

July 2012

PARAGOULD

- Relay For Life
- Outstanding Teachers
- Award Winners
- Day Trip
- Fun In The Sun

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– Like many other veterans, Robert Shipman volunteers his time

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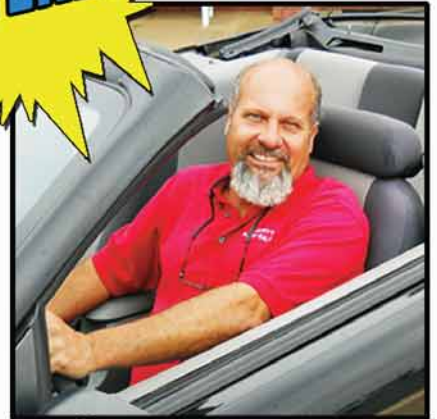
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With the 4th of July holiday approaching many of you have already started hearing the sounds of firework season. Most people aren't too bothered by the noise and actually enjoy the sounds of the season. Our pets, on the other hand, may become very stressed.. For all they know it is the beginning of World War III that rolls around each year!

Here are a few tips that may help to decrease your pet's anxiety associated with the season:

- Don't change your behavior. Many people feel compelled to baby their dogs when the dog is showing signs of fear. We pet them more than usual and talk to them in soft voices. Rather than easing a dog's fears, however, this often reinforces the dog's fearful behaviors.

- Try not to react to the fireworks yourself. If you jump or tense up when you hear fireworks because you are anticipating your dog's fear, you may make his fear worse. Your body language can tell a dog that there is a reason to be afraid.

- Drown out the sound of the fireworks. Try to turn up the radio or television and keep your windows closed during the fireworks. A fan or air conditioner can be helpful too.

- Don't push your dog past his comfort zone. Allow him to hide if he feels more comfortable in his crate or under a bed. Don't pull him out or try to force him closer to the fireworks in an attempt to get him used to the sounds. This may result in an increase in fear.

- In cases of severe anxiety there are medications that may be prescribed to help ease the anxiety. You'll want to talk to your veterinarian regarding the need and use of these. Hopefully these tips will help your four legged family members to have a more peaceful 4th of July holiday!



God Bless!  
Brent Reddick, DVM



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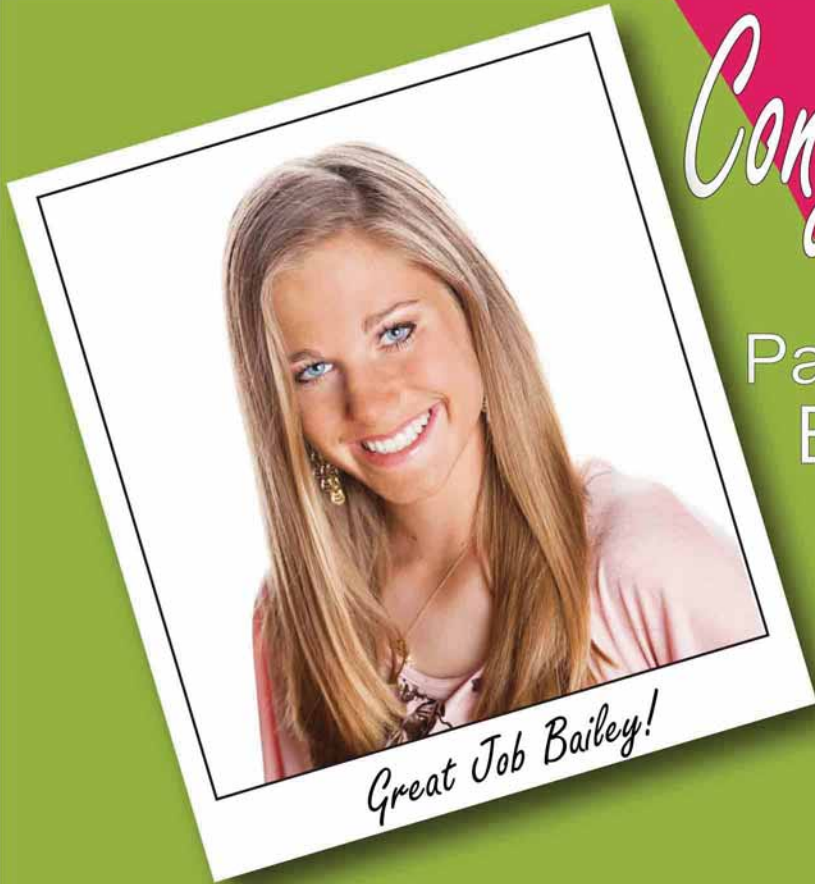
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Maria Bustamante



On the cover: Robert Shipman

Photo by Tim Rand Photography



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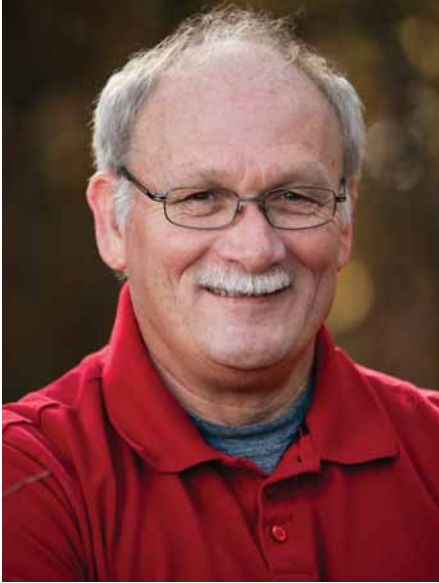
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## From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett

When July rolls around our thoughts head out in several directions. We celebrate our nation's independence on the fourth with the usual fireworks and flag displays, but at the same time we are looking for ways to cool off

and entertain kids who are getting jumpy since they don't have to sit still in the classroom any longer.

In this month's issue we try to pay attention to both areas, taking time to recognize some of the men and women who served in the military and personify patriotism while also doling out tips on where to go for some fun family time, how to stay safe while there and what to do once you've arrived.

As always, we hope to present Premiere readers with a wide array of selections, featuring a number of local businesspeople and their accomplishments on the Business Is Good Page, presenting candidates for the Outstanding Teacher of the Year -- to be determined by readers' votes -- and paying attention to what a number of Marmaduke young people have going on in the classroom and during the summer break.

Norma Mann Addison was kind enough to share the story of the four Mann brothers who served in the Korean conflict at the same time, representing their families and the Paragould community with honor. They join locals Wallace and Laura Jackson to provide interesting stories related to the military.



Gabriel Cook provides much of the information on where to go for some fun in the sun, and Hannah Gonzalez offers excellent advice on how to keep both your children and your skin safe while out in the

bright sunshine.

Greene County's volunteer spirit came shining through once more in this year's Relay For Life fundraiser, and we had the cameras out for that event and bring you several of the participants on a two-page photo spread. Enjoy.

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During the Survivor's Walk, bystanders applauded and photographed those on the track to show their appreciation. Participants made it around the track any way possible, and those working booths and events displayed a very laid back theme.

## Relay For Life surpasses goal by plenty, thanks to volunteers

**G**reene County's version of the Relay For Life fundraiser can be termed nothing other than a giant success.

The local Relay committee set a goal of raising \$117,000 and topped that by plenty, nearing the \$124,000 mark before the night was over.

Teams and individuals gathered at Greene County Tech's high school track to walk, play games, sell food items and listen to musical entertainment, keeping team members on the track around the clock to raise money for the American Cancer Society.







MOR Media's Brian Osborn, below, emceed the opening session of the Relay For Life and directed the attention of the many onlookers to the various events while others walked, rode, posed, played and worked. Greene County has hosted a Relay fundraiser for more than 15 years in succession and counts on the volunteer spirit to make it an annual success.



*Taking care of our little soldiers at home,  
While honoring those afar.*

God Bless Our Troops.

*We are patient people.*



*Welcome Cathy Young, APN!*

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# Know your skin and how to protect it from the summer sun

By Hannah Gonzalez

Summer is here. We've dug out our shorts, swimsuits and flip flops as we prepare for grilling BBQ and fun in the sun. People love sunbathing, going for a nice stroll, swimming, gardening or just playing outdoors on a warm summer day. Exposure to the sun is healthy in moderation, but overexposure can lead to serious health problems including, but not limited to, skin cancer, cataracts, immune system suppression, dehydration and premature aging of the skin.

Even though it can take up to 12 hours to show the full effect, it takes as little as 15 minutes for UV rays to becoming damaging to your skin.

With a few simple precautions these issues and complications are easily avoidable.

1. Apply sunblock 20 minutes prior to direct sunlight.
2. Don't forget the tops of your ears, back of the neck, hands, feet and lips (use a chapstick that contains SPF).
3. Use a sunblock with an SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15+ or higher that contains protection from both UVA and UVB rays.
4. Re-apply sunblock every two hours, especially after swimming or sweating.
5. Wear protective clothing: wide brim hats, sunglasses, and if appropriate, long sleeve



shirts and pants.

6. Find shade. Give your skin a break by seeking out shaded areas. Umbrellas, trees or any shaded space will be a good place to rest.
7. Avoid the sun's peak hours. The UV rays are at their highest from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. If possible avoid them completely; if not make sure to take frequent breaks from direct sunlight, stay covered and stay hydrated.
8. Hydrate yourself. Not only is water crucial for your physical well-being, it is also an important factor for keeping your skin healthy. Hot, humid weather dries out your skin put-

ting you at a higher risk for sunburns.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology there are six different skin types:

- I. White skin – easily burns, never tans
- II. Sensitive light skin – rarely tans, burns more often
- III. Light skin – tans more often, burns equally
- IV. Light dark skin – tans more often, then burns
- V. Darker skin – rarely burns, tans darkly
- VI. Dark skin – never burns, dark even tans

To find out what skin type you have and what safety precautions you need to take to protect it, call your physician or a local dermatologist.

Know your SPFs

SPF 20+ or lower is ideal for everyday use with minimal sun exposure.

SPF 30+ or higher is ideal when spending two or more hours outdoors, even on cloudy days – since clouds don't block UV rays.

For the kids:

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends sunscreen to be reapplied every two hours and to use an SPF of 15+ to 30+. Sunscreen is not recommended for babies under 6 months old. Instead, babies should be kept in the shade and wear protective clothing.



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Local youngsters can have fun inside and out with the Paragould Parks and Recreation Department's P.E. In The Park program. At left, program director Mike Carter helps out with a beachball/volleyball game inside the Labor Park gymnasium while at right he directs the children in a game of Four Square. There is no cost for children to participate.



## P.E. In The Park provides free activities for local kids

By Gabriel A. Cook

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, something fun happens at Labor Park. Under the direction of Mike Carter, Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation in the city of Paragould, the four-year-old program is an active way to keep children healthy and entertained.

"It came about during a conversation with (Parks and Recreation Director) Pat Austin concerning the department and the various opportunities it provides," Carter explained. "She thought that we should have activities for children who live in the neighborhood of Labor Park."

Who better to implement such a plan than a former elementary school Physical Education instructor? "I worked in the Paragould School District for twenty-seven years; seventeen years as an elementary school coach, and another ten years in administration. They were wonderful years, but the time came to try something new. As luck would have it, the year I put in my resignation the city of Paragould advertised the position I have now."

It's a position that comes with several responsibilities. Among other things, Carter, with Austin, helps supervise the staff members at the community center; they have five full-time employees, along with an outside

grounds crew. There are other crews at Reynolds and Labor Park, as well as at Harmon Field. With water park season at its peak, it is not unusual to hire additional employees.

With so much time as a coach under his belt, and Austin's desire to see Labor Park used for the benefit of area children, Carter devised P.E. in the Park, a program designed to keep children healthy during summer months that — due to heat and long stretches indoors — encourage little or no activity.

Carter initially swapped days according to attendance. Mondays and Fridays, he discovered, were too unpredictable. "The middle of the week — Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday — offers more opportunities to get kids there. I open the gym at 10 a.m. We all go inside, and I do roll call — just like when I taught. I have ten to fifteen regulars, but at least one new child shows up each day. They may stay the one day, but they're introduced to the others and made to feel welcome. After roll, I decide what games we are going to play."

Parents are strongly encouraged to accompany their child on the first day so Carter can detail his history as an educator in the PSD and to sign a mandatory permission slip.

Then the fun begins. "Outside we play a chase and tag game that's great for cardiovascular. In the gym we play Four Square, which has

been a popular game since my coaching days. All you need is four big squares drawn on the concrete. The children can play the same game at home with sidewalk chalk and a ball from the dollar store. It builds great hand-eye coordination.

"Another game is volleyball played with a low net and a beach ball. Seven-year-olds love it. We also do modified kickball. We play off the gym wall. If it hits the wall and you catch it in the air ... they're out. I also show them how the rules of baseball and softball apply to what we play."

Carter stresses that the program is not set up for pre-schoolers; the average age of participants ranges from seven to twelve. "We play for about forty-five minutes, and then we provide a snack. After a brief rest, we either resume the game or start a new one.

"Rarely do we keep score. We may get six outs, we may get fifteen before we switch sides. When someone asks the score, I'll ask if they're having fun. When they say yes, I tell them they're winning."

The program is still open to any child who wants to attend. "It's never too late to join," Carter says. "The more the merrier."

P.E. in the Park runs 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until mid-August.

# Business Is Good

## GoYWP.com offers web design along with 'endless possibilities'

You might ask, "Why Paragould?" but Travis Risner, owner of goYWP.com says, "Why not? I and most of our employees are from, and live, in Paragould."

That's not even mentioning that research shows Paragould has -- and continues -- to grow even with the weak economy.

GoYWP.com LLC is a tech company, locally owned and operated. The team is anchored by Risner, Creative Director Ben Mooneyham, and Andrew Jercinovic, Sales and Marketing ... you might say, the Three Musketeers! But they have a cast of supporting characters to back them up and comprise a great staff at goYWP.com.

Asked what they do, Risner said, "We offer customized programming for web-based technologies." The layman's interpretation is this: They build custom websites, business apps, business class email, and

offer campaign and social media management and training, and search engine optimization, just to name a few of their services.

GoYWP morphed out of an internet provider that originally was in Jonesboro in 1996. Travis was the lead programmer for the previous owner and purchased the business in March of 2011. Ben has worked as at the company for five years. "We basically did template websites and I always said we could do so much better," he said. "Now, we really get to know the customer's business, touring their facilities, talking to their employees and current customers, then we develop solutions to accomplish their objectives. Template websites are inexpensive because they are bare bones and usually

ugly. Building a custom website with all the bells and whistles is expensive, so we try to figure out exactly what web presence our client needs and build a plan that accomplishes their goals without costing a fortune."

Andrew points out that since they are all from the Paragould area local clients do not have to explain their market and that, coupled with the research of the client's business, allows the team to develop solutions that both work and are affordable.

"We toured a foundry! It was amazing," he said. "This guy has figured out how to take a very long process and make it happen in a few days instead of weeks. And we get the honor of telling potential clients that he can save them money."

All three Musketeers admit that keeping up with technology is both the hardest and most exciting part of their business. The fact that something new, fun and amazing is happening in the world of wide, wide web is what makes them glad to come to work each day and tackle the next project.



The staff at goYWP.com offers expertise in customized programming for web-based technologies.

## Jeff Block recognized for excellence, leadership

Jeff Block, CIC, of the M.F. Block Agency in Paragould, was awarded the Allan Kennedy Memorial Award by the Independent Insurance Agents of Arkansas at their 111th Annual Convention in Branson, Missouri. The award is the highest honor given to a member agent of the IIA of Arkansas and recognizes the insurance agent of the year.

The award is named for one of the founders and the first president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Arkansas, Allan Kennedy of Fort Smith. The award is designed to

honor and recognize the agent today who best lives up to the standards of excellence and leadership set by Kennedy.

Block, a past president of the Association, was recognized for not only his accomplishments within the insurance industry, but also for his contributions to the community. Over the course of 30 years, he has been involved with the Paragould Rotary Club; Ducks Unlimited; the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce; and the area Boy Scouts. He is a director of the First National Bank of



Jeff Block

Paragould; a member of the Arkansas Methodist Hospital Advisory Board; and the First United Methodist Church.

# Business Milestones

## Board of Realtors hands out awards



Local realtors recognized by their peers at the April Paragould Board of Realtors meeting include:

Top left, BRONZE Level - over \$1.8 million: Pat Pratt, Pam Lackey and Darrell Taylor. Not pictured is Stephen Fraine.

Immediate left, SILVER Level - over \$2 million: Sandra Kelley, Don Tuggle, Carrie Dozier and Carolyn Hurley Block. Not pictured is Jasa Haney Hollis.

Above, GOLD level - over \$3.5 million: Frankie Carter, Amber Gill, Pete Cancilla, Linda Dickinson and Pat Chesser,

Not pictured but earning DIAMOND Level- over \$7 million in sales: Jeff Carter and Brooksie Felty Hartness.

## U.S. Chamber of Commerce marking 100th anniversary

In 2012, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is marking the 100th anniversary of its founding, and a century of fighting for American free enterprise.

The Chamber was honored by U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's introduction of a resolution in the Senate that recognizes the U.S. Chamber's 100 year history of advocating for policies that will spur economic growth, create jobs, and increase prosperity.

Senator McConnell noted "the free-enterprise system is the backbone of the American economy and nobody embodies it more than the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. So on the year marking their 100th Anniversary, I along with my colleagues, want to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the work you do to help businesses grow and create jobs. Through your efforts, millions of Americans have been able to pursue and achieve the American dream."

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# Voting winding down for Outstanding Teacher

**P**remiere Magazine readers nominated their favorite educators as Outstanding Teacher for the month when balloting began in November of last year, and now it's time to pick the best of the best.

Sixteen teachers were praised for their efforts by parents, students and coworkers, representing the Crowley's Ridge Academy, Greene County Tech, Marmaduke and Paragould school districts.

Votes were submitted by mail and electronic media with monthly winners earning a prize package from Shear Elegance.

Balloting for the overall Outstanding Teacher will continue through July 11, with the winner receiving a prize package consisting of a free Spa Day at Shear Elegance, a \$100 gift certificate from MOR Media and more.

Support your favorite teacher by emailing your vote to

*editor@paragouldpremiere.com*

or by mentioning him or her on Facebook.

All the monthly winners are pictured at right, along with their respective schools. Send your votes in today but remember, the deadline is Wednesday, July 11.



Kodie Potter, Greene County Tech



Jamie Dial, Paragould High School



Brad Andrews, Greene County Tech Elementary



Karen Bowers, Woodrow Wilson Elementary



Brittany Presson, Woodrow Wilson Elementary



Norma Davenport, Greene County Tech



Kathy Rowe, Crowley's Ridge Academy



Lorie Farmer, Marmaduke Elementary



Christy Cupp, Crowley's Ridge Academy



Marianna Reeves, Marmaduke Elementary



Bridgette Chunn, Crowley's Ridge Academy



Beth Pace, Baldwin Elementary



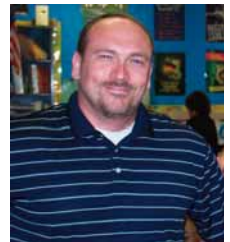
Jan Allred, Greene County Tech



Kelle Boozer, Oak Grove Elementary



Kelli Harris, Greene County Tech



Jerry Dickson, Oak Grove Middle School

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

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY**

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# Keep your children safe this summer with these helpful tips

By Hannah Gonzalez

A traumatic event caught me off guard this past month as I played with my young daughters in my front yard.

We live in a neighborhood with no sidewalks. All three of my children love playing out front with their puppy. It's a safe, calm, and relaxing place to live but on a Monday evening a few weeks ago my daughters were playing as dusk settled in, and I sat on the deck with my mother, who was in from out of town, watching the girls run.

You can't see the deck from the road, but you can see the tree where my girls were playing. After only a few minutes of playing a man pulled his car into our driveway and attempted to take the girls with him. I stood up and put myself between him and my girls and he drove off. Thank God I was out with them. I never leave them unsupervised, but what if I had? What if I had run into the house for just a single moment?

Suddenly, I am paranoid. I've always been an aggressively protective parent, but since this incident it took weeks before I would let my kids go beyond arm's reach. I don't want them to be over protected, but I don't want anything to happen to them, either. My main goal is to find a happy medium where my children are educated on what to do in certain circumstances of danger, they are in a safe environment, and are also allowed to be happy and independent children.

As I drive down the streets and neighborhoods of Paragould I see so many children playing and wandering the streets with no one watching over them, and it gives me chills. The man who attempted to take my girls is a registered sex offender. I've spread the word and since then have heard of more than seven other attempts by this same man. As a community we need to watch out for others, to stand up to people who seek harm, to protect our children and teach them to protect themselves.

Even though we mainly see stories like this in bigger cities, it happens everywhere. Parents and caregivers need to be on the lookout for any type of danger and to be prepared. With



The Exchange Club of Paragould made Child ID Kits in April, offering them free to the public as part of its focus on preventing child abuse.

summer here and school out, children are home all day long, at local parks and sporting events, often alone while their parents are at work. I put together a few tips to help out.

## For the kids:

Teach your children the difference between a dangerous stranger and a safe stranger.

- Examples of a dangerous stranger are a grownup who asks your child to help find their missing dog, or asks for directions; or a grownup who wants your child to get into their car or to go with them.

- Examples of safe strangers are police officers, firemen, store employees, neighbors or teachers.

Practice the NO-RUN-YELL-TELL rule: If someone tries to take you, scream "NO," run away to a safe place or to another adult. Yell for help until you are in a safe place and tell as much as you can about the person who approached you.

Teach your children self defense.

Teach them to never get into anyone's car.

Tell them not to walk home alone, or to go anywhere alone.

If your child does go somewhere alone, have them call you when they leave and when they get to their destination.

Make sure your child knows their full name, address and emergency phone numbers.

Create a "secret question" with your kids, one that only the child and the parents or care-

givers will know. That way, if someone approaches your child, the child can ask that person the secret question. If they don't know the answer, the child will know this person is not safe to go with.

If a child is home alone, teach them not to answer the doors, to keep the doors locked and never to tell anyone on the phone that their parents are not home.

Express to your children how important it is for them to be open with you, to tell you or someone they trust if someone has hurt them or made them feel uncomfortable.

## For the parents:

Know where your child is at all times.

Create Child ID kits for each one of your children. They include fingerprints, full description of your child and a current photo.

Don't leave your children unattended for long periods of time. If you can't be there, have someone you trust check in on them periodically.

Report any suspicious people or events to the police.

Last, but not least, be aware of your surroundings, and your child's. Know the people your children will be around, and teach your children to be cautious.

It never hurts to be safe. By taking these precautions you can reduce the risk of your child's being harmed. Spreading awareness is key.



JULY 2012						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Flags sitting still at Linwood Cemetery remind us that independence comes at a price.



# It took almost a lifetime to learn exactly what a patriot looks like

Each of us, I suppose, has some idea of what constitutes a patriot. The dictionary tries to make it simple, calling a patriot one who loves, supports or defends his or her country.

For some reason I spent many years of my life hearing the word and conjuring up a mental image of a hero, a Sgt. York or a George Washington, for example. It took a simple dose of real life for me to fully understand -- at the ripe old age of 54 -- what patriotism truly is.

Six years ago my father, Scottie, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. After months of hospital stays we finally settled in at a local nursing home to live out his final days and it was a difficult task to sit by and watch parts of his life disappear bit by bit. One day I would show up to learn his vision was failing, another it would be the ability to swallow or speak or, eventually, to communicate.

Throughout the course of this adventure, Dad kept his spirits as high as they could soar



under the circumstances and the daily routine was that my mother would arrive early in the morning to spend the day with him, leaving after supper time when gracious gentlemen from their church would arrive. When my work day ended I would go spell them and sit with Dad until he fell asleep.

One of his great loves was baseball, especially the St. Louis Cardinals, and either the gods of baseball or God himself smiled on Dad that year, putting the Redbirds in the 2006 World Series for his enjoyment. We watched those games together even though many nights my attention was split between paperwork I had brought along and the televised game.

Such was the case for Game Two, when country music star Trace Adkins sang the national anthem at Busch Stadium. Hearing his beautiful rendition of the song, I lifted my face from the paperwork to see who was singing, then turned to Dad intending to compliment the singer.

Instead, as I turned, I saw my father with his left arm -- the only one that still worked -- stretched skyward with a fist firmly formed. A giant tear rolled down the side of his face as he mouthed silently "... and the home of the brave!"

I knew my father served his time in the Army during World War II and I knew he loved his country even if he didn't approve of or understand exactly what it had become. I knew that because of conversations we had over the years.

What I didn't know, until that very moment, was that my father was a patriot. Now I know exactly what one looks like.

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Robert Shipman, a Vietnam veteran, hangs on to pieces of the past while helping others in the present. Shipman drives the van for the veterans' office locally and is indicative of the spirit of those who served their country but are still willing to give back to their community.

## Shipman continues service to his country and his community

By Richard Brummett

**R**obert Shipman's father was not a military man, but he pointed his son in that direction nonetheless.

"He told me if I was going to live in this country, I ought to take a little time off and serve it," said Shipman, a Michigan native. "So I did. I spent four years in the Navy."

Like so many other young men and women of his era, Shipman wound up in Vietnam for much of the 1960s and eventually served three tours.

"I think somebody didn't like me," he said with a smile, something he is good at displaying. "I was a security guard on a 'helo' base, at night; in the daytime, I would go down to the piers and help unload ships. To be honest, I was looking for something to eat.



Shipman proudly displays the medals he earned for his years of military service.

The ships had food on them.

"One time a guy gave me a couple of cans of SPAM," he recalled. "It said it was made in the USA and, to be honest, it wasn't all that bad. That was the first time I ever had it, but

it beat rations, which is all we had."

Now 67, Shipman proudly recalls the days he spent serving his country, but also is proud to currently serve veterans in his community. He and his wife, Mary Ann, moved to Paragould approximately eight years ago, and he has spent much of that time volunteering as a van driver for the local veterans' affairs office.

"I had never been to Paragould, never even heard of it," he said. "But my wife used to live at Gosnell and when I retired she wanted to come here, so I followed her."

He spent some of his free time talking with the current director of the veterans' office, John Kennett, as well as his predecessor, Weldon Roberts, and wound up offering to drive the company van to help others get to medical appointments and other necessary destinations.

"I was going to the VA, myself," he explained. "I have diabetes and I decided to help out with driving this old Ford van they had given us. I did that myself for about a year, then when we moved to the new building they gave us a new van and I've just kept on. I drive folks to Poplar Bluff and pick them up local, too. Whenever they call me ... about three days a week."

Shipman said he never regretted his father's admonition to join the military, and he would recommend the same for other young people.

"You know, I've got a great life," he said, once more flashing that friendly smile. "I live in a great country and even when I was in Vietnam, I felt lucky."

He said he was "too young to worry about things like getting shot" while in Vietnam, but came home with a great appreciation for life.

"In all the time I was there, I never had to fire a weapon," he said. "How many people can say that? I was a security guard. I was in Da Nang two months before the Marines landed in '65. I was on the beach when the Marines landed in March."

Shipman was awarded numerous medals for service to his country, including: The Navy Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Navy/USCG Unit Commendation Ribbon; Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device; Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross with Palm and Frame) ribbon bar; Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Action Color with Palm and Frame) ribbon bar; and Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars to mention a few.

He also cherishes a letter detailing the events surrounding the names of those listed on "The Wall," a memorial to men and women killed in action during the Vietnam conflict. Its final sentence states, "There are no noble wars, just noble warriors."

Men and women like Shipman, who perform their duties as assigned to protect our country's freedoms then remain actively involved in community service, are just that.

They are noble warriors.



Wallace and Laura Jackson are both supporters of the local American Legion chapter.

## Jacksons join other volunteers to make Paragould American Legion post the 'wonderful group' it is

By Richard Brummett

Wallace and Laura Jackson say being active members of the Paragould Adams-Jackson American Legion Post 17 takes time and effort, but it is certainly worth it.

"A lot of times I don't think we stop and think about the freedom we have because of veterans," Laura said. "I guess we take a lot for granted."

The Jacksons attend the Legion's two monthly meetings, the first a business session and the second a potluck meal. Both agree the fellowship is as important as any business items addressed.

"I've been sick and not as able to get around as I used to," Wallace said, "but we still try to go to the meetings. I think it's a good organization. They do things for people all the time."

Wallace said he joined the Army in 1944 and was "put in the horse cavalry" before being shipped overseas.

"I was in India, Burma, China," he said. "We had mules to lead instead of a horse to ride. I

was there about 18 months. We were in the combat zone -- I got two bronze stars -- but I was not really in any action. The outfit I joined was in a lot of action later on."

After being discharged Wallace returned home to Tennessee and worked a couple of jobs before winding up in the shoe store business. "A guy hired me at his store during the busy season," he recalled, "and the next thing I knew he wanted me to work for him and open up another store. We did that in Dyersburg, then I moved over here and opened my store on May 4, 1957."

The Jacksons' Family Shoe Store served Paragould residents until closing in 2011, and now the retired couple enjoys serving in a different fashion.

Laura, who is Treasurer of the local chapter's women's auxiliary, said she got involved because her husband was an active Legionnaire and "I've been in it ever since. We go to the courthouse for Memorial Day programs, and we fix meals and things like that. We do a lot.

"I wish more people would participate. It's a wonderful group."

# Mann brothers definitely performed patriotic duty

By Norma Mann Addison

The four Mann brothers -- Melvin, Buddy, Thomas and Merle -- all served in Korea at the same time. They were the only sons of Melvin and Iona Bryson Mann of Paragould.

The oldest, Melvin Duane, joined the Civilian Conservation Corps when he was 18. He served two years in the C.C. Camp Co. 2750 in Lewiston, MN. On April 9, 1943, he volunteered for the Army and entered service at Camp Robinson in Little Rock.

Melvin received basic training at Camp Bowie, Texas, and Fort Lewis, Washington. He was with Company A, 65th Signal Battalion and participated in the European Theatre in the Alsace-Lorraine area of France, and was in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns before being discharged in March of 1946.

He joined the Army Reserves in 1949 and was called to active duty in October of 1950. After only a few weeks at Fort Hood, Texas, he went to Korea, joining HG Co., 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He rotated out of Korea in September of 1951 and was discharged in January of '53.

All combined, Melvin was stationed in 15 camps, was in eight foreign countries and served in ten companies. During World War II he earned two battle stars, an American Defense Ribbon, a good conduct medal, a Victory Ribbon and one unit citation. Family members were not able to determine medals received during the Korean War.

Melvin recalled the four times he ran through the streets of Seoul: Twice he was chasing the Chinese and twice they were chasing him. He also said the winters in Korea were as bad as the enemy.

Once they were climbing a hill so slick that they kept sliding back to the ground. He often talked about the pup tents and sub-zero weather, with two men sharing a tent only five feet long. Melvin was 6 feet, two inches tall, so no matter what he did, one end always stuck out.

He died in April of 1994.



The Mann brothers, clockwise from the top: Merle, Thomas, Buddy and Melvin were all in Korea at the same time.

Buddy Lee was drafted into the Army in 1943 at the age of 18 during WWII. He entered service at Camp Robinson and took basic training at Fort Hood at the Tank Destroyer Replacement Center. He was too young to be sent overseas with an armored outfit, so he was shipped to Fort Lewis.

There, he joined up with the 515th Field Artillery Battalion. While training in the rifle pits, he discovered his brother Melvin's name on the wall. When he finished training he was ordered to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and then to the Point of Embarkation at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

His battalion was shipped to England for about three months before moving to France. They arrived at the front line in the Alsace-Lorraine region and fought all across Germany. When the war ended, Buddy was near Munich.

Buddy saw the Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps, with starved and half-burned bodies stacked like cords of wood. He said he also saw nearly dead and starved people in the camps.

Once he was assigned to a combat command, which meant taking infantry artillery and tanks and going together to form a wedge

inside enemy lines, then spreading out to surround the enemy and cut it off from supply lines.

In Germany his platoon was assigned to carry ammunition to the front lines all day and to guard duty at night. They did that for three days in a row and had the city of Swinefort completely surrounded, and totally destroyed it.

Once his battalion passed Melvin's 65th Signal Battalion near Munich. That night, Buddy told his captain about it and the next day he was allowed to borrow a jeep and look for his brother. That was the first time they had seen each other in three or four years.

When the war ended, Buddy was assigned to defusing artillery and bomb "duds." He was sent back to England until he could get enough points to go home. While there, he helped oversee the German prisoners of war. He returned to the United States and was discharged in 1946 after 29 months of service, 17 overseas. He had served in England, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany.

Back home, Buddy was talked into joining a Marine Reserve Unit in Paragould. He convinced a brother, a cousin and some friends to join as well. In September of 1950 he was called to active duty and, after a six-week refresher course, was shipped to Korea.

He joined the 1st Marine Division at Pusan, Korea, and was assigned to B Company 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment. After participating in several firefights, he was transferred to B Company, 1st Motor Transport Co. Buddy was finally assigned company dispatcher and stayed there for the remainder of his time in Korea.

He said the scariest moment during the war was driving a fuel truck to the front lines, an assignment he volunteered for. He had to drive along a narrow mountain trail with no one riding shotgun. He said there were dead bodies scattered everywhere and snipers all around.

Buddy recalled a time when he and his fellow soldiers were retreating and one was shot in the chest, with the rest of them carrying him on a shelter half, which was half a pup tent.

They forded a mountain stream that was waist deep while the temperature that night dipped to 40 degrees below zero.

He rotated back to the states and was discharged in 1952. During WWII he earned a Bronze Star, American Campaign Medal, two European Campaign medals, a WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with a German clasp, an Honorable Service Lapel Button and a Sharpshooter Badge with carbine bar.

Medals from Korea include a National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with four bronze stars, United Nations Service Medal, Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon.

One of his career highlights came in 1994 when he and three other veterans were chosen from a group of Paragould seniors to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C.

Buddy is 87 and still resides in Paragould.

Thomas joined the Marine Reserves in 1949 and was ordered to active duty in May of 1951. After basic training in San Diego, he served in Korea in the infantry in the 1st Marine Division.

Thomas eventually made Corporal and left Korea in April of 1952 with an honorable discharge.

He was in Korea during some of the worst fighting. He told of a hand grenade landing at his feet and feeling his time had come, but a miracle happened: The grenade was a dud and didn't explode. Thomas wrote to his mother that he knew the prayers of all the people in Paragould had saved him.

Buddy remembers Tommy's telling him that his company was trying to take a hill and the enemy was firing on them from the top while the U.S. Navy was firing heavy artillery back at them from the coast.

Years later, Tommy, Melvin and Buddy served as the color guard for several Paragould Christ-

mas parades and opening ceremonies for the Little League Baseball program.

Tommy died in November of 1995.

Merle, the youngest of the four, enlisted in the Army in 1948 at the age of 17. He retired in 1968 as an E6 senior emergency instructor, having served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Merle was sent to Korea in 1951 but was evacuated to Japan in 1952 because of damage to his eardrums. During his tour in Korea he was responsible for giving first aid and bringing the wounded back from the front lines. He was offered a battlefield commission but turned it down because he felt unqualified. During his second tour, he ran the Auxiliary

Aid Station as the non-commissioned officer in charge.

In Vietnam, he was senior medical advisor of the Green Beret Advisory Team of the Republic of Vietnam. Merle had several close calls while there, most of them when he was due to retire.

He was stationed at a camp in an area of the central highlands inhabited by the Montagnard Tribesmen. He was due to rotate home but had been surrounded by the enemy for three weeks. He got the opportunity to fly out in the mail helicopter and took it, though he had to leave all his belongings behind. Shortly after, the compound was destroyed and there were no survivors.

Merle was flown to Da Nang and then to Saigon. On his last night in Saigon, the air base was attacked.

Merle passed away in December of 2000.

All four brothers were on the front line in Korea at the same time during some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Merle went to see Melvin just before Melvin rotated home. Merle went to see Tommy, too, but got there about eight hours after he had rotated out.

The four of them came through three wars without a scratch. Family members were unable to compile a list of medals awarded to Tommy and Merle.

All were inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame at Greene County Tech High School in 1996.

All were inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame at Greene County Tech High School in 1996.


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# Happenings!

## Ms. Belle Meade

1. Donive Gatlin, center, was crowned Ms. Belle Meade during National Nursing Home Week festivities. Other winners were 2nd Runner up - Imogene Harrison; 1st Runner up - Anna Faye Shoaf; 3rd Runner up - Pansy Loveless; and Ms. Congeniality - Sally Huddleston.

## Witt House Donation

2. The Paragould High School class of 1972 met in June and donated \$700 for the Witt House, a ministry that houses a food pantry through First United Methodist Church in what used to be the home of Emmy Witt; it was donated to the church when she died in March 2010. The group also held a golf match in honor of Emmy Witt, who was a much loved teacher at Paragould High School and the choir director at FUMC for many years. The Witt House began in 2011 and helps hundreds of people through its various ministries each year. Bob Branch, a volunteer at the Witt House, receives a check from Rebecca Hoskins on behalf of the former PHS students.

## School of the 21st Century Trikers

3. Students at Paragould School District's School of the 21st Century participated in a Trike-a-thon for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Students raised \$5,851.55 for the hospital.

## Basketball Campers

4. Max Hooten, Weston Shirley, Blaine Wood, Cole Edwards and Kord McCormick display trophies, medals, and basketballs they received while attending Paragould Hoop Camp at Paragould High School

June 4-7. The boys attend Oak Grove Elementary and are in the fourth grade.

## Acting Workshop

5. Kids in an acting workshop performed a short play they wrote along with their director, Remington Kienbusch, downtown in Centennial Park on June 14. They also had improvisational games where audience members could participate. The kids met for two weeks learning acting techniques. Parents and friends pulled up lawn chairs on the street to watch the final performance.

## PSD Top Employees

6. The Paragould School District hosted an end of year awards program for faculty and staff on May 23. Employees were recognized for years of service and awards were given to employees retiring from the district. Awards were also given to Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year. This year's recipients are Janice Wilcox, fourth grade teacher at Woodrow Wilson Elementary, and Fred Turner, PSD Grounds Supervisor.

## Gator Swim Team

7. The Greene County Gator Swim Team has about 65 total swimmers. The ages of the competitors range from 5-18. Their first swim meet for the summer season was held in late May. The team came in second overall but the girls' team placed first in the meet. The swimmers also held a home meet in June and have another home meet scheduled for July 14.

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## Chamber After Hours

**H**igginbotham Family Dental Clinic played host to the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce's Chamber After Hours.

Higginbotham staff members welcomed guests to their new facility at 2200 W. Kingshighway.



Above: Dr. Ashley Brewer, Lai Ferrell, Dr. Keith Jones and Deana Muegge  
Below: Jerry L. Jett and Todd Higginbotham  
Below left: Tiffany Creecy and Kelly Roswell  
Top left: Sonya Standley, Lisa Burton and Courtney Brech



Skyler West, right, accepts a scholarship from James Ratliff, board member of the Arkansas Fair Managers Association.

## Skyler West earns Fair Managers Association scholarship award

**S**kyler West of Paragould, a 2012 graduate of Greene County Tech High School, was presented an \$800 scholarship by the Arkansas Fair Managers Association.

West, who plans to attend Arkansas State University in the fall, was chosen from a field of 28 applicants as one of five scholarship winners statewide.

"You did well," said presenter James Ratliff, an AFMA board member. "You are the only winner from our part of the state."

Ratliff said "lots of things" go into the selection process, including the applicant's showing of livestock at the county fair over the years, involvement with organizations like 4-H and FFA, school grade point average and "volunteering at the fair, from the time they're little up to age 18."

The scholarships are funded partly through donations and the hard work of local fair board members, who solicit items for silent and live auctions held at the state fair convention in Hot Springs.

Greene County board members especially wished to express their gratitude to local businesses and individuals who contribute and make the scholarships possible saying, "The more we take down there, the more kids we can get scholarships."

Greene County has had a winner in each of the five years.

This year's recipient, Skyler, is the son of Jimmy and Regina West of Paragould.

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# Marmaduke kids learn about heart and lungs

The Paragould Jr. Auxiliary, following the lead of its Jonesboro counterpart, undertook a project to help elementary school students better understand how the heart and lungs work.

Since Marmaduke sixth graders are JA's partners in education, the study was done in April with Dr. Hallack from Arkansas Methodist Medical Center serving as the presenter.

The doctor went to the school and talked to the kids about the hearts and lungs and about healthy living.

The students seemed to love the project and exhibited great knowledge about the heart and lungs.

The organs used for the presentation were from a pig and were donated by a local slaughtering house.



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# Reynolds Park serves as perfect getaway for visitors and locals alike

By Gabriel A. Cook

It's not often that a marshy tract of land becomes a thriving tourist attraction, but it happened a few years ago at Reynolds Park.

"The plan came about in June of '04," Pat Austin, Parks and Recreation Director for the city of Paragould, explains. "The Baby Boomers were retiring and traveling more. The calls asking if we had an RV Park increased, and I'd tell people no and send them to Walcott. Walcott is beautiful, but it's not convenient for those who wish to stay in town. So I considered this patch of land at Reynolds — being lower than the surrounding region, it was difficult to mow and maintain. Could that not be used somehow?"

Over time, Austin asked the city to dump any excess gravel into the low-lying area, thus building it up. She then approached Mayor Mike Gaskill about installing an RV Park there, and — after minor convincing that a need existed — a portion of the sales tax approved to renovate Arkansas parks went to



Reynolds Park, with 11 RV pads, offers a nice alternative to an expensive vacation. ward the project.

The site hosts 11 RV pads: 2 fifty-footers, 1 fifty-five footer, 3 sixty-footers, and the rest seventy feet each. Three are pull-throughs, big enough to house any type of recreational vehicle.

Business boomed upon completion of the facility. "People started calling as soon as it was built. Most people who use the park have relatives here. It's nice to visit family," Austin continues, grinning, "and sometimes it's just as nice to get away from them for a while, so

they use that resource. We also have folks who come for class reunions."

Fluctuating gas prices make conventional vacations a gamble, so some local residents have taken to staying at Reynolds. "We have a gentleman right across the lake who brings his camper and grandkids for a weekend getaway of fishing and bike riding. Folks from all over Greene County and Jonesboro book here. Mini-vacations are the newest trend, and it's not unusual to see locals camping at the park."

Pleasure is not the sole reason for utilizing the camper pads. Austin tells of a man visiting a sick relative who stayed in his RV at night while tending family needs by day. "Vacations, reunions, family emergencies, or a weekend away with the grandkids — we've seen it all."

One constant concerning the RV Park is the unanimous consent that it is one of the cleanest to be found. Austin credits visitor accolades to the park's neat appearance, as well as being well-lit and well-patrolled at night. She also compliments the grounds crew who keeps it manicured and free of litter.

"Their hard work attracts people from all over the country," says Austin. "Florida, Michigan, Alabama. Every state has been represented."

At the end of her day, Austin drives to the location and visits with folks. Sometimes guests will have dinner on the grounds and then produce guitars and perform. When asked (by Austin) if they have any complaints, campers always say no. "We've never had a problem out there. It's incredible. People who travel, they respect places like this. And if there is damage due to weather or age, it's fixed that day. It makes a difference."

Visitors who wish to camp at Reynolds can call 870-239-7530. They'll check in (usually at the Community Center), their driver's license will be photocopied, and they'll be given a key to the bathrooms and showers.

"People who lived in Paragould and come back ask if Reynolds is still there," Austin says. "I'm always pleased to say yes. It is well-kept, a beautiful location, and the RV camping is great for the community. We're proud of that park!"



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# What a sanctuary we have as Americans

I remember learning to swim when I was small. The anticipation of submersion was so terrifying, but the weightlessness I felt in the water was such sweet release.

My father was the only convincing force that made me feel safe enough to take the plunge. His open arms were a safe haven that even the best flotation device could not provide. He was the same rescue I used throughout my life in distress or otherwise. To this day, he has this overwhelming power to make everything seem peaceful. The deepest relationships, like the one I have with my dad, provoke a blind faith that is most beneficial in life.

On an ordinary night at church, I look at the projection of a photograph - the face of an orphaned child from Haiti. It isn't rare to hear about mission trips within my congregation. The outreach among our peers is vast.

However, something the speaker says about these children takes me back to my lifelong dependence on my father. I feel pain within the depths of my being as I listen to the statistics: Almost half the population in Haiti is under the age of fifteen and 500,000 of these children are orphans. This missionary witnessed children roaming the streets without parents after the devastation of one of the largest earthquakes in world history. While some of the buildings are restored, most of these children are homeless in the absence of foster care. They are victims of widespread

disease without medicine and poverty minus relief.

For many of these children, there are no open arms to find rest. There is no hope for a better future, or for that matter, a sip of clean drinking water. Some of them smile in the photographs despite circumstance and some stare into the lens with an empty gaze.

As I glance at my own children, content in the arms of my husband, they smile and play with one of the many cars in their collection of toys. I can't help but think - why not them, why not me? We could have so easily been born in a different country. The Haitian girl in the photograph probably shares my dreams, but she may never have the opportunity to live them. She will never have the solace my father gives me. She's stuck in the deep end without a life saver.

I realize this is the time of year we focus on patriotism, and this is the freedom our troops fight for. No wonder they are so selfless in fighting for a country that allows us so much luxury. Many of these soldiers, like missionaries, know what's on the other side. The divide is so great. Looking at these photographs of children without hope for a future like I enjoyed, I'm lucky to be an American.

I am aware the tone of my writing has a theme of eternal optimism. At this point in my life I realize, I'm lucky to be me. I'm just a middle class girl with two kids and a husband like



By Tiffany Napier

my father. In my world, my every dream is coming true. I am known for being spontaneous, and some people think my dreams are farfetched or out of my reach. They may be, but there is one thing that money or power can't buy: faith. That blind faith my father gave me allows me to dive in the deepest of waters. He may not be there, holding my hand, keeping me afloat, but his arms are outstretched as ever. I want to explore the world with my eyes wide open. I may see things that devastate me, but those things make me stronger.

As I think about that church service, that little girl staring at me from a photograph, I know I'm destined to live the life she couldn't because I have the chance. I'm certain my two-year-old will make his way to my bed tonight, haunted by his nightmare of bugs. He was stung by a wasp last week, and he insists every crawling creature is "mean." I will stretch my arms wide, hold him close and assure him of his safety. Although this may seem minute in terms of fear, I'm so blessed this is the only cruelty he knows.

War is complex. It's something I hear about in the news, but nothing resonates with me like the refuge of a child. What a sanctuary we have as Americans. God bless our troops.

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# Road Trips: There's plenty to do within easy driving distance of Paragould

By Gabriel A. Cook

Though the price of gas continues to drop (as of this writing), and the economy shows meager signs of improvement, the option of taking an extended vacation is still not viable for all. Fortunately, Arkansas features several cost-effective opportunities for daytrips and overnight stays that do not sacrifice quality or entertainment value. For Greene County residents, a day of fun begins by going through Walnut Ridge, turning through Portia and Black Rock, and following U.S. 63 to several notable locations.

Initially created as a stopgap measure to prevent flooding in the Flat Creek Watershed, Lake Charles, Arkansas' largest man-made lake, is perfect for those seeking relaxation near the water. Featuring camp sites, hiking trails, an enclosed pavilion, and a playground, Lake Charles is perhaps best known for its catfish and bass fishing.

For those seeking mild adventure, kayaking tours offer visitors an intimate view of nature while gliding leisurely through the calm waters. Regional flora and fauna are on display, and it is not uncommon to see ducks, heron, kingfishers and even Bald Eagles along the course.

Fees are reasonable, and visitors wishing to learn more can call 870-878-6595.

For the day-tripper who enjoys mixing history with pleasure, nearby Powhatan offers a glimpse into the past with several original and renovated pre-20th Century structures.

Tour the 1873 Lawrence County Jail that contains the original cells that held prisoners before and during the Depression. The courthouse, built in 1888, has been transformed into a museum (with pictures and literature detailing the region's rich history). For a nominal fee, the town

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In addition to its variety of shops, Hardy also features magnificent hills and waterways.

offers a guided tour of all historical landmarks, including the 1886 Telephone Exchange building and the Ficklin-Imboden Log House, built in the 1840s.

Hardy, located along the Spring River, began life as a pioneer town. What is not readily known, however, is that during the Jazz period of the '20s and '30s Hardy played host to vacationing socialites out of Memphis, Tennessee. From the resorts and cabins they built grew the small community that exists today.

Apart from its river atmosphere, Hardy's main attractions are its shops. Variety is the keyword as visitors negotiate leather and woodworking facilities, a candy store, antique shops, even a British pub — The Pig and Whistle, where authentic fish and chips are the order of the day — and a self-proclaimed "Goth" shop, which is perhaps the most surprising location.

Whether walking its main street or floating its currents, Hardy offers relaxation with an old-fashioned feel. To learn more, call 870-856-3811.

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*God Bless Our Troops*



## Marmaduke girls raise money for St. Jude's Research Hospital

Kids find lots of ways to pass the time during the summer months, but four Marmaduke girls took leisure time to a new level.

Rachel Martin and her sister Emily, along with Scout Weatherford and Natalie Lentz set up a street corner lemonade stand with all money collected being donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Scout said they "were bored" and looking for something to do, and remembered a similar fund raiser from years back. "They only raised, like, \$20," Rachel said. By the time this foursome was done, they had collected more than \$125.



Rachel Martin and Scout Weatherford were part of a four-girl team that raised money to donate to St. Jude's.

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Who we are: Megan Koller

## Graphic artist was not in the job description

By Megan Koller

It seems that when everyone hears that I hail from the Golden State of California, people automatically ask what the heck I am doing in Arkansas. A series of choices and chances is the simplest way I can think of to describe my migration here.



Megan Koller and Nate Greer

I was born to Jeffrey and DeAnna Koller in San Diego but spent most of my life in Folsom. You would be correct if you immediately thought of Johnny Cash and his hit song "Folsom Prison Blues." It's our one claim to fame.

My childhood was spent playing outside with my sister, Heidi, and just generally being content watering the rocks and singing to the birds (just a few of my dad's favorite Megan stories). After a failed attempt at playing the clarinet (doesn't mix well with braces ...) and endeavoring to "make it big" through choir classes (turns out I can't actually sing, even if the birds loved my voice), I finally tried my hand at drawing and painting. While I am no Van Gogh, art is something that lives deep in my soul.

After graduating from Folsom High School in 2007 and spending one semester at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California, I decided a change of scenery was calling to me. Luckily, my aunt, Dina Mason, who owns MOR Media and, in turn, Premiere Magazine, was able to provide just





what I needed. In January of 2008, I moved cross-country by myself to settle here in Paragould, attend ASU and work as an office assistant for Dina.

When I came to work for MOR Media, graphic artist was nowhere in my job description. After trying my hand at a few business advertisements, my workload increased and I found that I loved it just as much as I did singing, only this was a tune I could carry. Now here I am, four years later, still building ads and expanding my knowledge through special projects such as the Chamber Viewbook, The Loose Caboose Tab, designing logos, and shirts. If you see someone in an awesome tie-dyed JACK FM T-shirt, you can thank yours truly.

It's safe to say that I am a lucky girl. I have been blessed with a wonderful job that I enjoy, the most supportive family that a girl could ask for, and a loving boyfriend who will soon serve our country in Afghanistan with the Arkansas National Guard. As I've grown up, I have come to realize that life is built up of the outcomes of our choices. One decision can make a world of difference, from life changing moves to opportunities that open up a world we never knew we could be a part of. Whenever I am asked how I ended up in Paragould, Arkansas, I just smile and say I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

## Who we are: Imagination fuels Leisa Rae's creative side

By Leisa Rae

I'm the rough and tumble small town Southern girl from Smithville, Arkansas, a graduate of Lynn High School, and alum of Arkansas State University. My husband, Jimmy, works at ARI in Paragould. And I am proud to be called Mommy by my beautiful blue-eyed daughter, Raven.

I could go on and write this as though it were a resume, brag about my accomplishments, spout about how creative I am. Let's face it; that would be boring.

So I'll try my best to answer the question that I am asked most often than not, "How did you get so creative?" I was an only child, and I had to find ways to entertain myself. So when I wasn't playing in the mud or underneath an old hot rod with my dad, I used my imagination. I dreamed of being everything from a country music singer (I loved to randomly burst into song), to a firefighter, to a detective, to a writer, to a psychologist, to a musician, to radio disc jockey, and more.

I chased a few of those dreams.

Music had always been a part of my life. Most of my family plays at least one instrument. I took piano lessons before starting kindergarten and, at 14, I learned to play guitar, as well as a few other instruments.

How did I become a graphic designer? By accident, really. Based on my interest in music, senior year in high school I was sent to job shadow a DJ at KRLW in Walnut Ridge. They let me record a



Leisa Rae picks a winner for the Jack Around At Work Club.

commercial and, badabing-badaboom, a week later, I had my first part-time gig in radio. I fell in love with it. Fast forward to May 2005, I joined the MOR Media Team full time as the Mid-Day Air Personality on 107.1 KDRS (one dream accomplished). Turns out, there is a lot of writing involved in radio (that's number two). Odds are you've heard a commercial script written by yours truly on 107.1 JACK FM. Oh, and the JACK Around @ Work Club ... I came up with that. You're welcome. Anyway, when Premiere Magazine was born in 2007, I was simply asked, "Can you use Photoshop?" A sly "yes" was my reply and I've been designing advertisements, posters, t-shirts, web ads, logos and other graphics for five years now.

I still randomly burst into song. I'm sure my co-workers appreciate it. It's not like I got into this business because of my voice. Ha! That's right. I did.

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- Jay Allen, President, Allen Engineering Corp.

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# Jack Deere Giveaway Winner



Don Blankenship of Paragould reacts, above and at right, after learning he was the winner of the D110 John Deere lawn tractor featured in the Jack Deere Giveaway, co-sponsored by MOR Media and Legacy Equipment Co.

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# The PR Page

*It's the Weekend!!!*



How the Premiere Reader (PR) spends those glorious two days.

The PR looks forward to the most during the weekend:

Family Time

The PR's fav outdoor activities: Cooking out, playing w/ the kiddos, lounging poolside.

It's Saturday evening! You're most likely to find the PR:



Working 40%  
Spending Time with Family 20%  
Shopping 20%  
Playing Sports 20%



Fun Fact: 35% of workers overall work on weekends, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Early to bed, early to rise?  
The average PR choose to:  
33% Sleep in

50% Keep the same schedule

17% Snooze Saturday, rise early Sunday



To do chores, or not?

33.3 % No way!

66.6% Yes, how else will they all get done!?



Fun Fact: Sleeping in on weekends does not make up for lost sleep (Better Sleep Council).

How the PR chills with the family:



"Cooking out in the backyard and playing games."

Kathrine Duke Bischof



"Bunking in the living room w/ the kids watching movies and munching out!"

Tabitha Boozer



# Fires, fuses, explosions are not necessarily on my list of fun things to experience

I do not play with fire. Explosions are best avoided. Loud noises startle me. Smoke makes me cough. So forgive me if I admit to indifference regarding fireworks.

I certainly don't begrudge those who like them; I've friends who make exploding them an all day affair. For me, however, playing with such things is akin to fiddling with little bombs that could — at any moment — remove your hands.

One of my first memories concerns my dad holding me up to watch a fireworks display. Unfortunately, I thought the burning embers threatened to rain down on us, so I did what any self-preserving five-year-old would do: I cried. And kicked. Maybe I screamed once or twice. Whatever the reaction, it was enough to convince my parents to take me home and dump me unceremoniously in bed. (That often happened, back then.)

The first "firework" I handled was a sparkler, lit by my dad and handed to me with the charge of "writing my name." I did so. He

## What's The Fuss?

By Fuss



asked what the heck he'd just seen.

"My name," I replied. "Written in calligraphy."

We went back inside.

A few years later, I spent the Fourth with relatives. (I can't imagine why.) Mischief occurred. A disc spitting fire was thrown at me, and it chased me across the yard. Angered, I summoned the courage to light a bottle rocket and aim it at the offending cousin. They foiled my plan by moving out of range. The rocket flared ... and hit my aunt. Soon thereafter bedtime was declared.

In high school, my best friend — a true scholar — decided it would be great fun to open a hundred bottle rockets, empty their powder into a metal dish, and ignite it. I hope no warning against doing this is necessary

(although the firemen were very courteous — despite their obvious desire to flail us with their largest hose).

As an adult, I still fear anything with a fuse. The first year of our marriage, my wife bought some small firecrackers. I was against it, but she compromised; her choices were child's play compared to the nuclear bombs folk in our former neighborhood enjoyed. I remember poking my head from the relative safety of the porch, begging my wife to be careful as she lit a paper chicken that, when ignited, squawked and laid three small fiery eggs. When she bent to light a cone that emitted a shower of colorful sparks, I fled into the house. Had I not been a married man of 28, I believe my dad would've sent me to bed.

Are there fireworks I like? Yes: The small, black discs that form ashy snakes when lit. I also tolerate Snap and Pops, though I can't abide people throwing them at me.

As for sparklers: I haven't written my name with one in decades. A pen and paper will suffice, thanks.

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# NEA COOKS



**Name:** Maria Bustamante

**Family:** Husband, Art, and children Melissa, Nathan and Alicia

**Employer:** First National Bank

**From:** California

**When did you start cooking?** As a teenager helping my mother in the kitchen.

**What is your favorite dish to make?** Both tacos and burritos. They are easy to make and delicious.

**What is your family's favorite dish?** My fried potato tacos and the ground beef tacos featured here.

**What is your favorite cooking memory?** The first time I cooked rice correctly with my mom.

**What was your biggest cooking disaster?** I was trying to bake a cake for my husband when we lived in Arizona. When I pulled the cake out of the oven I dropped it on the floor. The cake was so hard it bounced!

**Ingredient you can't live without:** Tomatoes, avocados and spices.

*To be featured in NEA Cooks, call 236-7627.*

*All you need is a recipe and a smile!*



## BUÑELOS (DESSERT)

- 1 Cup Of Oil
- 2 Large Flour Tortillas
- 2 Cups of Sugar
- 1 tsp of Cinnamon

In a large pan heat 1 cup of oil on medium heat. Cut tortillas into triangles. Mix your sugar and cinnamon in large plastic bag. Once mixed, pour onto large plate. When oil is hot add tortillas, cook until golden brown. Remove tortillas with tongs and put them on plate with sugar and cinnamon mixture. Use tongs to mix each triangle in mixture.



## MEXICAN RICE

- 1 Tbls Olive Oil
- 1 Cup of White Long Grain Rice
- 2 ½ Cups of Hot Water
- ½ Cup of Chopped Tomatoes
- ¼ Cup of Chopped Onions
- 2 Chicken Broth Cubes (Knorr)
- 1 Clove of Chopped Garlic (optional)

Heat oil in pan on medium. Add rice and mix constantly until golden brown.

Add ¼ cup onion and garlic to rice and sauté for 1 minute. Add ¼ cup of chopped tomatoes, 2 ½ cups of hot water, and 2 chicken broth cubes. Simmer for 20 minutes.

## GROUND BEEF & POTATO SOFT TACOS

- 1 lb Ground Beef
- 1 Russet Potatoes (Cubed)
- 2 Chicken Broth Cubes (Knorr Brand)
- 1 Small Pack of Corn or Flour Tortillas
- 2 Large Tomato
- 1 Small Onion
- ¼ Cup of Cilantro
- 1 Avocado
- 1 Head of Lettuce
- 1 Clove of Garlic
- ½ Tsp Salt
- ½ Tsp of Italian Seasoning
- 2 Red Hot Peppers



Start by boiling garlic and tomato (approximately 30 minutes). Peel and cube potato, put cubed potato in large pot, add ground beef and chicken broth cubes. Put aside once potato and ground beef are ready.

Put 1 tomato and garlic in blender and puree. Add ½ tsp of salt, ½ tsp of Italian seasoning and 2 hot red peppers (optional). Put aside

when ready.

Chop lettuce into long thin pieces. Chop cilantro, 1 tomato, half an onion and 1 avocado. Mix in 1 bowl and put aside.

Heat tortillas and add beef & potato mixture along with salsa and chopped lettuce mixture.

Enjoy!

# Engagements

## Helen Marie's Perfect Touch

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### Our Bridal...

Abby Jetton & Hunter Finley  
July 21

Lauren Wiseman & Blake Schrepter  
July 21

Mackenzie Thompson & Luke Foster  
July 28

Lauren Edwards & Caleb McCaslin  
July 28

Catherine Davis & Lance Bradley  
August 4

Megan Carlile & Dustin Dancer  
August 11

Meredith Smith & Zack McMillon  
August 25

Hannah Parsley & Dustin Rudi  
August 25

Sonni Black & Matt Tripod  
September 8

Isha Cummings & Casy Fletcher  
October 6

Ashley Timmons & CJ Smith  
October 20

Breanne Reddick & Dex Gardner  
December 15

### Our Baby...

Kristin & Josh Collins  
April & Joey Bowen

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Daniel Anthony Roe and Cassie Michele Wallace

Cassie Michele Wallace and Daniel Anthony Roe will be married July 14, 2012, in Paragould.

Cassie's parents are Don and Dorothy Wallace of Paragould.

Daniel's parents are Tony and Gayla Roe, also of Paragould.



Casey Tritch and Kimberly Keeling

Kimberly Keeling and Casey Tritch have set a September wedding date.

Kimberly's parents are Thomas and Alisa Keeling of Paragould.

Casey is the son of Larry and Jackie Tritch, also of Paragould.

The wedding will take place September 19, at Greater Vision Ministries.

# Engagements



Lance Alan Bradley and Catherine Nicole Davis  
Catherine Nicole Davis and Lance Alan Bradley will be married August 4, 2012.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Myron and Mary Davis of Paragould.

The prospective groom's parents are Wyman and Tanginna Atwood and Jim and Miranda Bradley Jr.

The groom also lists his home town as Paragould.

The wedding ceremony will take place at the Finch Baptist Church.

## Mullen, Cambron announce plans

Doreen Mullen of Clover Bend and Scott Cambron of Brookland announce plans to be married June 16, 2012.

Scott is the son of Betty Cambron.

The wedding ceremony will be held at Crowley's Ridge State Park in Walcott.

**Let's be social!**



# Birth Announcements



Carroline Rachel Sturkie

Chad and Marlo Sturkie of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Carroline Rachel.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long. She was delivered at 11:12 a.m. on April 20 at NEA Baptist in Jonesboro.

Grandparents are Danny and Evelyn Sturkie of Paragould and Gilbert Richards of Osceola.



Lowell Wayne Herren

Bradley and Cara Herren of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Lowell Wayne "Layne" Herren.

He was born on March 29, 2012, 5:43 a.m. at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20.1 inches long. He has a big sister, Cady Mae Herren, 2.

Grandparents are Dennis and Paula Herren, Joel and Pauletta Tobey, and Clarence Killian, all of Paragould. Great-grandparents are Wade and Johnnie Killian of Cardwell, Mo., the late Lowell and Ruby Herren, the late Paul and Euna Pillow, the late Charles Gallegly and Betty McCann, all of Paragould.

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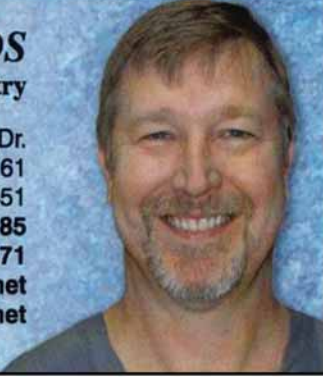
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July 16th --- KASU's Blue Monday

July 23rd --- KASU's Bluegrass Monday

July 24th --- Preservation Planning

Visit the "Event" tab on Main Street's Facebook page for more info.



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

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Tuesday, July 3

### Big Bang Fireworks Blowout, 9:30 p.m.

Be at Paragould's Rotary Softball Complex for a free fireworks display. There will be a patriotic musical accompaniment on 107.1 Jack FM. The event is presented by: The Paragould Jaycees, MOR Media, which consists of 107.1 Jack FM, Premiere Magazine and 1490 KDRS AM, First National Bank, McDonald's of Paragould, Bayird Motors, Lakeside Metal, Larry's Auto Sales, Focus Bank, Prestolite, AMMC, Glen Sain, ARI and KNL Holdings. For more information call Eve Higdon at 870-335-6455.

## Saturday, July 14

### Women's Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Held at First United Methodist Church in Paragould, located at 404 W. Main. Bible study, conversation, laughter and reflection. The cost is \$40 per person and includes all materials, snacks and 2 meals. Child care is provided those who preregister. For more information call at 239-8541.

## Monday, July 16

### KASU's Blues Monday, 7 p.m.

With Nancy Apple, at Red Goose Deli Grand Hall-Pruett Street entrance in Paragould.

## Monday, July 30-Thursday, August 2

### Operation Overboard, 5-8 p.m.

Paragould First United Methodist Church invites you to go deep with God at Vacation Bible School at the church, located at 404 W. Main Street in Paragould. Have fun singing, playing, and learning. Everyone is invited and, of course, it's free. For more information call 870-239-8541.

## Thursday-Saturday, July 19-21

### The Wizard of Oz, 7:30 p.m., Greene County Tech High

"The Wizard of Oz" is the 2012 summer musical being presented by The Greene County Fine Arts Council. Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday July 19th, 20th, and 21st at 7:30pm, tickets are \$10.00, seniors and children 12 and younger \$7.00. A special Family Matinee is Saturday July 21st at 2:00 p.m. All matinee tickets are \$5.00. Tickets are on sale at the Lantern Bookstore and Kiss The Cook

## Saturday, July 7

### Kids' Craft Day, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Parkin State Park

Catch a glimpse of what life was like throughout history in Parkin by creating fun crafts! Whether they make an arrowhead necklace to learn about the Mississippian Indians or a corn husk doll to learn about the Northern Ohio School (or both!), kids will gain a new appreciation for the past and have a great work of art to take home. This event is FREE and reservations are not required. Call 870-755-2500.

## Tuesday-Friday, July 17-20

### Traveling Day Camp, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Parkin State Park

For kids 8-12 who want to have a fantastic time exploring different attractions in the Parkin vicinity. Park staff will whisk your kids from one fun activity to another, only stopping for snacks and lunch (all provided by the park). The cost is \$100 per child and this fee covers all food, transportation, and admissions. Pre-registration with a \$50 deposit is required. Interested families must contact the visitor center at 870-755-2500 and ask for Park Interpreter Mel.

## Recurring Events:

### Several nights a week

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

### Second Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 p.m. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. Contact tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com for more information.

### First Monday of every month

Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon

All PYP members and prospective members invited. 236-7684

### Third Tuesday of every month

Low Vision Support Group, 12:30 p.m. At the Senior Center. 236-8498

### Every Wednesday

Perking on Pruett, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Perking On Pruett, at Something Sweet. Find out what's happening in the One and Only Downtown Paragould.

### T.O.P.S. (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)


Wednesday mornings at the Paragould Community Center in Room E. Private Weigh in at 8:00 a.m.; support meeting at 8:30 a.m.

May attend one meeting as a guest. Membership fees are \$26 a year and \$1 dues per meeting. artops599@yahoo.com

### Second Wednesday of every month


Spaghetti Dinner, 11:00am - 1:30pm

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



## AMMC ONE OF ONLY THREE HOSPITALS IN STATE TO WIN INNOVATOR AWARD

The residents of Rector and Corning took to the streets, literally, when they saw the need for emergency medical services in their communities. Through innovative fundraising efforts, grants and support from Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, two state-of-the-art ambulances were purchased. For the team effort, the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care recently awarded AMMC the prestigious Innovator Award. The award honors hospitals that demonstrate improved outcomes focused on providing quality healthcare to individuals and communities.



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# STAY TUNED

## What's in Store For Next Month

Cover Story



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

Events



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

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