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JULY
2015

- PREMIERE AWARDS
- OUTSTANDING TEACHERS
- DOWNTOWN JONESBORO
- PATRIOTIC FEATURES
- ST. BERNARDS VILLA

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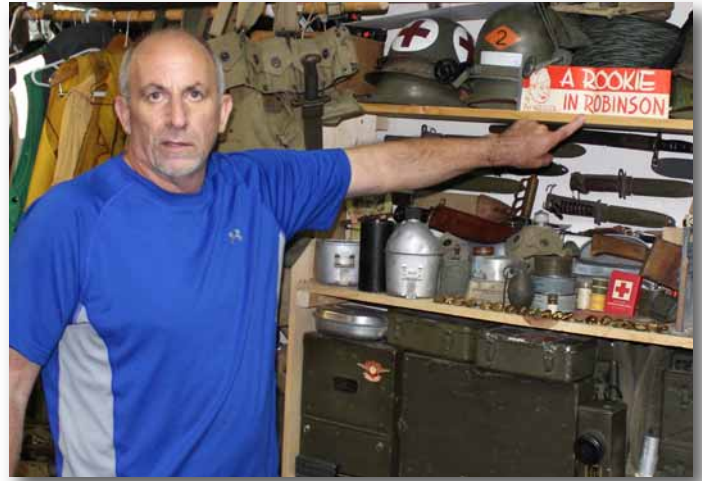


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Cover photo by Tim Rand Photography



JOHN DEERE



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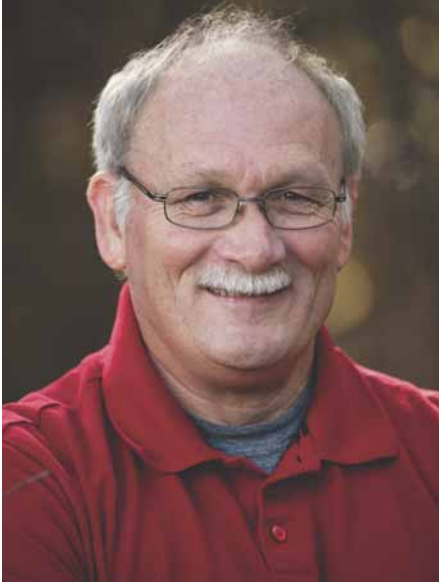
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From the Managing Editor...



Richard Brummett

You've probably already noticed this month's magazine is quite a bit larger than usual, thanks to a special section recognizing this year's Premiere Award Winners.

Each year, Premiere readers vote for their favorite businesses and individuals in a number of categories, and we are pleased to give them much-deserved recognition by presenting their information on the aforementioned pages.

Once you've checked out the numerous winners, be sure to mention the next time you visit them that you saw them featured in Premiere.

It's one small way for all of us to say "thanks" for a job well done when it comes to serving the public and meeting our needs.

Another group of winners appears on page 14 of this issue ... the women chosen as Outstanding Teachers during the recently completed school year.

Each month we solicit nominations from readers regarding teachers who go above and beyond in the classroom, and we feature two each month. At the end of the year we hold a separate balloting for the Outstanding Teacher of the Year, and that time has come.

Look over the list of the 16 monthly winners,

then vote for your favorite as the top overall teacher for the school year. The winner earns a prize package of gift certificates and cash, and will be photographed for the cover of the August "Back To School" issue of Premiere.

You can vote via email or on our Facebook page. Balloting will end on Friday, July 17.

July brings with it the celebration of our nation's independence, and those of us who have family members who served in the military -- or have those who are currently serving -- understand the incredible commitment necessary for one to leave home and family behind in order to protect our freedom.

Two features this month concentrate on the military experience: Paragould resident David Pratt has turned his garage into his personal military museum with an incredible collection of wartime memorabilia; and Bob Camp, a veteran of the Vietnam War, rehashes with us his time as a member of the Marines.

We hope you enjoy this month's Premiere. ♦



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Alton Carter puts lifetime of abuse, neglect behind him

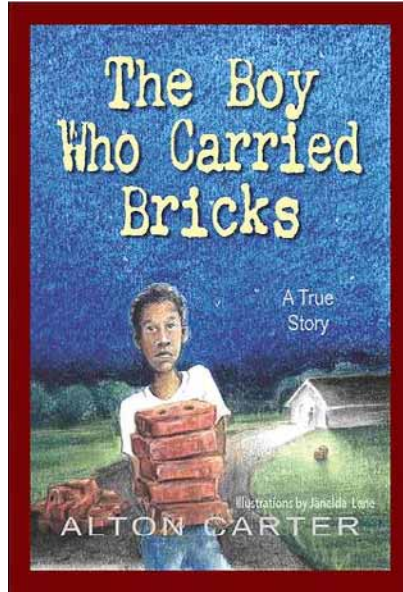
I recently had the pleasure of meeting Alton Carter at City Youth Ministry's "Journey of Faith" banquet. Alton is the youth pastor for the First United Methodist Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma. He was invited to speak at the banquet to share his heartbreak of abuse and neglect and the grace he experienced along the way.

The Heartbreak: Alton experienced neglect and abuse as a child that go beyond comprehension for most people. The first words of his speech included this awful truth: By the time he was only a few years old, he had been to the emergency room nearly a dozen times to have roaches removed from his ears.

Alton experienced many more physical abuses, but the emotional abuses were just as difficult to hear as he continued to speak. He and his siblings were placed into foster care and his mother's parental rights were terminated.



Alton vividly recounted the words he remembered in the courtroom the day it happened. The judge told Alton's mother that she was "unfit" to parent. The loss of a parent, even one that is "unfit" to parent, still leaves a deep sense of loss and betrayal for a child. Alton's life was not magically restored once he entered foster care. The abuse and neglect continue throughout his foster care experience and his book, *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*,



Alton Carter tells his touching story in his book.

explains his experience.

The Grace: Many, maybe most, children who experience abuse, neglect and abandonment

Our Community

By Cheryl Nichols



do not find grace in their circumstances. Who could blame them, right? But, Alton found it; he found deliverance. By the grace of God, he encountered people along his heart-breaking path (he calls them "Angels") who provided him with attention, care and support as he grew into a young man. Some mentored him and encouraged his education. Some provided him with a pair of shoes or clothing. Some were simply anonymous donors who supported his summer camp tuition. All of those things mattered in helping Alton find his way through the shame and hurt of his heartbreak and find the grace he needed to become a man of God, a provider for his family and a supporter of his community.

The Reality: Alton's early life experience is not a rare occurrence in our country or in our state. In 2012, the Arkansas State Police Crimes Against Children Division received 62,052 calls alleging child abuse or neglect. More than 60 percent of those calls were deemed legally valid allegations. A lot of children like Alton need "Angels." ♦

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Family and friends of Gary Schuchardt posted photos to say "thanks" to the many race participants.

Rotary, United Way host Schuchardt Memorial Run

Jonesboro Metro Rotary, partnering with the United Way of Northeast Arkansas, staged the 13th Annual Gary Schuchardt Memorial Trail Walk/Run in June.

This year the race was expanded to include a 10k mixed trail run. With the first half being the usual 5k trail at Craighead Forest Park, the road portion took in the park's "loop road," making a fast finish to those competitive runners looking to pit themselves against the clock and one another. Prizes were awarded for the top three Female and Male 10k runners; all finishers received a medal.

All finishers in the Kids Mud Run also received a medal for the approximately 1-mile run.

Funds raised are used to endow the Gary Schuchardt Memorial Scholarship, which is given annually by the Metro Rotary Club to students who reflect the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," as well as to support the many United Way-funded programs in its 8-county service area. ♦



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Museum hosts antique car show

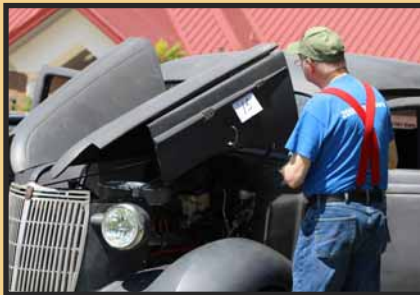
The Greene County Museum in Paragould hosted its fourth annual Antique Car Show in June.

Vehicles displayed belonged to members of the Crowley's Ridge Cruisers, the Antique Car Club of Jonesboro and to various individuals willing to share their vintage automobiles with the public.

The museum was also open for viewing with volunteers guiding visitors through the various displays inside. ♦



Fans of antique automobiles enjoyed the car show at the Greene County Museum, checking out the vehicles on display. Visitors were also invited to step inside the museum to see the many displays housed there to capture parts of our local history.



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Bobby Rickard, left, with Robby Glasco, who rode with him in the Paragould/Jonesboro area.

The Ride To End Alzheimer's

“Everyone I’ve talked to along the way has had a connection to Alzheimer’s in some way,” said Bobby Rickard.

Rickard is bringing awareness to Alzheimer’s by undertaking a multi-day and multi-state bicycling endeavor. From June 18-24 Rickard rode from Paducah, Kentucky, to Texarkana, Texas, making stops at various points in Missouri and Arkansas along the way.

At each, he talked to individuals about the disease and gave them handouts further explaining it. His wife also plays a big role in The Ride To End Alzheimer’s by driving a support vehicle behind Rickard the entire trip.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, Alzheimer’s is a progressive disease of the brain that destroys brain cells, causing problems with memory, thinking and behavior. It is the most common form of dementia.

Rickard is devoted to bringing awareness to Alzheimer’s because his dad had the disease. The advice that Rickard wants to give the most is to know the warning signs and to use the 24/7 helpline that the Alzheimer’s Association offers.

For more information about Alzheimer’s disease, visit alz.org.

-- Kayla Macomber

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PREMIERE'S SCENE 'YA



Above, Debra Hurley and Sara Fielder at Herman Missionary Baptist Church's Senior Dinner; at left, Yalanda Merrel, Michaela Brandon and Kelsey Moring, also at Herman's Senior Dinner.



Clockwise from left above: "SwitchWitch" and his sister at DARE to Ride Biker Classic; DeAnn and Jarvis Rucker at Alive After Five in Downtown Jonesboro; Trish and Rick Medlock at Herman Missionary Baptist Church's Senior Dinner; Christina and Michaela Ballard-Chance at Alive After Five; Kristina Sackett, Kahli Higgins, Christy Carrell and Chris Sackett at Alive After Five.





AMMC employees who participated in or volunteered at the 4,000 Steps event.

AMMC stages GLOW RUN for Diabetes

The 2015 Arkansas Methodist Medical Center 4,000 Steps GLOW RUN for Diabetes took place Friday, June 5, at Greene County Tech High School.

Participants ran or walked the Eagle Mile Course. There were 339 registered participants and despite the stormy weather, 211 individuals participated in and completed the course. More than \$3,500 was raised and proceeds will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Diabetes Association.

Overall winners included, Runners (Female): 1st-Heidi Anderson; 2nd-Acey Fahr; 3rd-Emma Lovell.

Walkers (Female): 1st-Crystal Henson; 2nd-April Miller; 3rd-Winnie Williams.

Runners (Male): 1st-Frankie Salinas; 2nd-Kaden Strode; 3rd-Drew Thompson.

Walkers (Male): 1st-Tyson Sears; 2nd-Brandon Holt; 3rd-Scott Watson. ♦



Arkansas Methodist Medical Center hosted a group of 16 junior and senior high school students in this summer's M*A*S*H Program. Pictured left to right, back row, are Ashley Shepard, Ian Hatton, Jamie Hatfield, Sidney Wilkins, Jessica Carlile, Emily Draper and Chad Johnson; middle; Mitchell Epperson, Sydney Adams, Ashley Ward, Kendall Sheppard, Ashlyn Crawford and Jamie Green; front: Edna Johnson, Emily Gerrish and Brittany Banning. The M*A*S*H (Medical Application of Science for Health) Program is a two-week camp where students participate in an injection lab, pig heart dissection, suturing lab, CPR certification, job shadowing, stranger danger, organ donation presentation, a casting lab, and other various activities. The M*A*S*H Program allows students interested in the medical field the opportunity to explore the inside world of healthcare.



Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

It's all about you.

Breastfeeding Class

Tuesday, July 7

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building

This class discusses the importance of breastfeeding and offers tips for success. This class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For classroom location, more information or to register, call 239-7016.

Leisa Kennedy, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, teaches this class for new and expectant mothers. For more information, call the Greene County Health Unit at 236-7782.

"A Slice of Summer with Healthy Grilling"

Community Diabetes Program

Thursday, July 23

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Professional Office Bldg.

Auditorium

This program is presented by AMMC and Wal-Mart with Dr. Francesca Wilkins, Endocrinologist as the guest speaker. Please RSVP by Wednesday, July 22 by calling 239-7016.

Infant Safety Class

Tuesday, July 14

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building

This class is offered to expectant families and anyone caring for an infant. This class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For classroom location, more information or to register, call 239-7016.

Healthy Pregnancy Class

Monday, July 27

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building

This one-time class for expectant mothers who are prior to 16 weeks into their pregnancy. Class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For classroom location, more information or to register, call 239-7016.

Childbirth Preparation Class

Saturday, July 18 and 25

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(one hour lunch)

Professional Office Bldg.

Auditorium

This class is for anyone who is expecting. Register early to ensure availability for when you are 5-8 weeks from your due date. This class is free for those delivering at AMMC with a small charge for others. There is a \$10 fee for materials. For classroom location, more information or to register, call 239-7016.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 28

4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Professional Office Bldg.

Auditorium

If you would like to donate life-saving blood, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS for details on requirements. You can also find more information at www.redcrossblood.org.

Mommy and Me Breastfeeding

Support Group Meeting

Monday, July 20

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Professional Office Building

Second Floor Conference Room

Greene County Health Unit's

Time to cast votes for Premiere readers' Outstanding Teacher

Premiere Magazine readers nominated their favorite educators as Outstanding Teacher of the Month when balloting began in October of last year, and now it's time for them to vote again and pick the overall favorite.

Sixteen teachers were selected by parents, students and co-workers, representing all the school districts in Greene County. Votes were submitted by mail and electronic media with monthly winners earning gift certificates and movie passes.

Balloting for the overall Outstanding Teacher will continue through July 17, with the winner receiving another nice prize package, a \$100 gift certificate from MOR Media and more ... including the honor of being our cover model for the August "Back To School" issue.

Support your favorite teacher by emailing your vote to

editor@premiere-magazine.com

or by mentioning her on our Facebook page.

All 16 monthly winners are pictured at right. Start voting now for your Premiere readers' Outstanding Teacher. ♦



Tonya Benefield
Paragould



Stephane Davis
Tech



MacKenzie Fisher
Paragould



Kristie Ford
Paragould



Lanthia Garmrath
Paragould



Erin Holland
Tech



Julie Holmes
Paragould



Becky Jernigan
CRA



Suzette Killough
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Susan Lewallen
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Ginger Richey
Marmaduke



April Rogers
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Kendra Street
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Holly Todd
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Dessira Wegner
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Mission teams will work in area in October

Variety of services will be provided by church members

On Saturday, October 3, groups associated with the Acts 1:8 Community Missions will be in Paragould, Marmaduke and the surrounding areas to help out with community improvement and mission work.

Working in conjunction with the Greene County Baptist Association, volunteers will appear throughout the city to

perform a number of

services including

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repairs/paint-

ing, yard

w o r k ,

directing

children's

activities,

prayer walks,

multi-hous-

ing ministries,

cowboy min-

istries, block

parties, fishing

derbies, visiting with

senior adults and more.

People willing to have the missionaries come to their neighborhoods and homes are asked to contact Tracy Archibald at tarchibald@absc.org, or call ABSC at 1-800-838-2272, extension 5150.

Teams of adults and sponsored young people will be performing the assigned tasks from 8:30 that morning until 4:30 in the afternoon.

Those interested in helping with the work or gaining more information are also asked to contact Archibald through the two contacts mentioned above. ♦

Contact Tracy Archibald at tarchibald@absc.org, or call ABSC at 1-800-838-2272, extension 5150 for more information.



Volunteers took to the streets during the week of June 1-6, picking up trash, sweeping sidewalks, trimming and mowing and giving the city a general once-over during the Economic Development Corporation of Paragould's Clean Sweep Paragould Week. Supplies and lunches were provided for workers, who joined in the community improvement project.



Happy 4th of July from MOR Media



Shooting fireworks is a tradition on July 4th, when Americans celebrate their independence.

July 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Photo by *Richard Brummett*

Why we celebrate July 4

The Fourth of July is our country's birthday. On July 4, 1776, our country's founders declared independence from Great Britain. This meant they would no longer follow the orders of Britain's king, a dangerous move since at the time Britain had one of the world's strongest armies and to go against the king was a crime punishable by death.

But his laws were unfair and our founders decided it was worth the risk of war to win the freedom to govern themselves. The Declaration of Independence is the usual name of a statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, which announced that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as thirteen newly independent sovereign states, and no longer a part of the British Empire. Instead they formed a new nation — the United States of America.

John Adams was a leader in pushing for independence, which was unanimously approved on July 2. A committee of five had already drafted the formal declaration, to be ready when Congress voted on independence.

It took another 7 years of fighting until in 1781, when America claimed victory and in 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed acknowledging America as an independent nation.

So each year, what we celebrate for one day, on July 4th, was in truth, a 20-year struggle for independence. Our Declaration of Independence stands today as one of the most profound declarations ever written. ♦

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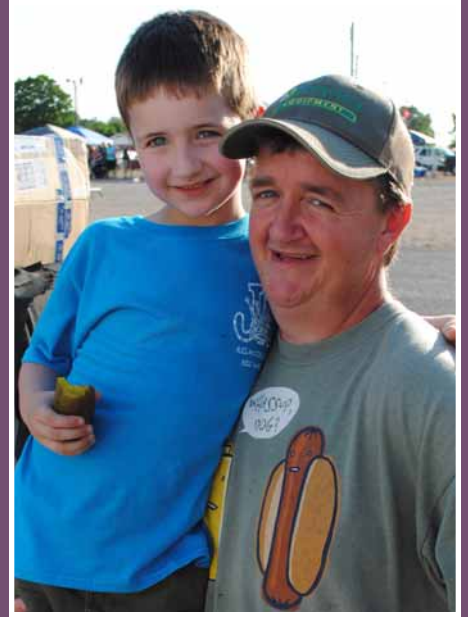
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Relay For Life

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A week without a telephone is a vacation indeed

We took a family vacation last month and while there were many beautiful sights and ample opportunities for entertainment, my favorite part of the trip served to magnify my ever-increasing advancement into certified old age.

Even though I waded into the ocean and floated on the waves along with the rest, the absolute deal-sealer for me was ... I forgot my phone charger and no one could call or text me for a week.

I was liberated, freed from the restraints of modern technology. I felt like Jane and the ivory poachers do when Tarzan sneaks into the back of the hut and cuts the ropes on their wrists and ankles and lets them escape from the Zambizis who would tie them to long sticks and pull them apart. I rejoiced like an Old West outlaw whose gang sprung him from jail and fired a six-shooter at the chain between his shackles. I was free.

I long for the days when a fellow could walk out the back door and leave the phone behind, attached to the wall with its rotary dial and long cord. Once you were out of the house or your place of business, no one could contact you without chasing you down and having a face-to-face confrontation.

It's not as if I didn't try to reconnect with civilization while on our trip. I took my phone, which apparently resembles some archeological find to today's young telephone store employees, to more than one place to see if they might have a charger I could purchase.

The first place I went was an actual phone store and when I handed my flip phone to the young man in charge and asked if he had a charger to fit it, he stared at it and very slowly said, "Ewww," not the "ewww" you say when you smell a skunk but the "ewww" you utter when you need to answer one last question in order to manage a passing grade and you read something that begins with the phrase, "Compare and contrast ...".

He directed me to an electronics store where I was greeted with much the same enthusiasm, and they sent me to still another franchise where a young man held my pitiful phone in

Get Rich

By Richard Brummett



his hand and said, "I'm pretty sure we wouldn't carry anything that would fit this."

That's all I needed to hear and I spent the next five days detached from society and loving every minute of it.

While the rest of the family snoozed, I took an early morning walk through a state park that was situated right behind the house in which we were staying. I met other walkers and joggers and bicyclists, and stopped to watch six squirrels play chase on whatever kind of tree it is they inhabit in Florida.

I knew if something vibrated in my pocket it had to be a bumblebee that had flown in there, not an electronic device signalling some form of bad news or work -- which often are one and the same.

Another day I drove to the official park entrance and was granted admittance even though it was not yet time to open, and I drove through the facility at 10 miles per hour and literally had to stop the car more than once to let deer walk slowly in front of me.

It was photographer's delight and I actually rolled down the window and spoke to some of the wildlife, which just stared back at me with a look that said, "Great. Another tourist."

Had my phone been working I fear I might have missed out on nature's beauty and magnificence. I would hate to think beautiful and entertaining creatures could have crossed my path unbeknownst to me while I was looking down at the palm of my hand and trying to read and respond to telephone messages.

I have to say the phoneless stretch constituted one of the greatest weeks of my life, and I'm already planning my next outing when I just might forget my charger again. ♦

Downtown Paragould Loft for Lease

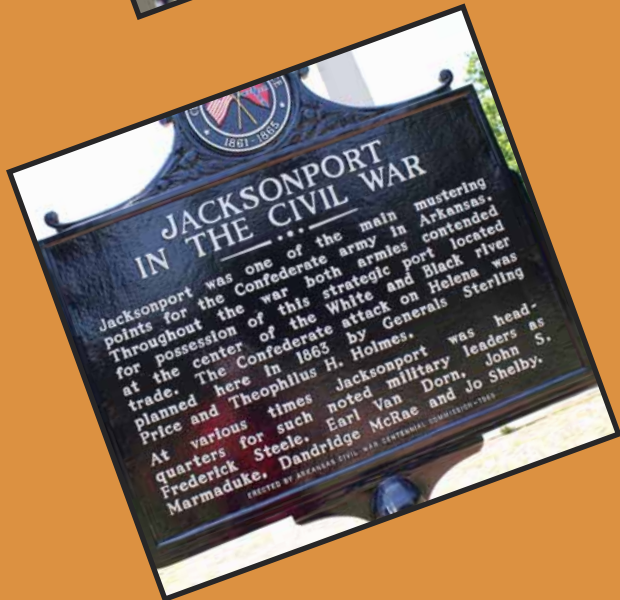
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Jacksonport was an important hub for both sides during the Civil War. Today, the state park emphasizes the town's role with a number of displays and markers that provide information about Jacksonport's link to history.





History, recreation, nature, entertainment ... Jacksonport State Park provides it all for anyone interested in making the short drive from the Paragould-Jonesboro area.

Steamboats made Jacksonport a thriving river port in the 1800s and during the Civil War the town was occupied by both Confederate and Union forces because of its crucial locale. Today, the park boasts the historic 1872 courthouse (admission is free) furnished with regional items of historical significance. Civil War monuments and programs by park interpreters share the story of this historic river port.

There are 20 Class A campsites with water and electric hookups, a swimming beach on the White River, standard pavilion, picnic sites, playground, and the Tunstall Riverwalk Trail to stroll alongside the river.

The park is located on Arkansas Highway 69 in Jacksonport -- just three miles north of Newport. To contact the park call 870-523-2143. ♦



Signs point the way to many of the attractions offered at Jacksonport. At right is the historic 1872 courthouse while below is one of the many shaded picnic areas situated on the banks of the White River.



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Group Lodging Area reopens at Crowley's Ridge State Park



Half-million dollar grant funds improvements to dining hall, kitchen

The Native log and stone structure makes the dining hall, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, an appealing sight. The building has undergone a facelift that makes the stay at Crowley's Ridge State Park a more enjoyable experience in the group area.

Gratchesen Sacotnik is pretty proud of the new look given the Group Lodging Area at Crowley's Ridge State Park, as she certainly should be.

A half-million dollar grant allowed new construction, updates and improvements to the buildings and grounds, and the area is once more open and ready to be rented for activities.

Sacotnik, Superintendent at the state park, said it is one of only three in the state of Arkansas to offer group housing and the construction was a bit of an inconvenience. "In June, it is usually rented every day," she said. "Last year it was under construction so they had to cancel some reservations and it has been slow to pick back up. But now we're ready to go."

Major renovations to the dining hall/kitchen are paramount among the improvements, including new flooring and windows, window coverings, the addition of LED track lighting, upgrading of the electrical system, installation of a Mitsubishi mini-split system (HVAC), a new kitchen with updated equipment that includes an Ansul fire suppression system in the vent hood over range. The stove boasts six burners, two ovens and a grill.

The historic building, a single-story log structure built on a fieldstone foundation and covered with a gable roof, was built around 1935 by a crew from the Civilian Conservation Corps and now features a new entrance, new restroom building behind the dining hall, and outside lighting. The renovation work also included landscaping/erosion improvements and the repair and replacement of some of the cypress logs on the historic structure.

"For what you get, and for the price," Sacotnik said, "our park is an incredible bargain."

The Group Lodging Area can accommodate up to 60 people in the five bunk cabins, and Sacotnik said, "Rent is \$200 per night and for that you get the Dining Hall, five cabins, the Bath House, the pavillion and the fishing lake. You get it all ... it's yours for the entire day."

She said various groups make use of the beautiful park lodging, ranging from church groups to family reunions. "We welcome them all," Sacotnik said. "Just tell them we're back in business and ready to go."

For additional details, contact the park at: 870-573-6751. ♦

-- Richard Brummett



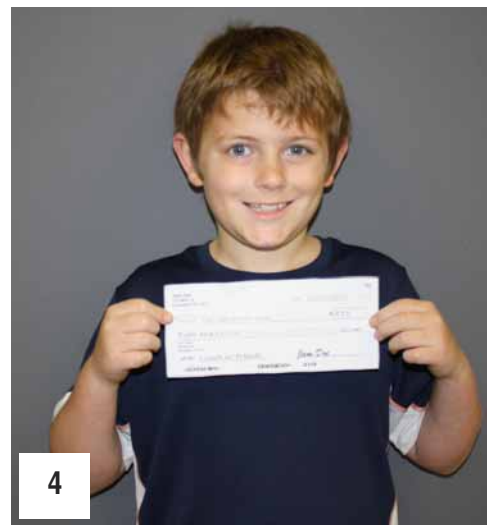
Bunk houses can accommodate up to 60 people in all.



Gretchen Sacotnik, Superintendent at Crowley's Ridge State Park, points out the new flooring in the Dining Hall of the group housing area. New furniture and kitchen appliances add to guests' enjoyment, as do the sights and sounds of the outdoor life.



Happenings



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The background features a stylized American flag with red, white, and blue stripes and stars, overlaid with a network of glowing white lines and bright light bursts.

Happenings

1. Apprentices Complete Program

The Paragould campus of Black River Technical College held a ceremony on May 14th to recognize Timothy Hallmark and Alex Chambers for successfully completing their Four Year Electrical Apprenticeship Program. The Paragould Local Electrical Apprenticeship Committee thanked and congratulated the two apprentices. Pictured from left are Larry Griggs, Timothy Hallmark, Alex Chambers and Terry Chambers.

2. Master Gardeners' Scholarship

Seth Busby has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Greene County Master Gardeners' Scholarship. Seth also won the Janet B. Carson Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Pictured presenting the Master Gardeners' Scholarship to Seth is Pauletta Tobey.

3. Prize Winner

Billy Jackson proudly displays his brand new souvenir "You Don't Know Jack" t-shirt after being named the winner of a contest sponsored by RNR Custom Wheels and Tires and promoted by the MOR Media radio stations. Jackson was the winner of a complete set of custom wheels and tires and is pictured with MOR Media's Leisa Rae at the Paragould RNR location.

4. Teleflora Donation

Karen McBride, an employee at Teleflora, donated \$1,000 from Teleflora's Roll Giving Program to the Paragould School District's Gifted and Talented Program. Jon Paul Weatherford, McBride's grandson, who is in the Gifted and Talented program at Oak Grove Middle School, is pictured with the donation made by Teleflora. ♦



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Downtown Jonesboro has something for everyone

The nightlife of Downtown Jonesboro is filled with fun and good times.

With around 125 businesses located in Downtown Jonesboro, there is a range of activities from daytime fun to nightlife events ... always something to enjoy.

"Downtown Jonesboro is a place for everyone. There is literally something to do for anyone, whether you like to just relax in a coffee shop, run down for lunch in a locally owned establishment, or you want to live Downtown. Its home to the 'local flavor,' somewhere you would choose to go to take a break from the everyday routine," said executive director of the Downtown Jonesboro Association, Hailey Knight.

There are several events held in Downtown

Jonesboro that you can take part in. Every third Thursday of each month from March to November, Alive After Five is held. This is a family-friendly event where people can enjoy the street market, live music, and a movie. Another event that brings delight to individuals is Pack Pride Weekends. This event takes place when the ASU Red Wolves have a home football game. It begins Friday night and ends with a Sunday Brunch and Browse.

There are also beautiful lofts in Downtown Jonesboro that are very popular. Knight stated, "We have over 100 loft residents. We have everyone from college students to retired couples to doctors and nurses that like to walk to work. There is a 100% occupancy of the lofts and a waiting list to live here."

One thing Knight thinks most people don't know about Downtown Jonesboro is just how many boutiques and retail stores are located there. "We have so many different stores that cater to completely different areas – like a bridal and formal gown consignment shop to an outdoor gear store to a small children's clothing and accessory boutique," she said.

"I'm from Jonesboro. I'm a hometown girl and I love that I get to leave a footprint on the town especially since Downtown Jonesboro has grown in the last few years," said Knight.

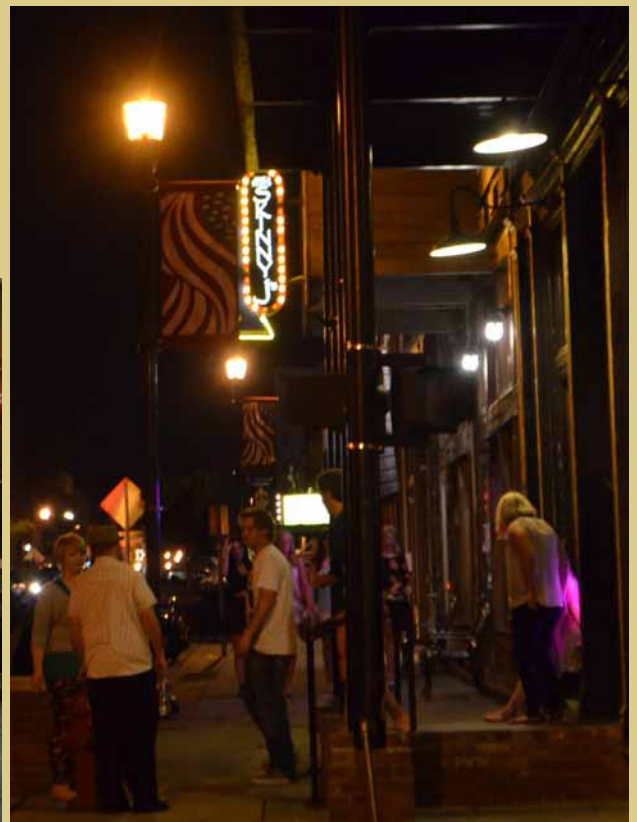
For more information about Downtown Jonesboro, email Knight at info@downtown-jonesboro.com.

-- Kayla Macomber





Inside or out, day or night, Downtown Jonesboro provides a multitude of entertainment opportunities.





David Pratt's garage has been turned into his personal military history museum.

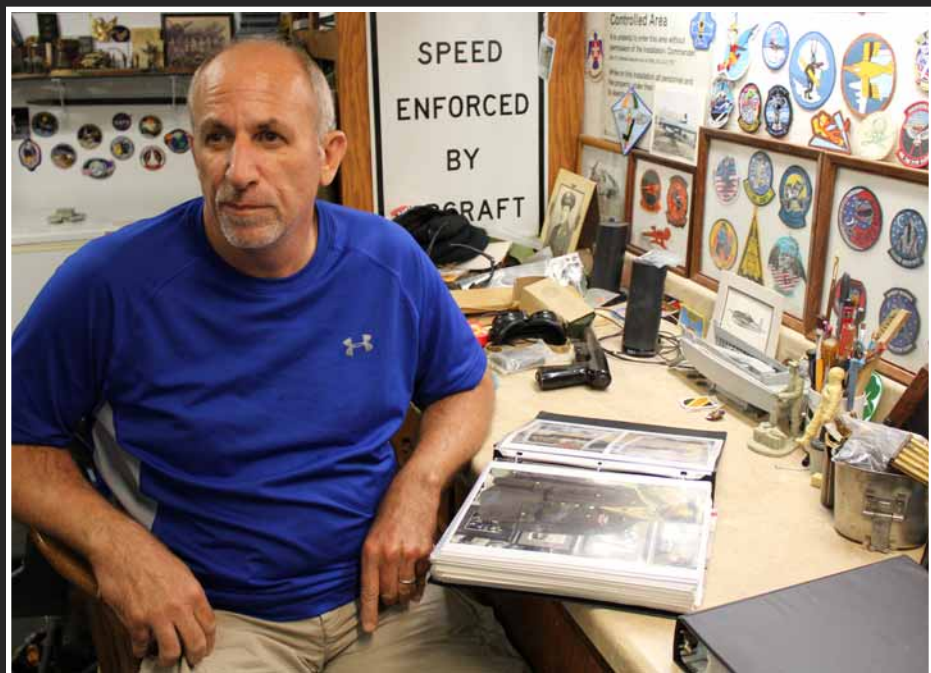
Keeping history within reach

David Pratt of Paragould isn't certain where his fascination with all things military comes from, he just knows he's a collector who can't seem to get enough of souvenirs ranging from photographs to uniforms and everything in between.

"Maybe it comes from all the Army TV shows I grew up watching," Pratt, 57, offered. "I don't know, maybe that's some of it. I always liked old stuff. I like to fix stuff and once this got started ... well, it sort of grew."

More than sort of. Pratt delights in walking through his private museum, pointing out items that once belonged to the famous ("This a uniform worn by John F. Kennedy right here" and "These belonged to Jimmy Stewart, the actor. He flew 20 missions.") to those that simply signify what life in the military looks and feels like up close.

Pratt, who retired from the Highway Department after 30 years, never served in the armed forces himself but says it might be a lifelong appreciation of history that makes him want to grab a little piece of it for himself.





"I do love history; maybe that's why I do this," he said as he points out weapons and ammunition and medals and buttons ... mementos ranging from the Civil War up to yesterday afternoon. "I've been lucky to meet people and get their autographs, and sit down and talk with them about their accomplishments.

"And then a lot of people give me stuff because they know I don't sell anything. I give stuff away sometimes, but I don't sell anything. I love walking through here and feeling the history that lives here. There's a radio man in uniform over there, and that radio actually works. You can pick up Cuba."

Since he has retired, Pratt spends even more time than before packing up portions of his treasure to take to shows, simply for the enjoyment of sharing what he has with the average guy.

"Not everybody gets to do what I do, and not everybody can get their hands on stuff like this," he said. "I love looking at people's faces -- especially kids -- when they can pick some of this stuff up and see what it's really like. It's history, you know?"

Pratt, who can be reached via email at dpratt@grnc.net, would like for small groups to come tour his museum. "For a little garage, it's not bad," he said. "I'd like for people to get to see it." ♦



Text and photos by *Richard Brummelt*



Pratt poses with a uniform that was once worn by JFK, and displays the letter of authentication confirming it was the former president's.

Camp answered the call when needed

By his own admission, sometimes Bob Camp gets “wound up” when discussing any number of subjects that interest him -- sports, politics or what have you.

But when it comes to views on one’s patriotic duty, Camp, 68, doesn’t look at the matter from far away through a pair of binoculars. He signed up, fought and sustained serious wounds during the Vietnam War and is more than qualified to speak on the subject of risking one’s life in defense of his country.

Camp wasn’t so different from hundreds of other teenagers in Paragould during the early 1960s. He went to high school, he loved sports and enjoyed life but when he considered job prospects after graduation pretty slim, he decided to join the military.

“There were no jobs really for a young guy ... factory work. I worked at the shoe factory for just a while before I went in and I was without a doubt the slowest, worst human over there. I was cutting insoles, and couldn’t make production,” he said with a smile. “But I had joined the Marines at 18, before graduating high school, on the 120 Delay Plan. That way, I already had my first stripe when I got home from boot camp.”

Eventually, Camp wound up at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego for about 10 weeks, but he said, “Basic training was cut short because the Vietnam War was heating up. We were sent to Camp Pendleton for infantry instruction from late November until January, and then fast-tracked to Vietnam.”

As with most subjects broached, Camp isn’t shy about relating his short but dreadful stay in combat. He speaks matter-of-factly about being wounded, even mixing in jots of humor along the way.

“From mid-January, about the 10th, to June 4th,” he says, shrugging his shoulders. “I was in Delta Company, First Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. We were



Decorated Vietnam veteran Bob Camp says he would again fight for his country if necessary but said entering a war is something that should be examined thoroughly first.

ambushed in a cemetery on a sweep. The bad guys were supposed to have to cross a river, so we had people waiting on one side. We entered this cemetery ... tanks had been there, and the enemy had mined and booby trapped it all over the place. They got a whole bunch of us ... a bunch of us.

“I stepped on a ‘Bouncing Betty’ ... when you step off it springs about knee high. It is designed to blow your legs off. If not for the corpsmen, a lot of us would have bled to



death," Camp said. "It is 50 years ago this month (June) that I got wounded. I sustained multiple shrapnel wounds from my waist to my feet. It looked like a shark bit off pieces of both legs ... big pieces.

"People ask me what I did in Vietnam," he said. "I tell them I looked for mines ... but I was only able to find one."

He and others were first hospitalized in the Philippines for six weeks, where his health "really suffered. I went from 185 pounds to about 120. My health really started to deteriorate. I couldn't eat ... I was depressed. I was in the hospital at Memphis for over a year. Later I learned that the plane had to make an unscheduled stop in Colorado for one of us who was 'suffering more problems' and after getting into the hospital in Millington for a couple of weeks it was touch and go, and I learned the one the plane landed for was me."

He was discharged in 1967 and discovered the Veterans Administration would pay for his schooling. Because of his injuries, manual

labor was not an option; teaching history was. He enrolled first at Crowley's Ridge College and finished at Arkansas State University, and wound up teaching and coaching high school baseball from 1976-1995.

For his service, Camp was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Medal and a Unit Citation, Third Marine Division, as well as earning recognition from the Greene County Tech High School Veterans' Hall of Fame as one of the first two inductees in 1989.

"People ask me what I did in Vietnam," he said. "I tell them I looked for mines ... but I was only able to find one."

All this background serves to set the stage for today, when he dissects the phrase "patriotic duty" differently than many.

"First of all," he says, leaning forward, "my question to all these people who say we need more boots on the ground in battle today would be, 'Is it okay, then, to send your son or your daughter?' War is not a pretty thing. The 9th Marines -- we were known as The Walking Dead. They took more casualties in a short period of


time than just about anybody.

"You know the old saying: Old men start wars, young guys fight them. I think most of us in this country, if someone said, 'We need you, our freedom is at stake,' we would go. I know I still would under those circumstances, but today I would ask more questions to be sure we knew why we were fighting and if what we thought we were fighting for really was the reason."

He calls the Vietnam War "a terrible mistake" and refers to former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara's admission of that years later as proof that "all those people killed and wounded and families messed up were really for nothing. That's why I say before we plunge headlong into war again, we need to be certain we know what we're fighting for, and if it's worth fighting for.

"If I were still at the age where I was needed -- without a doubt -- I would go again to defend my country and my freedom. But I would ask questions this time. We all need to ask questions. There's a difference in being patriotic and in being careless."

-- Richard Brummett




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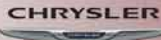


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Welcome to the beautiful St. Bernards Villa.

The Villa is a residential complex in Jonesboro for seniors who can benefit from a higher level of assisted living care. It has a total of 75 one- and two- bedroom apartments, with 45 of those in the assisted living part of the facility and 30 in the Bill Rainwater Sr. Memory Care Center.

Each apartment features a memory box outside the door in which a resident can display photos or personal memorabilia that can help connect visitors or staff to that resident.

The large complex features spacious living areas, parlors and dining rooms. In addition, there is an activity room, card parlor, theater built as a safe room for inclement weather safety, chapel, beauty/barber shop and spa, country store, ice cream parlor, suites for respite stays and short-term rehabilitation, on-site healthcare provider clinic, outpatient physical therapy services and more.

One of the features at The Villa is a rehabilitation therapy clinic that can be used by both residents and others in the community who require physical therapy services.

The Bill Rainwater Sr. Memory Care Community is a separate and secure facility specifically designed for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. It has its own entrance and will be operated by a staff specially trained and certified in dementia care. It is divided into two "neighborhoods" with 15 apartments each so residents can live and function within small nurturing groups to foster a sense of community and encourage involvement of family and friends.

All residents at The Villa will benefit from nurse-supervised care plans, three delicious meals daily prepared in a central kitchen, and cleaning and laundry services.

The comfortable and safe accommodations will support residents at their highest level of self-care and independence until they need full-time, skilled nursing care. All housing options include utilities paid, cable TV, Wi-Fi, transportation to scheduled appointments, emergency call system and 24-hour certified personnel on site.

For more information, contact Brian Rega, director of senior services housing for St. Bernards, at brega@sbrmc.org. ♦



Residents and visitors can relax in the lounge between the two memory care "neighborhoods."



Residents can enjoy the movie theater, bingo lounge, and safe room.



The Villa also offers a chapel to residents.

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And the Winner Is...

Thank You, Premiere readers and Jack, Jill and iRock Radio listeners! The votes were overwhelming this year for our annual Premiere Awards and we appreciate your taking the time to participate. Our Awards span both Paragould and Jonesboro so you will see some categories have two winners.

Keep this edition around as your guide to highly recommended businesses in our area! As you can see, most are locally owned or have locals who care enough to give their customers the service that makes them remembered and therefore voted to receive this recognition.

Please shop these Award Winning businesses! Let them know that you saw their names in this section and that they have been recommended by our readers.

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2015

PREMIERE
MAGAZINE

The results
are in ...

PREMIERE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Premiere readers have had their say, and the balloting for the 2015 Premiere Awards is over.

Readers were invited -- and encouraged -- to select winners in a variety of categories from both Paragould and Jonesboro, and their choices will appear on the following pages. Not all categories contained winners from both cities, and in those instances only one victor is listed.

Businesses and individuals who purchased an ad for this section appear in green; their advertisements will be contained in the special section pages. The remaining winners are listed in black.

So sit back, take a look at the 2015 winners and then go visit them and offer your

congratulations ... just as we here at MOR Media do. And now, the winners for 2015, as chosen by you, the Premiere readers ...

Accountant:

Charles Long - Paragould - Certified Public Accountant; Jonesboro - Jones & Company, Ltd.

Appliance Shop:

Paragould - Sears Hometown Store; Jonesboro - Metro Appliances & More

Attorney:

Paragould - Broadway & Broadway; Jonesboro - Tom Haynes

Auto Body Shop:

Paragould - Freeman's Auto Body - Body, Glass, Rental, Towing & Sales, Inc.; Jonesboro - Collision Repair

Auto Dealer New:

Paragould - Glen Sain Auto Dealers; Jonesboro - Central Family of Dealerships

Auto Dealer Used:

Paragould - Bayird Pre-Owned Supercenter; Jonesboro - Car-Mart of Jonesboro

Auto Parts Shop:

Paragould - O'Reilly Auto Parts Store

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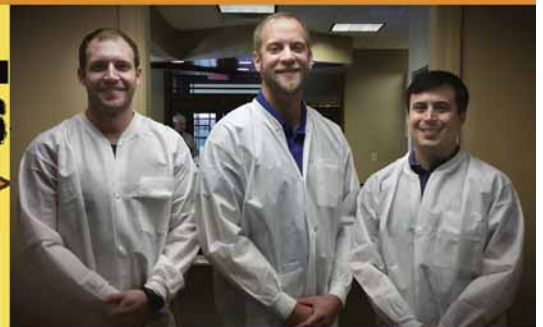


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 Jonesboro - Dr. Jason Sherrod -Sherrod
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Jonesboro - Matt Knight - MidSouth Health

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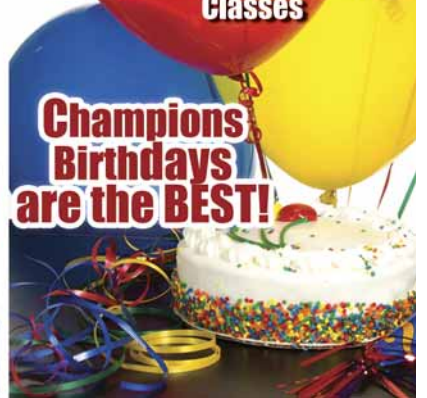
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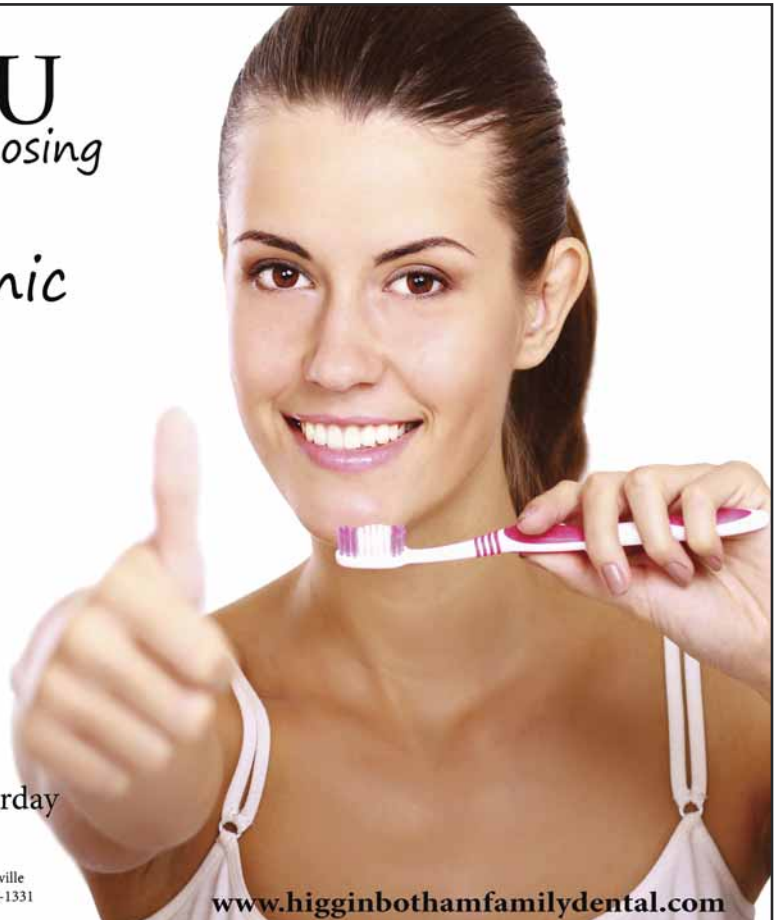
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June 6, 2015
Angel Messer + Payton Snodgrass
June 12, 2015
Katie Davis + Jordan Leatherman
June 13, 2015
Whitneri Hale + Ben Lindsey
July 14, 2015
Gabby Fulton + Mike Dixon
August 8, 2015*

*Megan Sanders + Noah Vann
August 8, 2015
Amanda Carrell + Brandon Davis
October 3, 2015
Tiffani Johnson + Eli Newsom
October 4, 2015
Phalycia Hyde + Nathan McClelland
October 17, 2015
Carrie Borak + Cory Biggs
November 28, 2015*



Baby Registry

*Stefanie Compton
McKenzie Duckert
Mimi Jackson
Mandy Bruce
Nicole Poyner
Katelyn McMillon
Casie Vaughn*



Back from Market!
Watch for
New Arrivals Soon!

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Birth Announcements



Tuck Maddox Clayton

Clayton

Eric and Brooke Clayton have happily announced the birth of their son, Tuck Maddox Clayton.

Born March 31 at NEA Baptist Hospital, the baby weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 3/4 inches long.

Grandparents are Keith and Karen Crittenden of Piggott, Ron and Tammy McCreless of Rector, and Cary Clayton of Rector.

Great-grandparents include Leon and Wanda Williams of Piggott, Jim Crittenden of Piggott, Carol Crittenden of Piggott, and Bill and Barbara Vangilder of Rector. ♦



Photo by Natalie Gray Photography

Evie Kayte Hawkins

Hawkins

Mark and Sarah Hawkins of Leachville announce the birth of a daughter, Evie Kayte Hawkins.

Born at St. Bernards Medical Center, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Grandparents are Kevin and Marcia Gillmore of Paragould and Cole and Kerin Hawkins of Leachville. ♦



Photo by Dina Mason

Jackson Eugene Rushing

Rushing

Lukas Rushing and Jordan Hudson of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Jackson Eugene Rushing.

Born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20.7 inches long.

Grandparents include Michelle Rushing, Jennefer Scalf, Jeff Hudson and Bill Rushing. ♦

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Birth Announcements



Paislee Nichole Burns

Burns

Shelby Hurst and Trenton Burns of Hornersville, Missouri, announce the birth of a daughter, Paislee Nichole Burns.

Born at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Deanna and Gary Poe.

Paternal grandparents are Carl and Donna Burns. ♦

To have your birth announcements and engagements included in Premiere Magazine, email information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication. For information, call Premiere at 870-236-7627 during regular business hours Monday-Friday.

Engagements

Fulton-Dixon



Gabriela Fulton and Mike Dixon

Photo by Robin Fulton

Gabriela Fulton and Mike Dixon have announced their plans to hold an August wedding ceremony.

Gabriela is the daughter of Rev. Gary and Susan Fulton of Farmington, Arkansas.

Mike's parents are Marlin and Melinda Dixon of Paragould.

The couple will exchange their wedding vows on Saturday, August 8, 2015, at the First Baptist Church in Farmington. ♦



www.randphotography.com | 870-236-2275 | tim@randphotography.com

July

CALENDAR

Saturday, July 4

FORTH IN THE FORREST, Children's Home for Life Ranch in Brookland will give horse rides for kids. For more information, call Tony Stout at (870) 273-5376.

Mon.-Fri., July 6-17

MY SUMMER SUCCESS, a free wellness program at the NEA Baptist Wellness Center in Jonesboro will teach children the importance of a well-balanced diet and exercise. For more information, contact Erica Huffstetler at (870) 336-1760 or log onto www.neabaptistfoundation.org.

Wednesday, July 8

"PLAYIN' SAFE" SAFETY COURSE FOR KIDS, lead by the Jonesboro Police Department and sponsored by Subway restaurants, the program teaches safety habits as part of the Jonesboro City Youth Ministries Summer Program. For more information, call (870) 932-9398 or visit cityyouthmin.com.

Mon. - Thurs, July 13-16

THAILAND TREK VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, at Paragould First United Methodist Church discovers the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of one unique culture, as well as God's love for the world. For more information, call (870) 239-8541 or visit www.fumcparagould.org.

Thurs.-Mon., July 16-20

THE MUSIC MAN, presented by the Greene County Fine Arts Council at the Paragould High School. July 16, 17, 18, and 20 performances begins at 7:30 p.m. and July 20 begins at 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Karole Risker at (870) 239-8541 or log onto www.fumcparagould.org.

Saturday, July 18

RIDE THE RIDGE 100, a bicycle ride featuring 28, 55, and 100 mile routes will benefit the Arkansas National Guard's Family Readiness Group. First bike leaves at 7:00 a.m. For more information, contact SFC Jasen Dobson at (870) 318-8025 or log onto Ridetheridge100.com.

Throughout July

DAYCAMPS FOR CHILDREN, offered by Arkansas State Parks featuring activities like hiking, kayaking, playing games, and exploring historic life. For more information, contact Mary Buchman at (870)878-0032 or visit www.arkansasstateparks.com.

Friday & Saturday July 24-25

JOE WESSELL'S ULTIMATE OLDIES, returns with music selections from the 50's, 60's, and 70's beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 and available at The Treasure House or by calling (870) 215-2253.

Sat. & Sun. July 25-26

"SLEEPY HOLLOW" AUDITIONS, an original work by Gabriel A. Cook, will be held 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. both days. Production dates run October 9-11. For more information, call (870) 335-8971.

Monday, July 27

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY, with guest artists Breaking Glass will be performing at 7:00 p.m. at the Collins Theatre. No admission but they do pass the hat to pay the artists with a recommended donation of \$5.00 per person. Downtown eateries will be open as well.

Thursday, July 30

Friday, July 31

26TH ANNUAL CIVITAN TV AUCTION, 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on TechTV will benefit the community service projects of the Paragould Civitan Club. For more information or to make a donation, call Blake at (870) 335-8785 or email paragouldcivitan@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 8

10TH ANNUAL RED DRESS GALA, tickets will be available by contacting Kristen Hubble at hubble_kristen@yahoo.com or by visiting www.chefjonesboro.com.

Recurring EVENTS

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

First & Third Wednesday: Perking on Pruett, 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.

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

Greene County Master Gardeners present a Brown Bag Lunch Program at the Greene County Library, 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 12-1. Bring a lunch and enjoy a free gardening presentation.

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

Second Thursday of every month: The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 p.m. Southside Community Church Conference Room, 2211 Jones Road. For parents grieving the loss of a child. tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com.

Second Thursday of every month: The Memory Cafe, support group for those having memory, dementia or Alzheimer's at 1:00 pm at Swirlz Yogurt and Coffee.

Second Wednesday of every month: St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 for all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. At St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paragould.

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

Every Third Thursday: Alzheimer's Support Group with the Alzheimer's Arkansas Association and Home Instead Senior Care, 2:00 pm at Chateau on the Ridge.

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



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STAY TUNED

What's in Store For Next Month

Cover Story



The arrival of August always signals “back to school” features and our cover story will be Premiere readers’ choice as their Outstanding Teacher. Selected from a field of monthly winners throughout the past school year, the top teacher earns the right to appear on the cover of Premiere Magazine.

Events



Premiere photographers show up at a variety of events, from fundraisers to community gatherings. Keep us informed of your group’s planned activities by calling or emailing Premiere staffers today. ♦

A photograph of a baby sitting on a wooden floor, wearing a blue and white striped top and a blue skirt with white polka dots. The baby is looking towards the camera.

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