

NEA'S

# PREMIERE

MAGAZINE

November  
2022

## NATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR MONTH

WADE QUINN

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

HONORING VETERANS

NEW ERA BUSINESSES

A PUBLICATION OF MOR MEDIA, INCORPORATED

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New Era Businesses



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Cover Photo by Lizzy Stoddard



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## From the Publisher



November is one of my favorite months. I love fall (yes, I'm a pumpkin spice gal!); I love fall colors and smells and the fact it is the start of the holiday season.

Premiere themes are set in October for the next year, and we look at lots of resources on what "National Days or Months" are celebrated and try to do some that are fun and some that are serious along the way. November is National Entrepreneur Month and we have worked on that theme for a few years now. It is a difficult one as all our advertisers are "entrepreneurs" and they all have a story of how they got there. We look for unique business models or strategies and very often have someone tell us, "So and so would be a good story, did you know?"

This year our cover story was one brought to our attention by several "entrepreneurs" themselves with a message of his mentorship and encouragement. Wade Quinn is a developer of commercial property, of businesses he operates personally and in partnership with family, and helps colleges with business ideas to which he lends his expertise.

This month's "Mead Maker" story is one of those unique businesses we are happy to share with our readers. The Childers are putting Paragould on the map as many of their visitors are detouring their planned trips to make a stop at this unique establishment.

And we always enjoy the opportunity to spotlight and encourage young people

to develop their entrepreneurial spirit and watching Penny, of Penny's Pretties, develop into a regular vendor at the Paragould Farmers Market and other events has been a pleasure. We want to applaud her parents on their commitment to teaching their children the honor of a work ethic and the rewards of diligent commitment to a career.

Of course, November is also the month to honor veterans, and this is another category where all who served deserve the honor. It is hard to pick a few stories but Richard Brummett has managed to get you several to get to know a bit more personally.

As always, we thank you for your readership and appreciate all our advertisers. You all are what make it possible to publish "the Good News and the People Making it Happen" ... 15 years of Premiere Magazine makes this entrepreneur happy and thankful!

Dina Mason  
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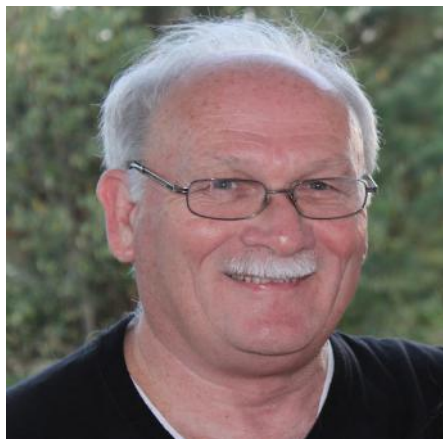
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# GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



**F**or most of my life I have been pretty healthy so a summer like this past one, filled with visits to my doctor, to strange doctors and to emergency rooms, landed me in unfamiliar territory.

One of the first things I picked up on is that those in the medical field use a lot of acronyms and other terms shortened to fit their needs, expressions those of us in the normal hum-drum world might not necessarily understand.

I get it. It becomes commonplace in every profession for those in the trade to toss out words and phrases that are everyday fare for them; we did it in the newspaper world as well. I can remember attempting to explain to a complaining momma that her child's game story was actually longer than the one recounting their rival's contest because it was set in a wider pica width ... then realized most readers have no idea what a pica is in the first place.

Hearing newsroom commands like, "Set that 18 picas and give me a two-line 36, three-column head on it" makes perfect sense to me, if not to the Average Joe. So when doctors began quizzing me on my condition and suggesting procedures with different initials attached to them, I did what I always do: I said, "Okay."

My wife -- who spent more than 35 years working in a hospital -- often chides me for not asking enough questions when I attend doctor visits alone. Sometimes I feel as if I should have taken my mommy with me

because I have absolutely no idea what I'm hearing and I never get asked if I want a sucker at the end of the examination, the way I always did when I was a kid and visited Dr. Williams and Nurse Polly.

Back when Cindy was still a nuclear medicine technician, she would come home from a hard day's work and feel the need to share with me the events of her day, and I would dutifully sit down and listen as she rehashed hours filled with things like GI bleeds, pipida scans, HIDA scans and MUGAs.

I generally looked her way and raised my eyebrows and nodded occasionally as if in agreement, and sometimes even tilted my head for emphasis as I nodded, but to me it sounded like a conversation where all the verbs had been deleted and made about as much sense. That's because her everyday terms were not everyday terms for me, but if they were important to her I was willing to listen.

Now when I come home from a doctor's visit and Cindy says, "What did he say is wrong with you?" ... I don't usually have a very good answer. I say, "I don't remember. But he said he's going to call in some medication to the pharmacy."

"What's he prescribing?"  
"I don't know; he said he would call it in."  
"What's it for?"  
"I don't know; he said he would call it in."  
"Well, how long are you supposed to take it?"  
"I don't know; he said he would call it in."  
"You didn't even ask him any questions?"  
"I asked if I still get a sucker."

And I didn't. Nor did any of these summertime doctors offer me a treat after bombarding me with questions before sending me off for things called CTs, X-rays and I don't remember what else. All I know is for about a two-week stretch I repeatedly sat on the end of tables and stretchers decorated with thin

tissue paper and did my best to answer questions like:

"Have you ever had an upper GI exam?"  
"A what?"  
"An upper GI."  
"No, I haven't, and if it has anything to do with GI Joe or his fellow soldiers, I should tell you now I was not in the military."  
"I see. I think we're going to go ahead and schedule an EGD, if that's okay with you."  
"Oh, that won't be necessary. I graduated high school ... got me a caploma and everything."  
"No, that's a GED. This is an EGD. We'll run a scope down through your mouth into your intestines."  
"Will I get a sucker?"

Thankfully, Cindy accompanied me on those hospital visits and asked the proper questions but she trusted me to do the followup visit with my personal physician by myself. I was never known for having the keenest attention span, even when most of my brain cells were active, so now that I've hit the 70-year marker it is duller still. I listened to all my doctor had to say, responded with "okay" and headed back to the house.

When I returned home Cindy asked, "What did he say?"  
"I know he said he wants me to have a test."  
"What kind?"  
"I think he said he wants to schedule an A-E-I-O-U."  
"A what?!"  
"An A-E-I-O-U, I think. Something about my vowels not working right."

"You mean your bowels, not your vowels? Your bowels aren't working right?"  
"Yeah, maybe that was it. And he wants to do the test."  
"There's no such thing as an A-E-I-O-U. You don't know what he's scheduling?"  
"Maybe it's an E-I-E-I-O; he was wearing jeans and boots" and we left it at that.

All I know for certain is, I never did get a sucker.

# DOWNTOWN JONESBORO BBQ FEST



The 2022 Downtown Jonesboro BBQ Fest had a great turnout. A big thanks go to the Jonesboro BBQ Fest Committee, the city of Jonesboro departments, RightFiber by Ritter Communications, Jonesboro A&P Commission, vendors, and the fantastic musicians who made it a weekend to remember.



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# ALZHEIMER'S ARKANSAS H2GO FUN RUN



**N**ovember 5th, 2022, the first ever NEA H2Go Run will be hosted on the Arkansas State University campus. This is a family friendly 2-mile fun run and walk with water blasters along the way!

It will raise money to benefit the Alzheimer's Arkansas organization. Alzheimer's Arkansas is an independent, nonprofit organization servicing the entire state to provide education, support, and financial assistance to caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Runners will meet at the ASU Pavilion at 9 a.m. To enter the race, scan the QR code to access the registration form. The registration fee is \$25. Registration ends November 3rd at 11:59 p.m.

If you or your business would like to sponsor the event, contact Yvonne Sutton at (870) 926-8439 or email [adelia.sutton@unity-health.org](mailto:adelia.sutton@unity-health.org). There will be awards and prizes presented for overall winner and those of specific age groups.



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## A MILLION AND COUNTING

BY CHUCK LONG

One million is a big number in most every facet of our lives. \$1,000,000 can change a lifestyle. A million mosquitoes can ruin a summer night. Many of us have a “million things to do.” Jimmy Durante supposedly had a million jokes. There is even a television show called “A Million Little Things.”

One million is also significant in relation to the wildlife of Arkansas, specifically the white-tailed deer. There are an estimated 1,000,000 deer across the Natural State. To hunters, wildlife watchers and many average citizens that number is a surprise, especially considering the history of the white-tailed deer in our wonderful state.

Arkansas gained statehood in 1836 and at that time one of the most valuable commodities in the state was the wildlife. Arkansas was a new hunting ground teeming with all kinds of wildlife and the word spread quickly of the abundance of game.

Frederic Gerstacker wandered through Arkansas for a few years immediately after statehood and recorded his travels which were published in a work, “Wild Sports in the Far West.” In the book, he chronicled the large amounts of wildlife he encountered, and this helped spread the word that Arkansas could be a

“hunter’s paradise.”

Other accounts of the wildlife drew the attention of hunters and trappers and many converged on our state to enjoy the resources. Unfortunately, this put a strain on animal populations and by the early 1900s the wild backwoods of Arkansas had become almost devoid of wildlife. Estimates in the early 1900s put the deer herd at around four hundred animals statewide, a crash in the population because of unregulated hunting and a loss of habitat.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission was formed in 1915 and the agency then began to manage the wildlife in the state through licensing and seasons. Very strict regulations, coupled with restocking efforts soon had the white-tailed deer back on track and by 1970 the harvest by hunters topped 25,000 animals. With management by bag limits and seasons, combined with efforts to improve habitat, the deer population responded and by the late ‘80s the take by hunters had exceeded 100,000. In 2012, there were over 200,000 deer taken in Arkansas, but the harvest has now dipped back to around 180,000.

The deer population in Arkansas is a fabulous success story. It is a great example of the impact hunters and outdoorsmen can have when they work together to improve a resource. But as it always seems, there is another side to the story. The increased population of deer has caused several issues including nuisance reports, safety issues and disease.

Northeast Arkansas was one of the last parts of the state to see its deer population recover. When I was in school, even through my college years, it was considered a newsworthy event when a friend or neighbor saw a deer. Now deer encounters have become commonplace and somewhat frustrating to some folks. Several local farmers are now suffering crop damage due to the large number of deer in their area. Even though most of these farms are hunted during the



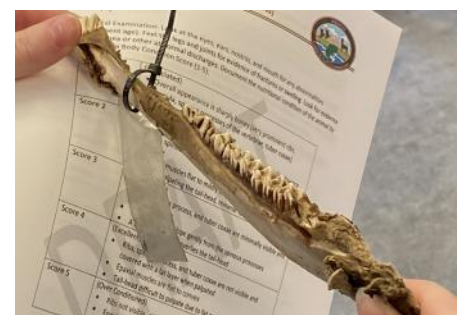
**CHUCK LONG**  
Avid Outdoorsman  
Retired Outdoor Educator

season, the deer enjoy their crops during the offseason, causing considerable damage. Local homeowners in some areas are having issues as deer find their landscaping and gardens a great place to find a meal.

Deer/car collisions have also become more frequent. Arkansas typically ranks in the top fifteen in the nation for incidents between deer and vehicles. According to AAA, the average cost of a collision with a deer is around \$4,500, though it can be much more expensive.

Another issue with the increased deer population could be the likelihood of the spread of disease. As with humans, the more animals there are within a small space, the more likelihood the spread of a disease within the ranks.

So now what? With a million deer in the state and habitat being very favorable for an increase in population, we need hunters out there taking animals off the landscape. One of the main tenets of wildlife management is that the responsible hunter is necessary to insure healthy wildlife populations. In the case of white-tailed deer, there is no truer statement when it comes to management. We need hunters taking deer and with the purchase of a Resident Sportsman’s Permit, a hunter gets six deer tags. Regulations do limit the areas these tags can be used, so check agfc.com for information, but this provides an ample opportunity for hunters to enjoy



some time in the woods.

Not only will the time spent in pursuit of deer help our population, the act of hunting and being in the outdoors will provide very positive mental and physical benefits. The time spent in the woods seems to clear the mind and allow a person to focus on things other than the daily issues of the world. Another benefit from the hunt is becoming more evident to our society and is causing several folks to enter the hunting world. That benefit is in the food that can be garnered through the taking of a deer. A typical Arkansas buck will yield fifty to sixty pounds of boneless meat while a doe will yield slightly less.

This meat is leaner than most beef and is also high in protein and provides several other nutritional benefits. The movement toward "organic" meat aligns well with venison as there is nothing more natural or organic than a deer taken off the landscape.

Barring any unforeseen issues, the deer population in Arkansas will continue to grow and expand and this will give Arkansas hunters a chance to get out and enjoy the outdoors and stock the freezer with some great food for the family. I hope you will take the opportunity to get out and reap the rewards of the many years of work generations of conservationists have put in to make the Arkansas deer herd what it is. Our efforts as hunters will allow the conservation work to continue and will continue to make the deer herd of Arkansas one of the best in the nation. I hope to see you out there!



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# ROTARY CENTENNIAL PARK CELEBRATION



Families across NEA gathered September 17 at Craighead Forest Park for the Rotary Centennial Park Celebration. The event celebrated the impact that Rotary Centennial Park, which contains the city's first handicapped-accessible playground, has had on the community since its opening in 2005.

Visitors were able to enjoy the newly installed artificial turf around the playground, bounce houses provided by Hijinx, and ice cream from Andy's. The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Bookmobile also made an appearance, and visitors were able to participate in a 2.4-mile Fun Run.



Photo Credit: Christie Matthews

# THE 5TH ANNUAL CASA CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 5th Annual CASA Classic was held on October 4th at Sage Meadows Country Club. A total of 108 golfers enjoyed an absolutely beautiful day on the course. A total of \$32,885 for CASA of the 2nd Judicial District was raised. The winning team was the Kiwanis Club of Paragould, shooting 22 under par.



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# LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR WADE QUINN



BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

**B**usiness has always been in Wade Quinn's blood. It's what his parents talked about at the dinner table, his father a visionary and his mother running the books. Quinn learned from two of the very best, a true power couple, and he now has an impressive resume of his own successful businesses.

"I have always liked business and I was able to witness what entrepreneurship entailed from a very early age," he said. "My brother, Jim, and I as teenagers placed video arcade games in the Jr. Food locations in the early 1980s. These endeavors resulted in payment for our college educations, our first taste of entrepreneurship."

Quinn's family opened the Jr. Foods convenience stores in 1965, which successfully thrived for 41 years before selling to Kum and Go in 2006. During those years, he and his brother also started Quinn Outdoor Advertising, a billboard company utilizing several of the convenience store locations.

Before all that, however, Quinn and his brother spent their childhoods selling sunglasses, earning experience in dealing with the public and time management. Quinn recalled he always knew he wanted to come back and work for the family business as an adult, but his parents wanted to make sure he received experience outside of it before coming back.

"This was a condition my parents wisely demanded," Quinn said. "They realized that I knew way too much at the time and needed to be humbled. After completing my college degree, I worked for two years with a retailer in Mississippi. I was then able to come back home and take part in the family business."

After Quinn Outdoor Advertising came the Shoppes at Hilltop, based on the knowledge gathered from operating the convenience stores. Quinn said this project was somewhat a "field of dreams" endeavor that consistently grew over the years. "Originally, I am not sure a large majority of Jonesboro realized there was life beyond ASU," he said. "Obviously this mindset has changed in more recent years with the now booming area known as Hilltop."

The business Quinn originally opened on his own was Swank Uncommon Home Decor, which later coupled with Bassett Design Gallery. The two businesses anchored the Shoppes at Hilltop, which opened in 2007. Quinn said he always had an eye for design and enjoyed sourcing furniture and decor. Swank allowed him to pursue those interests while still using his background in business.

"The Swank years were some of my favorites. Not only because I was able to pursue a passion, but because of the

people I was able to work alongside," he said. "Those days wouldn't have been the same without Karen Cunningham, Kelly Holloway, Bryant Baker and Diana Dawson." When Swank wound down in 2017, Quinn moved on to bringing the Newk's franchise to Jonesboro.

"I'm a lot like my late Dad, Wade Quinn II, in the fact that just like him, I always have a lot of ideas," Quinn said. "I'm not someone who can sit still for long." Newk's opened a second location on East Highland and expanded to Conway before Quinn sold out to his business partner at the time. Today, Quinn is partnered with Zach Jones at Bearded Bouquet.

"Zach is truly gifted, and it shows in his floral designs and wedding work," Quinn added. While building Bearded Bouquet, Quinn met Luke McCartney. The two realized how the Hilltop area needed a workout location, and along with Ben Tracy, brought the Workout Anytime franchise to the area.

Quinn's adventures in business didn't stop there. His brother reached out to him about developing the Shops at Parker. "Jim and I, along with Luke, took on the huge project of redeveloping the old Country Mart. We wanted to bring new life to the Southwest Drive/Parker intersection. Given Covid construction delays, the project took longer than expected to complete, however we could not be prouder of the outcome," he said.

Included in the shops are Jim's business Quintessential Lighting, another Workout Anytime location, Quinn E-Commerce, Hometronix, Ritter's Right Fiber and Jenni Nails, with more to come.

"Today, Shops at Parker is collaborating with a medical provider and has spoken with food providers and is actively engaging in ongoing talks to bring much needed food service to this sector of Jonesboro," Quinn explained.

Aside from the Shops at Parker, his latest endeavor is with the Wildflower Event Venue, which was developed after he saw a need for an upscale, smaller venue



in Jonesboro. Quinn said the micro-venue concept developed out of Covid when people could only gather in smaller numbers.

“Cheryl Davis is the event director for Wildflower and is truly amazing,” he added. “Cheryl knows most of our clients on a personal level, is well-connected, and is highly regarded across Jonesboro. She is passionate about Wildflower and responsible for the success we have already been blessed to achieve in the short time we have been operational.”

With so many successes under his belt, Quinn recognizes it has all been possible due to his strong family business ties, something he will never take for granted. “I was blessed with business-savvy parents who taught me hard work and honesty are the keys to success,” he said.

His involvement with partnerships has also set the tone for his career path, and he said it is something special working with others who share the same drive and goals. “I’m very thankful for all those partnerships. I’ve learned many valuable lessons along the way,” he added.

Quinn also said he believes what makes his businesses successful to any degree are the people representing them and that “quality people are the benchmark

to success in any form. “If you work with people whose ‘give a damn’ is broken, you are wasting your time and it will transcend to your client’s experience,” he said. Quinn said the people you work with come first, with other important factors being product, location, and marketing strategy. “More importantly, you should always tell the truth, even if it hurts. If you lack trust, you have lost the game.”

Some of his favorite memories throughout the years include the creative process that

transpires before opening something new, followed by the feeling of accomplishment once the business doors open. Quinn has also enjoyed guiding up-and-coming entrepreneurs and being part of collaborative projects.

“There are many memories but getting to do what you love with the ones you love the most, those memories will always be my favorite,” he added.

**CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE...**



After all these years, Quinn truly knows the ins and outs of building a business up from the ground. He said those who have never done it before may not understand the level of commitment to detail that is required, as well as all the decisions such as logo design, positioning statement, marketing methods, and payroll.

“The time involved in the process and the fact that you can never truly turn it off is something else to keep in mind,” he added. “Business owners deal with all of this while striving to pay the banknote and achieve a profit, which in today’s world is extremely hard at best.”

But for those willing to power through, Quinn suggests believing in the product or service being sold, seeking help to find a proper location, knowing competition, having a marketing budget, and proper insurance coverage, just to name a few steps in the process.

“Above all, realize that if it is your business, you are ultimately responsible for everything and there are no set hours,” he said. “Make sure you hire good people and remember there is always someone who has been in your shoes before. Anything worth doing takes hard work, but it will be worth it.”



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# Lessons LEARNED IN Motherhood

BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

When I was younger, I was obsessed with pouring through my great-grandmother's photo albums. The black and white, sometimes sepia toned, photos with curled edges were a fascinating look into the past for me. I spent hours asking Granny who was who, how old they were, where they grew up, and everything else about their lives. I documented it all in a notebook that has since, unfortunately, been lost to time.

When Ancestry.com came around, I jumped in to make my family tree. I found so many documents online from past censuses to marriage and death certificates that helped me trace my lineage back several generations. By this point, though, my Granny was already in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's and her own stories and memories were inaccessible. She passed away in 2020 and it has been my biggest regret that I never recorded the personal tellings of her life that spanned truly incredible moments in history like the Great Depression and World War II.

I recently had a small sewing project to take on, one that would have gone quicker with a sewing machine, but something in my gut told me to sit in my rocking chair and do it by hand. This was how my Granny spent most of her time. She would stay up late, a lamp beside her while her hands worked a needle in and out of fabric. Many mornings I would sit on her couch while she set up her quilting frame in front of the television. It was a skill she taught me at a very young age (probably too young, now that I think about it) and I loved sitting right alongside her and creating clothes, blankets, and pillows.

As I sit in my own rocking chair, needle in hand, I feel my Granny flowing through my veins, and the stories and lives of my other ancestors. Even if I may never know who they were, their spirits have been passed down from generation to generation, and it is truly an incredible feeling knowing I am handy to my own daughter. We come from a long line of independent, strong, and fearless women. I hope to make records of my own life so that one day, if I should ever lose my memories to Alzheimer's, my children will know who their mother was and be able to share my own story with their families.

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# ARISA TRAP SHOOT



**A**risa Health hosted its inaugural fundraising event “Aiming for Arisa” in September at the Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex. With several companies, individuals, and some incredible high school teams from around the area (like Jonesboro, Brookland, Greene County Tech, and Marmaduke), the scores were high, and the competition was fierce.

This was a trap-shoot style event, where participants shot two rounds of trap and the weather made for an absolutely perfect day. Funds raised from the first-ever event will support the nonprofit behavioral health mission of Arisa Health, which is to lead with exceptional care that nurtures health and well-being for all.

Special thanks to Signature Bank, First National Bank, and all of the incredible sponsors. The event was complete with lunch from First Security Bank, music from MOR Media, ice cream from Andy’s Frozen Custard, and signage provided by Peregrine Solutions. Thank you to all who came out and supported the event, and to those who sent teams and purchased sponsorships. Arisa is very appreciative of the support and cannot wait to see you again next year!

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Winner: Issac Hensley



Brookland Trap Shooting Team: Braxton Craine, Sam Walton, Lucas Welch, Jacob Bailey, Mallory Ritsmon



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# EDDIE CAMERON OF JONESBORO VIETNAM WAR VETERAN



BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

**E**ddie Cameron's service during his time in the Vietnam War is commendable on its own but what he has done since officially leaving the military is every bit as noteworthy.

Upon his retirement in 1990 as a Sergeant Major, Cameron ended a career that began in 1965 and saw him survive multiple assaults by the enemy, but it also signaled an opportunity to serve in a different way with his avid support of veterans from coast to coast.

"I'm a member of about every veterans organization there is ... VFW, American Legion, Disabled Veterans, Vietnam Veterans," Cameron said, but it is his endless drive to help make life simpler for those who have served our country that keeps him hopping. "Vets Helping Vets of NEA," he said, nodding his head in a show of approval, "a stand alone organization, not a national organization. We take care of veterans in nursing homes and let them

know they're not forgotten."

Through the kindness of area merchants and individuals, Cameron and his fellow volunteers are able to recognize area veterans by presenting them with statues specific to their particular branches of service and to provide assistance as needed in various areas of their lives. He said everything required to honor the veterans is made possible by donations -- he singled out Danny Ford of Glen Sain Motors as an exceptional supporter -- and feels "96-to-97 percent of the money goes directly for the veterans. There are costs like printing and things like that, but almost every dollar goes right to the veterans.

"We award them but all the donations are from Northeast Arkansas businesses ... car dealers, banks, wherever ... and when we need something, somebody always fills in the blanks. We don't have a big war chest, so when we take care of the veterans in

the nursing homes between Veterans Day and Thanksgiving we need some help. We'll do probably 200-to-300 veterans. For instance, the Monette Nursing Home is a VA sponsored facility. At last check it had about fifteen to twenty or more veterans."

Cameron said one reason he feels so passionate about helping the soldiers is because "we forget so many; we try to make sure they don't feel like we forgot them. We aren't going up to a veteran and asking, 'How many have you killed?' but, instead, we're asking what was the positive side of what you served in? Because we know what it was like."

Cameron, for one, certainly does. He sort of fudged his way into the Marine Corps in January of 1965 although he was only 16. Upon discovery that he was underage, he was sent home in October of that same year but as soon as he could he "went back and joined the Army" and found himself in Vietnam from August of '67 to May of '68. "That was my first time there. We did recon missions," he said. "Lots of infiltrators were coming over. We weren't trying to kill them; we were trying to find them and let someone else kill them.

"From June to September of '68 I was back home and I went to work at Emerson Electric, sitting there putting motors together but I couldn't take it. I was thinking, 'I can't smell the cordite from the ammo, I'm just smelling oil off the motors.' I stayed a short time and I reenlisted and I wound up in Camp Roberts in California on a 13-ton tank. We were running experiments out in the desert on this electronic Tinker Toy and I stayed until October and volunteered to go back to Vietnam about 27 June of '69. I went back with the Big Red One, just north of Saigon, then was moved to the Central Highlands with Tank Co. B, 161st Battalion, 69th Armored Division. We did recon, guarding bridges and pipelines, strong points. Every morning hundreds of trucks pulled out; it was a supply route. There was always something going on and I remember my first close call on the 4th of January."

Oddly enough, Cameron's father -- William R., or "Bill" -- was stationed in the same area. "We guarded my dad's artillery fire base," Cameron said, and it was some

fatherly direction that may have saved his life that day. "Early in the morning we were going out for recon and Dad stopped me and asked about my flight jacket. I told him I was sitting on it and he said, 'Put on, humor an old man.' I said I would but then I was going to wait until I got down the road and take it off. 'Aren't you gonna zip it up?' Dad asked, and the guys were all laughing at me. Then he said, 'Son, be careful on the mission.' It was cool that day, so the jacket actually felt pretty good and I decided to leave it on."

Up the road a bit were a small hill and ravine, and on the reverse side the enemy was there, dug in. "North Vietnamese anti-tank crew," Cameron recalled. "One of them jumped the gun and fired an RPG too early and it hit my gun shield. It stopped it or the RPG would have got me. A second one hit just about the telescope. Two other tanks were coming up, and about 25 meters more and we would have driven right into a mine field if we hadn't got hit early. They must have had a rookie out there that day. That's why I do a lot with the disabled; the Lord let me survive that morning; He's got plans for me."

The initial hit blew the driver out of the tank and Cameron had to work his way down from the turret into the driver's compartment. He was able to get the vehicle into reverse and manage a narrow escape even though all the gauges on the instrument panel were melted. "That's how hot it was," he said. "A third RPG hit and I knew shrapnel had burned the driver, and then a fourth one bounced off. I had loaded machine gun rounds and then climbed out of the turret and down to the driver's compartment. I said, 'Please let it be in low gear;' it was or we would have been a sitting duck. I was able to go back 50 to 75 meters and the other two tanks laid down some fire. Almost cashed my chips in that day."

While the firefight was going on, Cameron's father had been summoned from the base Mess Hall and could only rely on radio transmissions to give accounts of the battle. "Dad listened: 'one man off the tank.' Could be his son on the ground," Cameron said. "He was totally worried not knowing. Meanwhile, I wanted to go back and get the driver, and not just leave him out there. They said I couldn't because the tank was shot to pieces but a helicopter helped rescue him along with a team of medics who went in, and there were six NVA chasing him when they got to him. He was pretty shot

up and all I heard was that he was flown out to a hospital and his tour was cut short after about a week. This was close, halfway between Qui Nhon and Pleiku.

"We got back in and Dad said, 'Boy, you took ten years off of my life.' I said, 'I didn't mean to; I'm glad to see you.' They welded up all the holes in the tank and one of the RPGs had got lodged but it was hot and if it had made it on through it would have blown up. And blown me up with it. When I got with Dad and unzipped my jacket, I sliced my finger open. A piece of shrapnel was stuck right here (pointing at his upper chest) and without my jacket it would have killed me. I did a lot of praying that day; I've done a lot of praying ever since."

There was yet another battle where his intuition saved his life, reacting when he heard a mortar shell launch about 3 a.m. one day. "I heard a round leave a tube," Cameron said. "I had been in Vietnam long enough to know mortars would be followed by a ground attack. I cut loose into the bamboo around us with my machine gun. I had exploding 50 caliber rounds and I set that wood on fire. I did my job and they found numerous bodies out there later."

Home for good in 1970, Cameron made a career out of the military, saying he has "been to every kind of school there is -- tank school, master gunner's school, everything from pistols to tanks, range management. I retired 28 June, 1990, just before the first Gulf War. I didn't make the Gulf War, but I trained a lot of those who did."

At the urging of his wife, Kathy, he finished his college education and worked 12 years for Nucor-Yamato Steel until "the doc said no more work, and I found this. It is what I was supposed to do."

"This" is the work with veterans, sharing his love and respect for what they have been through. "I help veterans with their service claims," he said. "If you've got a disability, I can help. Since about 2011, I quit counting at 1,700 I have helped, mostly in our area, but even some as far away as California."

Knowing his grandfather and father were soldiers, Cameron said he looked at Vietnam as "my war and I was going to fight in it. Would I do it again? Sure I would. My first time in, I was going to win the war and the hearts and minds of

Americans. My second time was different. It was, 'I'm going to keep you alive today and you keep me alive.' But I was blessed to be working with a lot of brave men. I remember names and faces, and that's partly why I help the disabled veterans today. I know they went through a war of their own, too."





# MOORE on MANNERS

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## THANKSGIVING: IS IT A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE?

### QUESTION:

What do Thanksgiving and this classic movie line have in common? "What we have here is a failure to communicate."

### ANSWER:

Thanksgiving means different things to different people.

So, what does this holiday mean to you? Is it the traditional Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving Dinner, or does it mean something else?

Consider the following:

- For those who prepare the meal, it can mean long hours in the kitchen.
- For the relatives attending, it may mean catching up on family news.

- For the guests who are invited, it may mean visiting with close friends.
- And, for sports fans it may mean The Big Game!

Since Thanksgiving may mean different things to different people, asking the right questions can open the lines of communication and help to make the day enjoyable. For that, we can all be thankful.

### QUESTION:

Last year I prepared Thanksgiving dinner. It took days to plan. Some of the guests were late. How should I let my guests know that arriving on time is important? Stragglers and late comers can ruin the meal.

### ANSWER:

The host or hostess sets the ground rules. When you invite your guests, tell them the time you plan to serve Thanksgiving dinner. You may say something like:

"I would like to invite you to Thanksgiving dinner. We will gather around noon so that we have time to visit. Then, we'll serve dinner at one o'clock. Everyone should have enough time to arrive and see others, that way we can begin eating on time. If we wait any later than one o'clock the food will get cold." After you've discussed the schedule

then you are under no obligation to wait on serving the meal if someone is late.

### QUESTION:

I've been invited to Thanksgiving dinner at a friend's house. What should I wear?

### ANSWER:

When invited to Thanksgiving dinner and you are unsure about what to wear, it is a good idea to ask about "the dress." Asking about what to wear eliminates the problem of showing up in a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt when everyone else is dressed up, or arriving in a suit or dressy outfit when the others are dressed in casual attire.

### QUESTION:

When invited to someone's house for Thanksgiving dinner, what is the best way to let the hostess know that you want to watch The Big Game?

### ANSWER:

Usually, the best way is to be direct, yet tactful. Often, the hostess has spent days preparing the meal and inviting guests for dinner. Her idea of Thanksgiving and yours may be totally different. She says, "Please join us for Thanksgiving dinner." You think, "Great! Food and football, what could be better!" She may want to enjoy a leisurely meal and visit. You may want to get the meal over with as quickly

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as possible so that you can get to the big screen T.V. Understanding both points of view is important. Let the hostess know that you want to watch, or you plan to watch the game. If the hostess indicates that watching the game is going to interfere with the plans for the day you may want to consider one of the following:

1. Accept the invitation knowing there will be -- no game!
2. Accept the invitation, but let her know you had planned to watch the game. You can then ask if she would mind if you quietly slipped out after the meal so you can watch the game elsewhere.
3. Thank her for the invitation, but graciously decline. That way you can watch the big game elsewhere and not interfere with her plans.

Host and guest communication skills can help make Thanksgiving dinner go more smoothly.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY:

*"WHAT WE HAVE  
HERE IS A FAILURE TO  
COMMUNICATE."*

- FILM CLASSIC, COOL HAND LUKE

Linda Lou Moore is a certified etiquette consultant. She offers business professionalism and dining seminars for adults, and etiquette and dining programs for children and teens. Contact via Post Office Box 726, Paragould 72451 or at [manners@paragould.net](mailto:manners@paragould.net).

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# JUNIPER TREE MEADERY



BY KAROLINE RISKER

What is old has become new again at this meadery located on Highway 358 in Paragould. Juniper Tree Meadery, famous for its meads made out of Arkansas wildflower honey, brings back drinks first found thousands of years ago, predating the Middle Ages. Mead, quite simply, is “Booze made out of honey,” said Lynn Childers, co-owner, along with his wife, Deondra. “It is the original drink and the oldest type,” she added. Mead is the oldest fermented beverage in human history and has been enjoyed by people on every continent.

The couple started the business on December 18, 2021, and though relatively new, already has plans to expand. They envision another building, a vineyard, a barrel room to host weddings, and fire pits. They hope the people who enjoy the establishment “grow with us.”

They had discussed a winery using muscadines but felt they couldn’t compete with old, established places that had huge vineyards, so they turned to mead. Their decision to create a meadery was then strengthened on three premises: Mead is the fastest growing craft beverage in the country, the plight of the honey bee, and the declining bee population. If there are more meaderies, there is more need for honey, thus amping up the need for the supply and encouraging more people to keep bees. Deondra said. “We tell people we are saving the world by making mead and they are saving the world by drinking our mead.”

Deondra adds, too, that many people like to come due to the advent of Viking themes seen today where they all drink mead. Another reason is simply because they wanted to “bring home the type of places we like to visit when we travel,” said Deondra. “People google meaderies and come here for that.” Lynn added: “We are so thankful to have a place like this now,” mentioning that people come out of their way on a road trip and stay in Paragould for the opportunity to visit Juniper Tree.

The award-winning meadery has “flavors you won’t find anywhere in the world,” said Lynn, mentioning the Angry Earl, a concoction of Earl Gray tea, sage, and peppercorn, or Currant Distress, made with ghost pepper. Some of the drinks are inspired by historical people and recipes, like the Pictavian Ale, which was made by Picts thousands of years ago, the Picts being people who lived in Scotland before the Scottish. “We tell the legends and story and you get a history lesson with your drink,” said Lynn.

The meadery seems a perfect fit for this couple who are also Realtors. Lynn has a master’s degree in biology (thus the interest in the wine and mead-making process) and is a history buff. “It scratches multiple itches,” he said. They do the work themselves and involve their adult children, as well.

Juniper Tree is kid- and dog-friendly and has a relaxed atmosphere. You can select from their limited food selection, or even

bring your own food. Most visits last between 30 minutes to two hours, but people are welcome to stay as long as they like. Tastings usually take about 30 minutes. They have hosted girls’ nights, birthday parties, and date nights, and offer indoor and outdoor seating.

The drinks aren’t the only thing to entice you. They also have food trucks on the premises from time to time, as well as live music, and events. They have hosted pop-up book events, a book signing by a local author, a murder mystery scavenger hunt, an outdoor movie night, and a costume contest.

On the way out, you can buy a bottle to take with you. You might also find their products other places in Arkansas as they sell their packaged mead in populated areas in the state.

Juniper Tree Meadery is located at 2112 AR- 358 Highway North; the phone number is 870-586-5858. It is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11a.m.-8 p.m. Find out more at [www.junipertreemeadery.com](http://www.junipertreemeadery.com), or follow on Instagram and Facebook to find out about upcoming events, when food trucks come to the meadery, and more.



# STEVE GARMRATH BETWEEN THE DASHES

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Over the years I have been asked to compose several of these “Between the Dashes” memorials for Premiere, but this one is very personal. Trying to capture the essence of a dear friend in just a few words is difficult.

If ever a life embodied the phrase “doing a complete turnaround” it was that of Steve Garmrath. He passed away just weeks after his 60th birthday, but what he left us is a prime example of how good life can be for someone who turns his eye toward salvation instead of surrendering to the many temptations of the world.

For those close to Steve -- known simply as “Coach” to most -- this transformation from, in his own words, the “worst of the worst” into a man of conviction was both pleasing and amazing to watch. I met Steve when he was 10 years old, and I was asked to help him sharpen his baseball skills. Just a few years later I was his infield coach when he was selected to play on Paragould’s American Legion baseball team, and as the local newspaper sports editor I covered his exploits as a talented athlete on the basketball court and football field.

He became an important part of a championship football team at the University of Central Arkansas and followed that up by becoming a teacher and coach upon graduation. While we remained friends our lives took different paths; I began to read his name not on the sports pages but in the police reports as he fell victim to the powerful lure of drugs and alcohol. He lost jobs, he wrecked his family, he made enemies. “You could look for a long time and not find a more useless person than me,” he said not too long ago.

For several years I was his counselor when I worked in the mental health field and he attended my weekly group for those hoping to recover from substance abuse. He was an excellent participant on Thursday nights, but it was the times in between where he struggled. Only he, my wife and I know the many, many times he called me late at night, under the influence, and needed me to come to his home and I would, and we would talk and hug and cry his miseries away for a brief while. “To look at my life today is to just

sit back and wonder how the heck I’m still here,” he said only weeks ago.

But he figured his Lord played a role in that, admitting he had bottomed out before people who cared about him reached out and helped him gain admission to John 3:16 Ministries, a spiritual boot camp in Charlotte, Arkansas, for men with alcohol and drug addictions. There, he said, after laboring through withdrawals



Steve Garmrath

and physical difficulties he began to see a life worth living for the first time in a long time. “I had read the Bible all my life,” Steve said, “but until I got to John 3:16 I had never really *read* the Bible, you know?”

And he returned home a different person, having devoted his life to Christ. The last five years of his life were dedicated to spreading the gospel to one and all, living a life for “Team Jesus,” he was proud to say. He was filled with the spirit and he shared his story in front of thousands, hoping to help those headed in the wrong direction to do an about face, and hoping those already in the depths would follow his lead and rely on Jesus to help them climb out.

The day after his return from John 3:16 we sat in his living room and I cautioned him that it was human nature for many who knew the “old Steve” to sit back and figure he would fail, some even hoping he would. “Tell ‘em to bring it on,” he said. “I’m not living for them; I’m living for Jesus.”

He wanted me to help him write a book about his journey, hoping it would serve as an inspiration to those in the struggle, but he rarely found time to be still long enough to put his thoughts down on paper. He missed numerous dates we had scheduled because he said, “I can’t make it ... I have to take someone over to John 3” or sometimes it was “let’s reschedule, this family wants me to talk to their son,” and even more often, “I can’t make it; they want me to give my testimony” at a church or a Celebrate Recovery session or to a particular group.

And he went as often as he could and he shared and he challenged and he prayed, and in doing so he was writing a much more important book than the one he hoped people would hold in their hands and read. He was writing a walking, talking version of his life for all to behold, and when he finished speaking, he hugged the addict with the same passion with which he hugged the preacher, he poured out his love to the downtrodden and the steadfast with the same vigor. He was, in truth, not only hoping he would have a seat on the train to Heaven someday, but he honestly wanted to take as many people along with him as he could. He wanted every human to find what he had found.

Our last conversation took place only days before his death and I remember saying to him, “For a guy who has done so much bad, you sure are doing a lot of good,” and he replied, “It’s not me, brother, it’s the Lord. I’m just the messenger,” and he finished with a giant hug, as had become his custom, and said, “Love ya, brother.”

I am certain he did.

Steve is survived by his sons, Tyler (Lauren) Garmrath, Alex (Summer) Garmrath, and John Koy Garmrath, all of Paragould; grandchildren, Luxie Garmrath, Benson Garmrath, Allie Huffine, and Lexi Huffine; the mother of his children, Lantha Garmrath; brother, Clifton (Sonja Tate) Garmrath; and nephew, Matthew Garmrath.

- 30 -

# ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY'S HOMECOMING GAME



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ASU Photography: Justin Cook





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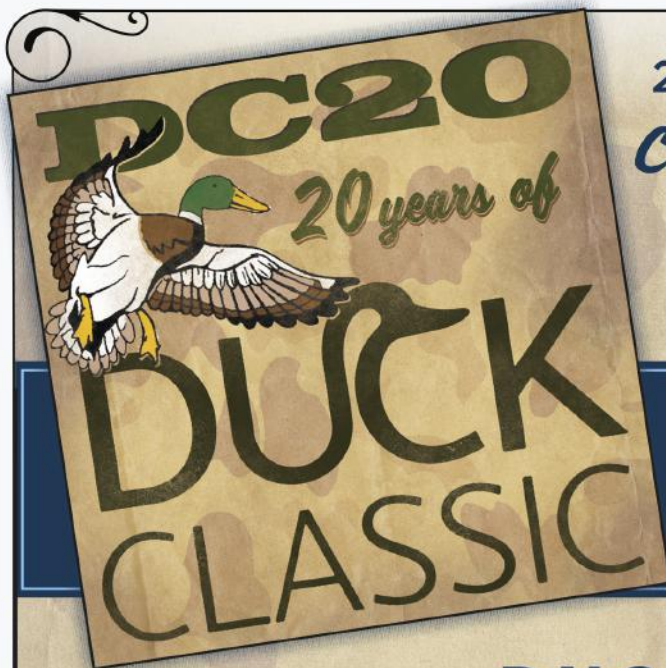


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# LIVING A Better Story

BY JARED PICKNEY

I have wrestled with anxiety my entire life. When I was in first grade, I had three ulcers. When I was in fourth grade, I met with a therapist each week because of my fear of storms. To this day, I can live with a fear of failure and rejection.

That said, though I am still not where I want to be, I am definitely better than I once was. And a large part of that is because of a simple Bible verse in 1 Thessalonians 5. The Apostle Paul says, "Give thanks in all circumstances."

Notice, he doesn't say, give thanks *for* all circumstances, but give thanks *in* all circumstances. We aren't told to give thanks for cancer, poverty, sickness, divorce, etc. However, we are commanded to give thanks in all of those circumstances. To give thanks in the good stuff and the bad stuff.

On the one hand this seems like a pipe dream completely out of touch with reality. On the other hand, it gives me great hope because if it's commanded, it's possible.

Despite popular belief, you can actually choose to be a thankful person. This matters because gratitude is the remedy to anxiety. You cannot be thankful and anxious at the same time. It's impossible.

With this in mind, I want to encourage you to cultivate a life of gratitude. This will take grace and grit. It will take a change in perspective. To be thankful in all circumstances you must view all of life as a gift. Even the ability to read this article with eyes that work is an undeserved gift. This also takes grit. To live a life of thanksgiving takes practice. It takes some hard work.

Here are a few things you can try if you are interested in cultivating a heart of gratitude all year around.

1. Pray before meals. So much had to happen in order for the food to get from the farm to the table, things completely outside of your control. Stop and thank God.

2. Practice gratitude as a family. Take time each week (or day) to share one thing you are thankful for.

3. Practice the prayer of examen. Spend five minutes giving God thanks for 24 things from the previous 24 hours of your life (i.e. a good conversation, health, sunshine, etc).



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# MAKING YOUR OWN TRADITIONS



BY KATIE COLLINS

I'm going to go ahead and say it – I'm not a fan of traditional Thanksgiving foods. Turkey, dressing, and all of the things that accompany it just don't really speak to me. So, in my house, my daughter and I typically have Italian food for Thanksgiving – pasta or pizza with homemade bread (maybe we'll share that bread recipe next month!). I'm a big fan of making your own traditions and eating what you really like for the holidays.

One of our traditions since my now 23-year-old daughter was a young child is to have a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving feast, usually on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Our "feast" of popcorn, pretzel sticks, toast, and jellybeans has become our tradition while we watch the Peanuts special each year.

Another tradition is making pumpkin cheesecake to go with our non-traditional Thanksgiving Day meal.

## Pumpkin Cheesecake

Makes 2 cheesecakes  
Each serves 8 people

**Directions:**

- 1) Heat oven to 325 degrees.
- 2) Beat cream cheese and sugar with a mixer; add pumpkin, pumpkin pie spice, and vanilla. Mix well.
- 3) Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each one.
- 4) Pour evenly into crusts.
- 5) Bake for 40-50 minutes or until almost set.
- 6) Let cool completely on the counter then refrigerate. Cut and serve plain or with whipped cream.

**Ingredients:**

- 4 - 8 ounce packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 - 15 ounce can pumpkin puree
- 1 Tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs
- 2 pre-made graham cracker or shortbread crusts



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# AMMC'S WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center hosted the annual AMMC Women's Health Fair in October at the Paragould Community Center. Over 300 women from Northeast Arkansas attended the free one-day event, and this year's theme was Treasure Your Health.

AMMC provided free cholesterol, blood pressure, and glucose screenings, and participants were able to receive information from vendors in the healthcare field. Flu and Covid vaccination services were also provided. Some of this year's booths represented mental health, cardiac rehab, physical therapy, insurance, eye care, fire protection, home health, assisted living, dental, OB/GYN, chiropractic, and dermatology.

The AMMC Diabetes Clinic provided information regarding diabetes and served healthy snacks. The AMMC AR Saves program had an on-site interactive brain and showed how to look for the signs of a stroke.

"AMMC is excited to host the Women's Health Fair and bring awareness to healthcare services offered in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Our hope is to help our community live a healthy lifestyle," said Ashley DeWitte, AMMC Director of Education.

For more information, call 870-239-7016. A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at [www.myammc.org](http://www.myammc.org).





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## Winter Safety Tips

WITH DR. KRISTIN SULLIVAN

With the cold weather approaching, unless summer decides to show its face again, November is a great time to discuss how to prepare your pets (inside and outside) for the winter season. Winter poses many dangerous threats to animals, especially for those that live outdoors. In this article, I will go over some of the threats of winter and how best to prepare your pets.

First and foremost, whenever possible, keep your pet(s) inside. For most household pets, this is easy. But for some, like the neighborhood cat, it is impossible. Keeping them inside, you are ensuring they are not exposed to freezing temperatures. However, if it is impossible to keep them indoors, ensuring the pet

has shelter from the freezing temperatures is of the utmost importance. One key thing to keep in mind: If it is too cold for you, then it is too cold for them. For the neighborhood cat, consider an insulated shelter for it to sleep in and to get away from harsh weather conditions. There are a number of different and cost effective ways to make these shelters - just type "homemade shelter for outside cat" in your search bar. For outdoor dogs, a well-insulated dog house as well as a covered area to truly escape harsh conditions is a must.

Other things to consider for outdoor pets: their water source. A dog kept in a pen outside needs to have access to fresh water. Water kept in a bowl will freeze and generally will not thaw if the temps stay low, even if they rise above freezing. Dehydration is a common wintertime ailment because pets are generally not as thirsty as in warmer months. Food intake should generally increase for outdoor pets during the winter months to help make up for the increasing ongoing losses - shivers are a form of constant exercise!

Paw safety! One more thing to consider is your pets' paws when walking outside. Try to avoid walking them on frozen surfaces as this can cause severe damage to their pads. Also, avoid walking your pet on salted surfaces, as this can significantly damage their feet. There are a number of Pet Booties that can be purchased in order to ensure your pets' paws are protected!

Winter coats! For short-coated dogs that need to potty outside, consider a sweater or jacket for them and brief walks to potty.

For pets that naturally grow a longer coat, let it grow out in the colder months, as this is their natural defense against the brutal winter temperatures. As a general rule, those having fluffy hair on their feet, like Huskies, typically can tolerate the cold more, but should still be closely monitored - some of these animals, although their coats are meant for the cooler temps, have not been acclimated and caution is required.

I hope this helps as a general guide for keeping your pet safe in the winter. For other tips and information, reach out to your vet or check [veterinarypartner.com](http://veterinarypartner.com) - a trusted veterinary website.



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# PET *of the* MONTH

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**M**eet Primm, a treasured family member of the Pruitts.

Before Primm, the Pruitts had lost their 19-year-old family cat. As a special surprise, Brooke Pruitt decided to gift her daughter, Sydney, with her first kitten, Primm. Sydney was blown away and has been over the moon ever since.

Primm's favorite activities are playing with ponytail holders, his toy mouse, running, and playing chase. He is quite the adventurous fellow, but also loves to cuddle.

Want to see your pet featured in Premiere? Submit your pet via our Facebook post each month! Follow NEA Premiere Magazine to stay in the know.



# VETERANS' MOTORCYCLE GROUP LEGION RIDERS



BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

If you're a veteran and you like motorcycle riding, a proposed group based in Paragould could be just the thing for you.

The local American Legion Post is in the early stages of forming a chapter of the American Legion Riders, an organization known nationally for its service to community.

"Well, I'm 74," said Post Commander Kenny Wright. "The Legion today has a lot of gray hair. We need to bring younger spirits in. The motorcycle group is a family thing and it might be of more interest to the younger veterans. That's the intent of the whole thing."

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

"The American Legion Riders has grown the last couple of years," Wright said.

"After 9/11 we -- as a nation -- were all unified. We went to church, we all wanted the same thing and then it slowly waned. We want to become that universal force again ... instead of the homebodies we've become.

"It's happened with us. The Masonic Lodge, VFW, American Legion ... our numbers are all dwindling. We're trying to establish an American Legion Riders charter in Paragould. Members will be around like-minded people. The things the American Legion does are for the community ... funding baseball teams, doing things for the veterans, providing scholarships. We want more veterans to become members of the American Legion."

Currently, over 110,000 American Legion Riders meet in over 2,000 chapters in every domestic department and in at least three foreign countries. Riders in Iowa have formed an honor guard called The Five Star Freedom Riders, and Riders in Kansas founded the Patriot Guard to protect the sanctity of military funerals from protesters. Riders in all states have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted massive cross-country fundraising events for wounded warriors from all services, and have raised millions of dollars for countless local, state and national charities.

"It's more of a family-oriented thing," Wright said. "The veteran can become a member but then the family is invited to participate. When you get the wives involved there seems to be more support if you go on and be a part of it. There is some reluctance when the wives are not involved ... too much time apart, probably. We'd like to go on and start a group. They do a Legacy Run every year. They rode from Mobile, Alabama, to Milwaukee and all the money raised was donated to charity. Legion rides are staged all over the country. They gather at one point and then go out."

Wright reiterated the long-range goal being that of getting younger veterans interested in being a part of what area veterans' service organizations stand for. "American Legion is basically like being in service to the communities," he said. "It's not about getting together and telling war stories; it's about getting together and bonding, bonding with their families and learning about each other and each other's lives. You can find a group and be in service, and enjoy togetherness and serve our county. It's all positive stuff."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Legion Riders can contact Wright at 870-208-3970.



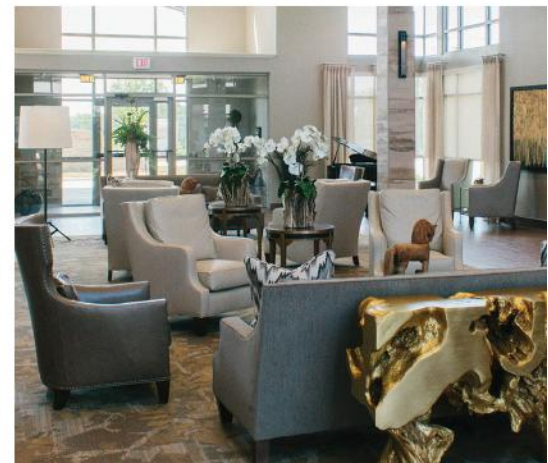
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# NEA DISTRICT FAIR 2022



Leah Young and Finley

Families and friends alike came out to enjoy the 2022 Northeast Arkansas District Fair September 22nd through October 1st, hosted at Nettleton Baptist Church.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor for the NEA District Fair in the future or become involved in other ways, contact [info@neadistrictfair.com](mailto:info@neadistrictfair.com) or call 870-935-4331.



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# 2022 CONVENTION



October 12-15 was Hytrol Conveyor Company’s 2022 Convention, with an overarching theme of “Together.”

Every 4-5 years Hytrol hosts a convention for its Integration Partners (IPs). The IPs are a network of industry experts, and Hytrol relies on them to fulfill the role of sales force. The convention is a time for the partners to meet, and for Hytrol to show appreciation for its continued beneficial partnerships.

During this time, Hytrol showcases the newest technologies and how they will benefit customers. Amid the workshops and plant tours there is also a great deal of fellowship and fun to be had by all. This year’s convention kicked off with a progressive dinner in downtown Jonesboro. Partners were bused downtown and treated to samplings from Roots, The Parsonage, Civil Axe, and other local

hot spots. David Peacock and Mayor Harold Copenhaver both spoke to welcome the IPs to Jonesboro.

Thursday and Friday consisted of workshops and guest speakers at the Red Wolf Convention Center located in the Embassy Suites. While the IPs were in workshops or taking tours, the spouses who came were able to enjoy local excursions around Jonesboro and surrounding areas such as Wilson, Arkansas, and Johnny Cash’s boyhood home in Dyess, Arkansas.

Friday night’s dinner was the finale party, and attendees were encouraged to dress up as “Groups throughout the decades” in honor of the “together” theme and Hytrol’s 75th year of business. Overall, the convention consisted of roughly 200 guests.



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# ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEET THE CHANCELLOR



The Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted a Business After Hours for Arkansas State University in October. The event was a chance to meet Dr. Todd Shields, A-State Chancellor, and Jeff Purinton, A-State Athletic Director.

Chamber members, Goodwill Ambassadors, board members, and community leaders were in attendance.



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# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



*Bennett Wade Harrell*

Paragould residents Logan and Natalie Harrell welcomed their newborn, Bennett Wade Harrell, into the world September 30, 2022, at 8:46 a.m.

Bennett was delivered at St. Bernards, weighed 9 pounds and 1 ounce, and measured 21.75 inches in length.

Bennett was also welcomed by Heidi Harrell (4-year-old sister) and his grandparents, Gaye Smith, Mark Smith, Cindy Harrell, and Talmage Harrell.

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# DON FOSTER OF PARAGOULD VIETNAM WAR VETERAN

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

For former United States Marine Don Foster, much of his military experience was educational. When he joined in August of 1963 he pictured himself as a “hard-charging Marine” ready for battle.

“When I got to boot camp,” said the 77-year-old Paragould resident and Purple Heart recipient, recalling Lesson #1, “I found out I wasn’t. But I was on active duty in the Marines for four years, nine months and some days and when I got out they talked me into joining the National Guard for a couple of years. When I look back, I see I learned a lot.”

Foster said he was sent to Memphis first, with plans of going to aviation school “but I had a difference of opinion with a Navy Chief ... and Navy Chiefs win every time,” he said of Lesson #2. “I was the class leader as a PFC and wound up being sent to the 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune ... and they sent me to the 6th Marines and I actually got a ribbon for action in the Santo Domingo Crisis. I had 30 days of Mess Duty at Monford Point (North Carolina) and got a Silver Spoon for doing good there, then they cut my orders for Vietnam.”

His third lesson centered on geography. “I did not have a clue where Vietnam was,” he recalled. “They sent me to California, then flew me to Okinawa and I joined up with K Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division. They ‘trained us up’ there and then sent us to Vietnam in February. We stopped in the Philippines before that. We didn’t even know where we were going, they wouldn’t tell us anything.”

While en route Foster said the voice of the infamous Hanoi Hannah suddenly came across the airwaves. She was known for her propaganda broadcasts on Radio Hanoi, reading scripts written by the North Vietnamese Army intended to frighten and shame American soldiers into leaving their posts by listing newly killed or imprisoned Americans, and playing popular U.S. anti-war songs.

“We’re going along there and Hanoi Hannah comes over the speakers, welcoming us to Vietnam,” Foster said.



“She told us where we were going and what our mission was and said for us to look at the guy seated to the left of us, because he wouldn’t be going home. She said to say goodbye to him now. When she was done, the Battalion Commander verified what she said. He said he didn’t know how she knew, but she knew everything we were getting ready to do.”

Upon being transported to his first battle site, Foster said he and all his fellow Marines were prepared to be fired upon immediately. “We pretty well knew what was coming,” he recalled. “When our boots got off the back of the ship we expected to get all beat up, but I only remember a couple of sniper shots. This was in Operation Double Eagle, I think. We were 29 days in the field, wearing jungle fatigues which were thin and lightweight, and we were walking constantly through water and they literally rotted off. They sent us to Chu Lai to get refurbished and we ran ops there.”

Only 21 years old, Foster was mesmerized by the entire scene, including the appeal of his new surroundings: “I remember thinking it was a beautiful country. If people hadn’t been trying to kill us, I might have liked it. Because of that I never learned to like it. This little village we were in, though, had lots of kids. I wonder what happened to them sometimes. I

would love to go back and try to find out.”

Something he didn’t have to wonder about back in the day, however, was what was happening right in front of him. “From Day One we hardly ever went out without getting fired on,” Foster said. “When I got my Purple Heart it was because mortar fire got me in the knee. It was Operation Texas, I think, and we were taking heavy fire and one of our helicopters came in with almost all the heavy stuff on it and it got shot down, with the machine guns on it. We set up a perimeter and we were battling but all our supplies were on that one helicopter. We lost a lot of men, a lot of friends that day. One guy never saw his baby; I remember half-brothers that were with us... one died manning the machine gun and then his half-brother took over and he got killed, too.

“After Operation Texas there were only twelve of us left. We started out with probably around 20-something or more, counting officers. The battalion saw we were in a bind. We were in a rice paddy, a field between us and the little village we were headed to. We were out in the wide open. I still remember the names, the half-brothers that were killed. It makes you think a lot, makes you pray a lot. There’s no doubt about finding God.

“One of the deals is you either get hit or you don’t, but you thank God. We were in this little village and had gone out and did a sweep of the area and then pulled back to an old cemetery. We found out later the French had been ambushed on that same hill. I was on one side and a buddy on the other, and they mortared us. One platoon had gone out and they hit us pretty bad. I just laid back on my back and was firing my gun over my head hoping to hit something or keep them away... but you can’t hide from shrapnel. I felt a little something and reached down and touched my leg and came up with a hand covered in blood. They didn’t attack us that night but we had a lot of casualties. We had really good corpsmen and they didn’t take me to a hospital but got me to what I guess you’d call a little dispensary and they patched me up and swabbed around and I said, ‘How bad is it?’ and they said, ‘You can go back out tomorrow.’



That's what I was trained to do. I guess you don't really think about it, you just survive. You do what you do. After that, they put me in charge of a little village south of Da Nang. We ran ambushes and recon out of there."

That feeling of thankfulness for a safe return has led Foster, like many others, to spend some time in reflection. He thinks about his time in service to his country, about his coming home, about all he's learned in the days since. "I came home in October of '66, first to the Philippines to get cleared, then back to Pendleton and Lejeune and then I was out in May of '68," Foster said. "I stayed low key; we weren't exactly being welcomed home with ticker tape parades, you know."

His connection to his Vietnam days remains strong, first in his desire to help other veterans along the way today, and secondly in a form of cancer most likely related to the Agent Orange used to eliminate forest cover in the war. "I go get a couple of shots in my belly every Monday" along with various other cancer-fighting treatments, he said, but he prefers to focus on his volunteer efforts that have touched countless former servicemen in

the Northeast Arkansas area. "When I came back, I just wanted to get home," Foster said. "They tried to get me to join the VFW but I didn't want to hear about it ... then I wound up running it. The VFW, American Legion, they all do good for the community. The Veterans Support group and what we do in the nursing homes, to make sure some that everyone seemed to have given up on know we're there, that's all important work."

His biggest lesson learned, he said, is simply accepting what was and what was bound to follow: "When you first land and they're shooting at you, you're aware of what you're into. I came home; I was fortunate. Sixty-something years later, our cause was just. I think when we went, we all felt that way. We went because our country told us to, for one thing, but we had faith and believed that people shouldn't do to their own people what was happening over there. There's no such thing as a good war. Someone dies. Someone's relatives. People lose everything they've ever saved for, they lose loved ones. Death ... you try to prepare for it but in war you just do what you've gotta do. I've always been a patriot. I loved my country, still love my

country. If I could get up now and help I'd probably volunteer right now. But Mother Nature, she wasn't very nice to me. Life has changed so much since then, but I'm still thankful to be here today."



# GREENE COUNTY COMMUNITY FUND CELEBRITY WAITER EVENT



The Greene County Community Fund's Celebrity Waiter event in September was a success! The fundraising dinner is designed to bring the "celebrities" in the Paragould community together to have fun while raising money for a great cause.

Sponsors get to choose their guest lists, and each guest is encouraged to "tip" the waiter serving their table for items needed to enjoy their dinner. All tips then benefit the nonprofits of the Greene County Community Fund.

The Greatest Showbusiness of the Year was Atwill Media while Abby Baker was named the Greatest Showman or Showwoman of the Year. Abby collected \$940 in tips during the evening. In addition, the Atwill Media table raised \$2,500 to earn the title of Greatest Showbusiness of the year.

The Celebrity Waiter Fundraiser was held at the Paragould Community Center.



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# JONESBORO CELEBRATION 20 YEARS OF MOR MEDIA



**M**OR MEDIA, Inc., teamed up with Wildflower Event Center and Bearded Bouquet to celebrate 20 years of business one last time. This celebration was a Jonesboro Chamber Connect @ 4 event and also celebrated the new Wildflower Event Center and the new expanded location for Bearded Bouquet.

“We want to thank everyone for coming to the beautiful venue to help us celebrate,” said Dina Mason, General Manager of MOR MEDIA, Inc.



Photo Credit: Mallory Black

# LEADERSHIP PARAGOULD CELEBRATION 25 CLASSES REUNION



Leadership Paragould Alumni finished the year-long celebration of 25 Classes with a Reunion Dinner in September. Leadership Paragould Alumni was started to continue the networking and service opportunities in the community. As the 25th class was starting, a committee was formed with a class representative from all 25 classes to plan a commemorative event.

Dina Mason, from Class One, served as the chair and Malissa Lewis as co-chair. The committee decided to raise funds to place exercise equipment on the 8 Mile Creek Trail and have a commemorative plate set. It was decided to hold a “Dinner Downtown” and that is where “Plates on Pruet” started.

The Plates on Pruet committee raised \$40,000 and used the net profit to purchase the equipment that is now on the 8 Mile Creek Trail at the back of Harmon Park.

Sue McGowan was awarded the Overall Powerball for the years of 1997-2022 for her work in starting the leadership program that has graduated over 700 leaders in our community. Micah Brinkley was also honored with a service plaque for his 18 years of service to the Leadership Paragould Committee. Class XXIV received the honor of having the most classmates in attendance.

If you are a Leadership Paragould graduate and would like to join the Alumni contact the Paragould Chamber of Commerce.



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# NATIVE BREW WORKS OKTOBERFEST



BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

Joining in on a tradition that began in Germany in the 1800s, Native Brew Works hosted its first Oktoberfest September 30 and October 1.

Aside from specialty brews, pretzels and brats, the NEA community enjoyed a variety of friendly competitions in the Beerlympics, such as the beer stein hold, flip cup, the keg carry, and a tri-clamp challenge. Individuals and teams competed throughout the day for a chance to win medals and gift cards.



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# DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD PLATES ON PRUETT



On October 6th, it was a perfect evening Downtown for Plates on Pruett. Over 200 people dined in the street under the newly added street lights. Laughter filled the streets as attendees enjoyed food catered by Chow at One Eighteen.

Plates on Pruett served as a fundraising event for the Downtown nonprofit, Main Street Paragould. The funds raised went toward Downtown revitalization, supporting the dozens of locally owned businesses in their district.

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\*APY - Annual Percentage Yield.

\*16 Month Bump-Interest Rate can be increased (1) time during the term of the certificate.

\*21-month CD will renew as an 18-month CD.

\*16-month bump CD will renew as a 12-month CD

14-month CD will renew as a 12-month CD.

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48 MO = 9 Month Penalty

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# VETERAN'S SUPPORT ASSOCIATION FEED THE VETS



Court Street, across from Paragould High School. All veterans, first responders and their families are invited -- and encouraged -- to attend and enjoy the free meal, co-sponsored by the VSA and the local American Legion post.

"The VSA has done this every year," explained Kenny Wright, president of that group and Commander of the Legion post. "Last year the American Legion came on board to help, giving us more 'boots on the ground,' so to speak. We will feed the veterans from 11 to 2 at the Masonic Lodge along with first responders and their families and serve them a BBQ pork plate, or sandwich, meal with the sides and desserts.

"The crowd is usually 60 to 80 as a general rule," Wright added, "and we take plates to the police and firemen who are on duty and can't attend. It's an opportunity for them to be included and to shake hands and let them know we appreciate what they do ... and it's all for community."

Wright said he and many others involved with the participating organizations stage such events "because we'd like veterans to know we appreciate them, and they

are not forgotten. That's the main thing. It goes along with the gifts we provide for veterans in the nursing homes. We have a large veteran community, and they need to be the center of attention. They did their time. They deserve the credit. This is just a small way of saying we remember their service."

He said he and those who volunteer alongside him look at such free services as being "something to wake up in the morning for. When reality strikes, when you've done something all your life, you realize you can't sit around and be happy, you've got to do something. This keeps us together and keeps us in a spirit of helping our fellow man."

The following day the veterans' group will further honor those who have served in a ceremony at the Greene County Courthouse. "We're trying to revitalize veterans," Wright said. "We will recognize them on the 6th, starting at 2:00 at the courthouse. This is something we've always done but Covid just shut everything down. What we had was a good thing and we're wanting to build that up again."


Anyone needing more information regarding either event may call Wright at 870-208-3970.

## BY RICHARD BRUMMETT


For the 10th consecutive year, the local Veterans Support Association will play a key role in providing a free meal for area veterans and first responders, simply as a way of expressing its thanks.

"Feed The Vets" is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Paragould Masonic Lodge at 1806 West


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# TRAVIS HEDGE MIRACLE RODEO



Wesley Hathcoat

Thirty-three years ago, Travis Hedge began the Miracle Rodeo for special needs kids/adults. He loved the way it lit up their faces. He would always tell people if they ever came once, they would be hooked! The Hedge family enjoyed getting to know the different friends and families that have come through, many that Travis would recognize and call by name even when he was out and about in town. The Miracle Rodeo has fostered a sense of community and compassion as special needs kids have grown along with the event and have continued to attend even into adulthood.

When Travis was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, he asked his daughter Laurie to continue the Miracle Rodeo after he was gone. This was a very emotional day for the Hedge family. The first year after his passing felt like one of their hardest years. Soon, they were impacted by COVID-19 and two years passed without the Miracle Rodeo being hosted.

As a previous fair board member, the late Travis Hedge's name was chosen to be included in the event's name to honor him and continue his legacy. The Travis Hedge Miracle Rodeo finally returned October 7, 2022. Everything was donated: food, drinks, hay, the wagon to pull participants in, the fake bucking horses, and a spot reservation in the B.C. Lloyd building at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Through the leadership of Laurie and her helping hands, the Hedge family hopes to grow the rodeo once again and bring their wonderful community of families and friends back together.

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# ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS



BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

Molly Simpson is, unfortunately, no stranger to Alzheimer's. She became a caregiver for her mother in 2009 and seven years later, her husband was also diagnosed. In the years since, Simpson has learned how to navigate life's biggest decisions on her own.

Bob Simpson began seeing changes in his memory and cognitive function around 2013. Molly said after a year, they started looking for answers and received the actual diagnosis in 2016. There was a three-year overlap of care with both Molly's husband and mother, before her mother passed away in 2019.

Molly, 68, and Bob, 66, were both faculty members in the Department of Theatre at Arkansas State University. Bob was the chair of the department and director of the Fowler Center at the time of his diagnosis.

"It was a devastating blow for both of us, but especially for Bob," Molly said. "He loved his job, and he was only 59 years old with no desire to retire, but that was the reality." The family's world has become smaller and smaller as Bob's disease progresses. He has given up driving and lost the ability to work in his garden when he could no longer solve simple household needs.

"His students called him 'MacGyver' because he was such a great problem solver and could make something out of nothing," Molly said. "He also was a scenic designer and taught his students construction skills, of which he was a master. Seeing him lose these skills was hard to witness."

Molly and Bob have four children and six grandchildren, spread out between the United Kingdom, Little Rock, Los Angeles and Seattle. Molly said the ability to travel with Bob has become impossible, also cutting into their personal travels to places such as France, Italy and Greece.





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"We've hiked to the top of Mt. Elbert, the highest peak in Colorado, and hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back twice. We've run numerous half marathons and ran 30 miles in a single day at the Gearhead Challenge," Molly said.

Those adventures now live in the past since Bob's physicality has declined.

"It's heartbreaking that our grandchildren won't really know who their granddaddy is, and never get to know all the gifts he had to offer," Molly added.

While it is very clear how Alzheimer's affects the patient, sometimes the caregivers get lost in the shuffle. Molly has dealt with extreme changes herself, such as learning to manage a household without a partner, finding the help she needs, and learning about home repair, finances, end of life planning, gardening, and making all other decisions.

"I've learned that there are no guarantees in life," she said. "I've learned that no matter how much you plan, there is a greater plan out there. I've learned about compassion, patience and what it

really means to love with all your heart. I've learned how to make sure Bob can maintain his dignity."

She added she misses bouncing ideas off her husband, discussing what to have for dinner, holiday preparations, traveling, running together, having parties, and so much more of the simple things in life. "People don't understand - I didn't either - how isolating it can be to be a caregiver," Molly said. "They don't realize every single decision and need has to be taken care of by the caregiver."

Much like a young child, Alzheimer's patients eventually need help with everything. Friends and family can sometimes back away when they don't know how to help, and some people might feel different around someone with dementia. "The person is different than the one they knew before," Molly explained. "That can be disconcerting and difficult to maneuver. Still, it can be a very lonely journey."

Molly was to participate in her first Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 15 in Jonesboro. After participating in a virtual support group, she made the decision to



walk with Bob, and has raised over \$2,000.

"The name of our team, 'For the Love of Bob,' came from a former student who started a Facebook page by that name when he discovered that Bob had Alzheimer's. It was a sweet gesture, so I borrowed the name," she said.

For more information and caregiver support, visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).



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# PENNY'S PRETTIES



BY CAITLIN LAFARLETTE

At just 8 years old, Penny Collier started her own business for spending money. Penny's Pretties quickly became bigger than she expected.

For the last year and a half, Penny has made beaded bracelets, earrings and necklaces to sell at the Farmers Market and other events. The now 9-year-old built her business after her parents wouldn't buy her entire Christmas list one year.

"They said they'd buy me a couple things off the list but if I wanted any of the rest of them, I'd have to find a way to make money," Penny said.

She had some beads already and asked to sell bracelets. Jen, Penny's mother, contacted the Paragould Farmers Market

to see if they allowed children to have booths. "The next week I took 15 bracelets with me and sold out of them in less than an hour," Penny said.

Jen explained that most of the money earned from the business goes right back into it, whether that's buying beads, charms, string, display stands, or even covering the booth fee for events. "Her big goal when she started Penny's Pretties last year was to buy a Nintendo Switch Lite, which she was able to do in the first three weeks of being at the Farmers Market."

Penny said her favorite thing about making jewelry is going to the craft store to find new charms. "Each charm bracelet I make is one of a kind," she said. "I like coming up with all the different color

combinations and designs for them."

Jen added when it comes to making the products, it's all Penny. Her daughter designs every bracelet, and they discuss colors and design often to make sure the items are on trend with what people are wearing. Jen and her husband, James, also walk Penny through creating new product lines and teaching her how people shop and buy products.

Jen also assists with tying knots for bracelets, keeping inventory and running the Facebook page. James builds spreadsheets and helps with inventory at events, but Penny is also learning that aspect of her business. "Penny set up her table and display at all her events," Jen said. "This year she has taken over more responsibility with her money box. She'll still double check to make sure she's given someone the right change but is more confident in her own ability to do so correctly."

Penny's Pretties might be growing, but so are Penny's skills and confidence. Jen said she didn't have much hope that first weekend at the Farmers Market and thought it would be something fun for Penny to do to make pocket change, maybe \$50 a week. "I'm glad I was proven wrong almost immediately," Jen said.

Just before Penny turned five, she was diagnosed with generalized anxiety, and within the last year she was officially diagnosed with ADHD.

"Watching her overcome her fear to be able to interact with customers has been amazing to see as a parent," Jen added. "She is so much more confident to talk to people, to tell them about her product and help them find the perfect bracelet or jewelry item."

James and Jen tell Penny the skills she learns now will help for any job in the



future. "I love that she's seeing that entrepreneurship, building something from nothing, as a viable job option for the future," Jen said. "She's not afraid to try a new design or product, like necklaces, and then changing course when that item doesn't sell like she thought it would."

James added there are actually two places outside the home where Penny learns to interact with others and take responsibility for her actions: events where she sells her products, and Taekwondo.

"She started selling bracelets first, which gave her the confidence needed to speak up, be heard, and be capable of talking with anyone," James said. "It has made her stand tall and be friendly with most anyone."

Penny has taken those capabilities with her to Taekwondo. "I would have never thought that selling 15 bracelets one Saturday morning would turn into what it is, nor what it would do positively for her mental health."

At every step, Penny's parents are there to support her. They suggest other parents be their children's biggest fans and initial

investors.

"If it's something new to you, take the time and learn about it together," Jen said. "Give them the space and freedom to fail, because they will."

However, Jen also suggests keeping it fun and allowing the children to lead. The Colliers discuss every event with Penny but let her decide which ones she wants to participate in. This allows her to feel the weight of being the boss and being responsible for the direction of her business, while her parents gently guide her.

"Do the thing," James added. "And if they fail, do it again. Nobody was perfect at anything the first, second, third, fourth time they tried. It takes practice to get good at anything. Failing forward is the key. It is okay to fail, but it is not okay to just give up."



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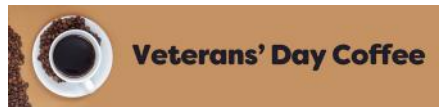
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# SAVE THE DATE DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD EVENTS



*Nov 5th*  
Chad Garrett & Friends  
Collins Theatre  
7pm



*Nov 11th*  
Veterans Day Coffee  
The Crossing  
7am-10am



*Nov 18th-19th*  
Ultimate Oldies Show  
Collins Theatre  
7pm



*Nov 19th*  
Natasha Rayevskiy Dance Studio  
Collins Theatre  
1pm



*Nov 28th*  
Bluegrass Monday  
Tim Graves & the Farm Hands  
Collins Theatre  
7pm



*Dec 6th*  
Christmas Parade  
Downtown  
7pm

A complete listing of all Downtown events can be found under "Events" at [downtownparagould.com](http://downtownparagould.com) or [facebook.com/oneandonlydowntown/events](https://facebook.com/oneandonlydowntown/events).

November at the

11/5 Chad Garrett and Friends  
11/12 Travis LeDoyt - Elvis Impersonator  
11/18-19 Ultimate Oldies  
11/20 Comedy Show  
11/28 Bluegrass Monday

For more info, go to [collinstheatre.com](http://collinstheatre.com)

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# HAPPENING SOON IN DOWNTOWN JONESBORO



*Nov 4th*

First Fridays at the Forum  
Cory Jackson & MaryBeth Byrd  
7:30pm



*Nov 5th*

Breakfast with Ballerinas  
Foundations of Arts Center  
9am - 11am



*Nov 18th*

Singer-Songwriter Competition  
Register by Nov 1st  
9am



*Nov 18th-22nd*

The Nutcracker Ballet  
Foundations of Arts Center  
Learn more at foajonesboro.com



*Nov 19th*

Hard Roads  
At The Brickhouse  
8pm



*Dec 2nd*

Christmas Parade  
S Main Street  
7pm

Never miss out on the fun happening in Downtown Jonesboro; visit [downtownjonesboro.com](http://downtownjonesboro.com) for an up to date listing of events.



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## Community Events



Delta Symphony Halloween Spooktacular  
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Nov 5th

Veterans Day Parade  
898 Cobb St.  
Jonesboro, AR  
2pm

Nov 13

Steps for Diabetes Glow Run  
5207 W Kingshighway  
Paragould, AR  
Midnight - 2am

Nov 13

Little Women  
First National Bank Arena  
Jonesboro, AR  
2pm - 5pm



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# New Era Businesses

2022





# Magnolia Dog Ranch

Brookland, AR



Jordan Engle, owner of Magnolia Dog Ranch LLC, Doggie Daycare & Boarding, has been in business since August and said she learned quickly we're all on the same team. "I would encourage people to support local business because we are all in this together and helping each other benefits all of us," she said. "Even if it's a business that offers the same services as you do I believe it's only right to recommend other local businesses as well if you are unable to meet a customer's needs."

Located at 1292 CR 761 in Brookland, Magnolia Dog Ranch offers the community and surrounding areas top of the line dog boarding and daycare services. "One thing that sets us apart from a lot of other boarding and daycare centers," Jordan said, "is our state of the art facility that was designed from the ground up specifically to meet the needs of taking care of dogs for boarding and daycare services. Our facility offers spacious indoor suites/runs, an indoor play area, five separate high fenced spacious outdoor enclosures, featuring one with a covered roof for inclement weather days, pet AstroTurf in all play areas, one grass play enclosure, lots of toys, and play equipment for the dogs to interact with. Another unique aspect

of our facility is its beautiful country setting, as well as the owner living within walking distance of the business."

Jordan said creating wonderful relationships with clients and offering them small things "like sending them pictures daily to their phones rather than only doing social media posts" is something she's proud of. "People who are away on vacation or business really appreciate knowing their dog is happy and safe," she explained, "and I've found that this really helps clients feel at ease and be able to enjoy their time away without worrying about their four legged loved ones. I'm also very proud of our boarding services where we go above and beyond to make sure that pets are not just staying with us but they're getting to play and get a little vacation of their own at the Ranch. We spend a lot of time with the dogs and they spend very little time in their kennels. We believe in providing a clean, safe, and fun environment for all our guests no matter the size, age, or energy level... We love them all and pride ourselves on catering to each dog's specific needs and giving them all the love and affection they deserve."

A welcoming community spirit also plays a role in helping Jordan love what she does. "I love the community I'm in

because of how amazing and supportive my neighbors are," she said. "The good people of this community are always willing to help one another out with no intentions of anything in return, which I've learned is something very rare in most communities today. I love living out here on the Ridge in the country. I've always wanted to live somewhere peaceful and pretty just like where I've ended up, and I am very blessed to have found it."

**Magnolia Dog Ranch**  
(870) 586-5860  
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Jordan Engle

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# Ballew's Barbershop

Paragould, AR



**B**allew's Barbershop has been open in Paragould since March of 2021 but its owner has been cutting hair much longer than that.

Jerry Ballew said he's been cutting hair off and on for customers since he was in high school and he decided to open his own business because "every barber should aspire to have their own shop." He considers his favorite work moments to be "when clients smile" and thinks his work stands out because of "how important my clients feel when they leave my shop."

Ballew's Barbershop is more than just a barbershop. It is a place of community. Jerry offers discounts for hospital personnel, first responders, EMTs, firefighters, police officers, veterans, and school staff.

**Ballew's Barbershop**  
3008 West Kingshighway  
Monday: Closed  
Tuesday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 9a.m. - 1p.m.  
Sunday: Appointments Available



(870) 212-3331 | 3008 West Kingshighway, Paragould, AR



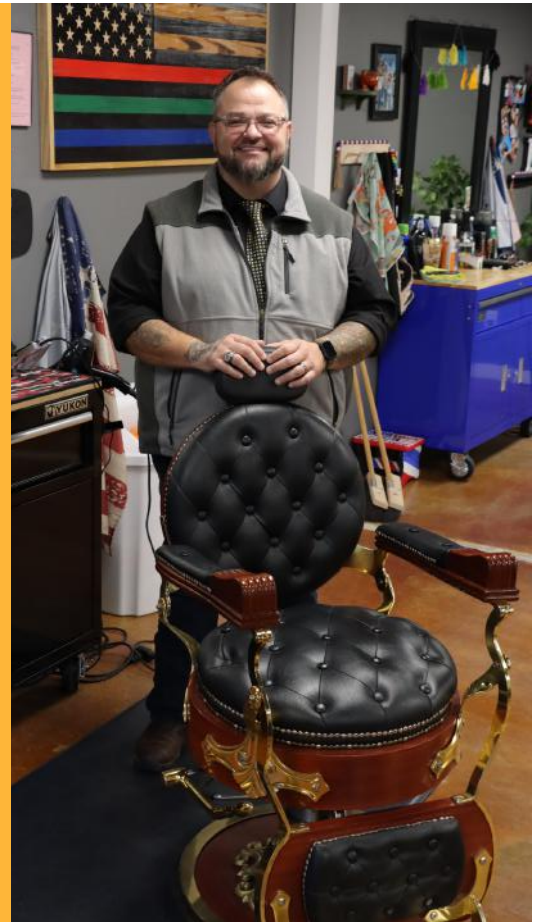


Jerry Ballew (Owner) & Krystal Baugh (Shop Manager)

If you have ever had the honor of taking a seat in Ballew's barber chair, you will have sat in the chair that signified the start to his career.

This chair was offered to Ballew by his first master barber, Tim Keele, from Two Bit Barber Company, Ballew's first barber job. Ballew was honored to receive this special chair to use in his own barbershop.

*"Ballew's Barbershop is community-minded. The second you walk in the door, you are family."*



Ballew's barber chair





# Quintessential Lighting

Jonesboro, AR



Quintessential Lighting may be a new business for Jonesboro-area shoppers but for owner Jim Quinn it's just business as usual.

In the new shops at Parker, located at 3106 Southwest Drive, in Jonesboro, Quintessential Lighting offers "lighting, furniture, art, accessories, mirrors, tubs, and so much more," according to Quinn, who has 16 years of lighting experience. "I started in the lighting industry in 2006, with the opening of The Lamp Outlet in Bono," he said, adding he strives to be the best at whatever venture he commits to. "After years of planning, I

believe Quintessential Lighting brings a taste of a big city into our great city of Jonesboro, Arkansas." Quinn knows what he's talking about when it comes to high-level business operations. Relying on what he calls, "a lifetime of retail experience," he can build upon his days as a Walmart executive and manager, as well as successful stints running Jr. Foods and establishing The Lamp Outlet.

Quinn brought in Jamie Labar, a designer from Dallas who is an award-winning lighting showroom designer. "We are being told that Quintessential Lighting is the nicest showroom in the country. The

Lamp Outlet, on numerous occasions, was awarded Top 10 in the country; we believe Quintessential should win Best in the Country." He said, "Quintessential Lighting's name represents the most perfect or typical example of quality or class, and is the perfect play off of my name, Quinn.

"Walking into Quintessential is like walking into what you would expect to see in New York City or Vegas. Our selection is the latest and greatest of all categories we represent. Our lighting is our flagship." However, Quinn said the over 400 lamps available are



870-340-0777 | 3106 Southwest Dr, Jonesboro, AR 72404

complimented by the lighting fixtures and fans to choose from, and "our art sales have blown us away."

His vision for Quintessential Lighting was to do something more upscale. "We are so much more than just lighting," he said. "We are also the importer of our bathtubs. The goal is to show Jonesboro what the best lighting showroom in the country looks like. I want people to feel blown away when they walk through the doors."

Quinn said he not only envisioned up-scale products but is most proud of the team he has assembled. From buyers to associates "like Angel Holota, formerly the Manager of Z Gallery in Florida, and Sara Roberson, our interior designer all under the direction of Jeff Ransone, store manager, you won't find a more qualified team to help you take your lighting, art, and bathtub to the next level in your remodel or a completely new construction project."

Located in the former Cash Saver location, Quintessential Lighting is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Business phone is 870-340-0777.



*Love Christmas?*

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LOCATIONS



# Happenings

## BRTC's Bridgette Kasinger Presenter at Houston SUN Conference



In September, BRTC Simulation Lab Facilitator Bridgette Kasinger presented "Augmenting Future Practice Through Use of Interdisciplinary Simulation" at the Simulator User Network (SUN) Conference in Houston.

Healthcare professionals and students attended the SUN Conference to learn about the latest in medical simulation and equipment, participate in hands-on learning, and hear from leaders in the field.

The conference was important for Kasinger. As the simulation lab facilitator, she oversees all of BRTC's on-campus clinical lab space and facilitates all simulation exercises. Students in both the registered nursing and practical nursing programs use that space.

## A-State Recognizes Robert Bahn and Laura Miller



Bahn and Miller were named to ASBTDC's Millions Club, celebrating the dollar value of loans and other forms of capital funding that staff members help their small business clients obtain in a year.

"Congratulations to Laura and Robert on a job well done. Northeast Arkansas small businesses are fortunate to have these two dedicated, experienced professionals in their corner," said ASBTDC State Director Laura Fine.

A partnership of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock College of Business, Health, and Human Services and other institutions of higher education, the ASBTDC assists new, existing and technology-based businesses statewide.

## BRTC Awards Kimberly Adams Outstanding Faculty Member



BRTC's outstanding faculty member for 2022 is 18-year BRTC employee Kimberly Adams. Kim is the Academic Success Center director and an instructor of reading.

Kimberly has dedicated her life to education. She has been teaching for 30 years including BRTC's 18. Her passion for education and her students may be summed up best by this comment from her student: "My instructor wanted her students to know that they are important." Adams does her best to ensure all of her students succeed both in life and in her class.

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The advertisement features a background image of a hallway with framed certificates on the wall. In the foreground, a group of diverse people, including many veterans in military-style clothing, are standing together. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.



explore  
**MOR**

Eat, shop, play;  
the local's guide to NEA.

It may be getting colder outside but that can't keep Theo Hathaway away from the playground. Theo, 4, is the son of MaHalie Hathaway and visited the local playground with his grandfather, Jessie Weaver.

Looking for things to do in NEA with your kids?  
Explore MOR NEA makes the search easy. We include kid-friendly events  
and highlight eat, shop, and play options.

[exploremornea.com/kids](http://exploremornea.com/kids)

# Next Month

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Cause



Christmas starts at The Crow's Nest Farms where you can pick out the perfect Christmas Tree!

## Family Traditions



Ways to pass on memories to the next generation.

## NEA Seniors



New Year's Resolution: Putting things in order.

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**SOMETHING Sweet**

There's a lot of things to worry about when it comes to the Thanksgiving meal. Take something off your plate.

Order now to serve your family something sweet on Thanksgiving Day.

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