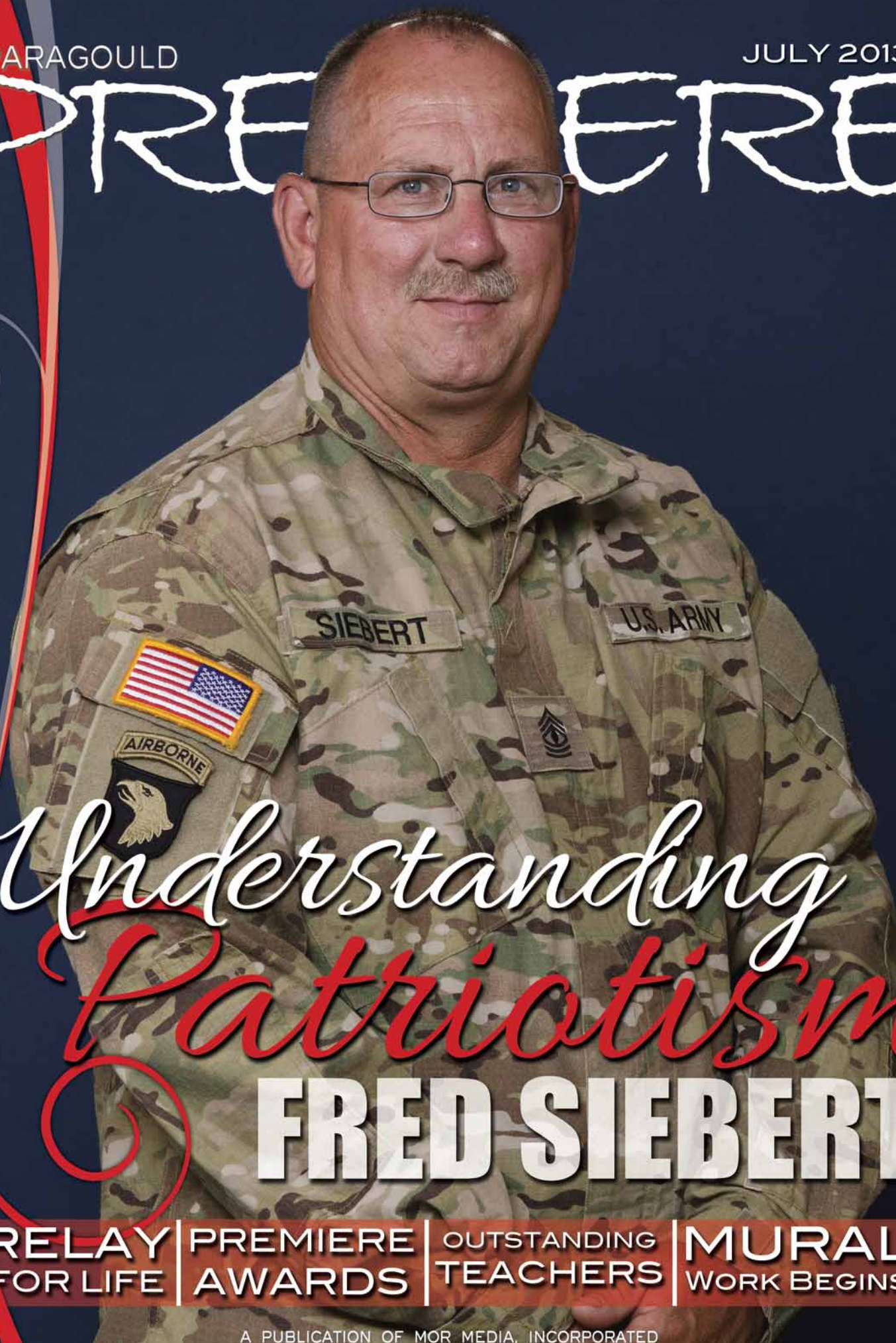


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JULY 2013

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First Sergeant Fred Siebert recently completed his third tour in the Middle East with the Arkansas Army National Guard. His story of patriotism is our feature in this month's Premiere, starting on page 28.

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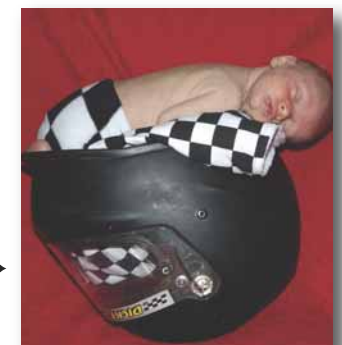
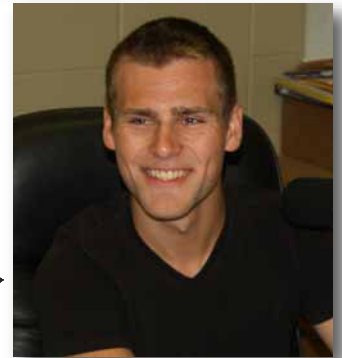
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Photo by Tim Rand Photography

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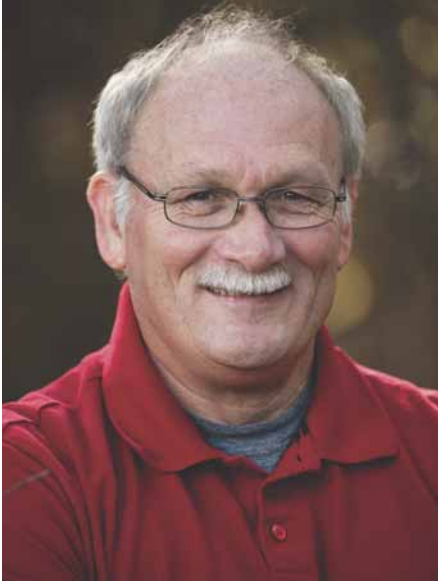
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Paragould



Way To Go Matison!

From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett

Premiere readers should notice that this month's edition is larger than usual, thanks to an abundance of information and activities to share.

And we still could have used more room.

July naturally brings a patriotic theme to mind and we have plenty of features in that vein, particularly an interview with First Sgt. Fred Siebert of the Arkansas Army National Guard. Fred has served three tours in the Middle East, and if anyone knows what it means to defend his country, he's the guy.

But we didn't stop there. A story relative to the history of the Walnut Ridge Airport during wartime years can be found inside, as can a photo recap of Paragould's Memorial Day ceremony held on the lawn of the historic Greene County Courthouse.

Not only is Premiere's owner, MOR Media, in the news for again helping stage the local fireworks extravaganza, but also because of a new radio station venture that we feel is sure to please a new listening audience.

That story can be found on page 10 of this month's issue.

Readers also have a chance to vote for their favorite teacher, finding eligible candidates in the 18 educators chosen as Outstanding Teachers during the monthly balloting. Now they can select the one person they feel is most worthy of the Outstanding Teacher of

the Year honor, by looking over the field on pages 8 and 9 and submitting their choices.

Speaking of voting, readers submitted votes recently to choose the winners of the Premiere Awards, and we reveal them in a special section beginning on page 35.

We also have coverage of the annual Relay For Life event, regular features like Dreamweaver, Lifestyles and NEA Cooks, and much more.

In the June issue of Premiere, I moved some pages around and somehow managed to leave off a photo credit for photographer Rhonda McKinley, who graciously shared with us her photographs of all the winners in the Paragould Rotary Club's first ever "Paws For A Cause" Dog Show.

It was simply an oversight on my part, and I feel the need to apologize for not giving her due credit for some excellent work.

She was very kind in accepting my apology over the telephone, but I still feel compelled to publicly recognize her for her contribution to our magazine. ♦

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Time to vote for Premiere's Outstanding Teacher

Further into this month's magazine readers can find their choices for winners of the Premiere Awards, but it is also time to select another overall winner.

Balloting has begun for Premiere Magazine's Outstanding Teacher of the Year, chosen from the 18 educators honored as monthly winners throughout the past school campaign.

Readers nominated teachers from Greene County schools, with two representatives chosen each month. Those winners are now eligible for the overall honor of Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Voting may be done via email at

editor@paragouldpremiere.com

or on the Premiere Facebook page. Votes will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, July 5.

The winning teacher will be featured on the cover of the August issue of Premiere, will have a feature story inside and will receive a nice prize package to coincide with the selection by magazine readers.

So, vote for your favorite today to make sure he or she has a chance to be on the cover of Premiere Magazine.

Teachers nominated from the 2012-13 school year by Premiere readers and listed by the school districts in which they are employed



Lynn Watson,
Paragould



Larry Willis,
Marmaduke



Tammy Morgan,
Paragould



Shelly Templeton,
Greene County Tech



Tonya Vanhorn,
Marmaduke



Nancy Mangrum,
Greene County Tech



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Teri Stewart

Greene County Tech

Kathy Bowlin

Donna Cobb

Nancy Mangrum

Kimber McMillon

Carol Surber

Shelly Templeton

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Jennifer Anthony

Ashley Vallance

Tonya Vanhorn

Larry Willis

Paragould

Karla Brasher

Dana Faulkner

Amy Glenn

Tammy Morgan

Lynn Watson

Robin White ♦



Amy Austin,
CRA



Kathy Bowlin,
Greene County Tech



Donna Cobb,
Greene County Tech



Karla Brasher,
Paragould



Carol Surber,
Greene County Tech



Amy Glenn,
Paragould

Historian collecting WWII stories

Erik Wright, an internationally recognized historian, has announced plans to begin collecting the stories of the region's World War II veterans. Wright plans to profile several for publication while the rest will be donated to a repository in the region.

Wright's previously published works have appeared in: True West Magazine, The Tombstone Epitaph: National Edition, Wild West History Association Journal, and Wild West Magazine, as well as newspapers and books.

Wright is a member of several historical organizations and is a past member of the Arizona Archaeological Council and the English Westerners' Society.

He may be contacted at arizonahistorical@gmail.com. ♦

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Business Milestones

MOR Media adding another station to lineup

In July, Northeast Arkansas' radio audience will be introduced to JILL, radio more like you.

JILL, which will be located at 103.9 FM on the radio dial, will offer listeners a better mix of music from the '90s through today.

"It's Top 40 for adults, without the rap and hard rock," according to program director Brian Osborn.

"Contemporary artists like Adele, Maroon 5, Katy Perry, Train, Pink, Bruno Mars, Kelly Clarkson, Matchbox 20 and many others will be delivered in an upbeat style that's relatable and entertaining," Osborn said.

JILL is owned and operated by MOR Media, which also includes 107.1 JACK FM and Paragould Premiere magazine.

"JACK has been hugely successful in Paragould and Jonesboro since its launch in



February of last year," Osborn said. "JILL is JACK's somewhat better behaved friend and will have its own unique personality."

The new station will follow much the same format as the one currently employed by 107.1 JACK FM.

"Other radio stations play a lot of the same music artists," Osborn said, "but they also clog up the works. We will have no blah, blah, blah ... just more music. So we have removed the fluff and JILL is in complete control."

MOR Media General Manager Dina Mason said JILL will take a very different approach to reaching the highly-coveted 18-to-44-year-old female demographic.

"Study after study shows that women make most of the buying decisions," Mason said, "so we designed a radio station that suits their needs. That's JILL ... radio more like you!"

JILL will be heard on both 103.9 FM and 1490 AM. There will also be online streaming and apps for mobile phones and tablets.

For advertising opportunities or further information on JILL, e-mail dina@kdrs.com or call 870-236-7627. ♦

NEA Operation JumpStart course helps Sessums family open new taxidermy business

Victoria and David Sessums officially opened their taxidermy business, Animals Gone Wild Taxidermy LLC, in March 2013. Victoria enrolled with 10 other participants in the NEA Operation JumpStart six-week course at Black River Technical College in Paragould to learn about cash flow, marketing, product pricing, market research, and legalities of business ownership.

At the end of the program, several participants chose to enter the business feasibility contest, and Victoria won first place. In order to collect the seed grant for the contest, winners must provide proof of business establishment as well as providing receipts for business expenses equaling the amount of their seed grant.

Created and facilitated by successful entrepreneurs, NEA Operation JumpStart is a practical, hands-on, planning course designed to help entrepreneurs test the feasibility of their business ideas and plan to launch new ventures or expand present ones. Micro-



Victoria Sessums (right), owner of Animals Gone Wild Taxidermy LLC, is awarded a check of \$1,800 for first prize in the Northeast Arkansas Operation JumpStart microenterprise feasibility plan seed grant contest by Audra Howerton (left), administrator of the program.

enterprises are small businesses with just a few employees that require relatively small capital investments to start. The term encompasses businesses representing a wide variety of service, retail, and light production concepts such as repair or cleaning services, pet grooming, computer technology, specialty foods, jewelry, arts and crafts, clothing, childcare, and many more. These small companies initially create employment for the

founder and other family members, and often grow large enough to employ other members of the community.

Black River Technical College Paragould and the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce partnered in 2011 to begin offering the program to Northeast Arkansas residents in an effort to help boost local economic development. They sought donations to raise money for the seed grants and administration of the NEA Operation JumpStart program to keep costs low for participants. Sponsors donating to the program in 2012 include: Focus Bank, First National Bank, American Railcar Industries, Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, Greene County Industrial Training Council, and Black River Technical College.

For more information about the upcoming NEA Operation JumpStart 2013 session or to donate to the cause, call Audra Howerton at Black River Technical College, Paragould – 870-239-0969 ext 5220. ♦

Agee Family Berry Farm is just that -- an enterprise made successful by family

By Gabriel A. Cook

On the north side of the Brookland bypass, a vineyard spreads across the field land, its vine stands weathered by heat and cold. In the proper seasons, muscadine grapes grow there, as well as blueberries and raspberries. One can also find various members of the Agee family there, working the vineyard their parents and grandparents founded in 1981.

"My parents retired before they grew their vineyard," explains Chester Agee. "They had a long, successful career in various places, including Paragould and Jonesboro."

Chester, Sr., and wife, Marcelle, owned restaurants in several towns, including Jonesboro's first KFC. "Ask anyone of a certain age," Chester says, "and they'll remember Chester's Chops and Chickens. You might remember an ice cream shop in the old Indian Mall called Marcelle's Sidewalk Café. That was named after mother. They were one of the first three signers inside the mall, and they leased for fifteen years. That is what they retired from."

The husband and wife team, freshly retired, created the Agee Family Berry Farm, a sprawling vineyard that, at times, took the entire family to run. "They had employees. My brother, Andy, and I had full-time jobs. Dad passed away in '89, but the farm was kept going by family members — me, my brother, our kids. Mom's sister, Lucille Wimpy, was a huge help. They kept the farm going almost single-handedly."

A host of grandkids also pitched in, including Michael, Ryan, Larissa, Graham, and Peyton. Though most have jobs and family of their own, several of them still put in hours at the farm, with Chester and Andy pulling full-time duty.

"It's year-round work. We prune in the winter time; mow, upkeep, tie-up during the pre-season; once the season starts, we don't have time for anything else.

"Many of our customers are jelly and wine makers. Because so many folks are involved in that, we keep some wine-making supplies in-house. We don't make or sell wine here. If they make their own, we give advice, and



Passersby have most likely taken notice of the Agee Family Berry Farm near Brookland, above, but may not have stopped to see the final product, right.



possibly supply yeast, nutrient, and, of course, the fruit."

What is definitely sold on the farm is homemade jelly, made from the vineyard's own fruit. Chester has jelly made up most of the time. When a certain variety runs out, "That's it 'til next season. I've got white muscadine, blueberry, and raspberry, but I'm out of plum."

When asked about his mother's exotic name, Chester laughs. "She's an import from Valley View! She was known as the berry lady. She

loved visiting with her customers, even after she lost one of her legs. She loved talking to people, treating them like friends. She kept the farm running because it was her love. Even with only one leg, once I got her in the golf cart, she could out pick me. She loved being on the farm."

Customers often ask when a certain crop will be ready. Chester confirms that the growing schedule is pretty firm: Blueberries are ready around the 4th of July; muscadines are ready in September; raspberries have both a spring and fall crop.

For more information, call the Agee Family Berry Farm at 870-897-7015. ♦

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Summertime is reunion time for Tritch family

By Caitlin Lafarlette

Nearly seven decades of reunions have occurred for the Tritch family, in which more than 50 cousins and over 100 children unite each year for a summer weekend of food and fun.

This June marked the 67th year for the Tritch reunion, which was started in 1946 by Kerry Reddick's grandfather, Arthur Tritch, and his siblings. The first reunions took place at Black River, where the family — originating from Lafe — gathered to catch fish and cook out.

On average, around 100 people attend the reunions. Kerry noted that when the family gathered in Arkansas, the numbers sometimes reached 200. That estimate is made up of relatives traveling from Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, California and, some years, even Hawaii. "It's very exciting. It's a lot of hugging," Kerry said.

Aside from the food and hugging, the family comes away with keepsakes such as t-shirts and aprons. The tradition of a fishpond for the kids has also been passed down through the generations. The children grab a fishing pole

with a hook or basket attached to the end and throw it over a backdrop, where other family members sit with toys and treats to reel in.

The location of the reunion has changed over the decades, from Black River to Ironton, Mo. After the relatives living in Ironton got older, the tradition moved to Arkansas until 2005, and then to Wappapello Lake, where they currently get together.

A new menu also comes with each relocation. Black River reunions consisted of the fish that were caught, and family members brought potluck to Ironton. Catfish and fries were cooked while the reunions lasted in Arkansas, and the current refreshments are BBQ chicken and pork.

Kerry's favorite memory involves one year in Arkansas when it rained during the gathering. "The kids just played in the mud," she remembered. "They were big mud balls."

Kerry's husband, Kevin, came into the family



Kerry and Kevin Reddick help carry on the Tritch family tradition.

with no preparation for such large events. "It's been 26 years and I still don't know all of them," he said.

Kevin stated he didn't know what to think when he attended his first reunion alongside his wife but he still felt welcomed into the group.

"They made me feel like one of them," he said.

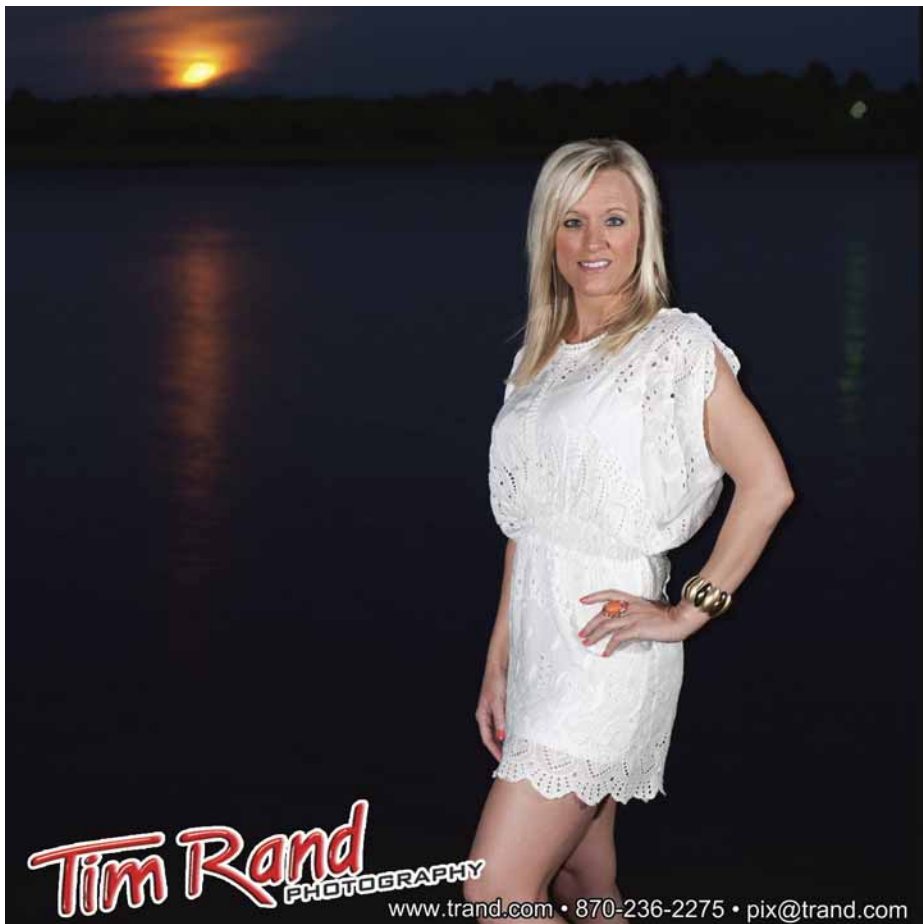
Kevin added he couldn't lie about his favorite part being the food, and of course seeing those he only got to meet up with once a year at the reunion.

With so many relatives coming together to celebrate, the Tritch family has organized a committee that is re-elected each year to plan the following year's festivities. Kevin has served as secretary in the past.

"When they appointed me I was asleep," Kevin smiled, explaining that he could be counted on each year to fall asleep at some point during the reunion.

Kerry's grandfather had 11 kids, resulting in 52 grandchildren and over 100 great-grandchildren. Arthur Tritch and his brothers and sisters started a tradition that carried down throughout those generations. That tradition is one Kerry tries to stress the importance of to the younger family members, in hopes that they will continue with it as well.

"The main thing is how much our family means to each other. We're all really close," Kerry said. "We don't want to give it up." ♦



Tim Rand
PHOTOGRAPHY
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Paddle boats at Crowley's Ridge State Park provide a relaxing avenue for entertainment in a beautiful setting.

Area parks offer swimming, hiking, camping and more for 4th of July

By Gabriel A. Cook

Most families plan their Fourth of July activities well in advance of the actual holiday. For folks of a more spontaneous nature, Greene County and the surrounding areas have numerous parks — both city and state — in which adults and children alike can enjoy their holiday at a moment's notice.

Reynolds Park is perfect for large families looking for peaceful atmosphere, as it offers pavilions and RV pads for rent (reserved in advance by calling the Paragould Community Center, 870-239-7530), as well as a playground and a lake stocked with fish. Children can feed the ducks and geese while Mom and Dad cook on one of the many grills on site.

Labor Park is perfect for a family with active children, as it offers a skateboard ramp, a splash pad, and a large gym in which everyone can play. Labor also has pavilions and grills.

Though the Community Center itself will be closed, the water park it houses will continue operations from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. It offers five outside pools, including a kiddie play area, and a concession stand. Guests who would rather spend their Fourth in the water can bring a folding chair or towel and enjoy the largest water park in the area.

Harmon Playfield is a small, quiet spot that offers picnic tables, a playground and horse-shoe pit, as well as tennis and basketball courts. Family reunions can also be held in the building on site, which can be rented by calling the Community Center at 870-239-7530.

A well-kept secret, Woodside Glen, off of Tech Street, is a "passive park" with a walking path, playground equipment, basketball court, and grill. It offers shade, peace, and quiet for the family that enjoys a serene holiday.

Just outside of town are two state parks, both ready to serve the needs of any family planning a spur-of-the-moment day trip on the Fourth. Crowley's Ridge State Park has numerous pavilions and picnic areas, as well as a lake for swimming (noon until six), kayaking, and paddleboating, and five hiking trails for the adventurous family. Various programs will be offered that day, including guided hikes and a snake lecture. With the actual holiday occurring on a Thursday, Crowley's Ridge — the Saturday after the fact — will host its "Fun for the Fourth" event, featuring swimming, a DJ, and a variety of games (balloon toss, three-legged races, etc).

Down the road, at Lake Frierson, families can enjoy a visiting center, camping, and picnic areas. For folks who enjoy fishing, this is their place, as the lake covers a lot of territory. (It holds the record for the largest sockeye salmon pulled from its waters.) Camping is also one of its attractions.

Take advantage of our parks during the Fourth, but remember to ask about and observe any and all rules concerning fireworks while on city or state property. Such places typically offer peaceful surroundings with lots of flammable grass and trees. Stay safe, and enjoy our community's natural beauty. ♦



Paragould Jaycees, MOR Media spearheading fireworks display

Additional events scheduled for this year's Big Bang Blowout

The Paragould Jaycees and MOR Media will again team up to present the Big Bang Blowout fireworks display on July 4th.

First National Bank (Platinum Level) and Forbs Tire Service (Gold Level) have stepped up to provide major sponsorship of the event, which will be held at Paragould's Rotary Park Softball Complex.

Silver Level sponsors include Lakeside Metals, Inc., Focus Bank, Liberty Bank and Hays Food Town, Inc. (Plaza and East).

In addition to the fireworks, this year the night of fun will include "a bounce house, live music, and multiple food vendors," according to Jaycees' President Jeremiah Allen.

He is still "ironing out a couple more items" but said the food vendors, live music and activities for kids will be available, beginning at 6 p.m.

The fireworks show will begin "around 9:30 or so," according to Allen.

Admission to the event is free. ♦

Local volunteers spearhead drive to help tornado victims

A group of volunteers headed by Tim Eason traveled to Moore, Oklahoma, to help tornado victims, first responders and others participating in recovery efforts.

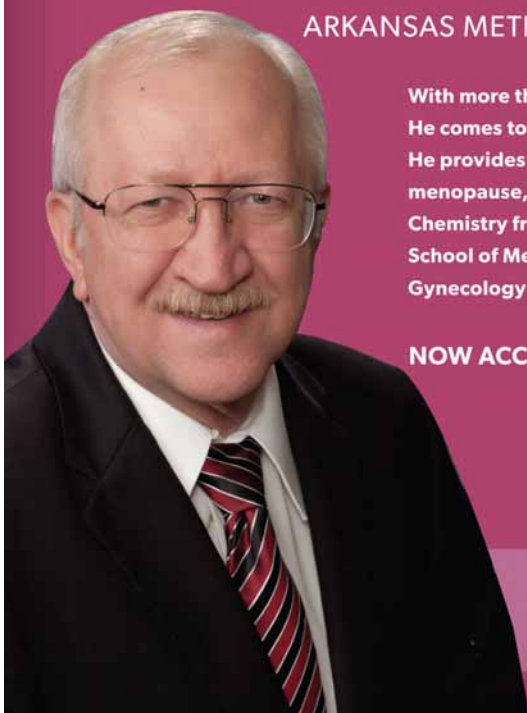
Volunteers took food and supplies to victims and those providing assistance. Gary Laubach of Laubach Freight furnished the truck for hauling the many donations of goods. ♦



Trailers like the one above were loaded with numerous supplies, all to be taken to the tornado relief effort in Moore, Oklahoma. The drive was organized by Tim Eason, pictured with other volunteers at the far left, while Gary Laubach, helping load a trailer at left, provided a truck to get the supplies on their way. Several Paragould churches and organizations took part in fund-raising efforts to help both victims and workers after the devastating tornadoes hit Oklahoma.

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It seems like my dad was acquainted with a lot of really unfortunate people

For many years I was not aware my father used psychology on me, mostly because I had no idea what psychology was.

He picked up very early on that my interests -- all my interests -- were centered around the baseball field and when I came to him with various requests over the years, he played the "ballplayer card" with me.

For instance, when I was in the seventh grade and everyone I knew was getting a motorcycle I made my plea for one, too. We went through the "don't need one" and "can't afford it" responses until I made what I thought was a very solid argument.

"Dad, even the kids who get free lunches are getting motorcycles," I said. "They can't be that expensive."

Dad shook his head slowly from side to side and then came out with the clincher: "Well, Rich, I think you've got a future as a baseball player and I'd hate to see you have a wreck

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



on a motorcycle and ruin that. I know a boy who probably was going to get a scholarship but he lost a leg when he wrecked his motorcycle and never played again, and I just couldn't stand to see that happen to you."

Argument over. The major leagues and "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" as a theme song were a lot more important than cruising on a cycle and humming "Born To Be Wild."

I was too easy. Dad fell back on the same "ballplayer" platform when I wanted to do just about anything that cost money or went against the current lifestyle flow of the Brummett household. When I wanted to let my hair grow longer, it was, "Mickey Mantle couldn't make those catches if his hair was in

his eyes. I knew a boy out at Beech Grove that probably could've been a big leaguer but he let his hair get all long and the scouts gave up on him."

When I wanted a skateboard he said, "Sure wouldn't want to see you break an arm. I knew a guy who had a son who broke his arm when he fell off one of those things, and he could never throw hard again."

And so it was with Fourth of July firecrackers. We never participated in the holiday tradition, except for a few times when Dad might have set off a string of firecrackers on the driveway, or possibly when he handed my sister or me a sparkler. We didn't do the bottle rockets and massive exploding devices.

All my friends did, but Dad said he knew a guy who had major league stuff, but he had a firecracker accidentally explode in his hand and blew a finger off and never could play after that. In addition to having great advice, Dad certainly knew a lot of unfortunate people. ♦

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Work begins on new Paragould mural

By Richard Brummett

Work has begun on a new mural for the Downtown Paragould area, a project seen by many as a way to attract more visitors to the community.

Paragould's City Beautiful Commission devised the plan for a new cultural and historical landmark, staging a contest to select the best artwork for the proposed mural to be painted on the south side of the Iron Mountain Lofts and Mosaic Boutique on Pruet Street.

The finished work will face the Hwy. 412 overpass.

"We try to have a big project each year," said Commission President Farrell Gibson. "We had done the big Paragould sign by the airport and stuff at the cemetery, and were tossing around ideas when someone suggested a mural. Everybody pitched in with ideas, figuring out what to put on it, and that's how we came up with the idea of a contest. It all just kind of came together."

Local artist Joshua Hudson's entry, which featured an Iron Mountain Railroad sign, a train and railroad men Jay Paramore and Jay Gould -- whose names were combined to form Paragould -- was chosen as the winner.

Cheryl Draper is doing the actual painting of the mural, taking Hudson's art as a base from which to work while putting some additional thoughts into the project.

"I'm taking his winning entry, which he did in a circle," Draper explained, "and I'm using his basic drawing and elongating it. Working on simple canvas versus working on a 30-foot wall is just different. An oval works best, so I will use his work to a T as far as the subjects, but then it will have to be reworked to fit within the frame of an oval. It's sort of like editing, I guess. Changing from a circle to an oval will mean I will have to come up with something to fill in some open spots."

Sue McGowan, Director of Economic Development/CEO of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, sees the project as



Farrell Gibson, Susan Youngblood, Jackie Branch, Cheryl Draper, Vicki Reddick, Judith Taylor-Wheelis, CJ Hays and Dina Mason were on hand for the official kickoff of the painting of Paragould's new mural.

something that will get visitors to Paragould more interested in our history.

"The mural will give an opportunity for visitors to have an overview of our community in one visual," she said. "From that, we hope they will want to inquire about why an item on the mural is important to Paragould."

"We hope they will want to find out more about one of the scenes they see portrayed. We're a railroad community ... why is that so significant? We have a rich railroad history, from our name all the way to currently ... we make railcars and railroad spikes."

"Depending on which way you come into our city, you might get a different idea. If you come from the south, you wouldn't know we are a huge agricultural community. It gives us an opportunity to answer questions about what our community is."

McGowan said once visitors are here, they can turn to several different resources to learn more about us.

"They can go to Main Street Paragould, the Caboose," she said. "They can come to the Chamber, to the Historical Society across

from the Post Office, or go to the Greene County Museum to see additional items. That sounds like four pretty good options to me."

Gibson agrees. "If you see it from the overpass, that might drive people to downtown," he said. "That was all part of the thinking process."

McGowan said she feels Paragould and Greene County residents often forget what wonderful resources we have.

"When you live here all the time like we do," she explained, "sometimes we fail to realize just what we have and how fortunate we are. Crowley's Ridge State Park, for example, is a great asset."

Draper said she is hoping to be finished with the mural sometime in August, but that will all depend on the weather.

"Everything I plot out with chalk," she said, "is washed away when it rains. So, you start over. When it gets to be 100 degrees, you work slower."

"But when this is done, I think it's going to be something everyone will be proud of." ♦



Multi-Dove Award winning recording artists, The Martins, will perform in Paragould in July.

The Martins to hold benefit concert for St. Jude Hospital

Multi-Dove Award winning and Grammy nominated trio, The Martins, can be heard in Paragould on Saturday, July 20, as the talented musical family comes to East Side Baptist Church.

The Martins will be featured during a 7 p.m. concert event.

Their three-year labor of love is complete and the end result is a brand new recording, appropriately titled *New Day*. Filled with all new songs featuring the trio's unmistakable harmonies, as well as a few surprises, the new recording, produced by multi-platinum selling Rascal Flatts member Jay Demarcus, marks the first for siblings Judy, Jonathan and Joyce in a decade.

During the 1990s The Martins rose to national and international success before a vast array of audiences, from Bill Gaither's multi-award winning Homecoming Video and Concert Series to the White House to Carnegie Hall. Over the years the trio garnered six Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association, a Grammy nomination and multiple hit songs.

After a 10-year hiatus from touring together, the siblings return with renewed family bonds as they take a fresh step forward both musically and spiritually. "We took some time off to recharge on all levels," stated oldest sibling Joyce.

Complete information may be obtained about the concert by calling 870-476-5132 or by visiting www.glorylandsouthern.com or www.martinsonline.com.

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Happenings!

1. Farm Family Of The Year

Brothers Alfred and Gary Henson and their families have been named the 2013 Greene County Farm Family of the Year. Since 1947, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program has served as a vehicle to recognize outstanding farm families throughout the state. Arkansas Farm Bureau is a longtime sponsor of the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program. Several members of the Henson family gathered for a group photo in conjunction with the winning of the award.

2. Black Marks On White Paper

People who viewed the movie "Black Marks on White Paper" wrote notes of encouragement to future students of New Hope Academy, the school being built in Liberia that was featured in a documentary written by local retired pastor Bob Hager and presented at First United Methodist Church in May. The documentary followed the life of Bennie Warner, a Liberian who thought that when people made black marks on white paper and then read it back it was magic. Warner traveled almost 200 miles to attend a school at age 15, later climbing to the office of Vice President of his country.

3. Artist Donates Work To Museum

Local artist Joshua Hudson recently donated his painting, entitled "Paragould," to the Greene County Museum. According to museum co-president Doris Hagen, it is a great addition to the museum because it beautifully depicts many aspects of our proud city and its rich history. Hagen said, "The painting fits in perfectly at the museum where we strive to preserve the past for the future." The Greene County Museum, located at 130 South 14th Street in Paragould, is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is always free.

4. Contest Winner

Mrs. Tammy's and Miss April's Preschool Class at School of the 21st Century sponsored a "Cutest Pet" contest to raise money for PAWS (Paragould Animal Welfare Society). They raised \$261.34. The contest was done after using the Mutt-i-gree Curriculum this year. The curriculum is an innovative effort to link social and emotional learning with humane education. It is an initiative of the Pet Savers Foundation developed in collaboration with Yale University School of the 21st Century, the Millan Foundation and North Shore Animal League. The contest winner was Annie Oakley, owned by Berkley Trout. ♦

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Exchange student from Belgium enjoys Southern experience

By Richard Brummett

When Arthur Maistriaux returned to his home in Belgium at the end of his stay in Paragould, the teen exchange student had collected more than just fond memories.

Besides the wonderful friendships he cultivated while sharing his time in the homes of Craig and Lora Laubach, Hugh and Lisa Dickinson and Gary and Norma Laubach, Arthur said he was proudly taking something else back home: His newly-learned mastery of the word, "Ya'll."

He says it with an exaggerated grin, the same one he uses when recapping his months here thanks to the Rotary Club's Exchange Student program. Even after a rocky start in which he was lost in the Memphis airport for about an hour, Arthur said the extended stay has been "fantastic. Somehow I must have

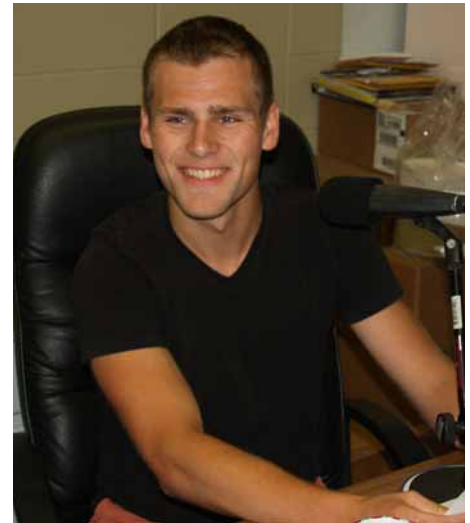
gone left when I was supposed to go right at the airport, and I couldn't communicate with the lady because my English then was not so good. It was a little bit stressful. It lasted about an hour; one of the most stressful days of my life. I remember I kind of freaked out. But then we got together and it has been fantastic."

How to sponsor an exchange student

Any family interested in hosting a student through the Rotary exchange program should contact Carla Mitchell at 870-239-7626 during regular business hours.

He has a cousin who also stayed in Paragould through the Rotary program and said "he assured me it was the best days of his life, that I would have fun in Paragould. I really like it here. I think the best thing is to bond with the host families. The saying 'Southern Hospitality' is very true. People welcome you here, no doubt about it. I think the small community is a wonderful thing."

While here he attended "lots of baseball games" and even helped transport supplies to the Oklahoma tornado victims, and said he



Arthur Maistriaux found plenty to smile about after his experience as a Rotary Club exchange student.

will "tell lots of stories when I get back. I will keep on talking and talking until people are probably tired of it."

Asked about interesting discoveries from his journey, he quickly turned to the food. "Free refills," he said. "I will miss that so much. That's one big deal. And BBQ. I had never heard of it, but I love it. I love it, ya'll." ♦



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D.J. Clark, 8, poses with his pal, Casper. D.J. is the son of Julie Girard and Kristen Lindeman of Paragould.

July 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
☾ New Moon	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	☾ First Quarter	☽ Full Moon	☾ Last Quarter

Perry Harper finds a new home in opera house

By Jennifer Thompson

Perry Harper may not have envisioned himself in an opera house, but that is exactly where the 28-year-old Paragould man has found himself, and exactly where he belongs.

Harper is the son of Charles and Sandie Harper of Paragould. He is a 2003 graduate of Greene County Tech where he participated in band, choir and theatre. After graduating, Harper attended Arkansas State University and obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2008.

From there, Harper went to the University of Alabama with the intent of receiving his master's degree in music therapy (or music as a medium for recovery of cognitive skills). After arriving, his plans changed. "I was in a new place," he said. "I needed something to do. I didn't know anyone. I made some contacts and asked to

audition. I originally auditioned as a baritone, because I thought at the time that's what I was. Then I began studying with Paul Houghtaling, who is head of the Opera Theatre Department at the university, and he said to me one day, 'I think you're a tenor.'"

Harper said he took that opportunity to participate in workshops and classes with his new mentor where he said he really, "... learned to audition." While at the university, Harper also participated in Opera & Pre-K, which is an ongoing program for elementary school audiences and teaches opera, math and theatre through Commedia dell'Arte characters, as well as Opera in the Ozarks. According to its Website, "Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point is a unique training program and festival founded in 1950. Affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC), Opera in the Ozarks has earned the reputation of being a prominent training program for all singers interested in a career in opera."

"They (the Ozark area) have a very artsy community and really support the Opera in the Ozarks program," he added. "That really gave me the chance to sing some bigger roles. That was in 2010, and the spring before that I had decided not to do music therapy and there was a graduate assistant spot open, so I

Ark., in 2010; Spoletta in Tosca, Opera in the Ozarks in 2010; Marco in The Gondoliers, UA Opera Theatre in 2010; and Nathan Detroit in Guys and Dolls, Actors' Charitable Theater (ACT) in 2009.

Harper made a visit to his hometown in June before heading to Oklahoma, where he is set to participate in the Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival before moving on to Binghamton, New York, to perform as Eisenstein in Die Fledermaus at the Tri-Cities Opera House. Harper is set to play that role in New York for about nine months. "I think this experience will be one that is really going to stretch my acting abilities, which, thanks to Mrs. Linda Davis, I consider myself a good actor as well as singer. This role will allow me to go through the whole gamut of human emotions."

Harper said his parents have been supportive of his efforts to get his career in opera going. "They form their vacations around wherever I'm going to be performing and sometimes they even bring their friends, my fan club," he said with a chuckle. "So, it's nice to be supported by family and friends. Opera is something that is sometimes looked at as somewhat 'snooty,' but it's really not. In fact, my dad has even gotten into it. He tells me he's being cultured by what I'm doing."

Harper said he made a trip to the new GCT Performing Arts Center and has an interest in possibly performing in the auditorium at some point. "It is really a fantastic space for performing arts. It doesn't get much better than what they have built there. I went out there and talked to some of the teachers and sang in there ... and I would like to sing there again sometime."

Though opera is not at all what Harper expected to be doing at this point, he said, "I never expected it, but now that I'm doing it, I couldn't see doing anything else." ♦



Perry Harper, a Greene County Tech High School graduate, surprised himself when he chose to pursue a career in opera.

started the master's program for vocal performance at that point and I finished that program last December."

Some of the roles Harper has played along his way have included:

Don Jose in Carmen, Tri-Cities Opera Resident Artist in 2013; Duke (a cover) in Rigoletto, Natchez Opera Festival, Miss., in 2013; Bill Calhoun in Kiss Me, Kate, Natchez Opera Festival in 2013; Pinkerton (a cover) in Madame Butterfly, Opera Birmingham, Ala. in 2013; Tamino (a cover) in Die Zauberflöte, Opera Birmingham, Ala. in 2013; Erster geharnischter Mann in Die Zauberflöte, Opera Birmingham in 2013; Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi, Sugar Creek Symphony and Song, Ill., in 2012; Ferrando in Così fan tutte, Pacific Opera Project, Calif., in 2012; Ferrando in Così fan tutte, University of Alabama Opera Theatre in 2012; Edgar Allen Poe in The Raven's Revenge, UA Opera Theatre in 2011; Remendado in Carmen, Opera in the Ozarks,

Taking stock of all the good things that come from being an American

I often imagine myself in another life - not that I desire to be anywhere but here - but because it helps put things in perspective. What if I had been born in a different time, in another country, or without the knowledge of my faith?

I recently had a conversation with a truck driver when he made a stop at my business. He was so grateful for his job, not because of its luxury, but because it introduced him to what he called "the charmed life."

He painted a picture for me of his past, mentioning poverty and violence in his native country and the refuge the United States provides. He



By Tiffany Napier

didn't believe me when I said I owned a business, as if this was so inconceivable that a person of my age could have such opportunity.

"You are lucky," he said, "and so am I."

I focus on so many trivial things in life, yet I'm not desolate. This man works and sends all his profits to the family that he may never see again in person.

What if I were that little girl in a war torn country I've only seen in photographs? I could have so easily been stuck in another place and time. Terrorism is something that is evident to me through the media. All the images become real in picture and print. War, however, seems so distant.

I know it happens, but I still can't really imagine the depths of it. In the United States, it's a threat but it is not knocking on my door. I don't see it when I step outside or fear it will happen on my soil. I feel somewhat sheltered by the small town that envelopes my family and me.

I realize my worries are miniscule, while a foreigner takes pride in a job that will provide a life for a child he can't physically protect. He will cherish the opportunity for a better future without thinking about his misfortune.

Thus, I'm humbled by a God that has so graciously given me this life and allowed me the pleasures of being an American. ♦

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RELAY FOR LIFE

As always, Paragould-area residents came out in full force to support a worthy cause. Teams and individuals of all ages took part in the nightlong walk around the track at the Greene County Tech football field, showing support for cancer survivors and hoping to lend a helping hand in finding a cure for the disease.

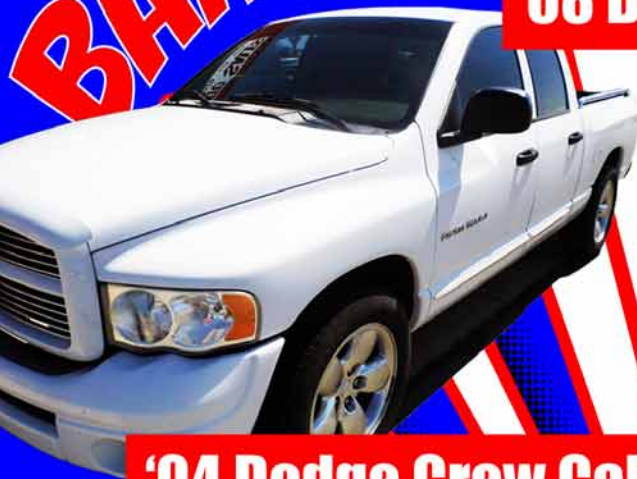


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Stitches Of Love

Members from Center Hill Church of Christ in Paragould recently donated quilts to the Women's Services (OB) Department at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. The group has been making quilts, with "stitches of love" for more than 25 years. Pictured left to right are church members and quilters Barbara Gillmore and Maxine Bryson along with Lori Walker, RN, AMMC OB Unit Coordinator.

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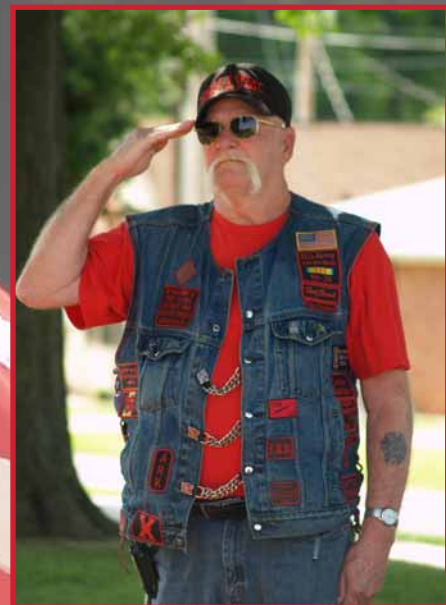
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*Ceremony pays
tribute to veterans
on Memorial Day*

Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill expressed the sentiments of many with a fitting tribute delivered at the historic courthouse lawn



Veterans, local dignitaries and on-lookers were treated to an impressive display in Paragould's 2013 Memorial Day ceremony. Soldiers saluted during the playing of Taps, above and at right, just after hearing messages from Mayor Mike Gaskill, left, and Major Jim Walker, below.





First Sergeant Fred Siebert

★★★ God, country and family ★★★

For soldiers like Arkansas Army National Guard First Sergeant Fred Siebert, July 4th holds special meaning

When Fred Siebert and his fellow soldiers prepared to leave on assignment each day, they had three main thoughts in mind.

"God, country and family," said Siebert, an Arkansas Army National Guard First Sergeant just returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. "We say our prayers before each mission that God will protect us and make sure everything goes right for the guys."

Siebert's most recent deployment to the Middle East was his third, something he now refers to as "part of the job. The military is all volunteer today but, at the same time, when you get that call up to go, you do it for your country. It's part of my life."

After 31 years in the Guard, it's easy to see why he feels that way. Siebert said that in addition to completing assigned tasks with his unit, his duties as a First Sergeant cover a broad spectrum.

"The last deployment, as far as IEDs and so on, it was not as intense," he said. "And, your duties change from Platoon Sergeant to First Sergeant. You are responsible for a whole company, not just your platoon."

"As a First Sergeant you're dad, mom, counselor, brother ... all different roles. You take care of your soldiers on their missions and deal with personal issues, too."

Siebert joined the National Guard because he had taken a liking to working with big machinery, and there always seemed to be a need for help in that area from the Paragould Guard members.

"I always liked heavy equipment and the National Guard Armory in Paragould had a lot of bulldozers and front end loaders," he said. "That was something I always wanted to do ... but my recruiter lied to me. The only heavy equipment I saw was at Fort Leonard Wood, when we marched past it."

So began a decades-long life of service to his country, including recent stops in Iraq, Kandahar and, most recently, the Urozgan Province in Afghanistan.

Siebert said being so far from home elicits numerous emotions about America, patriotism, family, God ... and an array of others. Some are heartwrenching, some happy, some emotional.

"Lots of times you're over there and you look at someone's Facebook status and they're getting bent out of shape over the smallest thing and you go, 'Really? I'm 6,000 miles away protecting your freedom and that's what you're upset about?' Some of it seems pretty silly."

"But Northeast Arkansas has been great about supporting the Guard. We got over 600 packages at Christmas time; that's

unbelievable. Some companies get little support; ours is awesome."

Happy to be back home with family and friends, Siebert said the readjustment to normal life is sometimes tricky.

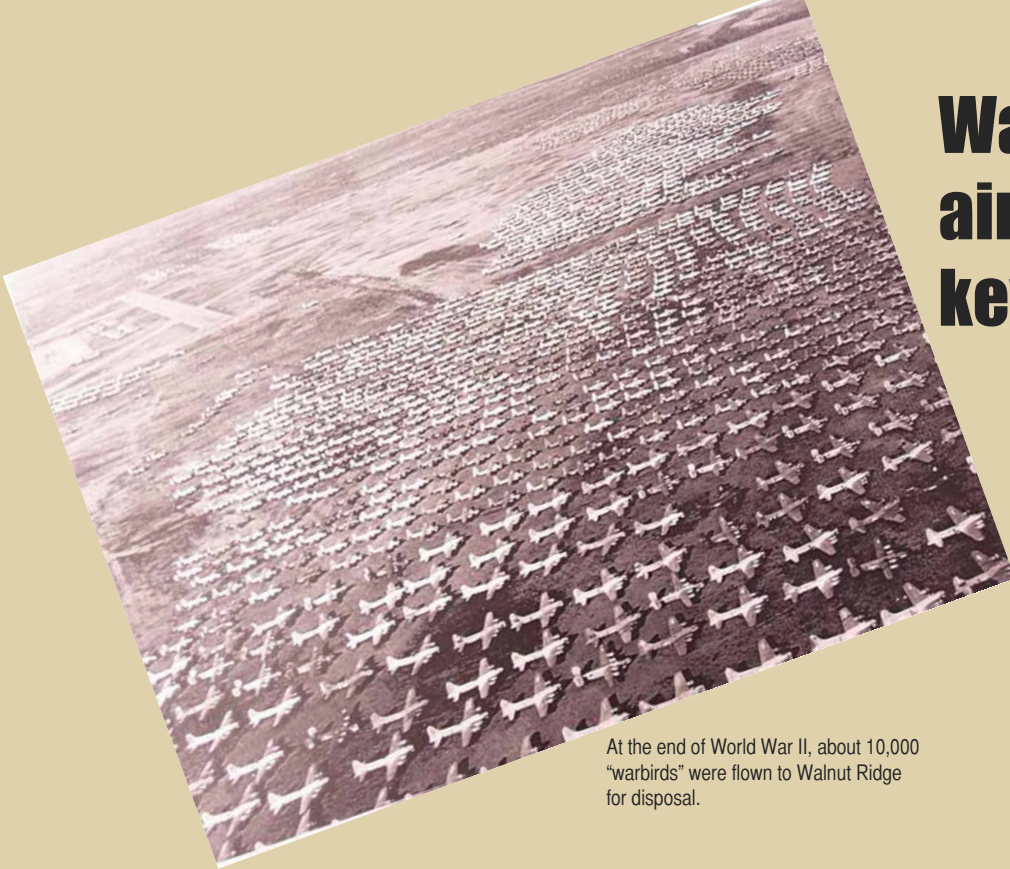
"It's kind of difficult to get back in the swing," he said. "You're in such a set pattern in Afghanistan and then you come home and all of a sudden you have to motivate yourself to do things; I probably do some overkill, trying to stay too busy. I need to remember there aren't any deadlines, that it will still be there tomorrow."

For someone like Siebert, who knows what it means to be on foreign soil, facing an enemy in situations that mean you might not ever make it back home, the Fourth of July holiday takes on a deeper significance.

"I think the Fourth of July maybe means more once you've been deployed," he said. "It's your country's birthday and you think about all the men and women who have died for our country over the years and you realize the commitment. We came home, but we played our part."

"When I hear the national anthem playing and see the flag blowing in the breeze," he added, "I still get choked up. I know what it's all about."

-- Richard Brummett



Walnut Ridge airport played key wartime role

Army flying school served as Aviation Cadet Training Site

At the end of World War II, about 10,000 "warbirds" were flown to Walnut Ridge for disposal.

By Richard Brummett

For many people from this era, the phrase "Walnut Ridge Airport" might conjure up one of two images: Something related to a golf course dispute or a runway that serves as the only Arkansas landing site for The Beatles.

Both have validity, but what many people don't know is that the Walnut Ridge Airport played a vital role during World War II and beyond, and remains an excellent link to our country's history.

The Walnut Ridge Army Airfield boasted three 5,000-foot runways and served as a training ground for pilots, a much-needed force in the war effort, because by the time Germany invaded Poland in 1939 its Air Force had 4,000 planes and 500,000 men; by contrast, America had about 800 aircraft and 25,000 men trained for air warfare.

As a result, training sites sprang up around the nation, taking pilot education from about 12,000 men a year in 1940 to more than 90,000 in 1943. In Northeast Arkansas, flight schools were established in Blytheville, Newport and Walnut Ridge, and the expansion effort was in full force.

The Walnut Ridge site was purchased by the government in 1942, with more than 3,000 acres dedicated for the Main Air Field and



Harold Johnson, right President of the Board of Directors at Walnut Ridge's Wings of Honor Museum, explains parts of the miniature airport replica. Above are buildings used as barracks during the airport's military past.

another 2,600 acres for auxiliary air fields; 5,300 cadets began training in October.

A new city sprung up around the airport, designed to accommodate 5,114 military personnel and 976 civilians. In addition to the air strip, the site also contained a water plant and sewer plant, a 10,000-man laundry, two theaters, a swimming pool, gymnasium, WAC housing, eight mess halls, dozens of men's barracks, parachute loft, gas chamber, apartments, a motor pool, control tower, officers' club, fire station, warehouses and more. Construction and land cost almost \$10.5 million.

The air base was an AAF Basic Flying School, from 1942-44; a Marine Corps Air Facility in 1944-45; a temporary POW Camp for German prisoners, July 1945-July 1946; and an RFC Storage, Sales and Salvage Facility for WWII Warbirds from 1945-48.



More than 10,000 planes were flown to Walnut Ridge for disposal at the end of the war, with some being sold to cropdusters, some to passenger airlines, businesses or schools, and thousands stripped for parts or melted down for various uses.

Some businesses still operate from the airport today, but the best way to learn of its history is to visit the Wings Of Honor Museum, located on site. It is open Monday-Saturday, 9-5; Sunday 2-5 (except holidays) and by appointment (870-584-5575). ♦

VFW serves to address the various needs of soldiers and their families

By Gabriel A. Cook

As we celebrate July Fourth, we remember those who fought and sacrificed for our freedoms. Though children and adults marvel at the fireworks that illuminate the night sky, the display serves to remind us of the battles fought by our veterans (and soldiers currently deployed).

But what of the veteran returning home from combat?

Is he or she to be thrust back into society with only a "Welcome home" and the loving hugs of friends and family? It was out of the needs of soldiers — some returning home wounded or sick — that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or VFW — was instituted.

It is somewhat disputed as to which group was the first "official" VFW, but Denver, Colorado, is home to VFW Post 1. The philosophy of the group itself came to fruition in 1899, when veterans of the Spanish-American war gathered and formed the initial group that would eventually become

the VFW known today. (The name itself was adopted in 1917, and government-charted in 1936.)

But what is the VFW? According to its charter, the mission is, "To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts, serve our veterans, the military, and our communities, and advocate on behalf of all veterans."

Thus they guarantee that "veterans are respected for their service, always receive earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they — and their loved ones — have made on behalf of this great country." Along with this philosophy, they also treat donors as partners in the cause, promote patriotism, ensure veteran care (and for their families), honor military service, and respect opinion diversity of its members.

The VFW hosts several programs, including "Unmet Needs," which helps military service members and their families when unexpected hardships arise due to deployment,

"Operation Uplink," which helps service members stay in touch with family during missions, and the National Veterans Service, which helps service members in dealing with the many bureaucratic complications that can arise once they come home.

The VFW was instrumental in creating the WWII, Vietnam, Korea, and Women in Military Service memorial, as well as being the first veteran's organization to contribute to the Disabled Veterans for Life memorial. Other such projects are routinely aided by local and national charters.

To become a member, one must be a United States citizen (or national) with an honorable discharge from the military — or currently serving in one of its branches — and have seen overseas combat, and be decorated with an Armed Forces Expeditionary medal.

To learn more about the VFW, and how to become a member, contact the County Veteran's Office at 870-239-6315, or VFW Post 2242 at 870-236-6810. ♦

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1. Rock City Outfitters "Call Me" Shirt, \$19 *Tru Boutique*, 2. Havaiana's Slim Crystal Sandals, \$32, *Mosaic Boutique*
3. Collection by Costa Blanca Denim Shorts, \$38, *Mosaic Boutique*
4. OPI Nail Laquer in Assorted Colors, \$8.⁵⁰, *Mosaic Boutique* 5. Pura Vida Bracelets, \$4.⁵⁰-16.⁵⁰, *Mosaic Boutique*

Paragould's Collins Theatre will play host to 'Les Miserables'

"Les Miserables," a novel published in 1862 by French author Victor Hugo ("The Hunchback of Notre Dame"), tells the story of Jean Valjean, a man imprisoned for 19 years for stealing a loaf of bread.

Upon his parole, Valjean earns the distrust and distaste of everyone he comes upon, as he is forced to proclaim his ex-convict status. His bitterness with the world is absolved by a kindly bishop who puts Valjean on the path toward finding redemption through God. His last illegal act is tearing up his parole papers and taking a new name in the hopes of starting life anew as a righteous man.

The story that unfurls takes place over the span of 23 years and involves well over 100 characters, all told against the backdrop of a revolutionary France. Hugo (somewhat disingenuously) vaguely describes which revolution his story encompasses, but the historian — noting the inclusion of actual figures of the period, such as Jean Maximilien Lamarque — can assume it is the notorious "June Rebellion"... but the dates in the novel do not always correspond with those in text books.

Literary license aside, Hugo spun a massive tale that is part fiction, part political essay. (Of the 2,800 pages of text, nearly 1,000 represent commentary. Nineteen chapters



alone expound on Waterloo.) One would think such a novel could never be adapted into one of the many forms of show business, but "Les Miserables" has seen several television and feature movie versions, the most noted of them being the 1935 movie starring Frederic March and Charles Laughton as Valjean and Javert. Perhaps this would have remained the imminent retelling had it not been for a couple of French songwriters who were slogging away in the lowest rungs of the entertainment business in the late '70s.

Lyricist Alain Boublil and composer Claude-Michel Schonberg did the impossible by condensing the prodigious tome into a sung-through musical. Much of the novel had to be excised, but what remains is an emotional tale of revenge, redemption, love, and salvation. The musical, with English lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer, opened in London in 1985, and then — with minor revision — on Broadway in 1987. It soon became the most-beloved musical ever written, and played for 16

years. Several revivals and world tours followed its initial productions.

Now, "Les Miserables" comes to Greene County, its first full, live production in the state of Arkansas, this July 11-14. A Collins Theatre production, "Les Mis," directed by Rick and Tommy Lane, utilizes a cast of 57, several of whom live in surrounding counties. Some cast members drive to and from Little Rock to rehearse, and others live in Pocahontas, Jonesboro, and Tyronza.

It is a testament to this show's popularity and emotional power that such talented performers make the trek every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday to make the show possibly the most professional ever mounted in the area.

All proceeds go back into the theatre. Ticket info is available by calling 870-573-6454. ♦



Members of the Youth Advisory Council, an extension of the Greene County Endowment Foundation, recently made a donation to 3 Central, the pediatric floor, at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Pictured left to right with some of the items they purchased for the toy closet at the hospital, with the money they raised, are Sarah Eason, Sarah Kueter, Melinda Reeves, RN, 3 Central Unit Coordinator, Mackensie Nutt, Madison Rowe and Gena McCullar.



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The readers have spoken: Premiere Award winners

We asked readers to choose their favorites in a number of categories, and they responded mightily.

After days of tabulating votes submitted by the reading audience and directed toward their favorite businesses, individuals and entertainment spots, we are happy to announce the winners of 2013 Premiere Awards.

Winners were given the opportunity to say "thanks" to the voters by purchasing an advertisement and having artwork included; those who did not purchase ads are listed at

the end of the story.

Winning entries and their categories are:

Medical Clinic:

Paragould Doctors' Clinic

According to Chad Garrett, Paragould Doctors' Clinic is "proud to serve the people of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri with quality service and a helpful staff. We offer a wide array of clinical services with convenient hours. We accept most types of insurance, including Medicare, Medicaid (Arkansas and Missouri), and most private insurance plans.



Paragould Doctors' Clinic has been proud to serve our area for over 47 years. We are honored to have been selected by Premiere readers as the area's top choice for medical care."



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Insurance Agency: State Farm

Virginia Walls, State Farm

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Virginia Walls has been in business for 20 years.

Banking Institution: First National Bank

In business since 1889, First National's focus, according to Chuck Palmer, is "our customers. Our people, products, services and eight (soon to be nine) convenient branch locations are centered around our customers' needs."



Favorite Teacher: Leigh Sullivan, Greene County Tech

"I taught three years at Southland in Cardwell, Missouri, and for 28 years at Greene County Tech High School. I have a true passion for teaching. I love history. I have loved it since my mother purchased a Little Golden Book called *The Minute and a Half Man* about a patriot militiaman who was always late to the battle.



I was entranced and began to study anything historical. History is a love of mine and one that I want to share with the world. I want students to have an appreciation and an understanding of the past. I cannot imagine doing anything else with my life."

Favorite coach: Bill Schatzley, Paragould

One of his softball players says, "Coach Schatzley is not just a coach but a mentor. He is always telling us what we can do to make us a better person, not just a better player. He has taught us to be classy and to have poise. He makes sure we are never cocky and always sincere. Coach

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Anthony Faulkner found out he has cancer this year and before every game we pray for him as a team. He tells us every day how blessed we really are to be able to play and coach, because there are some that want to and can't. He not only teaches us the game of softball but he teaches us life lessons as well."

Schatzley, who has been coaching for 34 years, credited "a good bunch of players who really work hard. That's why we had the kind of year we did."

Siding: Cross Custom Siding & Gutters, Inc.



"Quality, dependability and service after the sale are what sets Cross apart from the competition. If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right. Cross Custom Siding & Gutters, Inc., is family owned and operated. We have been in the siding and window business since 1962. We offer top of the line products with experienced workmanship."

Dentist: Paragould Family Dentistry

Kevin Mann DDS



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Mann, with five years in the profession, said he believes two things set him and his coworkers apart from the rest:


"The staff we have here are second to none. They are very friendly and knowledgeable. I get compliments all the time on these wonderful ladies.

"The second is our commitment to a family friendly environment. We want our patients to feel as comfortable and relaxed as possible when they are here."

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Dress Shop/Formal Wear: The White Columns

Ruth Jenkins, Tiffany Eubanks

"I have been in the profession for 30-plus years," said Ruth Jenkins. "I bought this business Oct. 31, 2012.

"We have a wedding dress line that, as of the time, no one in Arkansas has! It is 'James Clifford Coulture.' You will find friendly faces and we love to help people with a wedding, pageant or whatever. We now carry 'Mudpie' line for children and adults."

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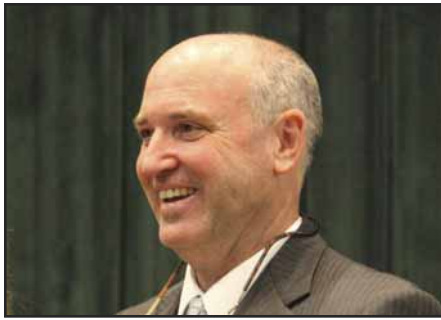
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Top administrator: Gene Weeks, Greene County Tech

"It's a very nice honor and I've been very blessed to work in a great school district my whole career. I was surrounded by great educators ... that was a key: I was always able to have a good team around me. I'm thankful they always had my back and did what was best for the kids. We had good 'kid people.' When you make the decisions that are best for the kids, you're job is pretty easy."



Wrecker Service: Rudi's Auto Repair and Wrecker Service

According to Hannah Rudi, "Rudi's Towing likes to keep our rates reasonable and fair. We try to do the job to the best of our abilities. We keep our equipment up to date to allow us to be able to handle any situation. Thank you Paragould for supporting us for so many years."

They have been in business for 31 years.

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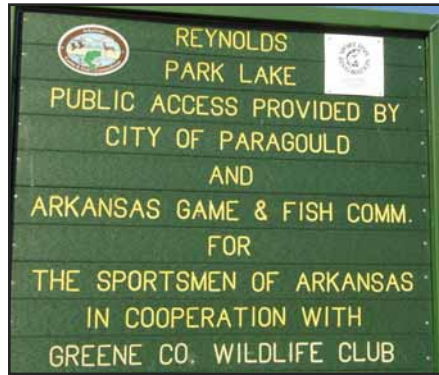
more. Tracy and Kim have been in business for 18 months in Downtown Paragould.

Favorite Park/Playground: Reynolds Park

Pat Austin, Director of the Paragould Parks and Recreation Department, has been in that

field for 44 years.

She said keeping the park clean and inviting to the public for family functions is the main reason Reynolds is a longtime favorite of Paragould-area recreation enthusiasts.



Favorite Mini Storage: Laubach Mini Storage

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and delivering good value to our customers," said Michelle Barnes. "We offer competitive pricing and a variety of payment-making methods to accommodate everyone. We appreciate everyone's continued business."

Laubach's has been a Paragould fixture for more than 25 years.



Favorite Liquor Store: Hilltop Spirits

Hilltop Spirits has only been at its present location for a year but has 69 years as wholesale beer distributor Ed Roleson, Jr., Inc., to fall back on.

"Hilltop Spirits offers a great selection of wines, import-craft-domestic beers, and a wide variety of spirits. We have very unique gift ideas, wine accessories, cocktail garnishes and premium cigars. We've added landscaping to provide a pleasing environment for our customers. Our staff is friendly and knowledgeable."



Screen Printing: Caps Plus

Steve Kieffner says some of the things that make his business appealing to customers include "length in business (20 years), easy to find location, and in-house art and design capabilities"

Kieffner also is proud to have a dedicated staff "to work with each other to achieve customers' promotional and design needs."

Cap Plus also boasts a full product showroom.



Favorite Lawn and Garden Dealer: Legacy Equipment, LLC

In business since 1945, Legacy offers "premiere sales, service and parts," according to Ron Bellony, "offering John Deere equipment to the very important agriculture community, as well as to the general public. Good people make our business work."

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Title Company: Community Title

The staff of Community Title says "Thank you," to all who voted them Favorite Title Company.



Charitable Organization: Mission Outreach

Jeremy Biggs said, "Thank you for voting us best charitable organization. Also, thank you for your support of Mission Outreach, which allows us to continue to change lives."



Favorite Florist: Alvin Taylor Flowers

According to Judith Taylor-Wheelis, customer service and a wide variety of items make their store, a Paragould business since 1971, special. "We have fresh flowers and plants, baby items, door decor, plants for inside and out ..." she said, "we have crosses and a bereavement section, picture frames, a Razorback section, a men's hunting section, stuffed animals ... well, we have a lot."

She also said customers often call and "tell me to just work my magic, to just do my thing. They've come to trust me that I'll come up with what they want."



Favorite Pawn Shop: SDM Pawn

In business for nine years, the staff at SDM says it tries "to treat every customer the same way that we would want to be treated."

"We offer a wide variety of high quality clean items at a discounted price from new. The 30-day loan and 30-day grace is unique to our store. And, we are easy to find."

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Graphics/Design: PostNet

Becky Murphy said a big bonus of PostNet's operation is that they "almost anything on paper ... business cards, brochures, invitations, banners, signs ... and a lot more. And we have really friendly service. We try to make all our customers feel like they're our only customer."

In business for 5 1/2 years, Murphy said she wants to express "a big thank you" to voters.

Glen Sain

New Car Dealership: Glen Sain

Brent McCullar sums it up pretty well when he says the Glen Sain family of dealerships "tries to make it a pleasant experience from start to finish."

Competitive pricing, dedicated employees and quality service help put Glen Sain ahead of the rest.

"We couldn't do this without great customers and great people working for us," McCullar said. "I think when the people who work for you are happy, that breeds in itself and they make their working partners happy, and that relates to the customer. People have to want to buy a car from you, and we're fortunate a lot of people do."

Accountant: Jimmy Wilson

Jimmy Wilson says his employees are one of the main reasons Premiere Readers selected his firm as their favorite.

"I couldn't do my job without my people here," Wilson said. "It really is a full team effort here."

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-Libby Wamock Glasco

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Jimmy D. Wilson, CPA
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He offered a big "thank you" to voters and said he tries "to do as good a job as we can possibly do. Sometimes I'm giving customers a high five and sometimes they need a shoulder to cry on. We just do the best we can."



Best Veterinary Clinic: Paragould Animal Clinic

According to Dr. Carter, "At Paragould Animal Clinic we make it easy to accommodate all of your pet's needs in one convenient location. We not only offer complete companion

animal medicine, but we also provide our clients and their four-legged family members with a comfortable indoor boarding facility."

Clients may also take advantage of two groomers on site, and doctors and staff "who strive to provide our patients and their families with the best service and the highest quality medical care. We all would like to say 'Thank you, Paragould' for voting us Best Vet Clinic. We are truly honored."

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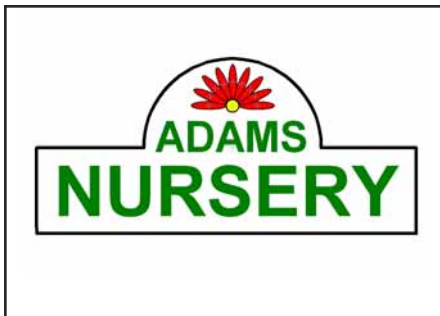
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Best Chiropractor

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Paragould AR, 72450



Landscaping: Adams Nursery

The staff at Adams says, "We're grateful to be selected favorite landscaping contractor by the readers of Premiere Magazine."

"It's been a delight helping you create residential and business landscaping features for the past 24 years."



Used Car Dealer: Larry's

The staff at Larry's says a big "Thank you" to voters and is "pleased to be Premiere's Best Used Car category winner."

"Larry's has been offering the best deals on wheels since 1976 and we look forward to continuing that promise for years to come."



Excavating: Michelle's Excavating

Michelle says, "Thank you for voting for our excavating service."

"Remember us for paving, parking lot striping and diesel mechanic service, too."



THE PREMIERE AWARDS
Thank you for voting us
Best Charitable Organization

Thank you for your support of Mission Outreach, which allows us to continue to *change lives*, right here in our community.



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AMMC, winner of Best Home Health Award, had numerous award winners, including those pictured here as well as Physical Therapist Jon Tripod, and doctors Becton and Burchfield; Nurse: Kayci Blake; and Paragould Pediatrics, Dr. Wenger

The medical staff, employees and departments within the hospital at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, along with Chateau On The Ridge Assisted Living, are honored to be recognized as recipients of this year's Premiere Awards, according to Shay Willis at AMMC.

"It is our goal at AMMC and at Chateau On The Ridge, to provide progressive, compassionate healthcare to the people we serve," she said. "Receiving acknowledgement from those who place their trust in us is truly rewarding and we say a special thank you to all of those who voted us as their favorite."



Favorite Cardiologist:
Dr. Ammar Hallak



Favorite Retirement Center:
Chateau On The Ridge



Favorite Pediatrician:
Dr. Kristina Wenger

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THE PREMIERE AWARDS FAVORITE PAWN SHOP



Orthodontist: Braces By Burris

Dr. Ben Burris said, "At Braces By Burris we believe everyone deserves a great smile, We also think that getting braces should be fun, easy and affordable. We work hard to make people smile every day - it's the best job in the world!"



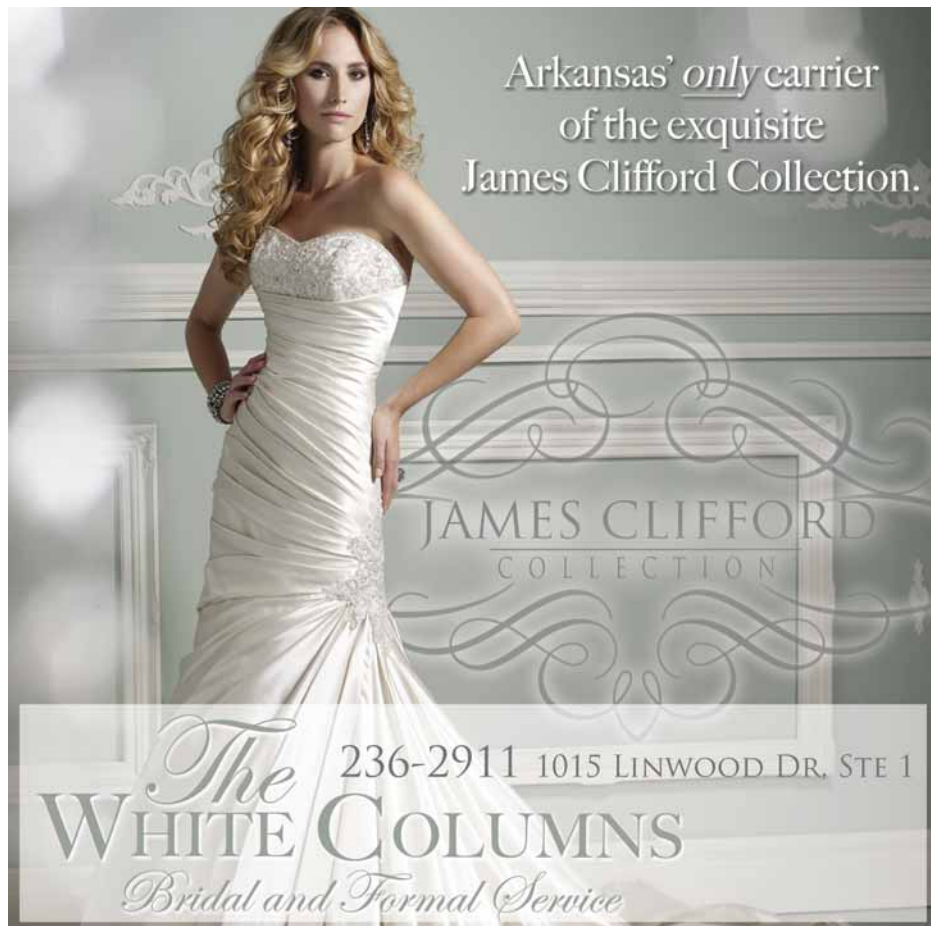
Sign Company: Cupple Sign Company

The Cupples staff thanks everyone who voted for them and says they are "honored to be voted as the winner of the Premiere Award."

Carpet Cleaning: Razorback Carpet Cleaning

Customer service and dependability top the list for Razorback when dealing with the public.

Bobby Ryall said, "If we say we will be there, we are there and on time!"



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 THE PRESCRIPTION SHOP
 Steve Smoker, P.D.
 Kenneth Kuenzel, Pharm. D.
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Favorite Pharmacy: Hyde's Pharmacy

Steve Smoker said Hyde's prides itself in "providing services above and beyond some of the corporate businesses and establishing personal relationships with patients" as some of the things that set them apart.

Smoker purchased Hyde's in 1990 and nine years later Ken Kuenzel became a junior partner.



Tire Service: Herren Tire

Herren Tire Service has been supplying customers with tires of all kinds for 45 years.

Owner Ivey Herren said, "We have a very experienced and knowledgeable staff, strongly committed to your work. We have a large selection of merchandise at very competitive prices. We have the best, loyal customers in the world."



Gynecologist: Becton's Women's Clinic

Melissa Lands at Becton's said, "Taking care of patients with kindness, compassion and efficiency is the hallmark of a quality medical facility."

"At Becton's Women's Clinic, we strive on a daily basis to make these our guiding principles."

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 PREMIERE AWARD WINNER
 School Administrator

Leigh Sullivan
 PREMIERE AWARD WINNER
 Teacher

GREENE COUNTY
TECH
 SCHOOL DISTRICT



Vision Care

Vanessa Wall, Optometrist

Alyssa Wenger, Ophthalmologist

The Vision Care staff says, "We provide comprehensive vision care services for your family. Whether you need glasses or contacts -- Lasik, or cataract surgery, our practice combines state of the art technology, advanced medical knowledge, and a personal commitment to you and your sight."

"Our office is available to you Monday through Friday. Our caring, professional staff includes an ophthalmologist, and optometrist and a licensed optician. We pride ourselves on outstanding customer service and patient satisfaction. We provide safety glasses for several local companies, and participate in many vision plans including VSP."



Medical Supply: Affordable Medical

"Our customer base and referral sources mean everything to us," Joel Moore said. "We strive to give the best possible service and provide the best equipment available."



Coach Bill Shatzley

2013 Paragould Premiere
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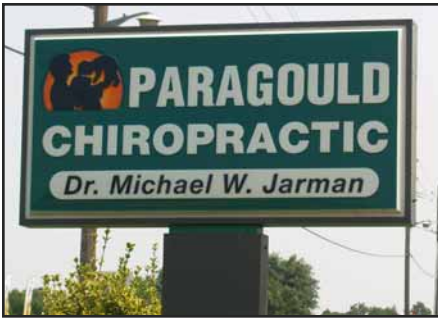
THANK YOU! for voting for People Source
as Paragould's Best Employment Agency.



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Shelly Hudson





Best Chiropractor:
Dr. Mike Jarman/Paragould Chiropractic

Dr. Jarman said providing high quality care to all patients, maintaining a caring attitude and being fortunate to have a supporting staff whose primary concern is the well being of patients are the main things that set Paragould Chiropractic apart from the rest.

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Ron Schechter, MD



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Favorite Caterer:
Kiss The Cook

"The KTC staff and I would like to thank all of our amazing customers for this honor. Richly blessed is the business owner who can call her customers 'friends.'"



Sharon Glasscock said the Cinema 8 staff is "very excited about winning" the readers' choice award. She said, "We do try to provide the very best movie presentation and customer service that we can. We try to be the very best we can be."

Glascock said the cinema's digital offerings are "awesome. The future is so bright. If you watch a movie in 3-D it's a big change from watching regular 3-D to digital 3-D. The picture quality is better ... well, it's outstanding. We have digital sound and picture ... we think we have a very nice theater here."

Let's be social!

PARAGOULD



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Used Car Dealer: Bayird

Keith Bayird said, "We treat the needs of every customer with paramount concern. We know that you have high expectations and as a car dealer we enjoy the challenge of meeting and exceeding those standards each and every time.

"We appreciate the honor of being voted Premiere Pre-Owned dealer and would appreciate the opportunity to sell you your next new car."



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Cosmetics Studio: Glo

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--	---	---

PARAGOULD DOCTORS' CLINIC

1 Medical Drive, Suite 100 | Paragould, AR 72450 | 870-239-8503



**Favorite place to buy hardware and tools:
Gazaway ACE**

Todd Gazaway said, "We're thrilled to be on the list again. We are constantly updating our assortment to meet the customers' needs as to providing new products."

Gazaway said his store prides itself in handling quality merchandise, suited to both the professional jobs and the household chores.

"We have to keep up with all price points," he said. "We have to keep it competitive for anyone who might have a need. The ACE partnership with Craftsman has been great. We have industrial strength tools or tools for the weekend project."



Favorite Car Wash: Paragould Splash

Bill Mitchell said, "We offer real value to our customers for their car cleaning needs. Our location is clean, convenient and easy to access. Our employees are friendly and always go the extra mile to assist our customers with their car wash needs."

Mitchell added that Paragould Splash uses "only the best chemicals and equipment to ensure our customers receive a quality car wash experience every time. Our equipment does not touch your car so there are no scratches, dents or dings at our car wash, only clean cars and happy customers. Thank you, Paragould, for voting us your favorite car wash!"



NEA Baptist Clinic: Orthopedics, Dr. Ron Schechter

Dr. Schechter said, "To me, this is not just a job. I truly care for my patients and take a personal interest in making sure their care is the best possible. I am willing to go 'the extra mile' to give that personal touch.

"I get consistently good outcomes and am ranked in the top ten percent in the nation."

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Employment Agency: People Source

Shelly Hudson said, "We genuinely have a passion for helping people. When you call or come into our office you are greeted with kindness and a smile! At People Source, you're not just a number, you are part of our family. Everything we do is directed to providing our customers and employees the very best service available."



Pest Control: Hyde's Termite and Pest Control

Shannan Prince said there are two main factors in Hyde's success: Familiarity and quality.

"We are a third generation family business," she said. "Everybody in the community always knew my grandfather (Telpher Campbell) and then my dad came along and they were familiar with his face, too."

She said she and her sister, Bobbi, strive to keep that "person for the community" persona alive, "because we're still a small town and it's important to know the person you're doing business with."

She also said she feels customers return because Hyde's does the job right. "We want to say, 'Thank you,' to the voters," she added.

Let's be social!

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Auto Repair: Marc's Auto Repair and Wrecker Service

Owner Marc Siebert said, "I would like to thank two people, my mother Mary Siebert, owner of Siebert's Grocery, and Leon Baldwin, my second dad, for teaching me how to treat people the way you would want to be treated."

"We try hard to make you happy. It ain't about the money all the time. Thanks."



Gifts, wedding: Helen Marie's Perfect Touch

Tammy Taylor, who has owned Helen Marie's since 2006, said customer services like delivery and free gift wrapping make a difference.

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Other winners who did not purchase ads-- or whose advertisements appear in the regular magazine pages -- and their categories, include:

Appliance Shop: Sears

Attorney: Fulkerson & Gazaway, Attorneys at Law

Auto Body Shop: Freeman

Auto Parts Shop: O'Reilly's

Bakery: Batten's

Beauty Shop: Head 2 Toe

Charitable Organization: PAWS

Child Care: Little Learners

Clothing: Cato

Computer Service: NEASEM

Concrete Service: Razorback Concrete

Consignment: Abilities Unlimited

Convenience Store: Kum & Go

Farm Supply: Farm Parts

Fashion Accessories: Brooksie & Bonida's

Financial Planner: Brenda Lane, Edward Jones

Fitness Studio: Anytime Fitness

Flea Market: Big Top

Funeral Home: Heath Funeral Home

Furniture: Homeplace Furniture

General Contractor: Grant Gazaway

Gifts For The Holiday: The Treasure House

Gifts For The Home: LIV Home

Gifts For Babies: Uptown Interiors

Glass Service: Beliew Paint & Glass

Food/Supermarket: Hays

Groomer: Cute Critters Clippings

Gun Shop: Dave's Guns

Heat and Air: Bowen Heating and Air Conditioning

Ice Cream/Frozen Treats: Swirlz

Insurance Agency: State Farm, Kenny Ford

Insurance Agency: State Farm, Max Garnett

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Massage Therapist: Rebecca Vinson, Studio C

Mattress Store: American Mattress

Nails: Studio C

Night Club/Bar: LA's Bar and Grill

Oil Change/Lube: Broken Spoke

Party Rental: Jumpin' With Joy

Pet Supplies: Orscheln

Photographer: Tim Rand Photography

Physician, General: Burchfield Family Medicine

Plumber: Peppers Plumbing

Printing: McCarroll Printing

Radio Station: JACK FM, 107.1

Radio Personality: Brian "Big O" Osborn

Realtor: Darrell Taylor, Century 21

Restaurant, Asian: The New Hunan

Restaurant, BBQ: The BBQ Shack

Restaurant, Breakfast: Couch's BBQ

Restaurant, Buffet: Simpkins Family Buffet

Restaurant, Burgers: Sonic

Restaurant, Catfish: Terry's Café

Restaurant, Italian: Veno's

Restaurant, Local Flavor: Roy's First & Last Chance

Restaurant, Mexican: Casa Brava

Restaurant, Sandwiches: Subway

Restaurant, Steaks: Red Goose

Restaurant, Pizza: Larry's Pizza

Restaurant, Chicken: Kentucky Fried Chicken

Roofing: John Colley Roofing

Shoes: Payless Shoes

Sporting Goods: All-Star Sporting Goods

Tanning Salon: Vegas Tan Company

Tax Service: Liberty Tax Service

Title Company: Ajax Title Service, Inc.

TV Station: KAIT

TV Personality: Ryan Vaughn, KAIT ♦

Got a story idea? Let us know. Call Premiere Magazine at 870-236-7627, email us at editor@paragouldpremiere.com or contact us on our Facebook page.

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Engagements

Helen Marie's PERFECT TOUCH



Katie Richardson & Trey Garner

July 12

Hillary Tripod & Casey Jones

July 13

Erica Schabbing & Jacob Pierce

July 20

Gretchen Jetton & Tanner Smith

July 20

Bryanna Dees & Tim Nix

July 20

Katie Wilhite & Russ Brewer

July 29

Shayna Scott & Blake Nunn

August 3

Allie Melton & Norman Berry

August 10

Lindsey Newman & Clinton Mitchell

September 14

Molly Philhours & Ben Blakeman

October 26

Natalie Sigsby & Joseph Rogers

November 2

Juli Summitt & Cody Waits

November 2

Anna Rogers & Ryan Blankenship

November 16

Laura Pollard & Kyle Thompson

December 14

Sarah Gillmore & Mark Hawkins

December 14



Allison & Robert Piercy
Shadow & Shane Inskeep
Brittany & Jake Murray
Crystal & Michael McKinney
Ashley & Matt Buchman

314 West Garland in Paragould
M-F 9:30-5, Sat 9:30-3



Christa Lachelle Newberry and William John Heptig

Newberry-Heptig

Christa Lachelle Newberry and William John Heptig announce their plans to be married in a September ceremony.

The bride-to-be's parents are Bonnie Jean Crockett, and Eric and Gretchen Newberry of Paragould.

The prospective groom's parents are William and Melody Heptig of Prior Lake, Minnesota.

The wedding is set for September 27, 2013, in Miramar Beach, Florida. ♦

McCafferty-Dickerson

Katie McCafferty and Kade Dickerson have announced their plans for an August wedding.

Katie's parents are Mike and Misty McCafferty of Jackson, Tennessee.

Kade is the son of Mike and Kelli Dickerson of Paragould.

The wedding date has been set for Saturday, August 3, 2013, and will take place in Kosciusko, Mississippi. ♦

To have your engagement announcement included in Premiere Magazine, email photo and information to: editor@paragouldpremiere.com no later than the 15th of the month.



Molly Philhours and Ben Blakeman

Philhours-Blakeman

Molly Philhours and Ben Blakeman have revealed their plans for an October wedding.

Molly is the daughter of Judge and Mrs. Randy Philhours of Paragould.

Ben's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Don Blakeman of Rogers.

The wedding is set for October 26, 2013, in Bentonville. ♦



Katie McCafferty and Kade Dickerson

Birth Announcements



Knox Rane Roe

Daniel and Cassie Roe of Paragould announce the arrival of their son, Knox Rane Roe.

The baby was born May 2 at 10:04 a.m. at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould. He weighed 6 pounds, 4.9 ounces, and was 19.1 inches long.

Grandparents include: Maternal - Don and Dorothy Wallace; Paternal - Charles and Gayla Roe. ♦



Brody Asher Charles

Jeff and Amy Charles of Paragould announce the birth of their child, Brody Asher Charles.

The baby was born at AMMC and weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 18.8 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Kenny and Rosalind Highfill; great-grandparents are the late Thelbert Highfill and Francis Highfill, and Carl and Bonnie Fesler. Paternal grandparents are Gallie and Mary Charles, all of Paragould. ♦



Asher Ryne Hancock

Jeremy and Stephanie Hancock announce the birth of their son, Asher Ryne Hancock.

Asher was born April 22, 2013, at 2 p.m. at St. Bernards and weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces. He was 21 1/2 inches long.

Siblings are Lucas and Sophie Hancock.


Maternal grandparents are Doug and Margaret Swindle; paternal grandparents are Jerry and Dorothy Hancock. ♦

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July

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



THURSDAY, JULY 4

BIG BANG FIREWORKS SHOW, brought to you by the Paragould Jaycee's, First National Bank and 107.1 Jack FM. Location: Rotary Softball park starting at dark. Check www.facebook.com/neajackfm for updates on additional activities.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

AMMC HOSTS CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES, Session one of two. Held in the auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Free to those delivering at AMMC, otherwise it is \$50. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Participants will have a break for lunch. For more information or to register, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

GREENE COUNTY FINE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS 'LES MISERABLES', fresh off the successful 30+ years on Broadway, presented live with local talent from Paragould and surrounding areas and performed in Paragould's historic Collins Theater. Showtimes: Thursday, July 11th - Saturday, July 13th at 7:30 pm; matinee Sunday, July 14th at 2:30 pm.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

INDIAN ARTIFACTS SHOW, Reynold's Park Building. Free admission. There will be displays of arrowheads, pottery, fossil and more to buy, sell, trade or view for educational purposes.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

HOSTS CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES, Session two of two and is a feeding class. Held in the auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Free to those delivering at AMMC, otherwise it is \$50. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information or to register, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467.

MONDAY, JULY 15

AMMC HOSTS MOMMY AND ME BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING, for new and expectant mothers. Offers a chance to meet other moms and share experiences. Held in the Second Floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. 6:00pm - 7:30pm. For more information, call AMMC Lactation Services at (870) 239-7467 or the Greene County Health Unit at (870) 236-7782.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

GREENE COUNTY FINE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS ROGER & HAMMERSTEIN'S 'SHREK', at the Paragould High School auditorium, located at 1701 West Court Street. Thursday, July 18th - Saturday, July 20th at 7:30 pm; Sunday, July 21st at 2:00 pm. Tickets available at the door and online at www.gcfac.org. Ticket prices: general admission \$12; students 12 & under and seniors \$10.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

MISSION OUTREACH PANCAKE BREAKFAST, "Christmas in July" themed, from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at TaMolly's in Paragould. Tickets are \$5.

MONDAY, JULY 22

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY, music by The Bluegrass Martins starts at 7:00pm, at The Collins Theatre, 120 W. Emerson Street

TUESDAY, JULY 30

AMMC HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, held in the Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Each person who successfully donates blood at the June blood drive at AMMC will receive three \$5.00 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria, or The Foundation Station. Held from 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

PARAGOULD SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOTBALL CAMP, runs through Wednesday July 31.

RECURRING EVENTS

First Monday of every month: Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon.

Every Wednesday: Perking on Pruett, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. At Something Sweet. Find out what is happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

Second Tuesday of every month: The Greene County Wildlife Club meets at the Paragould Community Center beginning at 6:00 pm.

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. tcfofnortheastarkansas@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.

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.

COMING UP IN —august—

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH Rummage at the Rails, Downtown Paragould. For more information, call 870-240-0544.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19 Paragould School District first day of school.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26 Bluegrass Monday brought to you by KASU. The music starts at 7:00pm, at The Collins Theatre, 120 W. Emerson Street.

Please send all information for upcoming events to editor@paragouldpremiere.com

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Kevin Moslander and family

Name: Kevin Moslander

Occupation: I am an EMT at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Ambulance Service in Rector, and I substitute teach at Greene County Tech.

Family: My wife, Raenan, and I are parents to two daughters, Paige (13) and Brynna (10), two cats, Sparky and Dale, and my dog, Chester.

What type of food do you like to cook? Hardwood smoked barbecue.

Who taught you to cook? My parents, John and Betty Moslander.

My favorite cooking memory is: While stationed in South Korea, I smoked some pork shoulder and ribs for some Korean nationals who worked at our base. The looks on their faces after tasting hickory smoked spareribs for the first time ever was priceless.

I enjoy cooking for: My family and friends. I love it when someone asks me to cook for them.

My family's favorite is: Pork chops.

My biggest disaster was: Forgetting to put water in my pressure cooker and the rubber seal melted all over a very nice chuck roast.

My cooking tip would be: The French call it "mise en place" or "putting in place." Always have everything the recipe calls for measured out and ready. There is nothing worse than getting halfway through a recipe to realize you are missing an ingredient.

I couldn't do without: My instant-read thermometer.

NEA COOKS



Grilled Pork Tenderloin

Ingredients

3 Tbs	Kosher salt
3/4 cup	Sugar
2	Pork tenderloins, trimmed of silver skin
1/2 cup	Sweet paprika
2 Tbs	Ground cumin
2 Tbs	Mild chili powder
2 Tbs	Ground black pepper
1 tsp	Cayenne pepper
1/2 tsp	Ground cloves

Dissolve the salt and sugar in two cups of hot water in a medium bowl. Stir in two cups cold water; cool the mixture to room temperature. Add the tenderloins, cover the bowl with plastic wrap, and refrigerate until fully seasoned (1 hour). Remove tenderloins from the brine and rinse well, dry thoroughly with paper towels and set aside.

Set up your grill for direct heat and once it has heated up, remove cover and scrape grill clean. Replace cover and allow grill to heat up once more. Meanwhile, combine all other ingredients in a small bowl and rub tenderloins with spice mixture.

Cook tenderloins on covered grill until all sides are browned, about 3 1/2 minutes on each side. Grill on the fourth and final side until an instant read thermometer inserted into the thickest part reads 145 degrees or until the meat is slightly pink at the center when cut with a knife, approximately 2 1/2 minutes longer. Allow tenderloins to rest for 5 minutes on a cutting board covered with foil. ♦

My favorite recipe is: Bedouin Tea...it's a hot tea which has cardamom, sage, mint, and rose water. A great way to end a stressful day. ♦



Summer Squash Medley

Ingredients

3 Tbs	Olive oil
1	Large Vidalia onion, cut vertically into 1/4 inch wedges
1	Red bell pepper, seeded and sliced into thin strips
1	Large clove of garlic, minced
1 1/2 lbs.	Fresh yellow crookneck squash, sliced diagonally into ovals
1 lb.	Fresh zucchini squash, sliced diagonally into ovals
1/2 tsp	Salt
1/2 tsp	Ground black pepper
1/2 tsp	Italian seasoning
1 Tbs	Water

In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onion, bell pepper, and garlic. Cook until onion is softened and translucent, approximately 5 minutes. Add squashes, stirring to coat with oil. Add salt, black pepper, Italian seasoning, and 1 tablespoon water. Reduce heat to medium, and cover.

Cook until squashes reach desired degree of doneness .. approximately 15 minutes. ♦

To nominate someone as your favorite NEA Cook, email information and contact number to editor@paragouldpremiere.com

STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Cover Story



While kids are getting ready to return to school, we'll introduce to you the Outstanding Teacher of the Year as selected by Premiere readers.

Events



Attend events with us as Premiere covers local happenings and activities around town. We'll follow local people taking part in all sorts of activities in the Greene County area. Be sure and contact us to let us know what you or your organization has in store. ♦

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For those who fought for it, those who defended it, and those who protect it.

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