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Greene County Fair
Senior B.E.E.S.
Fire Safety Tips
Political Update
Outstanding Teachers



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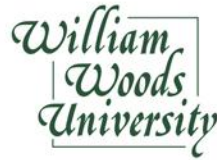


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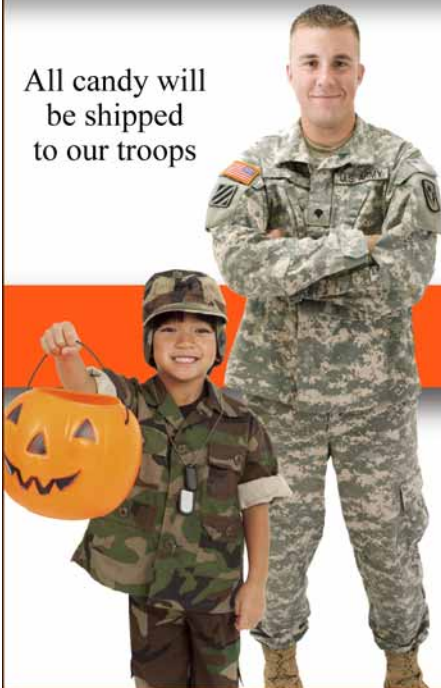


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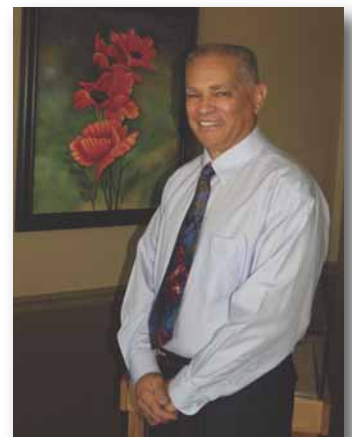
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From The Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

Something for the young, something for the old, something for the in-between. That might be the best way to describe the contents of this month's Premiere.

One look at the cover leads to the obvious

conclusion that we have some Halloween features in store. For the young -- or young at heart -- on the one hand we teach you how to make a good zombie, if that is to your liking, while on the other we give you ways to stay safe while out Trick-or-Treating or taking part in the various Halloween events scheduled in the community.

That's all a lead-in to Paragould's first-ever Downtown Zombie Walk, scheduled for Saturday, October 27. All the information you'll need to know about dressing up in your most ghoulish outfit and stomping around the downtown area can be found in Gabriel Cook's story on page 27.

There is also a focus on senior citizens and some of the more active distinguished residents in our midst. Hannah Gonzalez presents Rochelle Penny's story, and we also highlight the Senior BEES Singers and the BEES' 40th birthday celebration.

Fire safety is a popular topic at this time of year, and we got with the Paragould Fire Department to compile a list of safety measures everyone should practice.

In the *Between The Dashes* feature, former

Premiere Editor Karole Risker contributes a touching tribute to First United Methodist Church pastor Bill Leslie, who recently passed away.

For those who are into the political scene, several candidates present their cases to the voters in a four-page section of this month's magazine, explaining their views on current issues.

There's still more. The Greene County Fair celebrated its 125th anniversary and Premiere staffers had cameras out at a number of events. We have a two-page photo spread to look back at the week's activities.

This school year's first Outstanding Teachers are introduced, with Oak Grove's Lynn Watson and Marmaduke's Larry Willis earning the honors. Both are veteran teachers very deserving of the accolades.

In the business section we examine the impressive structures designed by Tate Construction, and also look at a true craftsman in Jonesboro jeweler Nelson Gotay.

Sit back and enjoy. ♦

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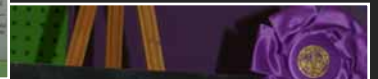
Greene County Fair celebrates 125 years

Area residents take part in wide variety of activities during week-long event



As always, the Greene County Fair means fun and games for area youngsters. From corndogs to carnival rides, the fair always provides plenty of ways for kids to enjoy themselves.





Items for sale decorated the midway in hopes of catching the eye of some prospective buyer, while inside the buildings arts and crafts winners' works -- complete with accompanying ribbons -- were displayed. Kiwanis Club members, at left, Jimmy Wilson, Mark Rowland, Holly Gordon and Jeff Branch read radio ads in the annual K Day event. The fair also serves as the place to recognize annual winners of the Miss and Little Miss Greene County pageants, as well as entrants in MOR Media's Youth Talent Contest. Contestants showed up sporting gowns and changes of clothing, below left, before taking the stage. Meanwhile, other visitors used the time to take a leisurely stroll around the fairgrounds. Below right, David Kellums and Dennis Prince pose with members of the Kentucky Headhunters, the featured musical act this year.



October is designated Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is a month set aside for emphasizing breast cancer awareness, but Carrie Rowland of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center said the need for education about the disease is year-round.

"All these things that call attention to community awareness are really good," said Rowland, a Radiologic Technologist at AMMC.

Events like Paragould High School's "Dig For The Cure" volleyball match alongside the Lady Rams' counterparts from Greene County Tech, "Paint The Town Pink" and various other fundraisers only serve to keep the seriousness of the matter in front of the public, according to Rowland.

She said a common misconception is that one needs to be "a certain age" to contract breast cancer.

"A common myth," she said, "is that as you get older you won't get it. There are two major

History of the Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure

Susan Goodman, later Susan Goodman Komen, was born in 1943 in Peoria, Illinois. She was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33. She died of the disease at age 36 in 1980. Komen's younger sister, Nancy Goodman Brinker, who believed that Susan's outcome might have been better if patients knew more about cancer and its treatment, promised her sister that she would do everything she could to end breast cancer.

To fulfill that promise, Brinker founded the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in Komen's memory in 1982.

In 2007, the 25th anniversary of the organization,

risks for getting it: being female and aging. If you are in your late teens or 20s, you should do a self-breast exam once a month. At 40, you should have a baseline mammogram, then yearly after that.

the name was changed to Susan G. Komen for the Cure and trademarked a new logo in support of its promise "to end breast cancer forever." The new logo is a pink ribbon that resembles a runner in motion and is meant to reflect the importance of Komen's signature Race for the Cure event, which is currently the world's largest fund raising event for breast cancer education and research. The logo symbolically associates the organization with the values of the pink ribbon culture: fear of breast cancer, hope, and the charitable goodness of people and businesses who publicly support the breast cancer movement. ♦

"My grandmother was 85 when she was diagnosed," she added. "My youngest patient was 26 and my oldest was 96. Obviously, there is a wide age range. You are less likely to get it when you are young, but you still must be aware."

Rowland said there are a large number of women in our community in their 20s and 30s who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I don't know if that is due to the environment or what," she said, "I just know it's a big number. It just emphasizes the need to be more aware. Know your family history. If you have a lump that lasts more than one menstrual cycle, get it checked. Know your normal feeling for you when you do your breast exams."

Rowland said the national Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, set for October 20, is a great way for people to further awareness of the cause. Where many people join local teams and participate in the race, she said you can also go to the website, register and participate without having a team affiliation.

"I encourage people to do it," she said. "So many women in our community have dealt with cancer and have touched so many hearts. Things like this continue to raise awareness for early detection." ♦



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Style for Life



Who is Greene County?

I AM GREENE COUNTY

Katelyn Mangrum

Age: 21

Where I'm from: Paragould

What I like the best about Paragould/Greene County: The ability of our community to rally together to help someone in need, no matter how big or how little. Also, it will always be my home no matter where I am in the world.

What I do: I am a sophomore at Arkansas State University. Howl, yes! Go Red Wolves!

Future plans: Right now I have no clue where this journey of life will take me, but with my determination it'll be great, whatever it is.

Family: I'm the daughter of Greg and Terri Mangrum. My sister is Courtney Mangrum, who is now my guardian angel. She left me with one of the strongest, most amazing little girls ever, my niece Gabriella Amaral. Two others who are a big part of my life are Bobby Joe Willie and Clifton Garmrath.

Hobbies/Interests: I love anything outdoors. Some of my favorites are snow skiing, scuba diving, riding my bike, hiking and fishing. When I have to be indoors I enjoy a good movie, dancing or painting. Some crazy things I've done are sky diving and bungee jumping.

Something most people don't know about me: I get my feelings hurt easily, but I'm good at hiding it.

One of my favorite experiences: The opportunities I have been given to travel the world. I spent an awesome year in Switzerland as an exchange student, thanks to the Rotary Club of Paragould. This past summer I spent two months in Australia, thanks to International Centre for Exploration and Education.

Katelyn is photographed at Center Hill Park in Paragould.

Politicians speak out on current issues

In order to help voters make educated decisions regarding their choices in the upcoming election, Premiere Magazine contacted area candidates who will be featured on the ballot.

Candidates were given the opportunity to share with voters their reasons for saying, "Vote for me."

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order, with no preference shown for ballot position or political affiliation. Photos are published as provided.

Mary Lile Broadaway

Office you are seeking: State Representative / District 57

Party: Democrat

I am the senior female attorney in Greene County, having started my own practice in 1989. I have previously served as the attorney for the Office of Child Support Enforcement.

I am currently the appointed city attorney for Corning, Arkansas. In my capacity as Corning city attorney, I am the prosecutor in District Court. Further, I was appointed by the Arkansas Supreme Court in 2006 for a six-year term to the Arkansas State Board of Law Examiners, and currently serve as chair.

I was raised in Jonesboro with the exception of being a student, I have spent all my adult life in Paragould.

I have no background in politics. After my son, Jack, graduated from high school I felt called to enter into public service to try and make a difference for my community and



Mary Lile Broadaway

people with disabilities.

I believe when someone has been given the blessings and opportunities in life that I have, there is a duty to give back, to leave the place better than when you found it, to make a difference in the lives of others, and that's what I want to do...make a difference. I'm familiar with the hardships and sacrifices faced by residents of Northeast Arkansas, and I believe that I can put my experience to work as State Representative to improve the lives of our citizens.

I have spent the entire 23 years of my career representing people and helping solve their problems. I have a reputation as a "fighter". As your state representative, I will fight to make a difference, right here at home, for our families, our seniors and all citizens of district 57! (Paragould, Oak Grove, and Greene County)

Wes Eddington

Office you are seeking: State Representative / District 57

Party: Republican

For 138 years, our state legislature has been governed by a single party. During that time span, Arkansas has continued to rank at the bottom in per capita income, yet our tax burden ranks very high (14th) as compared to other states.



Wes Eddington

I am a fiscal and social conservative who will vote to lower taxes for hardworking citizens of Greene County while voting in favor of legislation to facilitate job growth. I believe in smaller government, less spending and pro-family values.

Please vote for me. I want to move Arkansas forward.

I currently serve on the Greene County

Faith & Family

Jobs

Education

Seniors

Balanced Budget

Vote for me,
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Quorum Court. I previously served nine years on state committees as an appointee of Gov. Huckabee.

I hold a bachelor's degree and worked 23 years in the medical field. I own an LLC and rental property, and teach Sunday School at Brown's Chapel Baptist Church.

Scott Ellington

Office you are seeking: United States Congress

Party: Democrat

As Prosecuting Attorney I have proven when to stand my ground and when to negotiate. I believe that I've demonstrated that I have the courage to make tough decisions that



Scott Ellington

are in the

public's best interest, even when the decision may not be a popular one.

I've spent my career making hard choices. Just a month ago, we put a cop killer on death row. That's tough stuff. I'll tell you what's not tough, making decisions based on what's right for this part of Arkansas. I'll start on day one by reaching across party lines to bring jobs to Arkansas, fight to protect Social Security and Medicare, to get a farm bill that works for Arkansas Farmers and to protect our Second Amendment Rights. I'll serve just as I've served as Prosecutor: Compromise when possible, stand firm when necessary and always do what's right for the people of Arkansas.


Tommy Grooms

Seeking the office of Greene County Judge

Party: Republican

I am a retired CW4 Master Army Aviator with 21 years' service. I have planned and commanded combat and peacetime operations, administered complex budgets, and coordinated counter drug and disaster

"As a small business owner-farmer, I feel strongly that my life experience and faith will help me better represent the fundamental values of the citizens of District 20."




Blake JOHNSON

STATE SENATE | DISTRICT 20

*Paid for by Blake Johnson Campaign

Elect Wes Eddington

State Representative, District 57



Experience:

- Elected JP - Greene County Quorum Court
- Bachelors Degree in Psychology
- Appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee to serve on two state committees
- Worked for 23 years in the medical field




• Wes also believes that "Obamacare" is detrimental to our entire health care system.

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- Promotion of economic growth and job creation
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- Repeal of the Death Tax
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Wes Eddington for State Representative, Dist. 57

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operations with federal agencies. I'm near completion of a B.S. degree in Technical Management and Aeronautics. I also managed our family farm.



Tommy Grooms

I will treat each citizen with respect and never forget that it is a privilege to serve. I will develop a road program based on sound engineering and a budget plan that will stop deficit spending without tax increases, ensure the jail project is completed properly, engage the county in economic development, and ensure county law enforcement agencies are properly funded.

I ask for your vote and the opportunity to serve you as county judge. The only promises I make are that I will always be honest with you and that I will do my best for all in Greene County.

Cathy (CJ)Hays

Office you are seeking: Greene County Collector

Party: Democrat

I have 23 years combined in state and country government, six years as collector. I am a member of the Arkansas Collectors Association and attend continuing education classes to keep up with the issues that affect tax collectors around the state and legislative issues affecting the collector's office.



Cathy (CJ) Hays

I have worked with the public all my life. I feel this has given me a greater knowledge of what the people of Greene County expect and need.

During my past three terms, we have

implemented a new computer system to simplify the statements. This has made them easier to read and process. As Collector, I have been responsible with all taxpayers' dollars.

I am actively involved in many clubs and organizations within the community. I have enjoyed working with the people and would like the opportunity to continue serving Greene County and its residents.

Blake Johnson

Seeking the office of State Senate District 20

Party: Republican

I am a graduate of Corning High School, Cum Laude graduate of ASU and have been in farming for 18 years. I am a member of the Arkansas Economic Developers, the Corning Chamber of



Blake Johnson

Commerce and

serve on the Corning City Council.

I will defend our state's and individuals' rights against invasive federal legislation and regulation, such as Obama Care and the EPA. I will be a good steward of the people's money and return to the local communities as much as possible.

As a small business owner/farmer, I feel strongly that my life experience and faith will help me better represent the fundamental values of the citizens of District 20.


Rusty A. McMillon

For the office of: Justice of the Peace District 2

Party: Republican

I served on the committee that helped to promote the funding for the new Greene County Jail expansion. I want to serve to see that the project is handled in the way the committee told the citizens it would be.


I am an advocate for responsible spending. I would like to see better cooperation among the county and its towns/communities. We



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- Educated to meet modern challenges

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Paid for by Tommy Grooms

are only as strong as our citizens choose to be. This is a great place to live and we can keep on getting better.

Diane Simons

Office sought: Greene County Assessor
Party: Democrat

Experience counts! I've worked in the Greene County Assessor's office since 1991, and have been Tax Assessor since 1999.

My local staff has thousands of education hours and experience behind them. We are always available to speak to Greene County residents about concerns they may have with their tax assessment.

I'm working vigilantly to obtain computer technology, in the most cost effective way, so that we can better serve the needs of the citizens of Greene County.

I've enjoyed serving Greene County and look forward to years of continued service. I would appreciate your vote.

Ronnie Spence

Position sought: State Representative District 57
Party: Conservative Independent

I am the true conservative in this election. My focus will be bringing better jobs to District 57, by lower taxes, easing regulations.

My job will be to make sure that the climate is right for new business to be able to come. I am for total local control of schools, and cutting unnecessary spending. We need to stop Washington policies on Arkansas.

I am against Obama Care, and will vote to get Arkansas out of the Affordable Health Care Act. I do not belong to any political party. My motto is, "Representing the people, not a party."

Robert Thompson

Office sought: State Senate
Party: Democrat

As State Senator, I believe Arkansas always comes first. I have been honored to represent

Paragould and Greene County in the legislature for the past eight years.

I believe we should focus on buying American made products and services, to keep our jobs at home.

I am also a strong supporter of school choice and our public schools. ♦



Robert Thompson

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Re-Elect Cathy (CJ) Hays
Greene County Tax Collector

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Paid for by Committee to Elect Cathy (CJ) Hays

Fire safety: Learning to keep you and your family safe

Paragould Fire Chief Kevin Lang said an eye on safety and thinking things through are most of what folks need to consider in order to practice good fire safety at this time of year.

“Some things we really push at this time of year are changing the batteries in the smoke detectors, and checking them once a week to make sure they work,” Lang said. “With kids, always make sure there’s a meeting place if you have to get out of the house.”

He called the safest practices “basic stuff” and said using common sense is often the best practice.

“This time of year, the weather’s nice and people want to sit out in the back yard and burn stuff in the fire pit,” he said, “and that’s not a problem as long as when the fire dies down you don’t just go in the house.

“If the wind gets up and hits the embers then you *can* have a problem. You should always take a couple of jugs of water or the hose and drown the embers real good before leaving it.”

Lang also said many don’t realize that small electric heaters used in the home are not made to be used with extension cords. “They can really build up heat in a hurry,” he said. “If you do have to have an extension cord, it needs to be heavy duty.”

The chief also suggested keeping areas around the house -- inside and out -- free from clutter and combustible materials. He said people sometimes don’t think about a gas water heater having a pilot light, and will shove things close to them “because they’re in a closet, out of the way, but that’s a fire hazard.”

When it comes to keeping outside pets warm, Lang cautioned against putting heat lamps in the dog house, especially if straw is used as a warming agent.

Other safety tips include:

Test windows and doors — do they open easily enough? Are they wide enough? Or tall enough?

CONDUCT A FAMILY MEETING

Conduct a family meeting and discuss the following topics:

Always sleep with the bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke out of bedrooms, giving you additional time to escape.

Find a way for everyone to sound a family alarm. Yelling, pounding on walls, whistles, etc. Practice yelling "FIRE!"

In a fire, time is critical. Don't waste time getting dressed, don't search for pets or valuables. Just get out!

Roll out of bed. Stay low. One breath of smoke or gases may be enough to kill.

BE PREPARED, PLAN AHEAD

Practice evacuating the building blindfolded. In a real fire situation, the amount of smoke generated by a fire most likely will make it difficult to see.

Practice staying low to the ground when escaping.

Feel all doors before opening them. If a door is hot, get out another way.

Learn to stop, drop to the ground, roll if clothes catch fire.

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR SAFETY

Post emergency numbers near telephones.

Be aware that if a fire threatens your home, you should not place the call to emergency services from inside the home. It is better to get out and place the call to fire authorities from a safe location outside the home.

After a fire emergency

Give first aid where appropriate. Seriously injured victims should be transported to professional medical help immediately. Stay out of the damaged building. Return only when fire authorities say it is safe.

Make sure you have a safe fire escape method for all situations

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You may have installed a very expensive home security system. But if you cannot escape the burning structure you have a false level of confidence.

Space Heaters Need Space

Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that may burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to sleep. Children and pets should always be kept away from them.

Smokers Need To Be Extra Careful

Never smoke in bed or when you are sleepy. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States.

Be Careful Cooking

Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep the handles of your pots turned inward so they do not over-hang the stove. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan and smother the flames, then turn off the burner.

Matches and Lighters are Dangerous

In the hands of a child, matches and lighters can be deadly! Store them where kids can't reach them, preferably in a locked area. Teach children that matches and lighters are "tools" and should only be used by adults.

Use Electricity Safely

If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords and don't overload extension cords. They should not be run under rugs. Never tamper with the fuse box or use the improper size fuse.

Cool a Burn

If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound under cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately!

Be Careful of Halogen Lights

If you have halogen lights, make sure they are away from flammable drapes and low ceiling areas. Never leave them on when you leave your home or office.

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Crowley's Ridge College, Harding announce new working agreement

Harding University announces the opening of a new education site on the campus of Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould.

Classes will be offered beginning with the fall semester. Classes will be available on weeknights and on Saturdays to better accommodate students.

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Chamber Week

Members of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce observed Chamber Week with a number of activities.

At right, featured speaker Randy Frazier led a seminar at the Community Center entitled "Over The Fence" for interested parties.

Below at right are some of the members who attended a mid-week breakfast to honor past Chamber presidents. Included were, at left, Rusty McMillon, Bill Tripp and Harry Porter; and at right, Virginia Walls and Jana Dowler.

Scheduled events included Shop The Chamber Monday, the Tuesday seminar, Wednesday's breakfast, Business After Hours on Thursday and a membership luncheon on Friday. ♦



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OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Lynn Watson, Oak Grove Middle School

I have always loved kids. When I was young, I began teaching a children's class at church with my mom at a young age. I have truly always wanted to be a teacher. I love children! They can always brighten your day. Before I was teaching, I would see how much Rick's students loved him and wanted to please him, and I wanted that feeling. I wanted to make a difference in a child's life. What an awesome feeling!!



I pray for all of my students daily, and pray that they will leave my class improved in some way. I try to help them all realize that if they put forth an effort it will be worth it. Teaching can be one of the most rewarding jobs in the world. I love being at Wal-Mart or going out to eat and hearing one of my students yell, "Mrs. Watson!" and come and give me a hug. I also love the notes from students over the years with their heartfelt "Thank You's."

This will be my 27th year as a teacher. I taught kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades at CRA for 19 years, and this will be my 8th year at OGMS.

My wonderful, Godly, parents are J.T. and Dorothy Ashby. My husband is Rick Watson, PHS teacher and assistant Sr. High Boys Basketball Coach. We have three terrific sons, Jeremy, Chris and Jace. Jeremy has blessed us with a fabulous daughter-in-law, Ashley, and they have given us the two sweetest granddaughters in the world. We attend 7th and Mueller Church of Christ. ♦

Larry Willis, Marmaduke

I became a teacher because I really liked history and sports. My dad and mom were interested in those fields and it rubbed off on me. I really had good teachers and coaches in high school like Deal Puckett and Jim Willis who encouraged you and pushed you to do your best. I hoped someday maybe I could do the same thing.

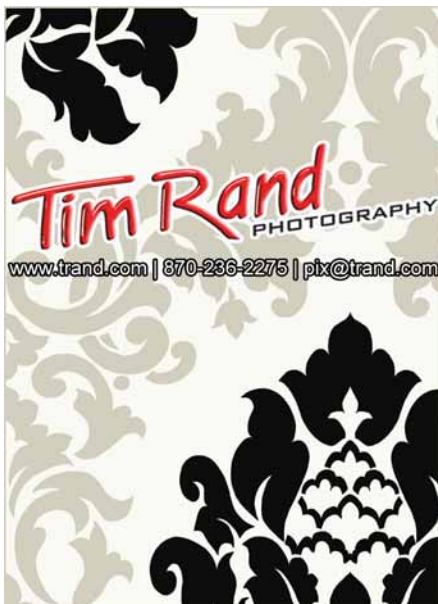


I enjoy working with kids. It is much harder today than when I first started because of all the paperwork and lack of support teachers get. Everyone thinks a teacher has 30 hours in a day. It still feels good when you see a student learn something new or a ballplayer master a new skill.

This will be 35 years of teaching. I have 37 years' credit because the state gave me the two years I was in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

I am married to a wonderful lady, Virginia Willis. I have taken her to every historical spot in the country. She has walked the Little Big Horn battlefield in Montana, stood beside Wild Bill Hickok's grave, climbed halfway up Mount Rushmore, ridden horses to the base of the Golden Gate Mountains in Old Tucson, and chased John Wayne's ghost from Sedora and Tucson to Monument Valley. She also goes to dozens of baseball games every year. She is a great partner on my adventures.

I have four children: Flynn, Crystal, step-daughters Amber and Amanda, and one granddaughter, Avery, who is precious. ♦



- Between The Dashes -

First United Methodist Church was truly blessed in the 15 months Bill Leslie was our senior pastor, a relatively short time, but what an impact he made. We are more than grateful that Bill spent the last of his life doing exactly what he wanted to do here with us, and doing it with great love and enthusiasm.

The last day of his life was spent in a long staff meeting, followed by changing furniture around in a classroom to make it more comfortable for the ladies who used it every Sunday. That was followed by more meetings and a cheery goodbye to my daughter after good naturedly ribbing her and her friends, and then coming back to the church in the late evening hours to lock up after a community group met there. All in all, a typical day for a man who never had a cross word, had endless patience, and who even answered the phone as if he were expecting the best news of his life to be in that call.

With Bill it was always family first, and we all knew it. As such, there were any number of staff kids around the church at any given time, particularly in the summer. The only time he ever said anything was in an email telling us that perhaps the rubber band wars of the teenagers could be a little better contained so the custodian didn't have to pick up quite so many. Even in this he followed up with another email hoping he hadn't come on too hard. Of course, he didn't. He just didn't have that way about him. In fact, he could turn anything into a positive. Bill was always excited about new ideas. If, however, he didn't like your idea you didn't leave his office disappointed that you didn't get your way; he made you forget it by making you even more excited by the better idea he had that you got to help him carry out. He always wanted to make your vision come to pass, too, and did whatever he could to help. Most of our ideas were met in staff meetings with, "Cool!" And if anyone ever said anything, he had your back and defended you and your idea. He was also exceptional at noticing everything the staff did and recognizing it both privately in an email, and more publicly

from the pulpit. As such, he created a staff that was loyal and supportive of him, because he was first loyal and supportive of you.

Bill was thoughtful and considerate. While he could have easily shirked duties as the senior pastor, instead he came up with more work for himself that he might relieve the burdens of someone else. All of the full-time staff takes turns locking the church and turning off the lights every Sunday so that Iona doesn't have to come back on a Sunday afternoon to do it.



Reverend William B. Leslie
January 15, 1950-August 22, 2012

Bill's idea all the way and, naturally, he was in the rotation.

He came at the right time for this church and fit with us like a hand in a glove. We still plan to carry on his enormous vision for our church, from carrying on his \$1 a week offering, to making Trunk or Treat a huge community event, to his dream of creating a new worship space for the contemporary service. We feel him with us every week as Pastor Angie preaches those themes and as Wendy finds candle lighters for our contemporary service, an idea we incorporated because Bill wanted children to be a part of leading worship. He so much wanted the church debt paid off by the end of the year. Literally tens of thousands of dollars

were donated just after his death toward that end. It is hopeful that the debt will be paid in its entirety by Trunk or Treat, as Bill especially loved Halloween.

He left behind his wife Brenda, and his daughter Brooke, and son Kyle, along with six grandchildren. He is, however, reunited again with his daughter Tara, whom they lost several years ago.

Whether you knew Bill for one day or 40 years, you had no doubt about his feelings for his wife. His complete devotion and adoration for Brenda was not only clearly evident in his writings and his sermons, but especially in his daily actions. Statistics show that marriages sometimes fall apart after the death of a child, but Bill and Brenda defied those odds, handling a terrible loss by clinging closer to their faith, their family, and their own relationship.

In an era of "absent" fathers, Bill was actually the "ever-present" father. He made his children and their numerous activities a clear priority in his life. He rarely missed a sporting event, school function, or even a junior high band concert if one of his kids were involved. He was always known to greet his child at the end of an event with a hug and the statement, "I'm proud of you." He was known as "Pop" to his grandchildren and his last text to one of his granddaughters was, "Proud of you Riley!! Of course I am always proud of you!! Pop."

Bill was an outdoorsman and loved to hunt quail, fish, be with his dogs, write and read mystery novels. He called himself a "has been" athlete, and was a coach, chemistry, physics and mathematics teacher.

Bill was an ordained Elder in the Arkansas Conference and served in ministry for more than 30 years. He was on the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center board of directors and a member of the Rotary Club.

Bill always signed off "God's best." And he was. ♦

By Karole Risker, Director
of Media/Communications FUMC

In this instance, finally seeing the light was not a good thing

By day, I am a non-believer in the supernatural. At night, however, my brain transforms every bump and scrape into ghosts and hobgoblins lurking in the shadows. When asked about my religious affiliations, I claim to be a devout coward, and this is never more obvious than when I'm dragged to haunted attractions during the Halloween season.

I say "dragged" because I would never attend willingly. Four years ago, a group of supposed friends forced me to go see the Arbyrd Light. I would normally withhold the names of the innocent; no innocents being involved in this case, I expose them as Brian Osborn, Bobby Wilson, David Kellums, and Suzanne Buschong. These "friends" threw me in a van, drove me across state lines (which makes it kidnapping), and plopped me down on a dark and eerie structure known as Crybaby Bridge. How apt that name would be before night's end.

We arrived at dusk, the gravel road we bumped along surrounded by fields on one side, trees on the other. The bridge creaked beneath us. A nearby Stop sign had been obliterated by a shotgun blast. Seeing this, I demanded to be returned home lest I, or someone in our party, end up in similar condition. They would not oblige.

Darkness fell. Without warning, a wavering light appeared in the distance. I cried out in alarm, my words laced with such vulgarity the others thought I was speaking in tongues. The light began to approach. I threatened the well-being of the children of all present if they didn't get me out of there. When the shining



sphere came a little too close, everyone agreed to leave. If that had been the end of it, there would be no tale to tell.

But I was in a vehicle with Big O and Bobby Wilson, a duo who never pass up the chance to punk me.

One of them drew attention to weird contraptions on the roadside, each about a mile apart. Bobby, in tones solemn and sincere, informed me that those were — and I quote — "Devil Worship Signs"... signals, if you will, that such practices go on in the vicinity. We passed dozens of them. My heart, already weakened by the scare at the bridge,

began to palpitate. My head spun at the thought of being captured and made to participate in strange rituals. Perhaps I'd never see my wife and family again! I urged Bobby to drive faster. Within moments, he and Big O were chortling like twelve-year-olds.

"What's the gag?" I asked.

"You idiot," Bobby replied, Big O laughing heartily. "Those are boll weevil traps."

What I called them cannot be repeated in a family publication.

The night did not end there, but the rest is for another time. Needless to say, I'll know a boll weevil trap when next I see one.

PS: It's fair for readers to wonder if we really saw the Arbyrd Light. Well, on a cool autumn evening, when a cloudless sky allows the harvest moon to shine brightly, take a drive over to Missouri, park on Crybaby Bridge, and wait a while.

You'll wonder no more. ♦

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Ghosts, goblins and aliens can make tasty Halloween treats

Some family traditions create the most memorable of times. I'll never forget how it felt to get tiny chicks from my grandfather on Easter Sunday.

They were dyed pastel colors and ready for nurturing. I would feed them and carry them as if they were baby dolls until they were grown enough to give away or the local tomcat interrupted our visit. I think of my grandfather's coming up the driveway with the familiar box from the feed store even after his passing, nearly seventeen years ago.

Dave Knight of Knight's Cupcakery reciprocates my sentiments: "I remember making Easter eggs with my family as a child. We all want our kids to have memories." This type of inspiration is what makes Dave tick. Turning a hobby into a profession takes more than just skill and education. It's pure passion.

"The first time I saw a decorated cake, I was in fourth or fifth grade. My mom took a class at the local high school at night for something to do. She made a clown cake. I remember that cake to this day. In terms of the cooking end, I raised my two older kids as a single parent in earlier years, so it was a necessity," Dave says. "I don't think something is difficult when you enjoy it. It's harder to learn something when you don't want to do it. When you want to do it, it's easy and it's fun!"

Dave has quickly evolved into one of the most popular bakers in Greene County. He serves iced cookies and originally flavored cupcakes that make kids swarm his small shop after school. However, he notes the importance of constantly developing new flavors. "Coming up with a good flavor is lots of trial and error. You take a little bit of this and a little bit of that and throw it together. There are a few bad cupcakes in between, but in the end, you come up with something great that's all your



own," Dave laughs. "I've never thought of myself as an artist, but I guess there's an art to it. When it comes out like the idea in my mind, it's awesome!"

Sometimes a profession comes from living out your dream through a child's eyes. For Dave, what fueled his career was one look at the first cake his mom decorated or the look in the eye of his own child as he shared a homemade birthday cake. "I'm doing something I want to do instead of something I have to do," he says. "I can make a lot of stuff that looks good, but if it doesn't taste good, that's what one remembers. I take pride in delivering a tasty, moist cupcake."

As he shares a simple cupcake recipe that may jumpstart a family tradition, he reminds me that baking can be easy. His shop offers cupcakes of complex flavor and expert construction, but a simple family project, such as a lime green alien or candied ghost, can be all it takes to inspire the most vivid memories. "Any mom and dad can do it. You make special things with your kids for the holidays. It's fun, and your kids will remember this."

Tips and finds:

- You'll need cupcake mix, a jumbo marshmallow, and a donut hole.
- Purchase cheap icing. It's usually a good consistency for at-home projects and melts really well for dipping.
- Use a colorful wrapper color to compliment your project. Dave used blue for ghosts and silver for the alien.

- Purchase food coloring for the alien cupcake and dye the icing lime green or leave the icing standard white for a ghost.

- If you don't have decorating tips to apply cake icing, use candy eyes. They may be purchased at any local grocery. Use cherry licorice for alien antennas.

How To:

- Bake your cupcake. After it cools, spread icing on the top as a base for a marshmallow.
- Cut a large marshmallow in half, and place the sticky end down in the icing you've applied to the cupcake.
- Apply more icing to the top of the marshmallow.
- Take the round donut hole and stack it on top.
- Using an icing decorating bag, icing spreader, or butter knife, fill in between the donut, marshmallow, and cupcake, binding them together.
- Freeze for 15 minutes or until the cupcake is sturdy enough to turn upside down without falling apart.
- Mix up your icing with color (or leave white for your ghost.) Put it in a measuring cup. You need about one cup. Microwave it for about 10 to 15 seconds. Microwave it, stir it, and repeat about three or four times until it's almost milkshake consistency.
- Take the cupcake you've frozen and dip it into the warm icing, submerging it to the wrapper. Hold it in the icing for a few seconds and then lift it out, letting the excess drip back to the cup. Flip it back over to dry.
- After letting it sit for about 15 minutes, decorate! ♦

NIGHT TERRORS



For those brave enough to enter the door, above, Night Terrors promises a night of scary thrills.

Haunted house ready to treat visitors to 'a world of terror'

By Hannah Gonzalez

Paragould is welcoming its largest haunted house, Night Terrors, brought to you by Paragould natives Marcy and Dewayne Lawrence.

Night Terrors is the place to go this October if you are looking for a thrill. Prepare yourself for an amazing experience full of zombies, mad scientists, and a world of terror.

The theme for the haunted house is based on Dr. Sid Walsh, mad scientist and inventor of a cutting edge machine that grades the severity of his patients' night terrors while allowing him to enter into them to gather information.

Rumors started after Dr. Sid, his patients, and family suddenly disappeared.

When you enter the haunted house, you will travel through the doctor's office and witness some of his horrifying practices before being sucked into the portal to a different realm inside his patients' nightmares. You'll creep through dark corners, terrorizing kitchens, and disgusting traces of bloody incidents with each room, designed to bring shivers down your spine. Body bags and haunting shrieks will fill the air as you travel through the longest and scariest haunt in town. Flashing lights and terrorizing scenes mixed with zombies and evil spirits make for a fun but terrifying thrill.

Night Terrors is located at 100 East Scott Street (next to Nidec, off Highway 69).

The house will open at 7 pm every Friday and Saturday starting Oct. 12th and will be open October 31st.

Tickets are \$10 per person at the door. Purchase tickets in advance by calling Marcy at 870-586-8289.

For more information on Night Terrors, visit www.facebook.com/nightterrors.nea or contact Marcy by email at marcyl@grnco.net.

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Halloween

Ghost, ghouls and monsters aren't the only things to be afraid of on Halloween. Accidents and mishaps increase dramatically when children trick-or-treat. To avoid the many dangers children face while trick or treating, use common sense. Be aware of potential Halloween hazards and take precautions to eliminate them.

Halloween Costume Safety

Wear flame retardant costumes.

Make sure your Halloween costume is colorfast so the color doesn't run onto your other clothes if it rains.

Try on costumes before Halloween to allow time for altering.

Hem your costumes so you don't trip and fall.

Apply reflective tape to your Halloween costumes.

Wear comfortable, practical shoes.

Double tie your shoelaces so you don't trip.

Keep your costume and wig away from candles.

Trick-or-Treating Tips

Plan your route ahead of time.

Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods.

Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries after dark.

Wear identification that's easy to read.

Always trick or treat in groups, accompanied by an adult.

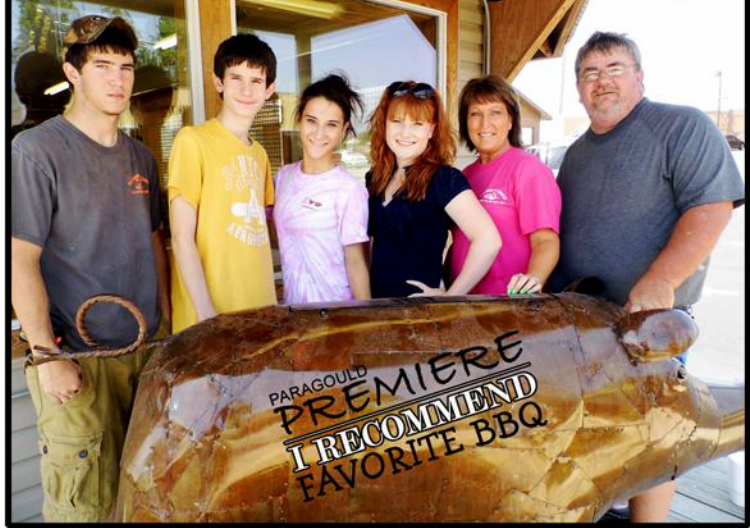
Follow a curfew and take a watch with a backlight.

Stay on the sidewalks and out of the streets. Cross only at intersections and designated crosswalks.

Walk. No running.

Don't trample through flower beds and gardens. ♦

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Gabriel Cook helps Matthew Howard get the "zombie look" by applying makeup correctly.

More than a pretty face: Makeup makes the goblin

By Gabriel A. Cook

Zombies. Ghosts. Goblins. It's "all go" when it comes to Halloween, especially when costumes and props are more realistic and readily available than ever.

Whatever the age of the participant, practicality should be the foremost consideration when choosing a costume. While masks have become popular in recent years, they can be a hazard as far as breathing and visibility are concerned. Children especially are at risk, as their excitability and exuberance make them prone to dashing away from guardians while trick-or-treating. Heavy rubber masks slip and move on the face and can obscure the eyes at an inopportune moment, causing the wearer to bump into others or walk into oncoming traffic. Many a child has fallen off a curb because he didn't see it. Dizziness is also a common complaint, as most masks do not allow for ample air flow.

Makeup, then, is the safer route...if one uses common sense when applying it. Nothing should be put in the eyes — even the so-called "cosmetic contact," as these can scratch the cornea. Red makeup should also be avoided in this area. Test for an allergic reaction by

applying a small patch of makeup on the subject's arm; if no discomfort or burning occurs, it is usually safe to proceed. In the example provided, local actor Matthew Howard has been made up as a "retro" zombie. Clown white dulls his normal skin tone to a deathly pallor, and brown and purple shadows give his face a sunken appearance. A suitably slack expression compliments his grave appearance.

For a costume, Matthew, keeping with the retro look, chose a gray suit resembling that worn by the Cemetery Ghoul in the original "Night of the Living Dead." Whatever your choice, make sure it does not restrict movement, and that it allows for easy removal in case of emergency. Children should never be squeezed into costumes that constrict breathing or pin their arms. Capes or flowing garments can be trodden on, pulled, or ignited by candles (which adorn many a pumpkin or decoration on Halloween). One often sees costumes that are a danger both to the wearer and those around him.

Props should be just that: Props. When masquerading as a deranged person, a child should never carry a real weapon. (This goes

for the adult trick-or-treater.) Caution should be used with fake knives or swords, as well; when carried haphazardly, they can trip the carrier or others. Never point a prop that drips fake blood at strangers, nor should it be taken into someone's house, as red is the toughest stain to remove from clothing, carpet, and skin. To prevent needless calls to emergency personnel from alarmed spectators, avoid fake guns and other firearms. As for the real thing — that's asking for trouble.

Great care should be exercised in removing makeup. Soap and water can work in a pinch, but cold cream is the better solution. (Water can actually "set" some makeup, making it difficult to remove.) After removal, a liberal application of moisturizer can be applied. Costumes should be washed and put away for future use or to lend to others.

Most importantly, have fun. Take pictures. Matthew spent a Sunday evening in the woods behind MOR Media as a photographer snapped away at him in zombie garb. Halloween is a time for folks to bond and share a laugh as they prepare for a night of (innocent) tricks and treats.

Being safe will add to the experience. ♦

First-ever Downtown Zombie Walk scheduled for Paragould October 27

By Gabriel A. Cook

In 1967, a group of friends in Pittsburgh pooled their money to make an independent film called "Night of the Living Dead." The movie became a classic, and introduced a new creature to America's monster canon — the flesh-eating ghoul. It was not until the late 1970s, early '80s that the name "zombie" was applied, and thus was born a phenomenon that has been in and out of vogue for the past forty years.

The zombie movie was popularized in NOTLD's sequel, 1978's "Dawn of the Dead," in which the viewer was treated — if that's the proper word — to two hours of walking dead and the survivors who try to escape their gory exploits. Zombies fell out of fashion in the '90s, but returned with a vengeance in the mid-2000s with a remake of "Dawn of the Dead," and NOTLD'S third sequel, "Land of the Dead." Two years ago, AMC aired "The Walking Dead," based on the popular comic book, and zombies became entrenched in American culture. Suddenly, everyone knew what a zombie was, what they looked like, and how to take them down (shoot for the head).

In 2001, promoters in Sacramento, California, organized a "zombie parade" to publicize their film festival. The term "zombie walk" was first used in Toronto, Canada, in 2003 ... two years before the recent zombie-boom hit. Since then, many zombie walks have been organized as both commercial and promotional events. For those out of the loop, a zombie walk is a gathering of people who dress as zombies and lurch and moan through a public venue. They are not to drop character, nor are they to eat any spectators.

In 2011, Brian Osborn, Programming Director for MOR Media, broached the idea of a zombie walk to Main Street Paragould Director, Gina Jarrett. Not much was said after that initial pitch, but when zombies started appearing in television commercials and children's cartoons, the idea was revisited, and this time took hold. As writer/composer of "Night of the Living Dead: The Rock Opera," I was brought in as a consultant, and Social Media Director for MOR Media, Leisa Rae, designed (and runs) a Facebook page for the walk.

The first-ever Paragould Downtown Zombie Walk will take place Saturday, October 27. Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$1 for children, with an extra dollar added for anyone wishing to enter the costume contest. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. in Centennial Park, with the walk commencing at 7:30. Post-shamble, the contest winners will be announced, and the original "Night of the Living Dead" will be screened in an outdoor setting. Later that night, those who keep their armbands will receive a dollar off to "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at the Cinema 8. Event sponsors include 107.1 JACK FM, the Paragould Cinema 8, and The Golden Grotto. All proceeds benefit Main Street Paragould.

For those who don't know how to get their zombie on, Greene County Fine Arts Council volunteers will be on hand to apply basic makeup for a \$1 donation. Several rules are in place to ensure the safety of those participating and the property of downtown merchants. For a list of rules, and a variety of fun trivia, images, and costume/makeup tips, visit this event's Facebook page at Downtown Zombie Walk-Paragould.

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B.E.E.S. singers spread joy wherever they go

By Richard Brummett

Every Wednesday they pick up their song books, grab a few instruments and head out for a local nursing home to share their music with area residents.

"They" are the 30-or-so members of the Greene County Senior B.E.E.S. Singers, a group of men and women who enjoy bringing smiles to the faces of others almost as much as they like performing.

Billie Rowland, who has been with the singers for 14 years, said she was recruited years ago by Rosetta Howard, who helped start the band, and has watched the group's membership grow from "six or seven of us who sang up on the Community Center stage every Wednesday" to its current number.

"I had been in it about two years when my sister (Mae Cupp) said we ought to add a kitchen band," Rowland, who plays the piano, said. "She would bring instruments every week and keep up with them, then she turned it over to Betty Breckenridge when she couldn't do it any more."

The singers began to visit nursing homes and retirement homes in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri, but recent surges in fuel costs forced them to concentrate more on a



Led by Betty Breckenridge, the B.E.E.S. Singers entertainment at local nursing and retirement homes.

local schedule. Each month they make a trip to Chateau On The Ridge, Greene Acres, Belle Meade and Sunshine Manor -- in that order - - to provide free entertainment for the residents there.

Each session is begun with the song "This Is The Day" and ends with "God Bless America" and "Amazing Grace."

"We try to honor our country and God, too," Rowland said.

Reba Whiteside, who has been singing with the B.E.E.S. for about four years, said she likes seeing the audience sing along and smile.

"We sing mostly gospel and some regular old-time songs," she said. "We don't practice ... we just show up and start in."

So, whether it's Pete Burkhart with his harmonica, Barbara Carr on the drums or Wanda Roy on the tub, the singers are going to chime in to make a happy sound for listeners.

"We have so much fun," Rowland said. "That's why we're there ... to put a smile on their faces, to bring a little sunshine to someone at the nursing home. I know I would love it if I was in a nursing home and someone did that for me." ♦

Rochelle Penny: World traveler, great friend, loving husband

By Hannah Gonzalez

Born in Gainesville and raised in the Greene County area, Rochelle Penny attended Mt. Carmel Elementary and Greene County High School in his youth. The middle child of nine, he jokingly says he was the smartest of his siblings because he found, wooed and married the most amazing woman alive. He noted you can't get much smarter than that. Betty, his beautiful and witty wife, celebrated 67 years of marriage with Rochelle in October of this year, the same month he planned to celebrate his 98th birthday.

I was welcomed to the long table in the back of Pizza Inn on Seniors Night to meet with Rochelle and a few family members as they mingled and enjoyed each other's company. The laughter and incredible stories were bouncing around the tables. His warm smile emerged as he noted that it's a family tradition to get the Knolls and Pennys together, but once you do, you can't get them apart. After dinner, we went to the Pennys' house and dug deeper into Rochelle's grand adventures.

As a young boy he loved music and sang with three of his siblings in



Penny as a soldier.

a quartet. He recalls picking cotton in the fields, then they would come out at 11 and perform on the Paragould Radio Station. Mr. Beard provided the transportation, and once they were finished with their show, they went back to the fields to finish their day of work at the fields. Rochelle grew to perform with the likes of Bob Hope and others when he was active in the military. He still remembers his first

big pay day. "I was riding with the fellas on the train to Gainesville for a political campaign. I was no more than 12 years old when we broke out in song. I played the mandolin. We gathered \$8 in cash. A big pay day indeed," he added. "The first thing I bought was 10 cents worth of lemons from the lemonade stand on the corner. I'm not sure why, but, hey, our throats were very clear after we finished them!"

Rochelle served 10 years in the Arkansas National Guard in his older years. He traveled the world during this time, venturing from California and Alaska to Africa and Italy. Rochelle worked his way up in ranks and ended his career in the service as Staff Sergeant. His experiences act out like a movie as he speaks of them. With intricate



Betty and Rochelle Penny

detail and perfect memory of every detail he gushes about his life as a soldier, performer and husband.

One chapter of his story stands out from when he toured Italy in the 91st Infantry Division. He was awarded the Purple Heart. His heroic run began when he and his driver, Rich, were hit by enemy fire. Rich was hit in the leg by a mortar. While Rochelle's face was injured with shrapnel, he knew he was wounded himself but still took the risk of driving back three miles through enemy fire to the First Aid Station to save Rich.

At his discharge from the CCC's (Civilian Conservation Corps), Arkansas National Guard and Army, Rochelle relocated to Saint Louis, where his family had moved during his tour of duty. He recalls when his sister, Gehronda, came home to greet him in celebration, she came from beauty college and brought along a friend. Her friend's name was Betty. "It was love at first sight," Rochelle boasted. They were married on Oct. 3, 1945.

Alongside his years of military service he also did taxi work, owned a barbershop, and sang in a few quartets. He went on to manage the kitchen at the Missouri Baptist Hospital and worked as the food service director for 17 years.

In the meantime, he also attended upholstery school and opened his own upholstery shop. Betty and Rochelle were in business for 30 years together before retiring and returning to Paragould.

A quick wit and charming personality are two of Rochelle's bright traits, but his love and compassion for others shines as he and Betty reach out to share their happiness with others. Rochelle noted that his life motto is, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." ♦

Marmaduke third graders stage Grandparents Day activities in classroom

Students in Jackie Hatcher's third grade class at Marmaduke invited their grandparents to take part in a classroom reading session.

Students recited poems and read to grandparents, then listened as some of the grandparents read stories to them. ♦

At right, Heidi Robinson helps display a quilt her great-grandmother made and brought to the Grandparents Day activity; below from left, Ryan Kennedy listens as his grandmother, Anne Kennedy, reads to the class; teacher Jackie Hatcher welcomes visitors to her classroom; and Phillip Myles poses with his grandson, Landon Loar.



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Senior B.E.E.S. gather to mark 40th birthday

Former director Kay Greenway said she remembers when the Greene County Senior B.E.E.S. were organized in 1972 that "we didn't have a pencil or a sheet of paper. Now, look at you today."



Kay Greenway

The group today has its own building, transportation and an active cast of characters who make it thrive, as several local and area dignitaries pointed out at a 40th birthday party at the Senior Center in Paragould. ♦



B.E.E.S. Executive Director Carol Fleszar welcomed guests.



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No matter what society thinks, spelling is still important

I am one of the first to admit the English language can be a bit difficult to contend with at times, but I've always wondered how people exist without wanting to know the correct spelling of words.

In particular, I feel we should want to spell the names of others correctly, whether putting them into print or simply inviting them to a party. Once, when I was a kid at the annual Vacation Bible School picnic, our preacher invited some of the heathens hanging out at the local park to join us in a softball game.

Being the good, budding Christian that I was, I loaned my glove to one of the strangers and when it was time to return it, the preacher asked who it belonged to.

The kid looked at my glove and the name neatly printed on it with Magic Marker and said, "I don't know ... Bur-something."

Bur-something? The reward for my act of kindness in loaning out my most prized possession was to be reduced to a

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



"Bur-something?"

From that moment on, I was determined to spell names correctly, even if they belonged to girls with cooties.

Spelling is important. When dealing with the butchered attempts some people offer, I almost always think back to my high school days when the teacher would enter the room and say, "Put your books away and take out a piece of paper. This is a pop test."

Without fail, mixed in among the moans and groans of those of us who had not read the day's assignment, one would hear these words: Are you going to count off for spelling?

I would always turn and look with disdain at the person sitting back there in a panicked state, knowing that they were hoping against hope that he or she could just come close to spelling some word and still get credit for having the correct answer. I decided, decades later, that their children were working for me in the newspaper business because I inherited a number of reporters who seemed to think rounding a word off to the nearest letter would suffice.

While visiting a school campus recently, I overheard a teenage girl ask her friend, "Can you believe she counted off for spelling on this? I only missed it by one letter!"

I don't know who her teacher is but I applaud her, because even one letter makes a difference. For instance, the Beatles' Number 1 hit of 1968 was "Hey, *Jude*," not "Hey, *Dude*." There's only one letter's difference, you know.

There is a giant contrast between something's being highly *regarded* and highly *retarded*. I would be much more comfortable driving down the road with a *map* in my lap as opposed to a *man* in my lap, but there's only one letter that has been changed.

It would please me much more to sip my drink from a giant *mug* than to sip from a giant *bug*, and I will come nearer figuring out what you want me to do if you give me a *clue* instead of a *club*. The club, in my opinion, would come in handy to whack you with when you don't pay attention to spelling.

I once tried to impress upon a classroom full of budding juvenile delinquents the need to distinguish between Mr. Wright and Mr. Right, and to know how to write about a rite, if necessary.

Having written, you haven't wrote, although *rote* is a word, nor have you writ ... or ret, which is associated with soaking something in water, not putting words onto paper.

They didn't seem to care, and I suppose in this world of computers equipped with Spellcheck and telephones that encourage texting and its confusing lingo, knowing how to spell isn't so important. Unless you're dealing with me. I still count off for it. ♦

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Fond Farewell

Nurses and members of other departments at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center said goodbye to Debra Vassar, right, as she left the hospital after 32 years to take over as Administrator/Community Director at Chateau On The Ridge. A long line formed, left, as wellwishers waited their turn to meet with the longtime director of nursing at AMMC. Nurses wore white uniforms and hats in honor of Vassar's fondness for the uniform, and she was presented with several gifts, including a ring and the bench on which she is seated, right.



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Carol Fleszar was among those who stopped by at the Community Fund gathering.

Community Fund marks 50th birthday

Supporters of the Greene County Community Fund gathered on the lawn of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce for cake and ice cream to celebrate the organization's 50th birthday.

GCCF Executive Director Joan Bradley said the event was "a lot of fun, and a big success." She can be reached at 870-239-8435 to learn more about the Community Fund. ♦



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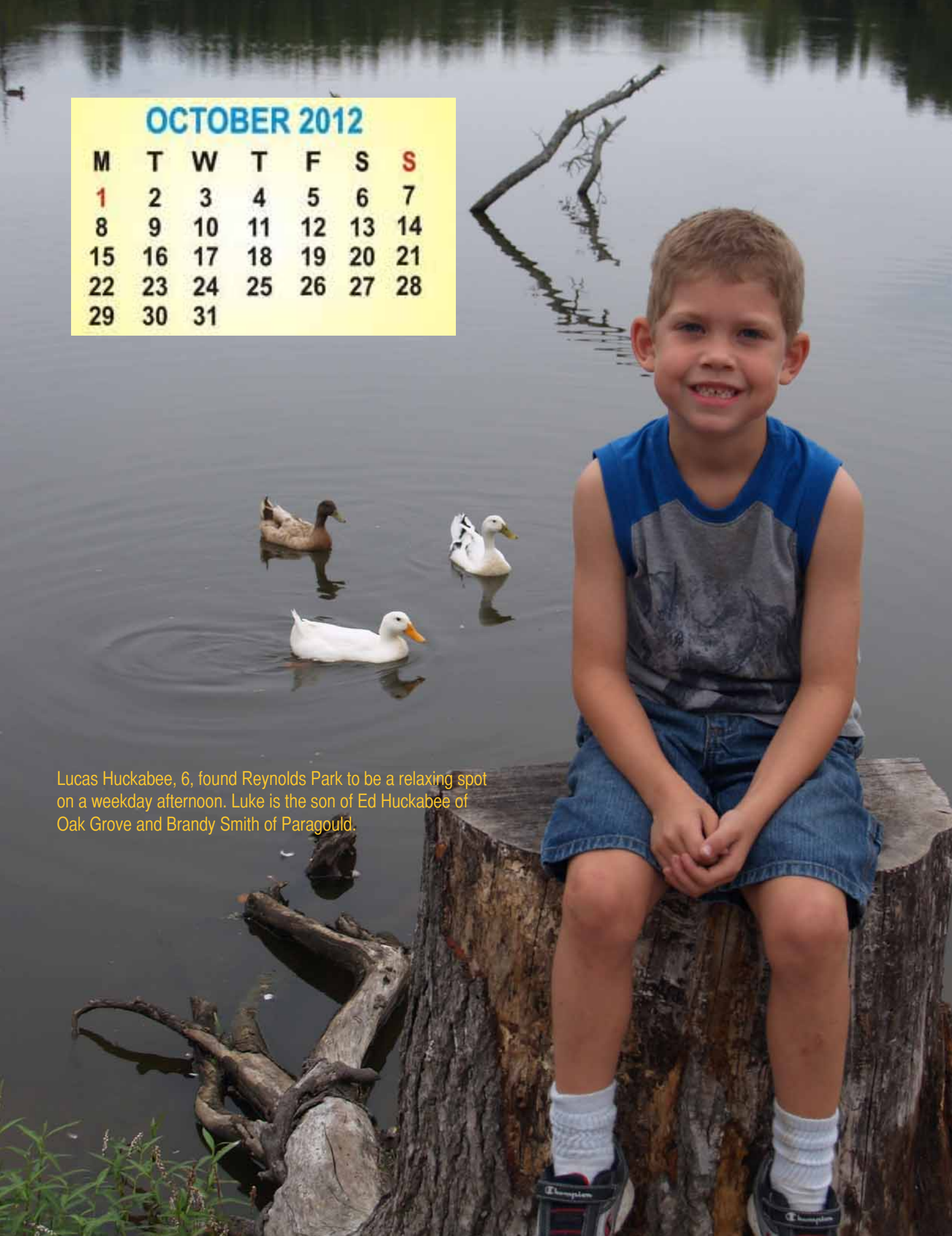
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Lucas Huckabee, 6, found Reynolds Park to be a relaxing spot on a weekday afternoon. Luke is the son of Ed Huckabee of Oak Grove and Brandy Smith of Paragould.



Happenings!



1



2



3



4



5

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Happenings!

Rhonda Gunn Attends Western Wishes

1. Western Wishes, which is committed to addressing the well-being of children and families dealing with extreme health issues, hosted its first "8 Seconds To Glory" gala in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Cast members of the movie "8 Seconds" pitched in to lend support to ailing children. Among the celebrities attending were singer Rhonda Gunn, pictured with actor Stephen Baldwin.

Watermelon Break

2. Paragould Junior High School football players received a special watermelon break, donated by Tracy Stroud of Arkansas Produce & Statuary.

GCT Counselor Honored

3. Counselor Breta Dean was recognized at the Arkansas School Counselor Association and ADE Summer Conference held in Hot Springs. Recruiters nominated school counselors for the Counselor of the Year award given by the National Guard. Mrs. Dean received the award for Northeast Arkansas, which consisted of 16 counties.

Flag Etiquette

4, 5. Baldwin Elementary fourth grade students received a lesson on flag etiquette from Sgt. Brian Riley and Private First Class Carson Benton of the U.S. Marine Corps. The fourth grade students are responsible for the school flag, so it is important they learn to properly handle it. Baldwin Elementary has a special flag, given to them by fourth grade teacher Brandi McCarty's father, Sgt. First Class Fred Siebert. Sgt. Siebert gave the flag to Baldwin after serving in Iraq.



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Greene County Wildlife Club has membership drive

Dan Martin said the Greene County Wildlife Club does “almost too many things to mention” but its main focus is on improving habitat for wildlife to ensure good hunting and fishing experiences for years to come.

Martin, public relations officer for the club, said now is a good time for interested outdoorsmen (and women) to consider joining. “It only costs \$10 to join,” he said, “and I tell people, ‘Your hat costs more than our membership does.’ But you get a lot from being a member.”

The local club has helped with projects like a new boat ramp on the St. Francis River east of town and with construction of a boat dock at Reynolds Park. It is also instrumental in helping with land purchases, providing recreational opportunities, planting trees and “a wide variety of things,” according to Martin.

The club meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Paragould Community Center at 6 p.m. and meetings are open to the public. ♦



At left, Richard Smith and Buck Felty take a break after cutting overhanging trees near the new boat launch on Hwy. 412 East.

Below, Wildlife Club members comprised most of the group that constructed a new pier at Reynolds Park.



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Business Is Good

Tate General Contractors: Paragould school facility is right on schedule

By Jennifer Thompson

By the time school is set to start in 2013, Tate General Contractors says it will have Paragould School District Primary School students a brand new facility. The construction company says the weather has been cooperating, and everything is on track for the school to open next year, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

The primary school facility is going to house pre-kindergarten through first-grade students in the Paragould district.

Vice President of Tate General Contractors, Keith Chunn, said the 86,000-square-foot facility, which was started last fall and is located on Country Club Road, is right on track to open for the 2013-2014 school year. He said, "The weather has cooperated, for the most part. It was hot ... I have to brag on our subcontractors, though. They have been very good to work with. It takes everyone for a project like this."

Chunn mentioned a few key components in building the facility that are not typically common to all school construction. One feature that has already been installed at the primary school facility is a geothermal heating and cooling system. The term geothermal literally means thermal energy generated and stored in the earth.

Construction Superintendent Mike Minton said his crews have drilled 160 wells at the front of the property that are each 200 feet deep and contain buried pipes. According to Energy.gov, the buried pipes will transfer a liquid substance constantly through the pipes and back to a pump. The pipes circulate the liquid in order to absorb the hot or cool air from the earth and transfer it to the pump, which transfers the air back out at a comfortable temperature into the building. "A huge benefit (to this heating and cooling system) is that the pump doesn't have to work near as hard to get the air to a comfortable temperature, saving money on bills (while heating or



Richard Leisure, left, and his brother Danny work on one of the mezzanine areas located within the cafeteria of the new building.

cooling)," the website stated.

"This geothermal unit should pay for itself in eight to ten years," Minton added.

Chunn said another feature the facility will have will be numerous skylights throughout in order to provide natural lighting for students. He said some of the skylighting will be featured over seating areas provided for visiting parents, as well. He said the facility will also have an all-steel-type, maintenance free exterior.

Minton said the primary school is set up with a main entrance, which will house the school's administration, and a separate wing

for each grade/group of students. "Pre-K will have a wing, second grade will have a wing, first grade will have a wing, and then there is a wing for special education, a large gym with synthetic flooring, a kitchen, cafeteria and, of course, the administration," he said. "We will be putting in visitor's parking, teacher parking and a delivery area along with a road that goes all the way around the building for bus drop-offs and an area for parents to drop their student(s) off."

Minton also said some time next year a turn lane will have to be added to Country Club Road to accommodate the additional traffic brought by the school. He said the turn lane will extend West to East along the road and will likely be slightly longer than the length of the facility.

"There will be eight first-grade classrooms and all of the others will have six classrooms," Minton said. "Each classroom is approximately 38-feet by 32-feet and each classroom

is fitted for the little students that will be in it. I think the teachers are going to find they are well accommodated, as well."

Minton said the size of the classrooms should easily hold approximately 25

students. He said workers are currently installing the components to complete the roof and will likely begin on the curb-work next month. "After that," he said, "we will move on to the light pole bases and other general masonry work, then we will do the landscaping as the weather permits."

He said once all of the work is complete on the roof, walls and large octagon-shaped skylight in the entrance of the building, the crew will move to the inside to begin work on the drywall and other inside projects. ♦





Nelson Gotay, right, is a master in the art of jewelry fabrication. He takes a customer's idea, draws it to scale, then crafts exquisite pieces like those above.

Nelson Gotay makes jewelry come to life

By Richard Brummett

When Nelson Gotay speaks about his craft he speaks with passion, a passion born of years spent as an apprentice in New York City's market district.

As owner of Gotay's Custom Jewelry Design in Jonesboro, Gotay is now a veteran designer and craftsman, hesitant to call himself a master though that's what his work dictates. In the business since 1965, first as an apprentice "running errands, sweeping the floor, doing whatever I was told to do," he says he "never even dreamt 45 years later I would still be in it.

"The apprenticeship -- seven to eight years -- was a blessing. I worked for free evenings as long as I was learning; the payback was, I learned to do things I didn't know how to do. It was a transition time for the industry in this country. In the '70s and early '80s large manufacturers became discount oriented ... shops were ready and willing to work much, much cheaper, to ship overseas the manufacturing almost entirely. I had the opportunity to work with people just before that happened. For almost 20 years, craftsmanship really suffered. No one was hiring apprentices, and small shops are the ones that teach what has to be done."

Today, Gotay looks at his profession with a critical eye, more than willing

to share his knowledge and experience so that his trade not only survives, but thrives.

"Fast forward 20-30 years," he says. "We have a revitalization of the jewelry industry in fabrication. In New York, I visited 47th Street, the heart of the jewelry industry. There is a completely new group of people, along with some of the old guard, from Armenia, Russia, Brazil ... new characters, new faces, a new way of doing business."

Gotay said without apprenticeships people entering the industry don't get the hands-on teaching those from his generation were privy to. "Built into the design are problems a designer with experience can see," he explained. "With the new techniques ... well, you can't step over the learning process. You can't master something simply by wanting it. You have to be determined; only by doing it a thousand times and learning what it



should look like can you master it.”

After 45 years at the bench in the fabricating environment, Gotay knows what makes a piece a true work of art. There is a feeling that goes into the project, a feeling based on interaction with the customer and on the vision an artist possesses.

“I want to make as many high-caliber pieces as I can,” he said. “Just because something is expensive doesn’t mean it’s a great piece. I want to produce as many as I can, up to a standard higher than anything out there. Whether it’s a \$50 piece or a \$50,000 piece, it can be perfect if you think it through and design it. You have to ask, ‘What is the goal at that price?’ You have to know where the bar is, then reach the bar.”

He said the most important thing that goes into producing a true keepsake is to understand what the piece means to the customer. “What is the motive?” he said, “to dress up or dress down? The piece must fit the person. It’s not something you can go to a computer and do. It can be perfect, but if the customer doesn’t like it, it doesn’t matter. The customer is the final arbitrator. If you read them right, you bring to life what they envision.”

Gotay said the difference between “a great piece of jewelry and an everyday piece is your emphasis. My goal is to make pieces that are a work of art, to survive multiple generations, that will not be melted sometime in the future.

“When you take pride in esthetics, it makes a difference. I strive for the same level of satisfaction whether the piece is Grandpa’s or the bank president’s. I want to give them more than they expect. If they want pretty, give them beautiful. It could be in the way you execute technique. If it’s well done, you bond with the piece.”

He said the computer is “among the greatest tools to come into the industry in the last 100 years but we are at a crossroads: What will American jewelry be? Craftsmen can be trained, but have not been shown where the bar needs to be set. I think the industry will have its challenges but it will come out. Those who have studied long enough will come in and fill the void. It will work itself out. ♦

From start to finish, Gotay's work is handled with a master's touch. Cutting, filing, bending, soldering, shaping, forging, pushing, imbedding, shining, texturing ... all are done to both the craftsman's and customer's liking.



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Talent at the Fair

There was plenty of talent, both professional and amateur, during this year's Greene County Fair.

The Kentucky Headhunters were the featured act for the 125th edition of the fair, with the Scatter Creek Band serving as an opening act.

In addition, MOR Media sponsored a youth talent contest, with several entrants taking home trophies for their efforts. ♦



Contest winners include: David Ellis; Cheyenne Hall; Jonathan Hufford, Casey DeAngelo and John May of Autumn Progress; and McKenzie Cagle. Below right, Dusty Hall performs.



At left is Jeremy Woolldridge of Scatter Creek. Above, The Kentucky Headhunters.



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October 27th---1st Ever Downtown
Zombie Walk
November 3rd---Christmas Open House
December 1st---Holiday Traditions
December 4th---Christmas Parade "A
Dandy Candy Christmas"

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

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& keep up with all the DT events!

Gina Jarrett 870.240.0544

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Sylvia Blount

Where are you from? I was born in Marmaduke, but lived primarily in the Paragould area.

Family: Husband, Jerry, and children, Heather, Cindy, Wayne and Jason. I also have six grandchildren that I simply adore.

Occupation: I am an Accounts Payable Coordinator.

When did you start cooking? At a very young age, around 10 or 11 years old.

What is your favorite cooking memory? Watching my mother make Christmas candy as a child.

What is your favorite thing to cook? I love making breads and cakes. I was a bakery manager in two bakeries and have made all my children's wedding cakes. I make them for special occasions in the family and with close friends, as well.

Do you have any cooking accomplishments? I created and published a cook book, originally a gift for my daughter, called "Mom's Morsels" but changed the name to "Sib's Secrets" once it was published in 2001.

Who do you like to cook for? I love cooking for family and friends. My husband cooks during the week, since he is retired, but I take over on weekends. We both have our specialties and love cooking for each other.

What is the one ingredient you can't live without? It has to be butter. I love my butter.

Do you have any cooking advice to share? Be creative! Don't just follow the recipe word for word ... change it up, tweak it and make it your own. ♦



Magic Fudge

Ingredients:

- 1 bag Any flavor chips (peanut butter, chocolate, butter scotch, etc.)
- 1 tub Cake frosting, not whipped, in any flavor

Microwave chips in microwave safe bowl for 90 seconds. Add frosting, microwave another 30 seconds. Stir well, pour into foil-lined 8x8 pan. Cool completely, lift out foil, cut into pieces.



Buffalo Chicken Dip

Ingredients:

- ½ cup Hot sauce
- 1 cup Ranch dressing
- 8 ounces Shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 Boneless, skinless chicken breasts - cooked and shredded
- 8 ounces Cream cheese - softened

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Stir together all ingredients except shredded cheese. Put mixture in a medium baking dish and cover with shredded cheese. Cover tightly with foil and bake until bubbly. Serve with chips.



French Onion Soup

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup Butter
- 1 tsp Sugar
- 3 Large onions, sliced thin (4 cups)
- 1 tbsp All purpose flour
- 2 cups Water
- ¼ cup Wine or sherry
- 2 10½ ounce cans Condensed beef broth
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1 loaf French bread, sliced and toasted in 325 degree oven
- 8 ounces Sliced Swiss cheese

In a four-quart sauce pan, heat butter, add onion and sugar. Cook 10 minutes. Stir in flour until well blended. Add water, wine, Worcestershire, broth and sauce. Heat to boiling, reduce to simmer, cover and cook 15 minutes. Ladle soup into 12-ounce oven safe bowls. Place slice of toasted bread over soup in each bowl. Place slice of cheese over bread. Bake in 425 degree oven 10 additional minutes.

Birth Announcements



Millie Minh Baker-Huynh

Sara Rachael and David Huynh of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Millie Minh Baker-Huynh.

Millie was born at St. Bernards Medical Center and weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Sara Cole of Paragould, Ray Baker of Canyon Lake, Texas, and the late Khac Huynh of Paragould; great-grandparents are J.W. Cole of Paragould, Earlene Baker of Canyon Lake, Texas, the late Jewliene Cole of Paragould, and the late Ray Baker Sr. of Canyon Lake. Millie has one sister, Molly Mai, who is 2 1/2 years old. ♦

Shalane Turman and Jake Bruden of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Reece Jackson Bruden.

Reece was born at NEA Baptist in Jonesboro August 30 and weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Candy Goodman and Tommy Drury of Paragould; Robbie and Staci Goodman of Paragould; Penny Lampkin of Jonesboro; and Jack Bruden of Kennett, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Ruth Cross of Paragould, Shirley Bruden of Kennett and Barbara Hallum of Halcomb, Mo. ♦



Reece Jackson Bruden



Bobbi Lynn Bateman

Bob and Tara Bateman of Paragould announce the birth of their daughter, Bobbi Lynn Bateman.

Bobbi was born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Gale and Sheila Breckenridge, Bob Bateman and Lenny and Peggie Beasley, all of Paragould. ♦

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Engagement Announcements



Vanita Lynn and Bradley Scott Fultz

Matheney-Fultz

Vanita Lynn Matheney and Bradley Scott Fultz were married August 19, 2012, in Tecumseh, Mo.

The bride's parents are Larry and Molly Vanpool of Paragould.

The groom is the son of Verlin Fultz and Sherry Fields, also of Paragould. ♦



Heather Reed and Tyler Scudder

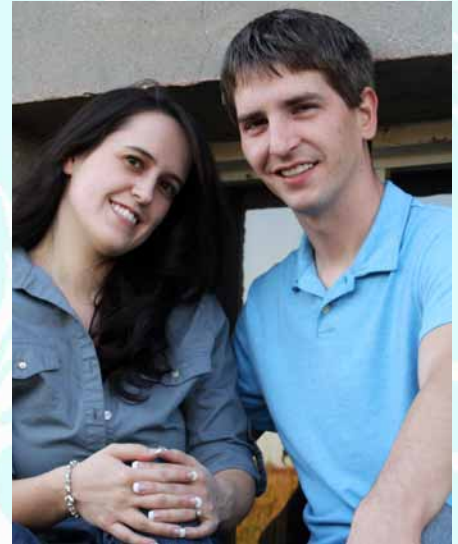
Reed-Scudder

Heather Reed and Tyler Scudder announce their plans to be married in October.

Heather's parents are Perry and Alice Reed of Paragould.

Tyler is the son of Jim and Darla Scudder, also of Paragould.

The wedding is set to take place on October 27, 2012, at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould. ♦



Jennifer Morris and Terry Walker

Morris-Walker

Jennifer Morris and Terry Walker will be married in a November ceremony.

Jennifer's parents are Kara Williams and Robbie Morris of Paragould.

Terry is the son of Eddie and Sharon Walker, also of Paragould.

The wedding is planned for November 17, 2012, at Paragould's First Baptist Church. ♦

To have your wedding plans included in Premiere Magazine, email information to editor@paragouldpremiere.com no later than the 15th of the month. Call 870-236-7627 for information.

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Engagement Announcements



Josh McNatt and Mallory Greene

Greene-McNatt

Mallory Greene and Josh McNatt have announced their plans for a November wedding.

Mallory's parents are David and Karen Greene of Paragould.

Josh is the son of Tim and Shelly McNatt of Wynne.

The wedding is scheduled to take place November 10, 2012, at Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro. ♦



Kristen Adams and Joel McCracken

Adams-McCracken

Kristen Adams, daughter of Keith and Carla Adams of Paragould, and Joel McCracken have announced their wedding plans.

Joel is the son of Lloyd and Rebecca McCracken, also of Paragould.

The wedding will take place October 13, 2012, in Paragould. ♦

Helen Marie's Perfect Touch

Our Bridal...

- Isha Cummings & Casy Fletcher
October 6
- Shelby Boyd & Paul Robinson
October 6
- Kristen Adams & Joel McCracken
October 13
- Ashley Timmons & CJ Smith
October 20
- Alecia Godsey & Zach Bacon
October 20
- Claire DeRoe & Chad Johnson
October 20
- Heather Reed & Tyler Scudder
October 27
- Katie Lyles & Josh Morris
November 3
- Mallory Greene & Josh McNatt
November 10
- Breanne Reddick & Dex Gardner
December 15
- Hannah Shelton & Jacod Giles
December 15
- Giny Draper & Nick Rice
February 9
- Lindsey Hinson & Matthew Clark
April 6

Our Baby...

- April & Joey Bowen
- Teri & Matthew Horne
- Jarrah & Kenny Kuenzel

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 4

Women's Health Fair, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Presented by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Saturday, October 6

Childbirth Education Class 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Presented by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Tuesday, October 9

Greene County Tech Fun Run, 9 a.m.

The entire school district will participate to promote wellness in the community. On the main campus on Hwy. 412.

Wednesday, October 10

Blood Drive 12 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Presented by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Saturday, October 15-19

Mark 1:15 Ministries Citywide Revival, Collins Theatre

Interdenominational revival with different speakers, musicians and singers each night. 6:30 p.m. nightly.

Monday, October 15

KASU's Blue Monday, 7 p.m.

With Jeannie and the Guys at Red Goose Deli Grand Hall-Prueett Street entrance. Red Goose is located at 101 S. Prueett Street, Paragould. The entertainment is free thanks to KASU, Bibb Chiropractic, and MOR Media.

Mommy and Me Breastfeeding Support Group Meeting 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Presented by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Tuesday, October 16

Woman to Woman Cancer Support Group Meeting 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Presented by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, held in the auditorium in the professional office building at AMMC.

Saturday, October 20

Buddy Walk, Greene County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Food, fun and socialization to help raise awareness of those with Down Syndrome. There will be a bounce house, silent auction, photo booth, Trick E the clown and much more.

Tuesday, October 30

Greene County Master Gardeners, Community Center, 6 p.m.

Open forum with guest speaker Janet Carson, Statewide Coordinator and author. No charge for admission; refreshments will be served and a door prize given away.

Recurring Events:

First Monday of every month

Paragould Young Professionals First Monday Lunch, noon

Every Wednesday

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

At Something Sweet. Find out what's happening in the One and Only downtown Paragould. Your input is welcome.

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

Wednesday mornings at the Paragould Community Center in Room E. Private Weigh in at 8:00 a.m.; support meeting at 8:30 a.m. May attend one meeting as a guest. Membership fees are \$26 a year and \$1 dues per meeting.

Second Thursday of every month

The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 p.m. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road.

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Second Saturday of every month

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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Feature



Greene County has lots of talented writers. We'll take a look at some who have published books in our November issue.

Theme



November always signals a surge in retail sales. We'll address the up side of local shopping and family-owned businesses.

Events



Senior B.E.E.S. boosters

Premiere will bring you news from around town. To have us cover your event, just call us at 236-7627. ♦



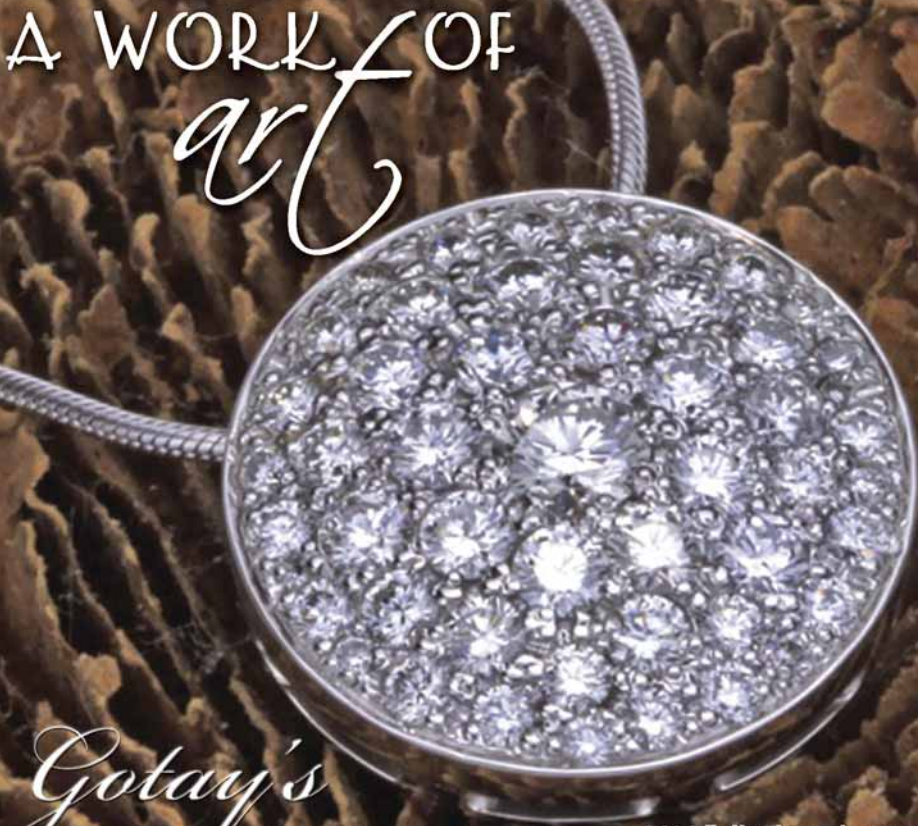
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