

**Beth  
McCartney  
Adopting A  
Positive  
Outlook**

**Quilts of  
Valor**

**John Myers:  
My Parents  
Chose Me;  
That's A Nice  
Thought**

**Jonesboro  
BBQ & Music  
Festival**

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## From The **MANAGING EDITOR...**



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**N**ovember is certainly a time to reflect upon the feelings of thanksgiving, and not just because of the official holiday on the 24th.

This year we can be grateful that early in the proceedings an extremely distasteful and confusing presidential campaign season will finally come to a close, leading us into looking forward to that last Thursday in the month when family and friends gather around the holiday table to partake of the annual Thanksgiving Day feast.

But do we ask ourselves often enough, "Am I truly thankful for all I have?"

It's very easy to follow news reports from across our country and develop a depressed or negative state of mind. Violent crime, rampant drug use and abuse, constant threats of terrorism and growing disrespect for our nation's values dominate the headlines and airwaves. So, maybe it seems strange that I can sit back and honestly say I am extremely thankful for the life I've been given.

This month Premiere writers directed our focus toward two major areas: National Adoption Awareness Month and Veterans Day. Both campaigns have directly touched my family and me, and I wouldn't trade my connection to either for anything on the planet.

I have two grandsons – David and Kegan – and both are adopted. They were delivered to us a few years apart, both rescued from family situations where they were not going to have many opportunities for success. When my daughter Kelly and her husband, Frank, were approved for the adoption process, people commented on how happy they were for them.

So were my wife and I, but the blessings of adoption don't travel a one-way street. It's not just the grownups who get the benefits. The boys were introduced into a family life that promotes a belief in and worship of God. They were treated to birthday parties and gifts, to family vacations, to Christmas and holiday celebrations and to a complete package of love and affection that they were probably not going to experience otherwise. Cindy and I became instant grandparents and came to know the joy of spoiling grandsons and all of that together points to the wonderful results that can be had by going through the adoption experience.

More stories of that nature appear on the following pages.

As far as veterans are concerned, I am the proud son of a World War II soldier and we shared many conversations over our life together regarding the changing attitudes of our country and whether we were making progress or not. "This is not the country I fought for," Dad would often say, but just as quickly add, "but we fought for the freedom to make up your own mind about things, I guess."

And that's true. Soldiers past and present put their lives on the line so that you and I might have the right to express ourselves in any manner we choose – even if it seems inappropriate to the masses or difficult for old folks like me to comprehend -- and we have to be grateful for their service to our nation. Veterans served not only to guarantee our freedom to choose but to guarantee our freedom itself ... our chance to live life as we see fit and not be forced to serve under unreasonable governmental restraints.

See other veteran-related stories inside, along with several other nice features in this month's Premiere.

# PREMIERE

## **publisher/advertising sales**

Dina Mason •  
dina@mormediainc.com

## **managing editor**

Richard Brummett •  
editor@premiere-magazine.com

## **contributing writers**

Caitlin LaFarlette •  
caitlin\_lafarlette@hotmail.com  
Anthony Childress •  
tribalredwolf@hotmail.com

## **graphic designers — advertising**

Jordan Lewis •  
graphics@mormediainc.com  
Leisa Rae •  
leisa@mormediainc.com

## **advertising sales team**

Dina Mason • dina@mormediainc.com  
Perry Mason • perry@mormediainc.com  
Ashley Mason • ashley@mormediainc.com  
Brian Osborn • brian@mormediainc.com  
Sarah Dawson • sarah@mormediainc.com

## **contributing photographers**

William Laurence Photography



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# JONESBORO BBQ & MUSIC FESTIVAL

A huge crowd of music and food lovers converged on Downtown Jonesboro to take part in the annual BBQ and Music Festival.

Cooking teams competed for top honors in the barbecue contests while two main musical acts kept the people hopping. Bret Michaels, lead singer of Poison, delighted the audience with some of his classic hits and told the crowd he hopes Jonesboro will have him back in the future, much to the delight of his followers.

On the flip side, the duo Brothers Osborne also provided excellent entertainment for those who like the country music style.

The event also included activities for the kids, plenty of food, vendors, crafts and even wrestling.



Bren McConnaughay  
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Mandy McConnaughay Ballard  
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## Holiday Hailey

By Anthony Childress

Christmas is fast approaching, bringing all of its splendor. Folks will be bustling about as they pick up gifts and get ready for holiday parties with family and friends. A big part of it all is the tradition of putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the house for Santa's arrival.

A Jonesboro duo has teamed up to put their talents to work on making the task of tree placement and seasonal décor one that does not conjure up headaches or a sense of dread. MG Meyering, owner of Interiors By Design, and Hailey Knight, owner of Holiday Hailey, decided to spread as much cheer as possible to homes in need of outside help to make everything pop, from tree decorations to wall hangings.

"I started doing trees in 2012," Knight said. "I got a call from my friend Meredith who saw me doing a couple of other projects, so I thought to myself, 'Sure - why not?' Once I did the one tree, it just snowballed into my own little Christmas decorating brand of Holiday Hailey. I had friends and family lining up to book my tree decorating skills for the next couple of weeks!"

For Meyering, it is a chance to use his two-plus decades of experience as a designer for something he sees as more fun than work. "I've always loved this time of year," he explained. "But with the interior design business, a lot of the holidays are spent on more laborious and time-consuming projects like kitchen remodels or home additions."

"I love to decorate trees and help clients make their homes the most cheery and beautiful they can be for the holidays," Knight said. "So many people welcome guests to their homes for parties, get-togethers, and not to mention Christmas day festivities, and they want their space to portray a warm and cozy holiday atmosphere. I love getting to a part of that vision for them."

They can be reached online at [haileynight06@gmail.com](mailto:haileynight06@gmail.com) and [intbydesign@att.net](mailto:intbydesign@att.net). They are on Facebook at Interiors By Design and Holiday Hailey.



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# LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

I am blessed to pastor a church where adoption is the norm. Each week I get to see the smiling faces of kids who have gone from being orphans to dearly beloved children. Just this past week a family from my missional community adopted three young boys. Counting the Marshallese baby they adopted more than two years ago, they now have four children whose lives will be changed forever as a result of their compassion.

Adoption is beautiful because adoption is a picture of the gospel. The Apostle Paul says it like this, "Even before God made the world, He loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:4-5

God does not adopt because He needs kids. He adopts because we need a Father. As spiritual orphans we all stand in need of a Father who will never leave us, forsake us or disappoint us. God is that Father. He loves with a never stopping, never giving up, always and forever



love. According to His word He stands ready to adopt us, not because of anything we have done, but because of what His only son, Jesus, has done on our behalf.

Adoption is risky business. It involves sacrifice. After all, it took the sacrifice of God's only son to bring us into His family. If this reality has settled into our hearts, we should prayerfully consider what sacrificial role God is calling us to play in the adoption of others.

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# LEARNING TO HUNT SMALL GAME

By Chuck Long

The boat ride up the river was refreshing as we travelled in the dim light with the Q Beam shining the way. Daniel and his son Isaac were along for a quick squirrel hunting trip and we hoped to get a few bushytails before the two had to leave for a ballgame. We parked the boat on the muddy riverbank and headed into the woods to see what the morning might offer. It looked as if the forest floor had been vacuumed as it was clean of almost all leaf debris due to the floods of the summer. That made slipping through the woods a little easier as we eased out into the bottomland forest to begin our hunt.

We walked just a little ways into the woods and waited and as the light began to illuminate the trees we searched intently for the limb shake of a busy squirrel. After a short while we finally saw one and carefully worked into position and Isaac was ready. He eased the hammer back on his .410 and fired, but his shot was a little off the mark and the squirrel headed up the tree. I tried to ready him for another shot and we gently opened the action of his gun, but the shell would not eject, it was lodged in the chamber. We eased over to his dad and we tried to remove the spent round with no luck and Daniel headed back to the boat with the jammed gun.

Isaac decided to follow me and we slipped further into the woods and found a few more squirrels but they were a little jumpy and most got out of range before we could get in position for a shot. Within a few minutes we heard the crack of Daniel's rifle and that told he us he was back in action. Our hunt continued for the next hour or so and ended up with a few squirrels and then headed back down the river with a good, though short, hunt behind us.

For many of the hunters of my generation, especially those who grew up in Northeast Arkansas, small game hunting was where we got our start. Squirrel, rabbit, dove and even quail were very popular with hunters years ago because of the convenience and the lack of a deer

herd in this area. It seems now many of our young hunters bypass the joys of small game hunting and get right into deer hunting.

Almost every type of hunting requires being able to read and interpret the sign an animal leaves and a small game hunt builds this base of knowledge. As I look back now on my early hunting ventures I can remember the men I was with always pointing out different things as we made our way through the woods. Though they never really said, "You need to learn what this is," they always pointed out things as we walked, whether it was related to the animal we were pursuing or not. Squirrel cuttings, rabbit droppings, quail roosts, buck rubs and scrapes, and all kind of tracks were always mentioned as we made our way through the river bottoms or across Crowley's Ridge.

It was also a great time to learn basic woodsmanship skills. Compass reading, the use of maps, travelling quietly and many other lessons were taught while on our trips down a fencerow or through a woodlot. These tips, tricks and basic information helped pave the way for success as I grew as a hunter and outdoorsman.


With the generous deer season we now enjoy, waterfowl hunting being very popular and what seems to be a lack of extra time for anything else, small game hunting has suffered. Take some time this year and get out and enjoy a walk in the woods with a .22 or shotgun. It is a great way to unwind and learn at the same time. Make it even better and take someone with you and enjoy the hunt together.

Good luck and I hope to see you out there!




## CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



Dr. John Hines  
Debbie Miles, APN  
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### Hines Family Medicine is excited to announce the addition of Janet Covey, APN

Janet is a board certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force. She is a seasoned Veteran with over 20 years' experience in primary care of the entire family and emergency medicine. Her experience and wealth of knowledge will be an asset to our practice and community.

Please join us in welcoming Janet to Paragould.

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# MISSION GRANT

Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas, Inc., received a \$25,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program to assist with its food programs aimed at fighting hunger in Greene County. Specifically, the grant will positively impact the local community by providing food assistance to households facing food insecurity.

"We are grateful for the support from the Walmart Foundation and this grant will ensure that people in our community facing hunger on a daily basis can come and receive a meal in our kitchen or receive food from our pantry," said Jeremy Biggs, Mission Outreach Development Director.

The grant was presented to Mission Outreach during a check presentation ceremony held at the Paragould Walmart Supercenter.

"At the Walmart Foundation, we understand that organizations such as Mission Outreach are essential to building stronger communities," said Walmart store manager Terry Melton. "Through this donation, we are hopeful that residents in Paragould will not go hungry."

The Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program supports organizations that create opportunities so people can live better, awarding grants that have a long-lasting, positive impact on communities across the U.S.

To be considered for support, perspective grantee organizations must submit applications through the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program's online grant application. Applicants must have a current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in order to meet the program's minimum eligibility criteria. Additional information about the program's funding guidelines and application process are available online at [www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving](http://www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving).

As part of Walmart's \$2 billion commitment to fight hunger through 2015, Walmart stores in Arkansas donated 19,074,984 pounds of food, in fiscal year 2015, or the equivalent of 15,895,820 meals. In fact, Walmart reached \$260 million in cash and \$2.6 billion in in-kind donations nationwide, delivering on its commitment one year early. Additionally, just in the last fiscal year, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave \$74 million to Arkansas nonprofits. For more information on Walmart's fight against hunger, visit [foundation.walmart.com/our-focus/hunger](http://foundation.walmart.com/our-focus/hunger).

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**BREASTFEEDING CLASS**  
**Saturday, November 5**  
**10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

*Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
AMMC sponsors a breastfeeding class that discusses the importance of breastfeeding, breast preparation, feeding techniques and positioning options for mother and baby. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for information. Registration is required for all classes.

**INFANT SAFETY CLASS**  
**Saturday, November 5**  
**1:00 PM-3:00 PM**

*Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
AMMC sponsors an infant safety class that focuses on topics including car seat safety, childproofing your home and crib safely, as well as infant CPR. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for information. Registration is required for all classes.

**INFANT SAFETY CLASS**  
**Monday, November 7**  
**6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

*Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
AMMC sponsors an infant safety class that focuses on topics including car seat safety, childproofing your home and crib safely, as well as infant CPR. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for classroom location, pricing and to register. Registration is required for all classes.

**MOMMY AND ME**  
**BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP**

**Monday, November 14**  
**1:00-2:00 PM**

*Second floor conference room in the Professional Office Building*  
Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and the Greene County Health Unit sponsor a monthly breastfeeding support group meeting for new

and expectant mothers. For more information, call the Greene County Health Unit at 236-7782.

**CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS**

**Monday, November 14, 21 and 28**  
**6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

*Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
AMMC sponsors a childbirth preparation class series that provides detailed information about all stages of pregnancy. Register early to ensure availability. If delivering at AMMC, the classes are free of charge. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org) for classroom location, pricing and to register.

**"HOLIDAY TREATS THAT WON'T TIP THE SCALE" COMMUNITY DIABETES PROGRAM**

**Thursday, November 17, from 6:00 PM-7:30 PM**

*Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Professional Office Building*  
AMMC Certified Diabetes Educator Allison Hitt, RN, will prepare healthy holiday treats and Dr. Jason Paxton will speak on diabetes and how it relates to wound care. RSVP by November 16; call (870) 239-7016.

**AMMC/ AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Tuesday, November 22, from 3:00 PM-7:00 PM**

*Auditorium in the Professional Office Building*  
Each person who successfully donates blood at Arkansas Methodist will receive three \$5.00 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station.

**HEALTHY PREGNANCY CLASS**  
**Tuesday, November 29 from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

*Professional Office Building*  
This is a one-time class for expectant mothers who are prior to 16 weeks in their pregnancy. If delivering at AMMC, the class is free of charge. Otherwise, there is a small fee. There is a \$10 materials fee. Call the AMMC Education Department at 870-239-7016 or e-mail [baby@arkansasmethodist.org](mailto:baby@arkansasmethodist.org).



# AMMC WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR

About 800 people attended the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Women's Health Fair in October, making this year's version of the annual event one of the most successful to date.

Around 60 vendors set up shop at the hospital, offering free screenings, free samples and valuable information on health care and health care services. The AMMC Health Fair is designed to educate women about their health and to help them catch problems before they progress, emphasizing education and preventative care.





Freida Kelly, Angela Loveless, Pam Staires and Kathy Cupp display two of the Quilts of Valor in progress. Not pictured are Carol Kibler, Peggy Saffel and Betty Files.

# TEARS OF VALOR: PIECING TOGETHER A MEANINGFUL PROJECT

By Richard Brummett

**T**hey call their group the Tears of Valor and when they have finished a project, tears certainly flow.

Working under the guidelines set down by the Quilts of Valor program -- a non-profit foundation whose goal is to cover all physically or psychologically wounded service members with a freedom quilt, honoring them for their sacrifices -- the local group makes presentations two or three times a year to most gracious recipients.

Pam Staires serves as the group leader and said they should have eight more quilts ready to go by Veterans Day, when they will be presented to deserving veterans in the community.

"Several years back I had started, just thanking the veterans in any way I could," she said. "I was making them on my own, and presented some to the American Legion, probably in the neighborhood of 50, and Commander Jerry Jones suggested joining the Quilts of Valor program.

"I knew they usually want to send the quilts elsewhere," Staires continued, "and I said I would on one stipulation: the quilts had to

stay in Greene County. He said, 'I think we can handle that stipulation,' and I got some recruits and here we are."

Each group member has joined for reasons of her own, mostly because they have former military members in their families. Freida Kelly, for instance, said her inspiration was "because of family. My husband, my brother, son, grandson, son-in-law, brother-in-law. They were all in the military."

Now, each woman pretty much works independently on piece tops, getting one or two done at a time before handing them over to Staires, who does the quilt top.

Kathy Cupp adds the labels, which consist of the veteran's name, branch of service and where they served, as well as the names of the quilters involved.

Emotions run high in both directions when group members approach the recipient, then respectfully drape the quilt around the veteran's shoulders.

"They are always so thankful," said Kelly.

"Personally, I don't think we could ever thank them enough," Staires said. "It's amazing the gratitude that comes back to you when you present one. I was given a Certificate of Commendation once for doing this and I said, 'This is supposed to be turned around the other way.' And the veteran said to me, 'You

don't have a clue how much this means.' It really touches you."

Angela Loveless, who calls herself the rookie of the bunch, said the other women "told me to bring my Kleenex when we make a presentation."

Cupp said anyone can go to the Quilts of Valor Foundation website to nominate a potential recipient and the national organization will pass the information along to those at the state level, who will in turn contact the local quilters. The quilts are 55x65 in size and cost between \$100 and \$150 each to make.

Staires called it "a privilege and an honor to present them to the guys" and said the Tears of Valor members would love to have more people involved. "They can call me (870-450-1970) or contact any member, by all means," she said. "We can accept donations, like materials. The fabric, we prefer red, white and blue -- and gold. And there's a fund for monetary donations, as well."

Cupp said one of the easiest things about participating is that there are no definite meetings to which one must commit. "We don't have a set time to get together. It's not something you have to attend to be involved," she said, "especially if you're younger and have a family. It's a laid-back situation."

Staires said the ladies started out funding the projects on their own, but the Paragould American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary "generously donated to help with funding. Now, we'd just like to get more people on board."

# WOUNDED WARRIORS INSPIRATION THROUGH PERSPIRATION

By Richard Brummett



Josh Wege lost both legs below the knee but competes as fiercely as anyone.

At first glance, it seems you are watching just another men's softball team. They have nice uniforms, top-notch equipment, guys of various shapes and sizes who engage in the usual dugout banter. And then you see it ... an artificial limb here, another prosthetic there ... and you realize you are not experiencing the ordinary.

Members of the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team travel the country inspiring all who see them, and their appearance in the annual Busch Softball Classic in Little Rock over the July 4 weekend only served to win them additional admirers.

The team was founded in 2010 through a grant from the Veterans Administration and it gives wounded servicemen a chance to play a sport they love and a way to continue their oath of service. They compete against men's teams of all classes and expect no favors because of their injuries; they dive, they slide, they make plays, they miss some, just like any other softball player.

"I have never seen anything like this in my life," said Randy Pence, a spectator from Northwest Arkansas. "I heard they were going to be here and I wanted to see them, but I have to tell you I've had tears in my eyes since they came out and that guy sang the national anthem. These guys

are incredible. What they're doing should say to all of us, 'Stop making excuses. Get up and get with it.' I mean, if these guys can give this kind of effort, just think what someone like me should be able to do."

That's one of the things the Warriors hope to do -- be living examples of overcoming the odds. When you read the player biographies it is impossible to keep from running your eyes over to the section where it reveals each athlete's injuries. Names and positions are followed by lines reading "Left, below knee. Left index, right hand partial. Left, above knee. Arm, forequarter."

Those are the areas where the player has endured an amputation, but an amputation only of a body part, not of spirit.

Jeremy Sabin, who grew up in the Gosnell area, said playing on the team "absolutely amazes me. These guys ... we're all so good for each other, you know? Look at Wege there. I mean, that man has both legs taken off below the knee, but watch him play. He's incredible. He, for sure, should be an inspiration to people. I know he is to me."





Josh Wege, 26, was only 19 and on his first deployment in Afghanistan with the United States Marines when the armored vehicle he was in ran over an explosive device.

It was necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, but today he plays with a ferocity that makes you forget he's missing limbs. He runs full out on every hit, pursues every ball on defense with all he has. "I think we all look up to him, especially," Sabin said. "He's what it's all about."

Ballplayers will tell you that dugout humor is a beast of its own, where teammates cut each other no slack. The Warriors are no different, shouting out, "Nice arm!" to a teammate who only has one, or tossing in a "shake a leg!" to a player who obviously can't.

"We love each other," said first baseman Manny Del Rio, making the ribbing easier to enjoy.

When their Little Rock tournament games came to an end, players gathered in the walkway between fields and went over last-minute travel plans regarding upcoming events when someone interrupted to say, "Hey, guys, these folks would like to have their picture made with you."

"I don't have to put my leg back on, do I?" asked one Warrior, proving again this team is not the same as the rest.

By virtue of winning a tournament earlier in the year, the LTL Duke Trucking team from Jonesboro earned the right to play a couple of innings against the Warriors on the opening

night of the Busch tourney. Lance Smith, who played for LTL, recalled the experience.

"I had the privilege of competing against the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team at the Busch Classic," Smith said. "In my 25 years in the sport, it was my greatest achievement. Those guys are an inspiration to everyone. For once, it wasn't about who won or lost. It was about competing against gentlemen who sacrificed limbs for our country but still have the will to compete against and educate us about those sacrifices. It's definitely a night my team and the fans in attendance will never forget."

### Kids Camp

The Wounded Warriors hold an annual Kids Camp in the Washington, D.C., area where they use softball as a way of teaching children who have lost limbs that you are only limited by yourself, not by your injuries.

Kids come from across the United States to get coaching from the Warriors and to get life lessons that mean much more than the games played. The children come in touch with true-to-life role models and the players revel in the opportunity to share their stories with the young ones and their families, to provide encouragement on the spot, just as their playing does to the fans in the stands.

And there's that feeling of giving back, of expressing gratitude for being able to do what they do in spite of their injuries.

"Awesome," Sabin said. "All these guys are awesome."

The Wounded Warriors also partner with the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund, which assists with the expenses connected to the college education of the children of fallen veterans.

In addition, the Wounded Warriors support Heterotopic Ossification (HO) research, to enhance the health of wounded warriors and other amputees.

Find out more at [woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org](http://woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org).



Nine-year-old Hope Boland of Shawnee, Oklahoma, attended the Wounded Warriors softball camp in Washington, D.C., then had her parents drive her to Little Rock in order to see them play on July 4.

## VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

Paragould's Annual Veterans Day Parade and Program will be held on Veterans Day, Friday November 11.

Last year was the first time Paragould hosted a Veterans Day Parade, and the response from the community was incredible. This year the parade begins Downtown at 10:00 a.m. with the program immediately following at the Collins Theatre.

All veterans and their families, as well as the public, are invited to take part. The Paragould High School Ram JROTC Battalion will be in the parade and will be acting as hosts for all veterans at the Collins.

The program will include music, remarks, and the "Missing Man Table" Ceremony, which will be presented by the Vietnam Legacy Veterans.

The parade is organized by community volunteers, the City of Paragould, Greene County representatives, members of the Greene County Sheriff's Department, and Main Street Paragould.

Special thanks goes out to Glen Sain automobile dealerships and to an anonymous donor for their sponsorships, according to Gina Jarrett of Main Street Paragould. Anyone who would like to participate in the parade or serve as a volunteer should contact the Main Street Paragould office at 870-240-0544.

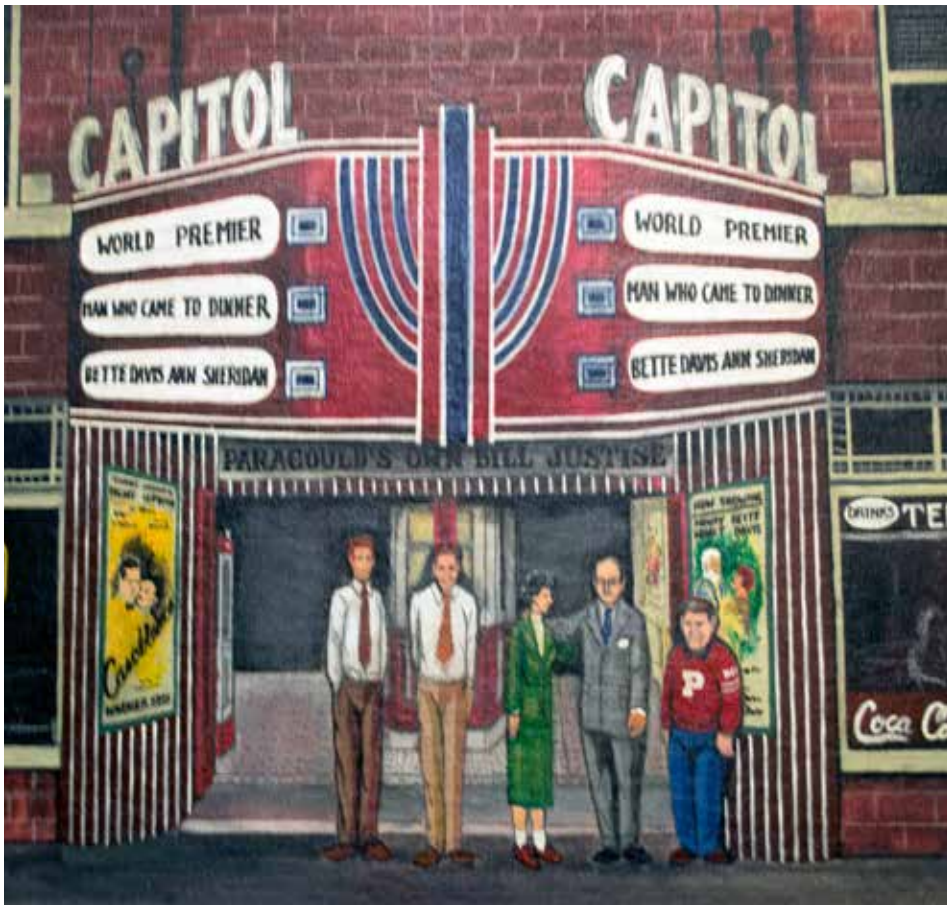
Jonesboro will host its parade the following day, Saturday, November 12, at 9:55 a.m.

The parade will include participants from all over Arkansas and will honor the 25th anniversary of Desert Storm. Participation by: A-State ROTC, JROTC, 106th Army Band, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, A-State Equine Club, various veterans groups, high school bands, and the Jonesboro Fire Department.

Best viewing areas of the parade: Either side of Main Street, between Jefferson Street and Huntington Ave.

A program will follow at 11:00 a.m. outside of the Craighead County Courthouse at the Veterans Monument.

To participate in the parade, sign up online: [www.craigheadcountyveterans.org/veterans-day.html](http://www.craigheadcountyveterans.org/veterans-day.html), or call Marvin Jumper at 870-761-2735; or Major Brian Mason at 870-680-8064.



# THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Enjoy a night of comedy with “The Man Who Came to Dinner” for the show’s 75th anniversary of its world premiere in Paragould.

In 1941, “The Man Who Came to Dinner” premiered at what was then the Capitol Theatre, and starred Paragould native Bill Justice. Justice filmed alongside Bette Davis and Ann Sheridan in “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” This December, the show returns to the Collins Theatre as a group of 20 actors from Northeast Arkansas come together under the direction of Rick Lane.

“The play was previously presented in 1991 through the Greene County Fine Arts Council,” Lane said. “I had the honor to play the title role of Sheridan Whiteside under the direction of the late Brent Arant. It has always been one of my favorite and satisfying performances as an actor.”

For the 75th celebration, Lane said it was time for him to step out and direct. He added he has an assembly of young and older cast members with a definite feel for the show, and a chemistry to make for a wonderful production.

“It has been a pleasure selecting this group and beginning the rehearsal routine,” Lane said.

“The Man Who Came to Dinner” follows the story of Sheridan Whiteside at the residence of Ernest and Daisy Stanley. After slipping and breaking his hip, Whiteside is confined to their home for six weeks and destroys the peace that resides there. From penguins in the library to an octopus in the cellar, audience members are sure to enjoy the award-winning comedy.

Showings are Dec. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and can be bought in advance at PostNet and Hays in the Paragould Plaza. Tickets may also be presented at Skinny J’s from Nov. 28-Dec. 11 for a 15 percent discount.

(Photos are memorabilia of Bill Justice.)

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- Graduate of Paragould High School
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Arkansas State University, with honors, 2003  
- Outstanding Graduate in Political Science 2003
- Juris Doctorate, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2006
- Attorney in private practice (2006-present)
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# THANKSGIVING HISTORY

For many of us, the meaning of Thanksgiving usually includes feasting, four-day weekends, football games, floats, family reunions, or a forerunner to Christmas festivities. The “first Thanksgiving,” however, was neither a feast nor a holiday, but a simple gathering. Following the Mayflower’s arrival at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620, the Pilgrims suffered the loss of 46 of their original 102 colonists. With the help of 91 Indians, the remaining Pilgrims survived the bitter winter and yielded a bountiful harvest in 1621. In celebration, a traditional English harvest festival, lasting three days brought the Pilgrims and natives to unite in a “thanksgiving” observance.

This “thanksgiving” meal would not be celebrated again until June of 1676. On June 29 the community of Charlestown, Massachusetts, proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for their good fortune. Ironically, this celebration excluded the Indians, as the colonists’ recognized their recent victory over the “heathen natives.” One hundred years later, in October of 1777, all 13 colonies participated in a one-time

“thanksgiving” celebration which commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. It would take a span of over 150 more years to establish Thanksgiving as we celebrate it -- George Washington proclaimed it a National holiday in 1789, Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November in 1863, and Congress sanctioned it as a legal holiday in 1941.

### Meaning of Thanksgiving - Expressions of Gratitude

The meaning of Thanksgiving has undergone numerous transitions -- an expression of gratitude for survival, a council’s recognition of its flourishing community, submission of the local natives, the defeat over the British, resulting in a collection of our nation’s traditions and values. Over the centuries, families added their customs to the Thanksgiving celebration, preserving that which they held most precious.

- To gather in unity – It is refreshing and invigorating when people come together, in celebration of a common purpose. It is a reconciliation of differences as well as a time of healing. In sharing our victories as well as our struggles, we find strength and hope.
- To teach the young – In stories retold, each generation brings purpose and significance to the richness of their heritage. Faded pictures, sentimental knick-knacks, even the prayer of Thanksgiving before the meal all form a Thanksgiving family legacy.
- To prepare the heart – In gratitude, we humbly reflect upon all the gifts (family, friends, health) that saturate our lives. By “giving-thanks” we choose to extend ourselves and give to others less fortunate. Out of the abundance of our hearts, we are able to offer our resources to help others.



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Economic Development and CEO of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce. “Even if it’s not a small business, buying locally helps provide jobs for our citizens and that money comes back to us.”

In addition, shopping at home helps develop the community’s character. Businesses unique

to the local scene aid in attracting tourism dollars and help build a distinct character for a particular area. Local businesses are owned by people who live in the community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community’s future.

“We also really need to look at the sales tax aspect of it,” McGowan said. “It’s investing in our police and fire departments, our streets ... whatever ... it helps make our community what it is.”

Cari White, Vice President and COO of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, said shoppers should keep in mind how much their dollars mean to the local economy.

“It is even more important as we move into the holiday season,” she said, “that people understand how important it is to shop local. Even if you buy from, say, Dillard’s or another big box business and you go to their website, we don’t get to keep those tax dollars here. They’re going somewhere else and tax dollars are vital to your community.”

White said she feels the increase in online shopping is due to several factors, not the least being “because we’re so busy. If you can shop at nine, ten, eleven o’clock at night rather than having to rush home and feed the kids after work and then get back out, that’s pretty appealing to some people. Especially the younger generation. Not for me, though. I need to pick up and touch and feel what I’m buying.”

She said several smaller local businesses have websites “where you can go online and see what they have but not actually buy and have it shipped, unless the company is a big box company but still local.”

There are plenty of other angles that show shopping at home is the best idea. Statistics prove that non-profit organizations receive more support from smaller businesses than from large ones; you get better service when you deal with people who know you; more jobs are created.

“Especially with bigger pushes that everything can be found online,” Paragould’s McGowan offered. “We as a community can never provide everything our citizens need, but we should look here first.”

Absolutely, White added. “I don’t know of anything you can’t get in Paragould or Jonesboro,” she said, “unless you’re looking for a Mercedes. Or maybe a mink coat. But I don’t know of anything else you can’t find right here.”

Most shoppers feel customer service is more personalized and hands-on from smaller businesses. Generally speaking, shoppers expect that a smaller business will deliver stronger customer service because the owners live in your community and often know you on a first-name basis. Their personal commitment to their business helps, but even from their sales and support staff – no matter how small or large – typically stronger customer care is experienced.

“It’s important for people to realize that shopping at home helps our entire region, and I’m including Paragould in this,” White said. “It just makes us stronger.”

With the holiday season approaching there are plenty of reasons to consider shopping locally, but one of the biggest is pretty basic: When you shop at home, you help support your family and yourself.

Money spent locally has a better chance of staying at home. Studies have shown that when you buy from an independent, locally-owned business, significantly more of your money is used to make purchases from other local businesses, service providers, and farms -- strengthening the economic base of the community.

“If you buy locally, especially from a small business owner, the profits return to our community,” said Sue McGowan, Director of



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# CHAMPIONS GYMNASTICS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Champions Gymnastics in Paragould celebrated 30 years in business with a day full of activities for young gymnasts and their parents, grandparents and friends.

Athletes performed for the onlookers, who enjoyed a trip down Memory Lane by taking in placards, trophies and photos of the many teams and individuals that have been a part of the Champions Gymnastics program over the years. Refreshments were served and the Grogan family, which started the business and remains in control of its operations, thanked the visitors for coming and allowing their children to participate in the many programs offered.



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# JONESBORO BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

MOR Media and The Gardens at Harmony sponsored the Jonesboro Business After Hours in October.

Owner Todd Smith welcomed guests to his facility to enjoy good food, fellowship and the opportunity to make contact with others in the business community.

Bistro on the Ridge catered the event, Fancy Flour provided desserts, and MOR Media employees served as co-hosts. Jonesboro's Chamber After Hours is held from 5:00-6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

The Gardens at Harmony is located at 4517 E. Parker Road in Jonesboro.




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# BETH McCARTNEY: ADOPTING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK

By Richard Brummett



Bill and Sheila McCartney holding Beth on adoption day.

Beth McCartney knows that many people attach some sort of stigma to having been adopted. In fact, she has had friends and acquaintances of her own who have struggled with the process somewhat, but for her it's a completely different story.

"I was two days old when I was adopted," said Beth, owner and operator of Perfect Touch boutique in Paragould. "I was very fortunate in that sense, that I did not spend a lot of time in foster care or have to go through anything bad."

November is designated as National Adoption Awareness Month and Beth has only good things to say about her lifetime experiences.

Her parents, Bill and Sheila McCartney of Paragould, had been married 16 years when Beth came into their lives, and she said the adoption procedure was obviously much more of a jolt to their lifestyles than to hers.

"It was quite a change for them, after so long," she explained. "I couldn't have been placed in a more perfect family for me. I've never known anything but my parents, who have been so overly supportive of anything I needed."

"I definitely broke the mold, though," she said with a laugh. "They will tell you, I kept you on your toes."

Today, Beth is more than willing to share her experiences with others, and said it seems people often don't know exactly how to comfortably approach her (or others who have been adopted) about discussing the status as a child of adoption. She said they seem to be struggling with an appropriate way to ask the questions they have.

"The most-asked question is, 'How did your parents tell you you were adopted?' or 'How did you feel about it?' Sometimes people are afraid to ask, but they don't have to be with me. It was never a secret or bad thing with me," she offered.

"I fully recommend it," she said, referring to couples who might be considering entering into the adoption arena. "For me, it has been a totally positive process. There's bad in every situation, regardless of what you're doing, but the numbers in adoption favor the positive, if you research them."

"I have never had any sort of stigma," Beth explained. "My parents told me before I ever knew what it all meant. There was no 'shock factor.' It was just a part of my life ... no big surprise."

She said she could have unintentionally made it a troublesome subject at one point, relating a story from her school days.

"In kindergarten, my mom told me after many years had passed, that all the other moms got a kick out of something I said because they were all so close," Beth recalled. "Mom and Dad had always told me I was 'special' because I was adopted. It was a neat thing for me. Apparently, I told a little boy I was more special than he was because my parents got to choose me, and his parents were just stuck with him."

"They all thought that was pretty funny," she said.

Positively funny, and Beth has made everything about her life's direction take the positive turn. She has nothing bad to say, no negative memories about being welcomed

into a family that did not consist of her birth mother or father.

"It was positive, always positive," she reiterated, "and I credit my parents 100 percent. I never had to deal with anything difficult related to it or have to process it. I was very fortunate. My parents told me I was adopted, so I was adopted. That was pretty much it."

"I don't really know anything different. People who knew us as family friends, knew I was adopted. And people who have known us a long, long time have said sometimes they have actually forgotten I was adopted."

"It's just part of who I am, I guess," Beth said.

Now 29, she is a business owner, has just graduated from a recent Leadership Paragould class and has been involved with the local Junior Auxiliary group.

"My life has really been great," she said.

She said the blessings of adoption run in both directions.

"It's the nature vs. nurture thing, I guess," she said. "People say I am exactly like my father, though there's no biological connection between us."

"One of my favorite sayings is, 'Adopting one child won't change the world, but for that one child, the world will change.' I really believe that," she said. "That's why I say there is so much good in it."

She promotes World Adoption Day, which has been moved to November 15th this year to avoid sharing publicity with the presidential elections, and backs the efforts to raise



# ADOPTING IN ARKANSAS

Potential adoptive parents begin the adoption process in Arkansas by contacting the DHS/DCFS Adoption Specialist who serves their county, according to the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services. Arkansas sets its standards for adoption in Title 9, Subtitle 2, Chapter 9 of the Arkansas Code Annotated.

Potential adoptive parents begin the home study process by attending group sessions with their Adoption Specialist and experienced adoptive parents, explains DCFS. The Adoption Specialist then visits with family members individually and together asking questions regarding lifestyle, parenting skills, expectations, relationships and support system. The Adoption Specialist also asks about the adoptive parents' expectations for adoptive children, their motivation for adoption and any preferences.

All household members must be evaluated by a medical doctor. The Adoption Specialist also performs criminal background checks on all household members over age 18, and child abuse and neglect background checks on all household members over age 14. The home study takes four to six months.

Potential adoptive parents can view children available for adoption on the DCFS website. If they are interested in adopting one of the available children, they can express their interest to the department, and the department determines how appropriate the child is for the adoptive home. The department cautions potential adoptive parents that finding a child can take more than a year. The greatest need is adoptive homes for school-aged children and teenagers, as of 2015.

The process of adoption involves deciding if adoption is the right option, creating an adoption plan, finding a children's home or an adoptive family, contacting an adoption agency, knowing the adoptive family, getting legal help if necessary and acquiring final documentation. Adoption is a long process that demands a lot of preparation. It is vital to understand the adoption laws prior to embarking on the adoption process.

Making a decision as to whether or not adoption is the best option is the most important step. Both partners must reach an agreement on what is best for them. A couple can then create an adoption plan that takes their best interests into account.

A couple may contact adoption agencies who can help with finding an adoptive family, or a couple may visit a children's home. It is the duty of the couple to choose a child who is a good fit for the family. Talk to the biological parents of the child to reach an agreement and involve an attorney if necessary. In the presence of a lawyer, a couple is able to sign the necessary documentation and take the child. A couple may seek help from adoption agencies, hospitals, religious groups and colleges to prepare for the adoption.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT ADOPTION

Sources: [americanadoptions.com](http://americanadoptions.com) [adoptuskids.org](http://adoptuskids.org)

funds and support for families involved in adoption.

Ambassadors from all over the world organize events and parties, bringing together people from all walks of life to celebrate the day.

Beth's Facebook page contains a photo of her with a Smiley Face on her hand to represent her support.

"You put a Smiley Face on your hand and then take a picture of it

and post it to spread the word," she said. "November is an important month for me. Besides World Adoption Day, my birth date is November 12 and my adoption date is November 14.

"Adoption was always such a positive thing for me," she said once more. "I had no trouble to speak of. I can't praise my parents enough for making it that way."



For Chef John Myers, there were no negatives connected to being adopted at an early age.

Many children of adoption are filled with questions about their past, wondering what their birth parents were like or why they decided to let them go.

Jonesboro's John Myers isn't among them.

"Not so much for me," said Myers, owner of The Parsonage 322. "People would say, 'Don't you want to know why?' and I would say, I know why. That person made a conscious choice to say, 'I can't do this. John's odds are better with someone else.' I never really had a desire to meet her, although I have wondered what my relatives might look like."

When he was about a year old, Gene and Lurlyne Myers began a lengthy and detailed adoption process, finally earning the right to take John home from a children's facility in St. Louis.

"It was in the mid-'60s, and they had to go through almost a scientific thing," Myers said. "They went through the general background checks to see if I should be paired with them but there were also psychological evaluations and all sorts of tests."

"They couldn't take me home," he said. "They came two or three times to visit and hold me -- I guess to check and see if it would be a fit -- before they could officially have me."

He said the philosophy of full disclosure by his parents probably helped him along the way,

explaining that they were always open and honest with him or anyone else who might bring up the subject of adoption.

"One of the things they kept reinforcing on me was, 'We picked you. You were not a surprise; we chose you.' I have great appreciation for my parents," Myers said. "Adoption is almost more stressful than natural child birth. But my parents made sure I always knew they wanted me. That's the beauty of it."

Once, during what Myers calls his "rebellious adolescent years" he decided to take it upon himself to seek out his birth mother, against his adoptive mother's wishes. He went to St. Louis by himself, arrived at the children's home and went inside, losing his courage somewhat while looking at the many faces on the walls. When a worker there asked if she could help him he said he was just looking, but then she said, "You're John David, 1966. Come right here, let me see you. I held you right here."

Stunned, Myers said he returned home and only later figured, "I'm pretty sure Mom called ahead of time and let them know I was coming. But after that day, I came to the realization that I didn't really need *those* parents ... they did me a favor. They let me go and my real parents took the reins."

Myers said his father, especially, felt his coming to them was by design. "Dad was very much into theology," he said, "and he always said there

was a purpose in their adopting me. It's not like we were just a match, it was like destiny."

Myers, who said he is a good foot taller than most of his family members, used to tease his parents by saying they went to the home and looked at the growth charts before selecting him. "I always saw myself as if my parents paid for me," he said. "I always had such a positive look on it. My feeling about my birth mother was, 'She had her opportunity and forfeited it. You are my parents.'"

Saying his curiosity level about his early days is small, he admits he would like to know more about his family history. His wife, Ramey, is much more intrigued by the family background but has come to grips with John's peace of mind with the situation.

"I'm so content," he said. "I was adopted in St. Louis and went back and lived there for six years after I grew up. I did my chef's apprenticeship there. I look at what my parents did as a badge of courage. It was a hurdle but it was always right out there in the open. I never had any questions that went unanswered, or any feelings that I was missing out on something. My life has been very positive. Mom used to remind me that there were twenty other children to choose from at the home the year I was adopted, and they chose me. That's a nice thought."

# FOSTER CARE PROVES TO BE INSPIRATION FOR LAUREN WALDON

By Richard Brummett

Lauren Waldon is only 19 but she said others consider her the “mom figure” in their circle of friends.

That’s because she has played the role of grown-up from a very early age and wants to help other young people in unfortunate situations find a comfortable way out.

The Arkansas State University sophomore is the reigning Miss Arkansas International and adopted CASA as her platform, since she was placed into foster care at the age of 6 and knows how traumatic the experience can be.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a national association that supports and promotes court-appointed advocates for abused or neglected children in order to provide them with a safe and healthy environment in permanent homes.

“I was in foster care at 6 for a couple of different reasons,” she said. “It really started before I was in foster care. I had always taken care of my younger sister. She was 2 and was nearly beaten to death by my step-dad. I took care of her. I always fed her, bathed her, got her ready to go. Basically, she was my little child.”

Then one day while at school, Lauren was taken to a foster home without any notice. “I think I had jeans, a red shirt and tennis shoes,” she recalled. “That was it.”

But it turned out well when she had “amazing” foster parents and then was adopted by her father Andy and step-mother Jenny, “now my mom.”

Today, she doesn’t want any other youngsters to have the feeling of abandonment she had, prompting her to begin a program called Comfort Kits for CASA. “I collect backpack items ... toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, coloring books, colors, markers, stuffed animals,” Lauren explained, “so they can feel like they’re not alone. You usually base your platform on your experiences. CASA is close to my heart, it struck home. I had a CASA worker in foster care; she was my mini-savior. She encouraged me, she stepped in and said, ‘Do what you want to do.’ She’s the reason I’m where I am today.”



CASA’s Amanda Frankenberger and Lauren show some of her Comfort Kits For CASA.

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# MIRACLE RODEO

As always, the Travis Hedge Miracle Rodeo in Paragould provided a night of entertainment for special needs children and sent them home with smiles on their faces.

Hosted at the B.C. Lloyd Entertainment Building, located on the Greene County Fairgrounds, the rodeo provides makeshift rides that give the kids the chance to ride bulls or broncs, and provides a petting zoo, face painting, karaoke and lots of food.

Outside the building, kids can take horseback or buggy rides.



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# CHILDREN'S HOMES IN ARKANSAS

By Caitlin LaFarlette

For more than 60 years Children's Home Inc. has offered support and care for children without a permanent home.

The faith-based organization offers residential education care, foster care and adoptive care. Lori Vandagriff, supervisor of child placement services, said foster homes in Arkansas are spread all across the state. Currently, there are 43 foster homes in the state with one or more foster children residing with each family.

"We usually average 55-60 children in our foster homes each month," Vandagriff said. "In addition to our active homes, we have around 15 families that serve as 'support homes' or 'respite homes' that are able to help with temporary short-term care."

Children in the foster care system are referred to Children's Home by the Division of Children and Family Services. Children's Home does not work directly with the biological parents, a service handled by DHS.

"If we have a foster home available, then the placement is made with our family and we provide the casework services for the child and foster family," Vandagriff added.

The number of children in foster care is growing but the number of homes has not kept up, creating a crisis in Arkansas. Vandagriff said Children's Homes is one of the private agencies able to help by being a placement resource for DHS.

"Ideally, all children should be able to live in a home with a family rather than an emergency shelter," she said.

Vandagriff added children should be able to stay together and should not have to be placed across the state because of the shortage of homes, but often it is just not possible.

"We are fortunate to have foster homes in various parts of the state so that we are able to help out many counties with placements, not just in one area," she said.

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# ASU ALUMNI

The Arkansas State University Alumni Association announced the recipients of its Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2016, which were presented during Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 15.

This year's honorees are Tim O. Brown of Jonesboro, Scott Dawson of Germantown, Tennessee, and Lynda Heath Bryant White of Paragould. Each of these alumni has attained an outstanding record of professional and civic achievements, as well as giving extraordinary support to their alma mater.

This is the 33rd year the association has recognized the university's most outstanding alumni.

Since 1984, the Alumni Association's board of directors has annually selected award recipients from nominations submitted by the public, according to Margo Aufderheide Kagebein of Stuttgart, president of the Alumni Association.

Here are some highlights about each of this year's award recipients:

## Lynda Heath Bryant White

White, a long-time resident of Paragould and a 1962 graduate in education, is co-owner, secretary-treasurer and funeral director for Heath Funeral Home.

As a leader in state and national professional groups, she served as the first female president of the Arkansas Funeral Directors Association in 1990-91, and as district governor and executive board member for the National Funeral Directors Association. When the state organization named her "Funeral Director of the Year," she was the first woman and youngest person to ever receive the award.



Lynda Heath Bryant White

Her devotion to A-State dates to her time as a member of Phi Mu sorority and a majorette in the Marching Band. She has been a board member of what is now the Red Wolves Foundation, and she is still active in numerous A-State support groups. She and members of her family founded the Verlyn L. and Helen G. Heath Athletic Endowment.

"The fans, student, faculty and alumni owe Lynda a debt of gratitude for her devotion to Arkansas State. She very seldom misses a sports event at A-State," one of her nominators wrote, and another added she is a role model for the female athletes he coaches.

She and her first husband, the late Jimmy Ray Bryant, had three daughters, Kim Bryant, Tanya Ellington and the late Melanie Heath Posey. She married Kaut White in 2006.

## Tim O. Brown

Brown, a 1979 graduate in business administration, is president and CEO of Brown's Graduation Supply Co., a Herff Jones Company. In this role he has served as an unofficial goodwill ambassador for Arkansas State while regularly visiting high school students throughout Arkansas.

He was inducted into the Herff Jones Hall of Fame in 2009 in recognition of his outstanding career. Herff Jones previously had recognized Brown and his company as Outstanding Man and Outstanding Company of the Year, respectively.



Tim O. Brown

While a student at A-State, Brown joined Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, with which he has remained closely involved throughout the past four decades. Called a cornerstone for the fraternity's alumni activities, he has organized alumni tailgating events, annual golf tournaments, and many other activities that promote connectivity between Pike alumni and the A-State community.

"Over the last 40 years, Tim O. has most likely impacted more A-State students' lives than any other volunteer in school history by mentoring over 1,300 young men who followed him in the fraternity," his nominators wrote.

The international fraternity recognized him in 2014 with its highest honor, the Order of West Range, for lifelong service to the fraternity and the Delta Theta chapter at A-State.

## Scott Dawson

Dawson, a 1978 graduate in accounting, has thrived during a 35-year career with First Tennessee Bank. He currently is senior vice president for FTN Financial, one of the bank's major divisions.

His background as a certified public accountant was a key to his success with the company, where he is valued as an extraordinary performer in securities trading, adviser to his peers, and mentor for new employees.

He and his wife Kay provided funding to build the Dawson Capital Markets Lab in the College of Business, where students can learn the trading floor environment with the latest finance industry technology. The couple also established Dawson Den, where student athletes have access to helpful resources to help them reach their academic goals. His longtime devotion to Arkansas State athletics is exemplified by his service as a former president of the athletics foundation.



Scott Dawson

He is married to Arleen and they are the parents of Kayce, Meredith and Allison.

Dawson has served extensively in civic leadership roles in his community. Noting Dawson's many contributions, one of his nominators said, "... he should be viewed first as an outstanding leader who represents Arkansas State in a tremendous way ... He has served as an extraordinary role model for our students and your alumni."

He and Kay are the parents of two sons, David and Andrew.

Information about all previous recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, along with the nomination and selection procedures, is available through the Arkansas State University Alumni Association website, <http://AStateAlumni.org>.



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# UNION PACIFIC STEAM ENGINE NO. 844



**H**undreds of people turned out in Downtown Paragould to see the Union Pacific Steam Engine No. 844 make a brief stop on its way through town.

At 10:15 a.m., the steam engine rolled into Paragould, giving spectators young and old a look at history. From preschoolers to senior citizens, everyone at the stop seemed interested in seeing – and hearing – the historic steam engine before it cranked up and headed out of town.

No. 844, which was built in 1944, is a 4-8-4 “Northern” type steam locomotive built by the American Locomotive Company in December of 1944 for the Union Pacific Railroad. Constructed as a member of the FEF-3 class of 4-8-4’s, the 844 was the last steam locomotive delivered to Union Pacific. Though the FEF-3 class was originally built for high-speed passenger work, 844 and the rest of the FEF-3 class were pressed into a variety of dual-service work.

While commercial Union Pacific steam operations ended in the late 1950s, the 844 was retained by the railroad for special activities. Today, it is one of UP’s oldest serving locomotives and is the only steam locomotive never retired by a North American Class I railroad.

After stopping in Paragould, the train made its way on to Harrisburg. The locomotive also made a stop locally 5½ years ago.



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## DAY OF CARING

United Way of Northeast Arkansas held its 23rd annual Day of Caring on Sept. 30 at locations across the Jonesboro area. The morning began with breakfast provided by St. Bernards Healthcare at St. Bernards Auditorium. Approximately 450 volunteers then spent the morning working more than 50 projects at non-profit programs. The tasks included construction, painting, outdoor maintenance, cleaning, sorting, washing vehicles, and socializing and washing dogs.

Many of the projects are often things that the non-profit agency only gets done each year on Day of Caring. Volunteers then returned to St. Bernards Auditorium for lunch prepared by Eric Watson before spending the afternoon completing projects. Chairs for this year's Day of Caring were Jimmy Farley of Regions Bank and Michael Nunnally of City Water and Light.

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# Luxurious LIVING

**A**chieve a new standard of living at this majestic 3,800 square foot custom from one of Jonesboro's most celebrated builders.

Atop 3.51 acres on KAIT Road across from the Holy Angels Convent, this five-bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, two-story, three-car garage stunner is nothing less than a shrine to fine living.

One of six "ranchette" estates in the highly desirable Brookland School District with end of driveway bus service, this spectacular home offers privacy and tranquility, yet is close to downtown and Hilltop amenities. Wildlife abounds with deer and turkey everyday visitors, the trophies "North of town" is famous for. And yes, this estate includes tree stand and feeder.

Open floor plan, big tile, Berber carpet and 6" crown molding throughout sets this home apart. From the moment you enter the impressive 8' front door and dramatic sixteen-foot entry with chandelier and custom wrought iron staircase, it's obvious this is a custom home for owners with discerning taste.

The kitchen is a show-stopper with gorgeous, floor to ceiling custom cabinetry, dental crown molding, stainless appliances including dramatic double sized refrigerator/freezer, and it stays!

Granite, granite, granite! The expanded granite island features a double sink, brand new Kitchen Aide dishwasher and under

cabinet wine refrigerator. The massive custom reinforced, granite countertops and V shaped bar easily seat eight and impresses all.

Entertain at a new level with huge living area and open floor plan that makes this house a favorite with family and friends on any occasion from the most intimate to the most lavish. And no matter how large the gathering, there's easy parking for all. This estate can entertain up to 50 guests with ease and aplomb.

The luxurious dining room just off the kitchen easily seats eight for festive gatherings or bonding family meals.

The master bedroom is huge with tray ceiling and custom woodwork. The master bath features high ceilings, huge tile shower, jetted tub, dual sinks, vanities and stylish chandelier. The long hallway offers privacy and noise insulation to you or your slumbering spouse.

Upstairs features a huge bonus room, full bath and two beautiful bedrooms, one with charming dormer and another with spacious view, loft-like feel and tons of closet and attic space.

"The Porch!" Then, when you think there could be no more, you discover outdoor living equally impressive: the ultimate Jonesboro style porch. Spanning the entire length of this spacious home is an all brick, screened in porch with extended roof line for ultimate shade and best of all: NO MOSQUITOS!

The porch can be accessed from five double paned doors from bedroom, kitchen, living and master bedroom. Fire, food, water and flat screens! This amazing one of a kind space features exotic wood bar, 3-sided fireplace with dual mantles, cable ready for flat screens on both sides.

Like your own private sports bar and grill, "the porch" features propane gas line, BBQ space and stainless vent a hood so you never have to leave the porch to grill. You can serve guests on the porch or kitchen without going outside, opening and closing doors. On the other side of fireplace is a large lounging space, sexy jetted spa, expansive views and tree lined privacy that can never be infringed upon, and right off the master bedroom.

And cleaning this porch is a breeze. An angled concrete floor and on porch water hose make a total rinse fast and easy. It also makes for simple and quick spa drain and fill. Truly a four-season space, "the porch" is the crowning achievement and takes outdoor living in Jonesboro to an all-new level. You'll never need sun screen, bug spray or expensive mosquito service.

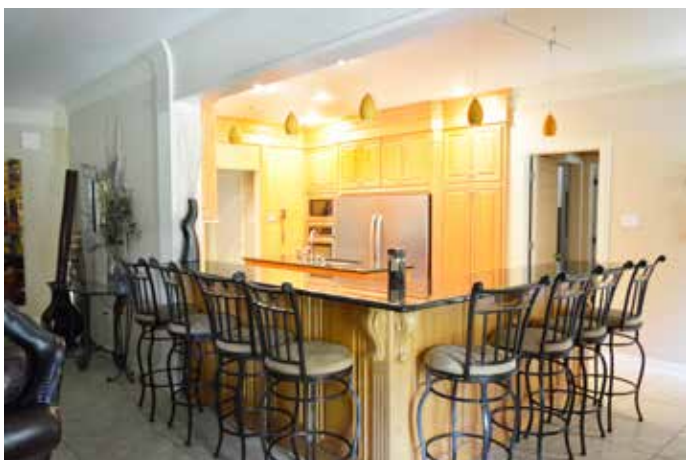
The ultimate man cave! Finally, on the opposite side of the two car garage, nestled behind the third car garage (all 24 feet long to easily accommodate the largest truck/SUV) is a high ceiling, wood paneled bonus bedroom with private bath, huge tiled shower and double deep utility sinks. It even features cable and water line for fridge/freezer. Need more space to hang clothes? This incredible

“cave” features a custom, eight-foot, iron clothes rack with literally no weight limit. “The Rock” could do chin ups on this rack and it wouldn’t break!

Truly one of a kind offering prestige, privacy, style, acreage, award winning school district, livability and entertainment ability like no other, this home is a stunner and awaits your discerning eye now.

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In 2008, First Community Bank ventured into the Jonesboro market by opening a stand-alone mortgage office at 708-B Windover. On January 27, 2014, a full service branch was opened at 1617 S. Caraway Road. Then, on August 17, 2015, the bank opened a branch in Bay. The new Southwest Drive location will give the bank three full-service centers to serve Jonesboro and the surrounding area.

The Southwest Drive location has been outfitted with a large community room that can be reserved by nonprofit organizations and offers a venue to fit most needs for conferences, meeting, banquets, and special events.

**First Community Bancshares announces intention to purchase Little River Bancshares, Inc.**

First Community Bancshares, Inc. chairman, president and CEO, Dale Cole, announced that its Board of Directors has approved the proposed acquisition of Little River Bancshares, Inc., the parent company of Little River Bank, in Lepanto.

## FIRST COMMUNITY BANK OPENS JONESBORO BRANCH

First Community Bank has opened its Jonesboro location at 630 Southwest Drive, the eighteenth location in the First Community banking network.

The new facility will serve as Jonesboro's main headquarters, with the lobby open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Drive thru hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The branch will also offer drive thru only hours on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In addition to traditional services, such as checking, savings, and certificates of deposit, the organization provides credit card merchant services and business and personal credit cards. The bank's loan division offers a range of products including real estate, commercial, and personal loans. The mortgage lending department offers fixed rate secondary market loans, including FHA, VA, and Rural Development loans.

Founded in 1919 as the Bank of Keiser, the bank moved to Lepanto in 1934, and its name was changed to Little River Bank. As of June 30, 2016, Little River Bank reported assets of \$33.3 million. "It was very important for us to find a bank that would serve the financial needs of Lepanto but also one that would truly care about our community," said Ritter Arnold, chairman of Little River Bank. "We could not be more impressed with First Community Bank's commitment to give back to the communities they serve."



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Image Realty had a fundraiser from September 15- October 15, 2016 by donating \$25 per listing or sale to the Greene County Habitat for Humanity. We donated \$1,450 to Habitat for Humanity. Pictured is Image Realty presenting Jason Gazaway their donation.



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# LARRY'S PIZZA

By Caitlin LaFarlette



**I**t's all about you at Larry's Pizza, where there is a pizza for everyone.

Owner Count Chrisco opened the Paragould location in June 2011 after visiting other Larry's restaurants throughout the state. Chrisco was working as a private investigator at the time and fell in love with the place.

"I was teamed with two attorneys and a mitigation specialist for capital murder cases," Chrisco said. "We ate at one of the locations of Larry's Pizza and talked about how much we like the pizza and the concept."

Chrisco had previous restaurant experience and decided to take the leap in opening a new Larry's. Since opening, his favorite part of the job has become meeting and talking with

customers, especially when they state Larry's is the best pizza they have ever had. Chrisco's love for his customers also extends outside of the restaurant. Any pizza slices left on the buffet are placed in a warmer to properly keep them heated, and then later taken to the Mission Outreach.

Larry's new location at 2900 W. Kingshighway is prime thanks to the spacious dining area, a new game room and ample parking, which Chrisco said customers are happy with. Chrisco said he opened the doors in August and the crowds fill the restaurant while servers come out with an endless "pizza parade."

The serving style at Larry's is what makes it perfect for any pizza lover. When a pizza order is placed, the staff makes rounds to all the tables to offer slices of everything from classic pepperoni to macaroni and cheese pizza.

"We do have pizzas on the buffet, but our customers enjoy our servers bringing the pizza directly to their table," Chrisco said.

The macaroni and cheese pizza is a gooey creation that takes away the question of "pizza or pasta?" Served piping hot on dough made in house, the macaroni and cheese pizza will leave you going back for seconds.

Other dishes at Larry's come straight from the minds of those working in the kitchen. Chrisco said a former server created a pizza piled with bacon, chicken, Alfredo, macaroni and cheese and pepperoni. It quickly became a hit thanks to its mouthwatering combination of meats and cheeses and was named The Delta.

Larry's Pizza offers an experience you can't get at chain pizza restaurants. Fresh ingredients, entertainment for the little ones and that small-town feel make a great place to take the entire family.



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Lavada and her husband Vondia Glen (Buddy) have been married for 33 years. They have five children together. (Jody, Cody, Chevonna, Ashton, Braxton) and they have one grandson (Ryan).

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# NEA COOKS KEISHA DUNAVIN

## Occupation/Family

I am an Inside Sales Representative at Teleflora. My parents are Mark and Brenda Dunavin. I have one sister, Kassie Haynes, who is married to Tom Haynes, and two nieces, Amelia and Etta.

## How did you learn to cook?

Growing up in my parents' cafe really helped me want to learn to cook. I worked one summer as a short order cook and that started my cooking journey. My parents, sister and Pinterest have all really helped me learn to cook different things.

## What is your favorite dish to cook?

My favorite foods to cook are comfort foods and treats, especially holiday goodies.

## Funniest/Worst cooking disaster?

I remember learning to make microwaved scrambled eggs when I was eight or so. Somehow the eggs and bowl exploded in the microwave. I still laugh about that.

## Advice for others wanting to learn to cook?

Don't be afraid to try new things or change recipes to suit your specific tastes. Some of my best dishes are recipes I've completely "messed up," but they turned out better than the original once I was done.



## CHOCOLATE CHIP PIE

Ingredients: 2 eggs, ½ cup flour, ½ cup packed brown sugar, ½ cup sugar, 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips, ¾ cup butter, unbaked pie crust.

Preheat oven to 325 and line pie plate with crust. Beat eggs until foamy and add flour and sugars to combine. Add softened butter and mix.

Stir in chocolate chips and spoon into pie crust. Bake 50-60 minutes and cool.

## CRANBERRY APPLE CIDER

Ingredients: 3 cinnamon sticks, 1/8 tsp. Cloves, 1 liter apple cider, 1 liter cranberry juice, 2 cups orange juice, orange slices.

Mix ingredients together in slow cooker on high for 3-4 hours.



# GET RICH

with Richard Brummett

Being the man of the house, I'm not exactly certain how this business of getting the laundry done all comes together.

My orders are to remove worn clothing at the end of the work day and put it into the hamper, then my wife takes it from there and brings a basket full of stuff to be folded into the living room where we team up on it at a later time, usually at the most important point of the ballgame I'm watching.

That seems to be a simple process to me – and an acceptable one, since I'm not certain I could work the washing machine if I had to. I can punch the appropriate buttons on the dryer to get my stuff fluffed or dewrinkled or time dried, but I don't know all about that detergent and such for the other apparatus to the left. If faced with the predicament of having to do the laundry for myself I would probably make a quick run to the store and buy something new to wear.

The thing I can't understand is how we can go through the process from hamper to washer to dryer in correct order, and when we're done folding an entire basket of just-finished laundry my stack can consist of only one sock and a pair of boxer shorts.

That's it. Underwear and a sock, and I'm pretty sure I have never gone to work dressed that way. Surely, if I had, someone would have stopped me before the work day was completely over and would have said, "You forget anything today?" and I would have taken a quick inventory and discovered that I had somehow overlooked wearing my shirt, pants, shoes and a sock. Besides, where would I put my pen?

That's never happened, so I have to assume I've gone to work fully dressed the majority of the time, even though I have been known to have a shirt on wrong-side-out.

The home laundry process terrifies me because I remember when our younger daughter got a thrill out of being big enough to help Mommy with the folding of clothing items. She jumped into the job with great enthusiasm, sort of like when I was a kid and couldn't wait for my chance to help Dad mow the lawn. I can still recall those earliest days when he would grab the handle of the push mower and I would

step in front of him and reach above my head to also grab ahold, and we would then march back and forth pushing the mower together and completing our task.

Even more exciting was the day he said I could mow all by myself and I felt as if he'd just turned me loose on the highway with a new Harley. I couldn't wait to tell everyone I knew about my promotion on the chore list, and I assumed our daughter Lindsay would be just as eager to share her position as official Assistant Laundry Folder with everyone she met.

I would sit back and stay out of the way as wife and daughter folded clothes, until one day I paid more attention to the conversation. Our little helper would pick up a clothing item, like a shirt, and say, "Daddy's shirt," and my wife would confirm, then it would go into Daddy's stack of clothes.

The same transpired uneventfully for Mommy's pants, someone's socks and various other items until I heard this:

"My panties?"  
 "Your panties."  
 "Kelly's panties?"  
 "Kelly's panties."  
 "Daddy's panties?"  
 "Daddy's panties."

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Wait just a minute here. Daddy most certainly did not wear panties, but I didn't really know how to address the situation.

Our daughter was one to spill out things she had heard at home at the most inopportune moments, and I couldn't stand the thought of her going to the babysitter's and informing everyone that she helped fold Daddy's panties yesterday. Even worse was the thought of sitting her down and calmly explaining that her daddy most definitely did not wear panties and having her blurt out to a room full of strangers, "My daddy doesn't wear any panties!"

I avoided any contact with the babysitter and the entire outside world for as long as possible, and don't know for certain that my daughter even shared my dressing habits with everyone at the daycare, but I walked in a very manly fashion thereafter, just in case.

Now, in order to be safe, I avoid doing laundry as much as possible.

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- OCTOBER 26th-NOVEMBER 1st  
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# HAPPENINGS



## GCT BASEBALL

Recently, the high school baseball team from Greene County Tech lent a hand to Mission Outreach in an effort to improve the playground located on-site. The team spent more than two hours demolishing the existing playground in preparation for a new one to be built. This project was part of the team's effort to become more involved in the community and to teach students the importance of volunteering.



## EXUM PROMOTED

The Arkansas State Police Commission has promoted Sgt. Michael Exum of Paragould to the rank of lieutenant.

A 16-year veteran of the ASP, Exum will also assume the duties of assistant commander of Highway Patrol Division, Troop C.



## PARAGOULD MARCHING BAND

The Paragould Pride Marching Band brought home the Mayor's Cup and Overall Grand Championship in the preliminaries and finals at the Gibson County Marching Invitational in Dyer, Tennessee, in October. Sixteen bands from Tennessee and Arkansas competed. The PHS band was also awarded:

### In Prelims:

Overall Large Division Grand Champion; First Place Band Class 5A; First Place Colorguard; Second Place Percussion; Second Place Drum Majors; Top Overall Music score; and Top Overall Effect score.

### In Finals:

Mayor's Cup and Overall Grand Champion Band; Grand Champion Colorguard; Grand Champion Percussion; Second Place Drum Majors; Top Overall Music score; and Top Overall Effect score.



## MASTER GARDENERS

Linda Glickert and Holly Fletcher, along with county agent Dave Freeze and approximately 170 master gardeners and county agents from all over Arkansas, attended a leadership conference at the 4-H Center in Ferndale to share information about their chapters and to learn about the University of Arkansas' Master Gardeners' program.

# November

## 2016 Kids' Events

2, 9, 16, 23, 30

### Story Time

**When:** Wednesdays, 10:30 AM  
**Where:** 120 North 12th Street, Paragould  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [www.mylibrarynow.org](http://www.mylibrarynow.org)

2, 9, 16, 23, 30

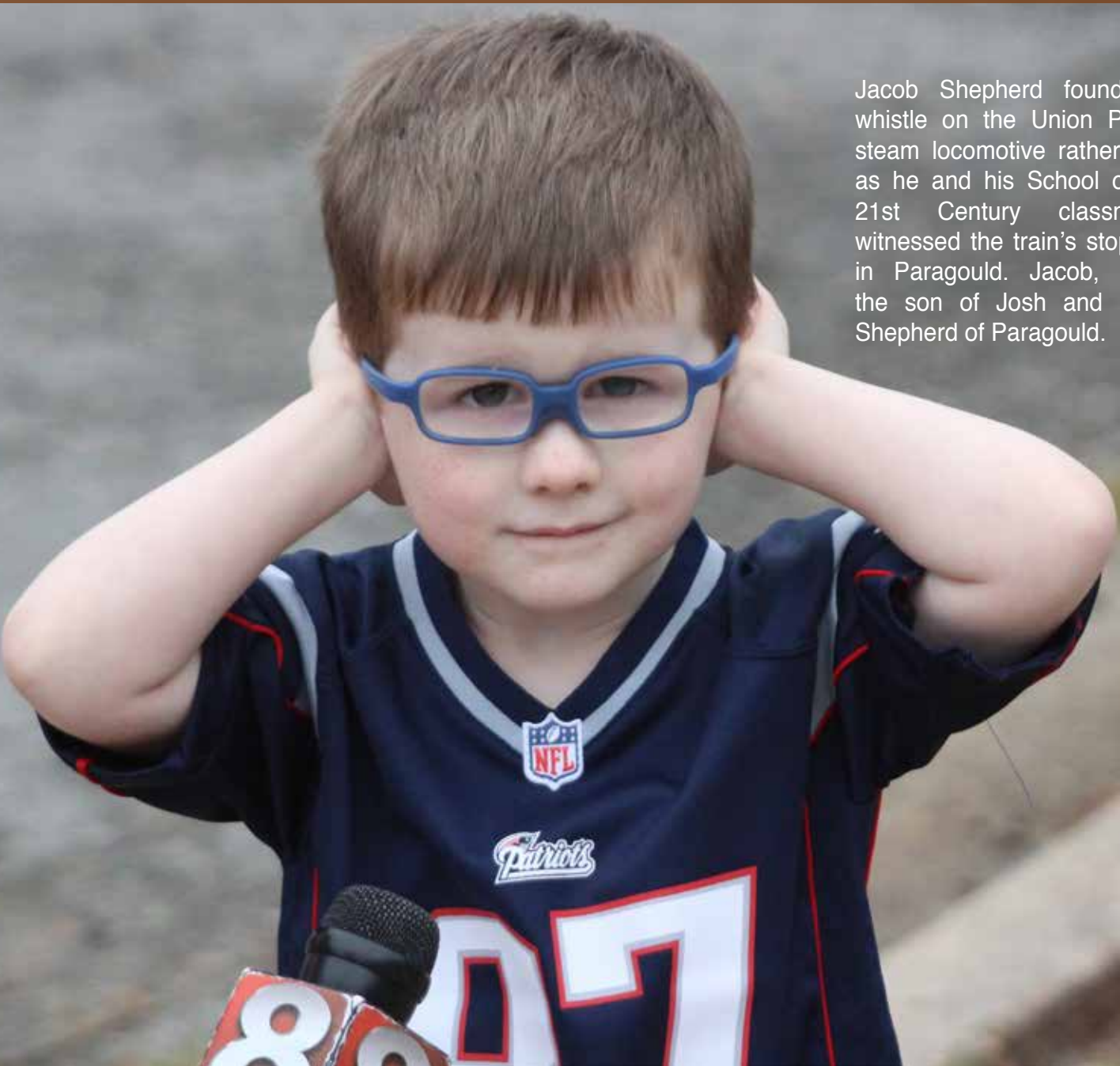
### Children's Knitting

**When:** Wednesdays, 4:00 PM  
**Where:** 315 W Oak, Ave., Jonesboro  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [www.libraryinjonesboro.org](http://www.libraryinjonesboro.org)

1, 8, 15, 29

### Legos: Rock the Blocks

**When:** Tuesdays, 4:00 PM  
**Where:** 315 W Oak, Ave., Jonesboro  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [www.libraryinjonesboro.org](http://www.libraryinjonesboro.org)



Jacob Shepherd found the whistle on the Union Pacific steam locomotive rather loud as he and his School of the 21st Century classmates witnessed the train's stopover in Paragould. Jacob, 4, is the son of Josh and Emily Shepherd of Paragould.

# November

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 04

**What:** The Indifferents perform  
**When:** Friday, November 4, 9:30 p.m.  
**Where:** LA Nights in Paragould  
**Info:** Live music and entertainment

### 04

**What:** Nettleton High School EAST Veteran's Day Lunch  
**When:** Friday, November 4, 11 a.m.  
**Where:** Nettleton High School Cafeteria  
**Info:** Preparing care packages for deployed troops. Please bring you memorabilia and participate by bringing a "comfort" item.

### 05

**What:** 41st Annual Harvest Craft Show  
**When:** Saturday, November 5, 10am-4pm.  
**Where:** Paragould Community Center  
**Info:** Over 60 craft booths. Free admission. Door prizes. Concessions. Sponsored by the Paragould Parks and Recreation Department. Call 870-239-7530 for more information.

### 05

**What:** Hometown Revue  
**When:** Saturday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** The Collins Theatre, Paragould  
**Info:** Oldies rock, country, gospel and more. Come out and take a walk down memory lane with performers Ryan Fisher, Suzie Stacey, Morgan Ruff and Heather Honnoll. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

### 05

**What:** Run Crazy 4 CASA  
**When:** Saturday, November 5  
**Where:** Arkansas State University, Jonesboro  
**Info:** Everyone is asked to save their Halloween costumes, or some version of them, to wear at the annual fundraiser. The popular 5K/10K run and walk helps raise funds to train and support CASA volunteers who work with children that have been taken into foster care due to abuse or neglect, and help represent them in court. Schools are invited to enter teams of 10 each that come with a \$5 discount for each runner. For the special team discount, contact Donna at 870-935-1099. Registration on race day has adult participation at \$25 and children under 12 at \$15. More information is available at <https://raceroster.com/9766> or [neacasa.org](http://neacasa.org). This year's Race Manager is CASA Board Member Chris

Hicks and questions can be directed to him at 870-926-6285.

### 06

**What:** 7th Annual Souper Sunday  
**When:** Sunday, November 6, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, 2840 S. Caraway Rd., Jonesboro  
**Info:** Support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro, get a great meal with unlimited soup and maybe even win a silent auction item. All contributions go toward building safe, decent and affordable homes for qualifying families in need of housing in Jonesboro. Vote for your favorite soup and the winning chef or restaurant wins bragging rights and the coveted ladle trophy for the year. For more information, visit [www.JonesboroHabitat.com](http://www.JonesboroHabitat.com). Tickets can be purchased during the event and they are available now by calling Micheal Sullivan at (870) 203-9898 or by visiting the office at 520 West Monroe Street in Jonesboro.

### 11

**What:** Paragould Veterans Day Parade and Program  
**When:** Friday, November 11, 10:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Downtown Paragould  
**Info:** The Parade begins at 10:00 a.m., with the Program immediately following at the Collins Theatre.

### 11

**What:** 80th Anniversary Reunion of ROTC at Arkansas State  
**When:** Friday, November 11, 6p.m.  
**Where:** Military Science Building (old Armory)  
**Info:** Banquet & Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony

### 11

**What:** 3rd Annual Fight Like A Girl Basketball Classic  
**When:** Friday, November 11  
**Where:** Marmaduke High School  
**Info:** Friday night admission: Adults-\$4 (there are only 2 games on this date), students-\$3. Concession Stand specialty items: Grilled chicken sandwiches, BBQ Nachos, baked good items. There will be a silent auction beginning on Friday night and continuing through Saturday. A portion of the money raised will go

to Marmaduke's Relay for Life Team and the American Cancer Society.

### 12

**What:** 80th Anniversary Reunion of ROTC at Arkansas State  
**When:** Saturday, November 12, 10a.m.  
**Where:** Military Science Building (old Armory)  
**Info:** Noon- Tailgate (ROTC tent in the Pines) 2p.m.- Football game (Hall of Heroes honored at halftime)

### 12

**What:** 3rd Annual Fight Like A Girl Basketball Classic  
**When:** Saturday, November 12  
**Where:** Marmaduke High School  
**Info:** Saturday admission: Adults-\$5 (there are 7 games on this date), students-\$3. Concession Stand specialty items: Grilled chicken sandwiches, BBQ Nachos, baked good items. There will be a silent auction beginning on Friday night and continuing through Saturday. A portion of the money raised will go to Marmaduke's Relay for Life Team and the American Cancer Society.

### 12

**What:** Chad Garrett and Friends  
**When:** Saturday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** The Collins Theatre, Paragould  
**Info:** Local musical entertainment

### 18

**What:** Narvel Felts with Gary Prince and Sugar Creek  
**When:** Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** The Collins Theatre, Paragould  
**Info:** Live music and entertainment

### 19

**What:** Survivors of Suicide  
**When:** Saturday, November 19, 10:00 a.m. until noon  
**Where:** St. Bernards Auditorium, Jonesboro  
**Info:** To register go to [afsp.org](http://afsp.org), click on find support, then click on I've lost someone. There you will find the international survivors of suicide day and you can search for this event. There is no charge but donations are welcome. Organizers ask that you share this information with anyone you know who could benefit from support after a suicide.



# Recurring EVENTS

**Third Friday of every month:** Paragould Young Professionals Lunch, noon, at rotating sites

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

**Second Tuesday of every month:** Greene County Master Gardeners present a Brown Bag Lunch Program at the Greene County Library from 12-1. Bring a lunch and enjoy a free gardening presentation.

**Second & Fourth Tuesday of every month:** The Paragould American Legion Post 17 meets at 7:00 PM at the corner of Court and Hwy. 49. The second Tuesday is a business meeting and the fourth is a Pot Luck Dinner with spouses and friends.

**Third Thursday of every month:** Alive After Five, Downtown street market in Downtown Jonesboro.

**Second Thursday of every month:** The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 PM. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. [tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com).

**Second Thursday of every month:** The Memory Cafe, support group for those having memory, dementia or Alzheimer's at 1:00 PM at the Senior B.E.E.S. Center, North 12th St. in Paragould.

**Every Second Thursday:** Alzheimer's Support Group with the Alzheimer's Arkansas Association and Home Helpers Senior Care, 1:00 PM at Chateau on the Ridge.

**Second Wednesday of every month:** St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 AM-1:00 PM Admission is \$6 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. At St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould.

**Every Third Monday:** Greene County Retired Teachers Meeting, 11:30 a.m. at Grecian Steak house. All retired Greene County school personnel are invited.

**Fourth Tuesday of every month:** Greene County Master Gardener Meeting, Greene County Library, 6 PM, guests welcome.

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

[editor@premiere-magazine.com](mailto:editor@premiere-magazine.com)

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# ENGAGEMENTS



## *Brasher & Porter*

Carly Brasher and Kirk Porter of Paragould have announced plans for a November wedding ceremony.

Carly is the daughter of Philip and Marilyn Brasher.

Kirk's parents are Dave and Gina Hobbs, and Bradley Porter. The wedding will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lafa on Saturday, November 19.



## *Smith & Parsley*

Natalie Ann Smith, daughter of Terry and Melanie Smith of Paragould, and Seth David Parsley, son of David and Michelle Parsley of Portageville, Missouri, and Laura Mosley of Rector, will be united in marriage on December 3, 2016.

The wedding will be held at four o'clock in the afternoon at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Walcott with a reception to follow.

The bride and groom are both graduates of Arkansas State University. The bride is a 5th grade teacher at Greene County Tech Intermediate, and the groom is a bank examiner at the Arkansas State Bank Department.

After their honeymoon, the couple will reside in Paragould.

Photo by Chelsey Smith Photography

# BIRTHS

## *Kennedy Claire McCord*

Zachery and Angel McCord of Paragould have announced the birth of a daughter, Kennedy Claire McCord.

Born at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital on September 30, Kennedy Claire weighed 5 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Siblings are Hayden and Zane McCord, and Marilyn Johnson. Grandparents are John and Marla McCord and Kevin and Lois Palmer.



# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

## Christmas



No December issue would be complete without Christmas stories. Premiere staffers will bring you unique and informative holiday features.

## Honor



We will take a look back at the November events emphasizing and honoring our veterans, with local Veterans Day programs recapped.

## Senior Living



December's issue of Premiere will also contain the next segment of NEA Seniors, featuring some of the area's active senior citizens and their stories.

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DIABETES CARE

## Diabetes Educational Opportunities

### Community Diabetes Event

Every other month, the AMMC Diabetes Care team hosts a Community Diabetes Event. These events are free and are open to anyone who wants to learn more about managing diabetes.

These events typically feature a guest speaker who covers a topic related to managing diabetes, as well as a "cooking class" in which our Diabetes Educators demonstrate simple and delicious recipes that are "diabetes friendly."

### Diabetes Self-Management Classes

The AMMC Diabetes Care clinic offers Diabetes Self-Management classes for people with diabetes. These classes are designed to assist patients that are struggling with management of diabetes or patients that are newly diagnosed. We offer one on one visits as well as group classes.

1 in 11 Americans have diabetes



1 in 4  
are not  
aware they  
have it

> 5,000  
kids per year are  
diagnosed with  
Type 2 diabetes

**67%**  
of adults in Arkansas  
are overweight  
or obese

**30%**  
of Arkansans  
have not exercised  
in 30+ days

**38%**  
of Arkansas'  
children are overweight  
or obese

Source: CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011. \*Arkansas Community Foundation

It is estimated that by the year 2050,  
1 in 3 people will have diabetes

29.1 million Americans or 9.3% of the  
population have diabetes

To learn more about the AMMC Diabetes Care Clinic and the opportunities it  
offers, call the AMMC Education Office at 870-239-7016 or visit

[www.myammc.org](http://www.myammc.org)

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