that in the UK and those countries whose traditions derived from there, the joking ceased at midday. But this practice appears to have lapsed in more recent years.

Other prank days in the world

Iranians play jokes on each other on the 13th day of the Persian new year (Nowruz) (now means new and ruz means day), which falls on April 1 or April 2. This day, celebrated as far back as 536 BC, is called Sizdah Bedar and is the oldest prank-tradition in the world still alive today; this fact has led many to believe that April Fools' Day has its origins in this tradition.

The April 1 tradition in France, Romandy and French-speaking Canada includes poisson d'avril (literally "April's fish"), attempting to attach a paper fish to the victim's back without being noticed. This is also widespread in other nations, such as Italy, where the term Pesce d'aprile (literally "April's fish") is also used to refer to any jokes done during the day. This custom also exists in certain areas of Belgium, including the province of Antwerp. The Flemish tradition is for children to lock out their parents or teachers, only letting them in if they promise to bring treats the same evening or the next day.

Information provided by Wikipedia ♦



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL/MAY

Saturday, April 6th

Fifth Annual Cowboy Up For CASA Barn Dance, Craighead County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.-11 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 for two. Call Pam Taylor at 870-219-4665 or email rtaylor14@suddenlink.net for information. Activities include a BBQ Contest, live music, NCAA Final Four Viewing, Auctions, Dancing, Games and more. All proceeds benefit Court Appointed Special Advocates as they advocate for children who have been neglected or abused.

Chad Garret and Friends, Collins Theatre, 7 p.m.

Musical entertainment at the historic Collins Theatre in Downtown Paragould. Friends include Ken Wadley, Randy Aden, Kevin King, and Brad Owen. Special guest Dana Johnson is also performing. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults/\$3.00 for kids 10 and under and can be pre-purchased at The Treasure House at Paragould Plaza.

Thursday, April 18th

Greene County's Musical Legacy in concert, Collins Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature the Rhodes/Morris family and the Joiners. They have been a part of Greene County's musical history for many years. The concert promises to be one you don't want to miss, so mark your calendar now. The Rhodes family onstage reunion is a fundraising event for the Greene County Museum. Admission is \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance. Advance tickets go on sale April 1 at PostNet in Paragould. Proceeds will help the museum fund special events, exhibits and youth programs.

Friday, April 19th

Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon, Southern Bank parking lot, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

The Paragould Circle of Friends and MOR Media, Inc., present the annual ACH Radiothon. Listen to 107.1 Jack FM to hear the stories of families who had their lives changed for the better, thanks to the care received at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Saturday, April 20th

Annual Spring Cleanup, 8 a.m. - noon.

Are you interested in improving the appearance of our community?

Would your business, company, non-profit organization, or you individually donate a few hours of service? The Paragould Economic Development Planning Committee is staging the first Annual Spring Cleanup. Lunch will follow at Harmon Playground. Contact Sue McGowan at smcgowan@paragould.org or call 870-236-7684 for additional information.

Thursday, April 25th

Luncheon for The Fold, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Eastside Baptist Church

The lunch will be \$8.00 per plate, consisting of chicken, slaw, baked beans, and a roll. Pre-order and pre-pay lunches only. Orders will ready to go or you can come in sit down, and enjoy your lunch with a friend. If you would like to pre-order your lunch call 573-654-2280. If you have any questions please contact the office at the same number or visit the web site www.shepherds-foldministry.org. Eastside Baptist Church is located at 529 E. Court Street in Paragould. Tickets for the lunch may be picked up at PostNet, 2503 W. Kingshighway #2 in Paragould.

Thursday, May 2nd

Art and Stroll, Downtown Paragould, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Bands include favorite Everyday Life and opening Such Great Heights. Shopping, entertainment and more in the One and Only Downtown Paragould.

Saturday, May 4th

Fun Dog Show, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., BC Lloyd Building on the Greene County Fairgrounds

Pre-Registration: \$10 per category; Day of Event: \$12 per category (Registration includes admission for 2 dog handlers). Admission: \$5 each or \$2 for Children Under 12 For More information call Malissa Lewis 870-476-0727 or email MLewis2@americanrailcar.com.

Categories:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Tail Wagger | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Macho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Kisser | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Beautiful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutest Puppy (under 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Talented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Most Handsome | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Looks Most Like Owner | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Costume | |

Door Prizes, Vendor Booths, Merchandise, Entertainment.

Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18th

Loose Caboose Festival XXIV, Greene County Fairgrounds

Musical acts, carnival rides, arts and crafts, food, fun and plenty more as the annual festival moves to a new location this year.

Recurring Events:

First Monday of every month

Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon

Every Wednesday

Perking on Prueett, 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.
tofofortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

Second Wednesday of every month

St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. At St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould.

Second Saturday of every month

Special shopping activities in downtown Paragould.

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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Theme



In the May issue, we will take a look at motorcycle safety issues.

Thanks, Mom



In the spirit of celebrating Mother's Day, Premiere staffers will feature some moms who deserve extra attention.

Events



Attend events, like the annual Loose Caboose Festival, with us as Premiere covers local happenings. ♦



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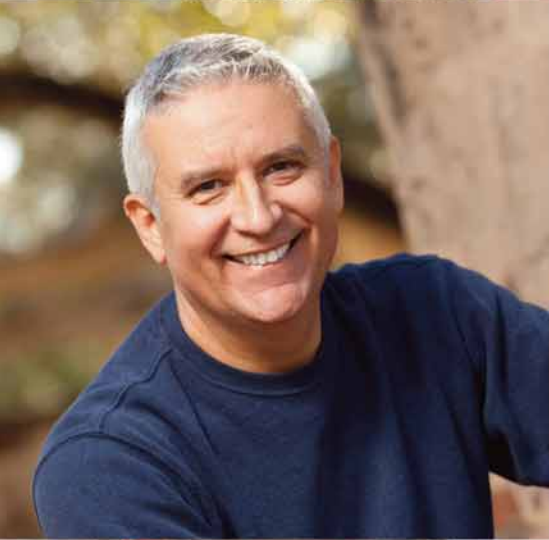


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