

P R E M I E R E

SEPTEMBER
2015

All's Fair With

Mitch
JOHNSON



NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
DISTRICT FAIR



- ASU GOLF SCRAMBLE
- DOG DAY OF SUMMER
- CAL RIPKEN WORLD SERIES
- NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH
- TASTE OF HOME COOKING SCHOOL

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Aug 8

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Sept 19

Leah McDaniel + Daric Hughes
Sept 25

Amanda Carrell + Brandon Davis
Oct 3

Tiffani Johnson + Eli Newsom
Oct 4

Christen Allbritton + Bryce Reeks
Oct 10

Jordan Crook + Russell Jetton
Oct 10

Phalycia Hyde + Nathan McClelland
Oct 17

Rachael George + Tyler Calver
Oct 18

Tiffany Kirklin + Dustin Henson
Nov 7

Carrie Borak + Cory Biggs
Nov 28

Cat Singleton + Louis Hamilton
Jan 2

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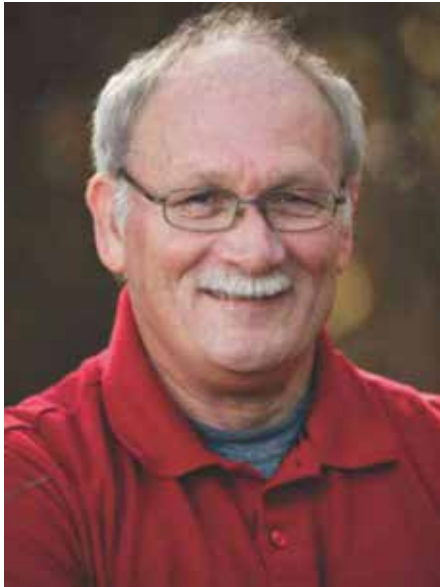
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From The Managing Editor ...



Richard Brummett, Managing Editor

September is the time of year when many people look forward to attending the Greene County Fair and the Northeast Arkansas District Fair in Jonesboro, and both events have lined up exciting nights of entertainment for those who walk through the gates.

Paragould and the Greene County Fairgrounds will again host the Greene County Fair from September 7-12, as the week long celebration enters its 128th year of existence.

The NEA District Fair, at the Northeast Arkansas District Fairgrounds and Expo Center on East Johnson in Jonesboro, will begin on Monday, September 21, and run through Saturday, the 26th.

Schedule time to visit one or both of the fairs and show support to the many businesses and individuals who put in so much effort to make them successful.

You might even have fun while doing it.

While the month of September means fun time in our area, on the national scale it is also a month that sets aside a week dedicated to recognizing those who deal with rehabilitation awareness and recovery.

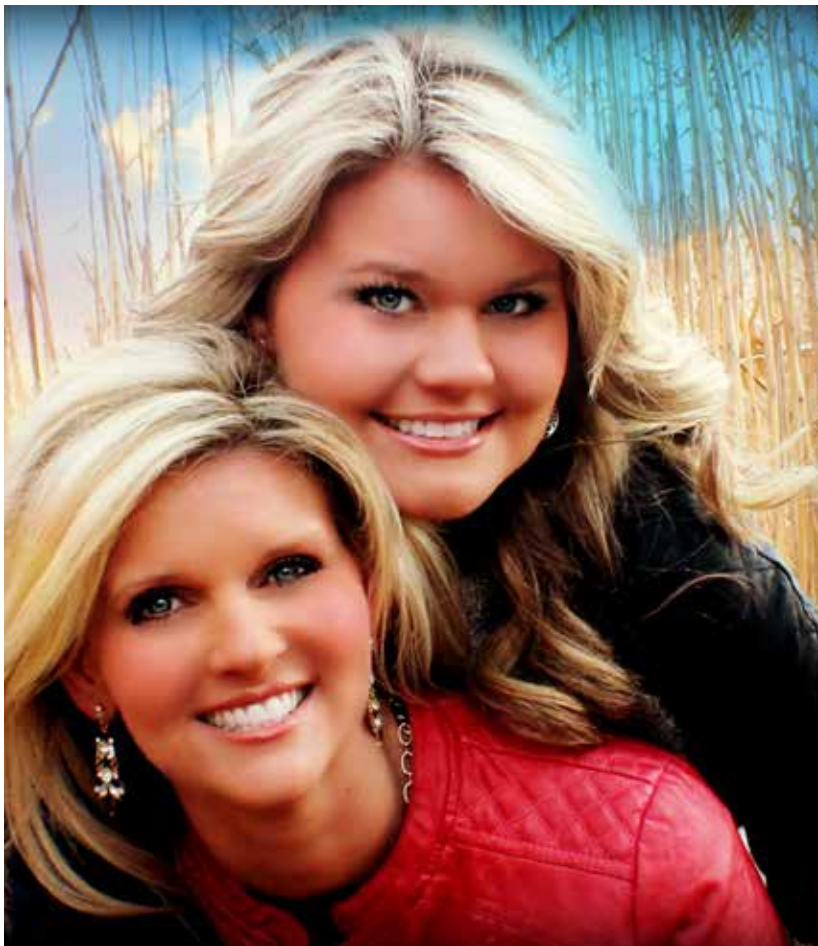
Every September, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration sponsors Recovery Month to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use issues and to celebrate the people who recover.

Recent statistics show that approximately one in every 10 Americans over the age of 12 – that comes out to be about 23.5 million people -- has an addiction to drugs and/or alcohol, but of that lofty number only 11 percent of those with an addiction receive any form of treatment.

Behavioral health is essential to one's overall wellbeing and the message that will hopefully get out is that prevention works, treatment is effective and people *can* and *do* recover.

Premiere writers take a look at some area individuals willing to share their stories, and at some organizations geared toward helping those who battle addiction find a way to return to lifestyles of which they can be proud.

Also be sure to check out the photo pages recapping events like Paragould's Dog Day of Summer, the Cal Ripken Baseball 10-year-old World Series in Jonesboro, the Arkansas State University Red Wolves Foundation golf tournament at the Paragould Country Club, and much, much more in this month's edition of Premiere Magazine. ♦



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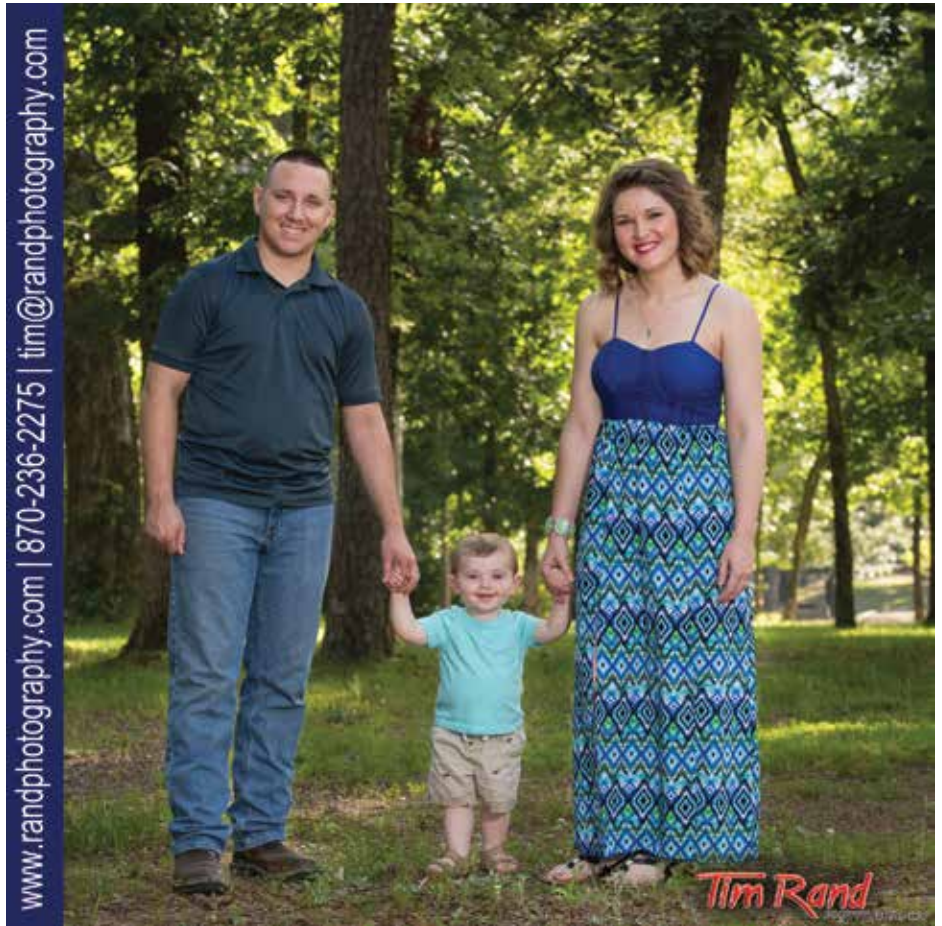


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Body English doesn't help, as Bill Holmes, above, and Jeff Block and Jimmy Wilson, below, found out.

Red Wolves' golf tournament draws crowd at PCC

Arkanas State University Red Wolves' fans turned out in big numbers in August when the Paragould Country Club hosted the 2015 ASU Golf Classic.

Boosters and fans were paired with members of the ASU coaching staff and other representatives of the Red Wolves' program, and all seemed to enjoy a day of golf on the local course.

Some were intent upon winning the tournament championship and some were happy just to be out in the sunshine, taking part in the fundraiser for ASU athletics.

Sixteen teams competed in the 30th annual scramble at PCC, raising about \$5,000 for the Red Wolves Foundation.

Community Title captured top honors in the A Flight, and the Charles Luter team won B Flight.

The golfers also enjoyed lunch before play and a social event after with Coach Blake Anderson, Brian Boyer and other coaches speaking to the group. ♦



Locals, ASU staffers compete in scramble



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Incoming Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Board of Directors Chairman Mike Gaskill presents outgoing Chairman Rhonda Davis with a plaque recognizing her years of service leading the hospital's executive board members.

AMMC holds annual meeting

At its annual meeting in August, the Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corporation, which oversees Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, met to review AMMC's activities and accomplishments over the past fiscal year with a keen focus on the medical center's agenda for the year ahead. During 2014-2015, AMMC's activities and accomplishments included:

- Caring for nearly 115,000 patients
- Providing \$9.5 million in uncompensated patient care, in keeping with the medical center's non-profit mission
- Employing more than 600 employees and pumping more than \$28 million into the local economy in wages and benefits
- Continuing its long-standing reputation of providing patient-centered care to the people it serves through the medical center, Chateau on the Ridge Assisted Living and AMMC Physician Services
- Earning several quality awards including the Joint Commission's designation as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures placing the medical center as one of 16 hospitals in the state to be recognized for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes shown to improve care for certain conditions. AMMC Board of Directors Chairman Rhonda Davis said, "As both the community and the hospital undergo change, it's important to remember this unshakable truth: We need each other. We (AMMC) take pride in being a community medical center, one that meets the medical needs of its community and serves as a civic partner and friend. I hope that you will continue the story of AMMC by choosing us for your family's healthcare needs, and by supporting the ongoing vision of a strong hospital for a strong community."

Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.myammc.org. ♦



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Breastfeeding Class **Tuesday, September 1**

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, please call 239-7016.

18th Annual Men's Health Fair **Thursday, September 3**

6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Professional Office Bldg. Auditorium
This year's men's health fair will include blood glucose and cholesterol screenings, blood pressure checks, weight and nutrition screenings and PSA testing for prostate cancer. For more information, please call 239-7016.

Infant Safely Class **Tuesday, September 8**

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.

21st Annual Golf Tournament **Thursday, August 13**

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start, noon lunch provided to golfers with afternoon flight beginning at 1:00 p.m.
Paragould Country Club
For more information about The Foundation or the golf tournament, please call 239-7077.

Childbirth Preparation Class **Saturday, September 19th and 26th**

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. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring two pillows and a blanket to class with you. 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.

Mommy and Me Breastfeeding Support Group Meeting **Monday, September 21**

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Professional Office Building Second Floor Conference Room
Greene County Health Unit's 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.

Community Diabetes Program **Thursday, September 24**

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Professional Office Bldg. Auditorium
"Seasonal Splendor with Spectacular Soups" is the focus. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 23 by calling 239-7016.

Healthy Pregnancy Class **Monday, September 28**

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Professional Office Building
This is a 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.

18th Annual Women's Health Fair **Thursday, October 1**

6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Professional Office Bldg. Auditorium
This year's women's health fair will include blood glucose and cholesterol screenings, blood pressure checks, and weight and nutrition screenings. For more information, please call 239-7016.

Get Up and Go ...



... to Grant's Farm

Kids can pet a goat or ride a carousel, just a couple of the many options at Grant's Farm in St. Louis.

Photos by Richard Brummett

Grant's Farm is inexpensive family outing

You pay \$12 per car for parking and if you don't want to spend another penny, you don't have to. That's a pretty good deal, and it's exactly what Grant's Farm in St. Louis offers.

The 281-acre ancestral home of the Busch family, named for Ulysses S. Grant who originally worked a portion of the land, has been a popular St. Louis destination since 1954 and combines history, heritage and wildlife.

Once inside you can board the tram and take a guided tour of the wildlife area, then return to pet animals and take photos -- all for free. A few attractions require a small fee to participate.

Located at 10501 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Grant's Farm can be reached by calling 1-314-843-1700. ♦



In 1855, President Grant built a four-room, two-story cabin on the property. In 1885, the home passed out of the hands of the Grant family, before being purchased by August Busch Sr. in 1907. He had the cabin moved and reassembled approximately one mile from its original location, where in 1977, Anheuser-Busch restored it to its present condition. The flag, cannons and wagon, below right, are also in their original state.

Grant's Farm is home to a variety of exotic animal species from around the world, including Bison from North America, Black Buck Antelope from Europe, and Zebra from Africa, Deer Park allows animals to roam free in their natural setting. Throughout Deer Park, guests will also find beautiful lakes filled with brilliant orange and white Japanese Koi.

Visitors can feed the goats and parakeets, ride a camel or the carousel, see an animal show, or just hang out with a variety of animals including tortoises, wallabies, lemurs, elephants and more, or they can take in a live puppet show and book reading.



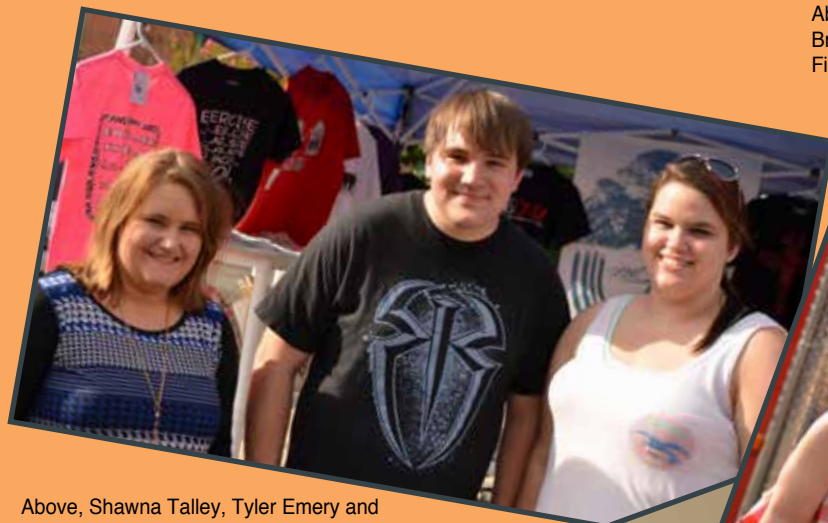
Photos by Richard Brummett



PREMIERE'S SCENE 'YA



Above, Maya and Brayden Hampton at ASU Move-In Day; at left, Brandi Hodges, Zac Passmore and Valerie Carroll at Alive After Five.



Above, Shawna Talley, Tyler Emery and Elizabeth Kessler; at right, Jennifer McFinnis and niece Stella, all at Alive After Five.



Photos by
Kayla Macomber



ASU Move-In Day: Above, Doris and Matthew Perry, Austin, Bobby, Mallory and M'Leah Donaldson; at right, Crystal and Dillon May.



Taste of Home Cooking School comes to NEA in December

Tickets won't last long;
get yours now

The Taste of Home Cooking School, highlighted by the appearance of Culinary Specialist Jamie Dunn, will be staged at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center on Tuesday, Dec. 8, thanks to the sponsorship of MOR Media and First National Bank.

The Taste of Home Cooking School is America's leading cooking school program, inspiring up to 140,000 passionate home chefs each year at 200+ events across the country. The professional culinary specialists demonstrate recipes, cooking methods, practical kitchen tips, and plating techniques in an entertaining and educational environment.

At the Taste of Home Cooking School show, attendees experience two hours of exciting recipe demonstrations using seasonal ingredients that are easily found at the local grocery store, along with step-by-step

instruction on how to create satisfying and flavorful dishes.

All Taste of Home Cooking School attendees receive a valuable gift bag filled with money-saving coupons, product samples and a Taste of Home Cooking School magazine. Additionally, some attendees will go home with a door prize or one of the tasty dishes prepared during the show.

The Taste of Home Cooking School has a storied history. It all began in 1948 with a business venture that was originally called Homemaker Schools. One busy home economist loaded up her station wagon and drove across the Midwest, stopping at small-town appliance dealerships to conduct cooking classes for dozens of "homemakers."

The Cooking School was acquired by Taste of Home magazine in the '90s, and now nine culinary specialists conduct hundreds of shows across the country. The mission remains the same: Share the best loved recipes from one home cook to another.

Taste of Home is a go-to resource for the

holidays and any time of the year for information on food, cooking and entertaining. Each year, thousands of great home cooks from across the United States and Canada submit more than 40,000 recipes, of which 3,000 are published in Taste of Home magazines, cookbooks and online, making it one of the largest and most successful practitioners of user-generated content.

Before being published, every recipe is tested in the Taste of Home Test Kitchen to ensure that it can be prepared with affordable, everyday ingredients from regular grocery stores. Taste of Home content is available online at Tasteofhome.com; Taste of Home magazine; Simple & Delicious magazine; top-selling bookazines; newsstand specials; cookbooks and via digital download on iPad, mobile apps and Kindle; and Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.

Tickets are on sale at the Arkansas State University box office for \$15. Visit their website at www.astate.edu/tickets and click on "Cooking School" for complete ticket information and show highlights. ♦

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Art on Tap at the Dixon

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This is Art on Tap's 20th year, and it is always a sellout. With live music by Mason Jar Fireflies, delicious food from local restaurants and the greatest beer in Memphis and beyond, this is an evening not to be missed. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.dixon.org and through the Art on Tap Facebook event page. Prices are \$30 for Dixon members, \$40 for non-Dixon members and \$40 for event day tickets. Each ticket admits one person to enjoy unlimited tastings of beer and food. Wine tasting tickets are also available for an additional \$10. The event is 21 and up and an ID is required. For more information about Young at Art, call Sarah Lorenz at (901) 312-1241 or slorenz@dixon.org.

Event attendees may enter to win a Yeti cooler and a Sprock N' Roll experience for \$1 per entry. ♦

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Kendra Street and her kindergartners are pleased that she was Premiere readers' favorite teacher.

School's back in session; time to nominate your favorite teachers

Marmaduke's Kendra Street can tell you -- being named Premiere Magazine readers' Teacher of the Year is a pretty good deal.

Kendra accepted her prize package of gift certificates from area merchants, movie passes, T-shirts and -- most importantly -- a check from MOR Media.

Now it's time for readers to again start

nominating their favorite teachers for recognition. Each month, Premiere features two teachers from those suggested by readers and takes a quick look at their educational background and family life.

At the end of the school year, all monthly winners are once again presented to readers for their choice as the Teacher of the Year.

Voting may be done by contacting Pre-

miere on its Facebook page, by sending nominations through the mail, or by emailing us at

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Start making your nominations today and see if your child's teacher will be able to cash in as Teacher of the Year. ♦

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It was hard to tell which enjoyed Dog Day of Summer more -- the animals or the humans.



Main Street Paragould's Gina Jarrett goes over the parade route with a member of the Greene County Sheriff's Department, above, while signs in the downtown area promoted Dog Day of Summer.

*Photos by
Richard Brummett*



Dog Day of Summer brings animal lovers to Downtown area

Downtown Paragould was home to the first Dog Day of Summer in August, a fun day planned for dogs and kids and all animal lovers, complete with attractions like face painting, concessions and even a parade.

Animals were available for petting -- as well as some being up for adoption -- and as an added attraction, event organizers staged the ever-popular Running of the Wieners -- a wiener dog race.

PAWS, the Henry Wrinkles Foundation, the Greene County Animal Farm, and Paragould Animal Control all participated and encouraged donations of shelter supplies and money to area organizations that house and try to find homes for animals.

Main Street Paragould's Gina Jarrett was in charge of the day's events, which crowned winners in a couple of contests and provided plenty of smiles for those who attended. ♦



First Place: Nick, Lacey and Addie Lashley, with Pete (owned by Bobby Joe Willie)



Second: Taylor and Theresa Martin, with Sassy

Henry Wrinkles, in the red car above, was the official parade leader during Paragould's Dog Day of Summer. While pets and owners made their way around the short parade route to officially kick off the activities, it was the wiener dog race, below, that really had spectators kicking up their heels at the finish line.



Third: Cheryl Gambill and Kyle Teager, with Cooper



Daisy, posing with Brandon White and Britni Harris, was a winner in the parade competition.



Jonesboro hosts Cal Ripken World Series

The city of Jonesboro and the 10-year-old baseball All-Stars played host to the Cal Ripken World Series in August, and the home team nearly came away with the top prize.

Jonesboro made it all the way to the championship game against Manatee, Florida, before falling 15-2 in the Saturday afternoon championship game.

Jonesboro made its way to the championship game by winning its pool and the American League Division. Seeing their first action in the elimination round Friday night, the All-Stars defeated Visalia, California, 9-7 to earn their shot at the World Series Championship. Out-of-state visitors continually complimented the city and the Jonesboro parks department for serving as gracious hosts throughout the weeklong event.

"If you could just do something about the heat," said a mother from Wisconsin. "We're not really used to this, but it has been a wonderful experience."

One of the dads from the Maryland team echoed those sentiments. "We're being treated great ... by everyone," he said. "But, boy, we're not used to his heat. We have 90 degrees back home, but 90 degrees here is a lot hotter than 90 degrees where we live. It sort of zaps you." Teams joining Jonesboro in the tournament were Germantown, Maryland; Bemidji, Minnesota; Tri-County, Texas; Kennewick, Washington; Visalia, California; Janesville, Wisconsin; Bradenton, Florida, Manatee; Brookfield, Connecticut; and the Arkansas state champion, Mountain Home. ♦



Sometimes you just have to shout with joy, as a Jonesboro player did in the dugout after admiring the work of his teammates in a victory over Middle Atlantic champion Upper Montgomery of Maryland.





Mighty swings and tense moments highlighted the Cal Ripken World Series in Jonesboro. While some fans let it all out in support of their teams, others found it hard to watch.



Photos by
Richard Brummett





DJ Harris, 5, found his own form of entertainment at the Dog Day of Summer in Downtown Paragould. DJ is the son of Sheriff David and Merita Carter of Paragould.

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Downtown Jonesboro hosts Alive After Five

Visitors walked up and down the street checking out the various booths and vendors hawked their wares at Jonesboro's Alive After Five event in late August.

Refreshments were available at different sites, as were the opportunities to purchase jewelry, woodcrafts, flowers and more but the best part of the evening was the pleasant weather and the chance to interact with others while listening to music provided by MOR Media.

Alive After Five is a street market located in Downtown Jonesboro that features market items, art stroll, live music and a movie night. ♦



Shoppers checked out the booths, above, manned by workers like (from left below) Elizabeth Spencer of Generation Farms; Ashlyn Pillow of Happy Poppers Kernel Corn; and Rachel Erin Hendrix of the Northeast Arkansas Fiber Spinners group.



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-- Between The Dashes --

Nippy Mangrum

1948-2015

It is difficult to have grown up in and around Paragould and not to have known Nippy Mangrum. Whether at a local sporting event, a Senior B.E.E.S. auction or just out and about, Nippy was quite often the same place you were because he was an active part of the Paragould community.

For decades he was a salesman for Tom Kirk Chevrolet and was known for his sincere approach to service, as well as for his penchant for spinning a good tale. The mental picture that emerges most often is one of him with a giant smile beaming across his face, because he liked to laugh and have others join in the revelry along with him.

Many will remember the wonderful bond he forged with Nolan Richardson, at the time the head basketball coach of the university of Arkansas Razorbacks. Nippy provided support and compassion during a time when the Richardson family was dealing with devastating issues of its own, and Richardson never forgot the love and friendship Nippy showed.

In fact, one of the driving forces behind Richardson's bringing his Razorbacks to Paragould to play their annual Red-White scrimmage games in the past was the special relationship he shared with Nippy.

Coach Mike Anderson, who was Richardson's assistant at the time and is now the head coach himself, also appreciated the support Nippy gave to the coaching staff and the Razorback program and considered him a personal friend as well.

Speaking at Paragould's Country Club after competing in the Razorback Classic Golf Tournament not long after Nippy's passing, Anderson requested a moment of silence to pay tribute to his friend.

"It's kind of bittersweet from the standpoint every time I come to Paragould Nippy is kind of the guy that greets me off the plane or drive in and so not seeing him here to me is kind of sad. But on the bright side of it I come out here and all his friends and his



Nippy with his wife Nancy and daughters Mimi and Ali, above, and serving as auctioneer for a Senior B.E.E.S. event, at left.

family are here. It's a month ago from today that I was here for his service. But I know he's a tremendous asset to his community. And this community continues to support his family, but what a true, true Razorback fan but more importantly what a true, true friend," Anderson was quoted as saying at the time.

Nippy was the former owner of Nippy's Sporting Goods, just another way for him to stay around the games he so loved.

He was as big supporter of Paragould's American Legion baseball program, having come up through the ranks of the local baseball program as a youngster. He also kept a lifelong pipeline with his alma mater, Crowley's Ridge Academy. He graduated from CRA in 1966 and recounted stories of CRA's early days, when money for the Christian school was hard to come by and parents and

educators banded together and helped raise the school from its humble beginnings. He remembered his parents donating time and money and volunteering services in any way needed, and followed suit to keep CRA thriving.

Nippy took part in fundraising drives to support Crowley's Ridge College and The Children's Home, as well.

He was a member of the 7th & Mueller Church of Christ and is survived by his wife, Nancy Mangrum; two daughters, Mimi (Shane) Jackson of Paragould, and Ali Mangrum and Jim "Buck" Walton of Farmington, Arkansas; one brother Tim (Lanie) Mangrum of Paragould; and one sister, Regina (Jim) Taylor of Toronto, Canada.

Mimi and Shane just recently added a grandson to the fold, Barrett Shane Jackson, born June 30th of this year. ♦

Johnson ready to get fair under way

BY RICHARD BRUMMETT

Mitch Johnson is the new manager of the Northeast Arkansas District Fair but it's not like he's in unfamiliar territory. He was appointed assistant manager in 2003 and actually goes back even further as a helper with the fair events, so he's ready to get this year's edition up and running. "I got involved in the fair through the Jonesboro Jaycees," he said. "In 1990, I think. I worked the concession stands first for several years, then moved to the fair side, working the phones and then I got the fair fever ... and here I am."

Now he oversees things like booking entertainment acts, booth rentals, making certain the grounds are ready, dealing with "the carnival folks and a lot of other people behind the scenes. We have a lot of really good people who make this thing go, each with his own job assignment. I couldn't do without all those folks.

"I might be the front man and the one who's head has to roll," he said with a laugh, "but we have a tremendous group of folks ... from working the phones, to livestock barns, to superintendents and judges ... so many that people don't think about. Some people think you just come out here on the weekend and throw the rides up and you have a fair. But it's a yearlong process."

Johnson said he feels fortunate to have served under previous fair manager Jerry Reece, and isn't shy about calling on him when questions arise. "I have a pretty good idea of a lot of things, but some come as second nature to other people and maybe I haven't dealt with them before," he said. "I'm thankful for Jerry and that I could pick his brain when I needed to. He's still willing to help out when I need him."

He said the Jonesboro event is housed in what he called "a fabulous facility; it's so versatile. We're optimistic we'll have a record year in attendance."

There was talk that the fair was having difficulties of various sorts and might not even be held, but Johnson said that isn't the case. "We are definitely having a fair this year and are optimistic that we will have one next year also," he said. "We're going full steam ahead. We will open the gates on the 21st and be ready to greet the public."

He said he likes to stress that the NEA District Fair is "like a reunion-type thing. You might see people one time a year -- even people you went to school with -- just at the fair. There are the rides, animals, people, exhibits, the Rocky Clements Magic Show, all the acts ... we've got some really State Fair-quality rides. This year is just bigger and better and there's always something new as a surprise. Everybody needs to come out and see what we have in store this year."

The fair will run September 21-26 at the District Fairgrounds, located at 7001 East Johnson Ave. A complete schedule of events can be found at www.neadistrictfair.com.

128th edition of the Greene County Fair is near

Two weeks before the NEA District Fair opens, Paragould will again host the Greene County Fair, with this year marking the 128th year for the celebration.

Gate hours will be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily at the Greene County Fairgrounds and the fair board encourages visitors to enjoy events like gospel singing, a youth talent contest and pageants, all held in the comfort of the B.C. Lloyd Entertainment Building. They also suggest checking out the Farm Scene Mural, located on the west side of the Family Living Building.

As always, the Greene County Fair will feature midway rides and games, livestock judging, musical acts and two nights -- Monday and Saturday -- of the Demolition Derby. The Little Miss and Miss Greene County pageants are set for Tuesday night, starting at 6 p.m., and Thursday has been set aside as Senior Citizen Day. All Senior Citizens will be allowed to enter the gates free until 5 p.m.

Saturday is Kids Day, with children under 12 entering free from noon until 5 p.m., and carnival arm bands will be \$15 each.

All the information you need about the fair's schedule of events and hours of operation can be found on its website at www.greenecofair.com. ♦



NEA District Fair manager Mitch Johnson says this year's version is bigger and better than ever.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month

For those who used to have a library card but lost it, or for those who've never had one but want one, September is the month for action.

The entire month has been designated Library Card Sign-up Month and the folks at the Greene County Library in Paragould are more than ready to accommodate readers young and old.

Mike Rogers, Director of both the Northeast Arkansas Regional Library and the Greene County Library, said workers are ready to make getting a new card as simple as possible.

"What we will do in September," he said, "is allow you to bring in a current photo ID card with your address on it ... and that's all you will need. You'll be ready to go.

"If your ID card isn't current, bring in a piece of mail with your address on it ... something like your rent, or insurance, or vehicle or utility bill, something like that. And that will work."



Rogers said the first card for each user is free.

"If you need to replace a lost one," he said, "then it's \$2 if you are still in our system, and you are a resident of Greene County or you work in Greene County."

He did say the library participates in a Gateway Project, where it will recognize cards from out of county customers.

"It covers several counties, and we

cooperate with other public libraries," Rogers said. "For instance, if you live in Craighead County but you're working here you can check out up to four items at a time, and there is no fee."

Another attraction during the sign-up month is the waiving of fines for overdue books, just in case that is keeping someone from applying for a card.

"We'll waive the late fines and clear your account," Rogers explained. "We're not in the business of trying to make money off of late fees, so if that is worrying someone they can just come on in and we'll work with them."

Rogers said the Greene County Library usually stages a food drive in the fall of the year, most often collecting canned goods to be donated to Mission Outreach in Paragould in lieu of tardy customers having to pay any outstanding fines.

This year, he said they may try something different.

"We might do a backpack thing -- backpack foods to give to the schools, but that's on down the road still," he said.

Rogers said anyone needing more information about the upcoming library card sign-up program or just seeking general information is welcomed to call 870-236-8711.

"We'll be more than happy to hook them up," he said. "They can get free music downloads and e-books. Lots of people come in and get up to four movies on their card.

"I tell people, we're a lot cheaper than Red Box as long as you bring them back." ♦

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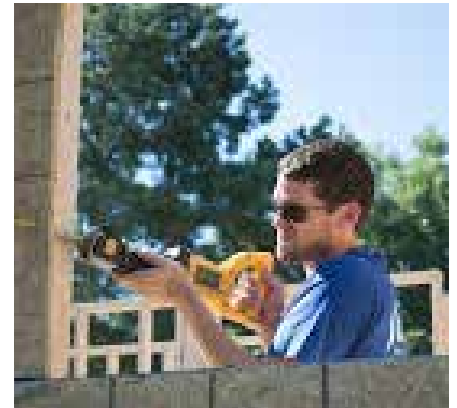
Nearly 50 volunteers helped frame and raise the exterior and interior walls of Habitat for Humanity of Paragould's eighth home, which is under construction on 3rd Avenue.

Habitat is building the home for Crystal Clemmer and her three children. Clemmer and her son, Ezekiel, worked all day alongside the volunteers.

Once the house is completed, the Clemmer family will purchase it from Habitat through an interest-free loan. ♦



Crystal Clemmer, above, worked alongside volunteers who raised the walls on her new Habitat for Humanity home. Clemmer is required to put in 200 hours of work on the project.



A black and white photograph of a gymnast performing a handstand. The text "Fall Enrollment going on NOW!" is overlaid in large, colorful letters. In the top right corner is the logo for "CHAMPIONS CGC GYMNASTICS". At the bottom left is the website "championsgymnasticscenter.net" and the phone number "870-236-3286". A Facebook logo is in the bottom right corner.

A photograph of a birthday celebration. A large red balloon with the text "Champions Birthdays are the BEST!" is the central focus. There are also blue and yellow balloons, a birthday cake with colorful sprinkles, and streamers.



Maxie Stem has a new outlook on life, thanks to Celebrate Recovery.

Maxie Stem: Celebrating life for the first time through Celebrate Recovery

Maxie Stem will be the first to tell you that in his younger days he moved at a pretty fast pace. He played hard, partied hard and soon discovered life was ... hard.

"I spent a lot of time doing all the wrong things," Stem, now 68, said. "I did things I said I would never do, took all kinds of chances. But I eventually fell in love with Celebrate Recovery and now I'm in a different place altogether."

Today Stem begins each morning posting scripture readings on social media outlets, and truly cherishes his role as co-ministry leader of Celebrate Recovery at Nettleton Baptist Church.

That's a far cry from the way he once started his days, surviving decades filled with countless ill-advised moves. It took that troubled past for Stem to finally sit down and take a realistic look at his life, one filled with regrets. By his own admission, he was a husband and a father and a son, but not the best example of any.

"I walked away from church in 1966 when I was a senior in high school, because I decided church was full of hypocrites," he said. "Ever heard that one? I joined the Marine Corps and that's really when I started running with guys who liked doing drugs and smoking weed. It was in Vietnam that I was introduced to pills and other drugs that led me to come home a very angry guy. "I came home in '69 after five campaigns and that's when my downward spiral started to take place."

The sad part, he said, is that he knew his life was headed in the wrong direction but he lacked the courage or conviction to make a change.

"I was living up to what other people thought Maxie Stem was," he said. "Only through the process of teaching other people did I find out what a poor self image I had of myself

for all those years. I was acting to everyone else's image of me. I was the partier. I was the drinker, they said. I was the one doing all these things because that's what everyone thought I was doing. Celebrate Recovery has opened my eyes and been such a blessing to me."

Stem is very forthright when addressing the old Maxie, the one who bounced in and out of rehab, the one who "dabbled with marijuana, and drinking and cocaine until one thing led to another and in '02 I was busted for meth.

"But it was a long time coming," he added.

"In '65 I was in the VA hospital for a cocaine problem and was just wanting to get

out and get back to my drug of choice. Once, I had been clean for nine years and then I was introduced to meth by a friend. One time my wife and I had had some issues and on our anniversary I thought I could handle drinking some wine and smoking a joint, and within a year I was

back in all the way. In '02 my dad died and I was at his bedside, high as could be. And I could see it coming, but I didn't try to stop it."

Until he found Celebrate Recovery. He said as recently as 2005 he was "looking pretty bad" and Gerald Barker suggested he attend a recovery meeting. "He asked me to come," Stem said, "but at that time I was still out there. But something made me come and once I was introduced to the program, I fell in love with it."

Now he spends each Friday evening welcoming others with addiction problems into the church dining hall, then settles into a classroom to visit with smaller groups of men who have indicated they want to turn their

lives around in the same manner as he has.

"I was in and out of this church over different periods of time," he said of Nettleton Baptist. "But when I got into Celebrate Recovery, the Lord talked to me. I got into a Step Study program and when I came out I was sold on Celebrate Recovery. Ever since then I have been committed and in May I celebrated 10 years of being totally clean. I put everything away, everything bad I was doing out of my life."

Stem said once when he was in rehab he honestly felt as if the Lord spoke directly to him, saying, "Turn it over to me."

But it took him years to realize what total surrender meant, to find a way to rely on Christ

instead of trying to fix things himself. He eventually became

a Sunday School teacher and youth director at the church and today finds life more invigorating than at any time during his drug-using days.

"I'm in such a better place in my life," he said, "because I

finally let God deal with it. He said

to turn everything over to Him and when I did, my whole life was changed."

Stem said Celebrate Recovery is run by a team of dedicated people, all with the same resolve -- that of helping addicts turn their lives around through the help of the Lord.

He mentions names like Terry Baker, Sarah Fluke, John Carmon and Wade Coffman -- CR team leaders -- as people who love the Lord and love helping others.

"I'm just one part of a big program," Stem said. "We practice TEAM -- Training, Encouragement, Assimilation and Ministry. I know now it's the right place for me."

Those seeking help or information may call Stem at 870-530-5519; Coffman at 334-750-9196; or Baker at 870-208-3080. ♦

"I spent a lot of time doing all the wrong things," Stem, now 68, said. "I did things I said I would never do, took all kinds of chances. But I eventually fell in love with Celebrate Recovery and now I'm in a different place altogether."

National Recovery Month

Lots of options for those seeking help

Substance abuse is one of the biggest wreckers of family life, but National Recovery Month is an observance that educates Americans on the fact that addiction treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life.

The observance's main focus is to laud the gains made by those in recovery, just as we would those who are managing other health conditions such as diabetes, asthma and heart disease. Recovery Month spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover.

There are numerous options available in the NEA and Missouri Bootheel areas, too many to attempt featuring on our pages. The following, however, are representative of the quality facilities out there.

John 3:16 Ministries

John 3:16 Ministries is a spiritual "boot camp" for men struggling with drug and/or alcohol addiction. It provides a safe haven for men to heal spiritually above all else, but also to mend physically and emotionally.

The ministry is open to men 21 and older, but they must be willing to work, physically, in any number of outreaches and stay for a minimum of six months. There is no cost to enter the program, only that one be at "rock bottom" before calling for an entrance interview.

Director Bryan Tuggle said those in need of assistance need to follow three steps.

"Step One is to call the office and do a screening over the phone," he said. "Sometimes we find out that the person really needs to go somewhere else instead of here to get the help they need.

"Step Two is to come to a Sunday morning service, and probably to come two or three times before they get a bed. It's for family time and a time to relax, and for peace they can see the healing.

"Then, Step Three," Tuggle said, "is to move in and to do their best to graduate, staying at least six months to a year."

He said many graduates choose to stay on and act as advisors in the program "just to give back."

Call 870-799-2525 for information.

The Agape House

Paragould's Agape House is a Christian transitional home where women find a new life through the life changing message of Jesus Christ.

It's Mission Statement is: Agape House exists to help women in the Northeast Arkansas area find freedom from addiction and realize God's love for them and purpose for their lives, through structured living, spiritual teaching and practical life instruction.

House Coordinator Shelley Jarrett said one of the simple yet most telling facts about their success rate is that "we love our girls. Even when they're done with their eight months, we're not done with them. They pop in and have lunch and we try to stay in close contact with the ones who will let us."

Right now, the facility has no openings, which emphasizes the need for both treatment and housing for females.

"We have girls calling every day," Jarrett said, "and we have to turn them away every day. I wish we had the room to take them all, but we just don't."

She said after women complete the first four months of the program in-house, they are free to return home if they have a "safe place" to reside. They are expected to continue aftercare through regular drug screenings and attendance at programs like Overcomers and Celebrate Recovery.

"They have to keep with the program," Jarrett said. "If they don't have a safe place to go, they can continue here in a Step Down house and work on getting their kids back and staying on track."

She said anyone seeking treatment or more information may call 870-586-0314 even though they are operating at capacity.

"We can do an interview and see if they are really committed to doing what they need to do," she said. "And God will provide a way. If someone really wants help and is committed, God will provide a way." ♦



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5th annual Community Fest is a giant success

Arkansas State University's Convocation Center was rocking in late August when John 3:16 Ministries hosted its Community Fest fundraiser. Guests were drawn by a catfish dinner, a live auction of vintage automobiles and the chance to go home with a 1956 Ford Thunderbird, as well as music, testimonials, games for kids and featured speakers. ♦





The Butterfly House, under the direction of Danna Deaton, right, is a place where women in recovery can feel at home. Deaton is a recovering addict herself, helping her relate to the issues of the women who come to the home.



Meet Danna Deaton, Executive Director of the Butterfly House

The Butterfly House, Inc., is a not for profit, faith based, transitional living center for women in recovery. It provides an environment conducive to learning, growing, and transforming so that women can live in this world free from chemical addictions and destructive behaviors.

Cheryl Nichols: What is the Butterfly House?

Danna Deaton: The Butterfly House is a transitional living home for women in recovery. It's a safe place to learn how to live a better life. Structured schedules, work requirements, and Biblical teaching are the core of the program, along with addi-

Our Community

By Cheryl Nichols



tional classes for those needing to complete a GED and learn basic living skills such as budgeting, cooking, parenting skills, and much more.

CN: Danna, what motivated you to create the Butterfly House?

DD: Following the traumatic delivery of my first daughter and severe post-partum

depression, I became addicted to pain pills. This addiction led me to treatment in 2007 – a blessing for my life. I realized that addiction to drugs and alcohol knows no boundaries. Addiction crosses all social, racial, and economic boundaries and I began to think about a place of recovery for women. I was (and am) fortunate to have a textbook perfect support system – a loving and supportive husband and family, a spiritual renewal and realization that Jesus Christ is the answer, and a 12-step program of recovery. But, many women do not have a support system, so no matter how much they want to live clean, sober, and productive

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lives, they can't.

CN: This house is lovely – so warm and welcoming. Why did you name this the Butterfly House?

DD: The butterfly is a symbol of transformation. God designed the butterfly and when we become who God designed us to be, we can spread our wings and be the beautiful person He intended. Our house verse is Romans 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

CN: Danna, here is my Barbara Walters inspired question: What is your superhero name and what is your superpower?

DD: I would love to be "The Scanner." My superpower would help me scan people and understand their hearts to see what they are really feeling and experiencing. So many people won't reveal their true selves out of fear, but the revelation provides the transparency we all need to live loving and faithful lives.

CN: What else do you want to tell our readers about the Butterfly House?

DD: We provide shelter, structure, safety, and accountability. We are also the only transitional living home in Northeast Arkansas certified to take in parolees. There are around 800 women in Arkansas who have completed their sentence but have no place to go. So, they continue to sit in prison. That's not beneficial for the woman or for our society.

CN: How can people learn more about the Butterfly House?

BP: Information about our services and how to support our mission can be found on our website

www.thebutterflyhouse.org.

For women interested in living at the Butterfly House, an application can be requested by sending an email to thebutterflyhouse@gmail.com or mailing a letter to P.O. Box 1132, Manila, Arkansas, 72442. ♦

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Business Is Good

Colleagues honor Dr. Hong

In March, NEA Baptist held a ribbon cutting for a new wing in the Women's Center. This added 11 beds to the floor, bringing the total to 25.

After the ribbon cutting, OBGYN physicians had the idea to work with the NEA Charitable Foundation to start a campaign that would raise funds to name the new area after Dr. Michael Hong. Dr. Hong was an OBGYN who joined NEA Baptist 17 years ago but had been ill for the past few years.

They decided the goal for the campaign would be \$50,000 and that the funds raised would go back to support NEA Baptist's ShareHope program and Palliative Care Program. ShareHope is one of the five free programs offered through the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation. It is a program that offers support and resources to families who lose a baby during pregnancy, birth, or shortly after. A new family fund created earlier this year also helps families who cannot afford the funeral expenses.

Dr. Hong passed away in May of 2015 but knew about the donations being made in his honor and was very humbled and grateful for the support. In total, in the campaign raised \$90,000 through donations made by physicians, colleagues, community friends and the friends and family of Dr. Hong. ♦

Swanky Storks Ribbon Cutting



Members of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, family members and wellwishers attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Swanky Storks Children's Boutique. Swanky Storks offers a full array of little boys and girls clothing and accessories. The new store is located at 318 South 10th Street in Paragould.



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Dr. Khaled Krisht

Dr. Khaled Krisht joins St. Bernard's Neurosurgery

Dr. Khaled M. Krisht has joined the medical staff at St. Bernard's Medical Center as a neurosurgeon and is seeing patients at St. Bernard's Neurosurgery, 800 South Church St., Suite 203, Jonesboro.

He is one of 27 new physicians in the St. Bernard's "Class of 2015."

Krisht completed his Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Emory University in Atlanta where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honors society upon graduation for his high academic achievement before earning his Doctor of Medicine degree with distinction from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

He completed an internship in general surgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, followed by his neurosurgical residency training at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, where he served as chief resident.

With a wealth of neurosurgical training at the University of Utah along with an enfolded residency training at both the Huntsman Cancer Center and Intermountain Medical Center, Krisht brings novel and minimally invasive techniques, including the transnasal microscopic approach to the sellar and suprasellar regions for removal of difficult brain tumors.

Patients can make appointments by calling St. Bernard's Neurosurgery at 870-934-1462. ♦

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NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation and ASU partner up for new program

NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation and Arkansas State University (ASU) have announced a partnership that will provide an outlet for creative support through a program called Visions of Hope and Healing.

The program will kick off on September 20 at the Bradbury Gallery, located in the Fowler Center.

Visions of Hope and Healing will be a 5-week art project facilitated by NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation HopeCircle ShareHope, and palliative care programs, ASU future art educators and the Bradbury Gallery.

The sessions are designed for adults who have experienced the loss of a child, spouse, or significant other, or are living with a life changing health diagnosis.

Classes will be held from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Tuesdays, (Sept. 29, Oct. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th) at the Bradbury Gallery, located on ASU's campus, 201 Olympic Drive. The classes are designed for adults 18 years and older

who are interested in discussion and visual depiction of hope through a variety of media, including pencil, charcoal, acrylic paint, chalk, pastel or watercolor.

University art students will be on hand to assist beginners. No previous art experience is required. A registration of \$10 includes all supplies needed for the program.

Space is limited - the deadline for registration is September 18. To register, or for more information, contact: Robbie Johnson, 936-8479, robbie.johnson@bmhcc.org; Jill Crews, 926-2656, jill.crews@neabc.com; or June Morse, 926-9985, june.morse@neabc.com.

NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation has a mission to help change lives through the programs and services it supports in Northeast Arkansas. It accomplishes this through five programs, Medicine Assistance Program, HopeCircle, ShareHope, Center for Healthy Children, and Wellness Works.

For more information, visit NEABaptist-Foundation.org.



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One of the highlights of my life -- watching Red run

When I was still young enough to play Little League baseball my dad was a travelling salesman and was gone most of the week, so Saturdays were important father-son time for us.

I remember early one Saturday morning he took a telephone call and I could tell by listening to only his end of the conversation that someone wanted him to come play ball. He had been a catcher of some renown in his younger days, both in a brief minor league stint and on the semi-pro circuit in Northeast Arkansas.

Long before slow-pitch softball became the recreational activity of choice, almost every community had a baseball team and weekends were for doubleheaders and bragging rights. Find the field at places like Lorado, O’Kean, Lafe or, especially, Beech Grove and you would come upon the likes of Earl McKelvey, Wilford Cunningham, Kelly Pigue and any number of men named Williams -- because the Beech Grove Williams clan was pretty much the First Family of baseball in these parts.

I don’t know it for certain but I have my suspicions that if you were a boy in the Williams family and you didn’t like baseball, they sent you to live with relatives in another state because all the Williamses I ever knew could run, hit and throw.

As I continued to eavesdrop on Dad’s call my heart was pounding, thinking I might actually get to see him play. But he kept telling the caller that since he had begun to travel he had put his equipment away in the storage room long ago and catcher was certainly not a position one could just walk out and play after several years off.

“Tell you what,” Dad said, “if you’ll find somebody else to play I’ll bring my stuff and just sit on the bench in case someone gets hurt,” and that’s how he and I wound up in the car headed for Beech Grove.

On the drive out, Dad described to me some of the outstanding players I could expect to see, saving his deepest compliments for his longtime friend and teammate, Dwight



Williams.

“Now, Rich, if Red gets a hit,” he said, “you watch him run. He’s going to run like no one you’ve ever seen.”

So when we arrived and Dad and I sat the bench together -- he laughing and trading greetings with other players he knew from his past, me sitting there swinging my cleats back and forth in a very Opie Taylor-like fashion -- he introduced me to “Red” Williams and said, “Rich, this is one of the finest ballplayers you will ever see.”

In the bottom of the first Red came to plate and I remembered Dad’s suggestion that I watch him run. Right on cue, he sent a line drive to the gap in right center -- toward a schoolhouse, as best I recall -- and I followed

the flight of the ball to see where it landed. So when we arrived and Dad and I sat the bench together -- he laughing and trading greetings with other players, me sitting there swinging my cleats back and forth in a very Opie Taylor-like fashion -- he introduced me to “Red” Williams and said, “Rich, this is one of the finest ballplayers you will ever see.”

if Red might possibly get a double, but he wasn’t there. I eventually located him coasting in to third, obeying the coach’s admonition to stay firm with a stand-up triple.

Lesson learned, I watched only Red for the remainder of the day and what I saw was a player graced by God with abilities not common to us all. The ball sounded better coming off his bat, his throws carried when others began to die, his speed so thrilling yet so effortless. Even when he hit a routine grounder to an infielder, the ball beat him to the bag by only a millisecond.

From that day on, I wanted to go see him play every weekend and Dad took me whenever his schedule

allowed and suggested I model my efforts after his friend’s if I truly wanted to be a player.

In later years we attended games where Williams coached Greene County Tech’s high school team and Blytheville’s American Legion team. Naturally, I pulled for his clubs to win because he was my dad’s friend, but also because I had gained immense respect for his talent and his knowledge and the way he imparted it to young players.

He was still coaching Blytheville’s Legion team when I was old enough to play for Paragould, and his team bested mine more often than not. The Casons were the class of the district and the only way to be a champion was to find a way to beat them, no easy task because Coach taught them, and drilled them and molded them into intense competitors.

My last year, when I was 18, Blytheville beat us in the championship game of the state tournament, one that took 13 innings to decide, and one that featured numerous comebacks and great plays and clutch hits.

I was downtrodden after such a close and difficult loss but as we congratulated the winners on the field, Coach Williams pulled me close, shook my hand firmly and said, “Richard, you’ve turned into a fine player.”

I was stunned that he even remembered my name, shocked even more that the person I considered the best baseball man I knew would take the time to compliment my play.

It remains one of the most important sentences ever spoken to me, and it was one that echoed inside my head recently as I stared down at Coach Williams’ casket. Like so many of my dad’s generation -- Dad included -- he just sort of wore out.

Lots of things bounced around inside my head as I stood there in silence, thinking back to a day when he made me feel like a ballplayer, smiling a little as I saw a part of my dad lying there as well.

Coach Williams thrilled a lot of us in a variety of ways. I, for one, am glad Dad chose to make the drive all those Saturdays ago, glad that this little boy got to see Red run. ♦

Community Fund luncheon kicks off campaign

Fundraising efforts get under way for organization

The Greene County Community Fund officially began its current campaign with a Kickoff Luncheon, hosted by the Paragould Community Center.

More than 500 tickets were sold for the meals that could be consumed at the center, picked up for takeout, or even delivered. Members of the Greene County 4-H Club helped with serving, clean up, and some of the deliveries.

GCCF board members also pitched in, and Executive Director Kera Crafton even put her daughter Sable to work serving drinks. "We still have money being turned in but we hope to raise around \$3,500," Crafton said of the event.

Fifteen different agencies will be gaining financial support from the Greene County Community Fund during 2016.

Anyone wishing to contribute, or someone just seeking more information, may contact Shelton at 870-239-8435 or at gccf@grnco.net.

The office is located at 120 North 2nd Street in the Rhine Building. ♦



Workers sacked up takeout dinners for some customers, above, while others chose to dine in at tables provided at the Paragould Community Center. Below are some of the Greene County 4-H members who served and delivered meals.



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-- Between The Dashes --

Sammy Hays

1963-2015

Born and raised in Paragould, Sammy Hays was one of those men who just seemed to carry a fun-loving spirit around with him.

He was an area insurance salesman for more than 30 years, so his face was familiar to many via his business dealings, but it was in the local community that he was best recognized.

Several people remember him as the skinny little kid running onto the basketball court during lapses in play at Paragould High School, shooting a wadded up paper cup into the basket while his grandfather served at the official's table.

He grew up playing baseball and basketball in local leagues and into his junior high and high school years, and as an adult became an accomplished golfer.

If fact, he and his son, Tyler, became the first-ever father/son combo to both capture the Fox Hills Club Championship.

Sammy claimed the men's championship in 1994, and Tyler followed by winning the same title in 2014.

Longtime friend Curtis Davenport served on the Greene County Rescue Squad along with Sammy, but also accompanied him on hunting, fishing and golfing outings, among other things.

He called Sammy "a better than average golfer -- better than most. He really got good at it.

"He was a fun-loving guy," Davenport said.

"He was real outgoing and knew lots and lots of people because of his business and the Rescue Squad or things that the kids were involved in. He sure knew lots of people and it seemed like just about everyone liked him."

Davenport said Sammy was "literally like a brother to me for a long, long time. Once he joined the Rescue Squad we did even more together. We did training at the Fire Academy and myself and Sammy and Jerry Buck and then usually a fourth would go on golf outings to Biloxi, Mississippi, for three or four days and to Mountain Home. We did



that for many years, so we spent a lot of weekends together.

"In '95 I started working at the Atlanta Motor Speedway on the rescue team and a couple of years later Sammy started going to that with me. We had even more fun together then."

Sammy also loved the outdoors, especially when it came to hunting and fishing with his father. He introduced Davenport to duck hunting and the two of them also took part in frogging three or four nights a week when the season opened.

"Shoot, he was just a guy who loved to have fun," Davenport said, recounting some episodes where the two of them and



Sammy loved his family and loved sharing a smile, as witnessed by the photos.

some others "actually had to call a truce on our pranks. We just got to trying to top one another all the time and he loved that, until we stole his truck."

Sammy was of the Baptist faith and was preceded in death by his father, Richard "Dick" Hays.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy "C.J." Hays of the home; son and fiancé, Tyler Hays (Courtney Clark) of Jonesboro; mother, Barbara Hays of Paragould; brother, Dickie (Lisa) Hays of Hernando, Mississippi; daughter, Jenny (Bryan) Bennett of Paragould; nephew, Jacob Hays of Hernando, Mississippi; and grandchildren, Max and Riley Kate Bennett. ♦

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Engagements



Photo by Faith Robinson Photography

Jarrod Lyerly and Brittany Andrews

Andrews-Lyerly

Brittany Andrews and Jarrod Lyerly have announced their plans to exchange wedding vows in an October ceremony.

Brittany is the daughter of John Andrews and Ron and Angela Crain.

Jarrod's parents are Michael and Kathy Lyerly and Corinda Walker and Larry Little.

The wedding is set to take place on Saturday, October 24, at The Lodge At Six Mile Lake.

Franklin-Stewart

Holly Franklin and Logan Stewart will be married in a November wedding ceremony.

Holly's parents are Joycee and Kevin Franklin of Paragould.

Logan is the son of Heidi and Mike Miller, and Donna and Rick Stewart of Jonesboro.

The wedding is set for November 1 at Swindle's Farm in Paragould.

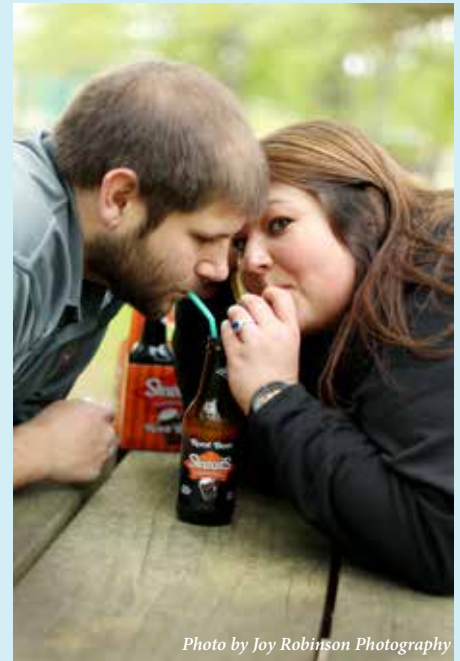


Photo by Joy Robinson Photography

Logan Stewart and Holly Franklin

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Photo by Paula Bean

Eli Newsom and Tiffani Johnson

Johnson-Newsom

Tiffani Johnson and Eli Newsom will exchange wedding vows in a ceremony during October.

The bride-to-be's parents are Leon and Suzie Johnson of Paragould.

The prospective groom is the son of Mack and Susan Newsom of Walcott.

The Silos will be the site of the October 4 wedding.



Photo by Whitney Vassar Photography

George-Calver

Rachael George and Tyler Calver will exchange wedding vows on Sunday, October 18.

Rachael's parents are Kym George and the late Burley George of Paragould.

Tyler is the son of Tim Calver and Paige Calver, also of Paragould.

The wedding will take place at Swindle Farms in Paragould.



Photo by Chasidy Wall

Hyde-McClelland

Phalycia Kaurin Hyde and Nathan Hunter McClelland announce their engagement and wedding plans.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Evan and Tina Hyde of Paragould.

The prospective groom's parents are Rodney and Lora McClelland, also of Paragould.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, October 17, at the Beech Grove Baptist Church.

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Birth Announcements



Case Allen Morris

Morris

Derrick and Melanie Morris of Beech Grove announce the birth of their son, Case Allen Morris.

Born at Paragould's Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 13.8 ounces and was 19.9 inches long.

Siblings are Noah, 8; Bellah, 4; and Corbin, 1.



Barrett Shane Jackson

Jackson

Shane and Mimi Jackson announce the birth of their son, Barrett Shane Jackson.

Born at NEA Baptist Hospital on June 30, the baby weighed 4 pounds, 14 ounces and was

17 1/2 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Nancy Mangrum and the late Nippy Mangrum. Paternal grandparents are Joe and Phyllis West, and the late Barry Don Jackson.

To have your child's birth announcement included in the October issue of Premiere Magazine, send information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

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Birth Announcements

Owens

Josh and Mea Owens of Paragould have welcomed a daughter, Madilyn Blair Owens, to the family.

Born at NEA Baptist Hospital at Jonesboro, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 14.5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Madilyn Blair has two siblings, Elijah, 5, and Makenzie, 4.

Maternal grandparents are Russell and Dina Powers of Marie. Paternal grandparents are Carol and Tony Newman and Charles Owens.

Great grandparents are John and Carolyn Rutledge of Jonesboro; and Helen McClish of Paragould.



Photo by JMarie Mitchell Photography

Madilyn Blair Owens



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September

CALENDAR

Saturday, September 5

TONY AND TERRY, perform at Skinny J's in Downtown Paragould at 8:00 p.m.

Monday thru Saturday,

September 7-12

GREENE COUNTY FAIR, at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Enjoy live entertainment, rides, and lots of fun during the 128th year of the Greene County Fair. For more information, check out the fair program whenever you pick up Premiere Magazine or call the Fair office at 870-239-2218.

Tuesday thru Friday,

September 8-12

ASU PAINT THE TOWN RED WEEK, presented by the Paragould Chamber of Commerce. Join the Chamber by decorating your business inside and out, with prizes for both categories! For more information on how to participate, email kbrinkly@paragould.org. Mark your calendars as well for a Red Wolves luncheon on Wednesday, September 9th at the Paragould Community Center. Wear your RED!

Thursday, September 10

AMMC FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT, at the Paragould Country Club. Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. with a noon lunch for all golfers and afternoon flight beginning at 1:00 p.m. For more info, call 870-239-7077.

Friday, September 11

ART ON TAP AT THE DIXON, at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in Memphis. The Tap's 20th year lets those 21 and older taste some of Memphis' best beers and enjoy live music by Mason Jar Fireflies. For more information, and tickets check out www.dixon.org or call Sarah Lorenz at 901-312-1241 or email her at slorenz@dixon.org.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 11-13

GCFAC PRESENTS "GREATER TUNA", at the Collins Theatre. Times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights with a matinee on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available at www.gcfac.org.

Thursday, September 17

WINGS & CLAYS, at Stan Jones Mallard Lodge. This event will help provide enhanced cancer services at St. Bernards. Each sponsorship will have five team members who will compete in Clay Shooting, Pistol Shooting and Archery. Arrival time is noon with a light lunch with an evening BBQ beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the lodge. For more information, contact the St. Bernards Foundation at 870-207-2500 or see www.stbernardsfoundation.org.

Saturday, September 26

BBQ AND MUSIC FESTIVAL, presented by Downtown Jonesboro and featuring Grammy Award winning band *The Commodores*,

one of Motown's best selling acts, taking the stage at 8:00 p.m. This annual, free event hosts the Kansas City Barbecue Society-sanctioned Arkansas State Championship. For more information, log into www.facebook.com/downtownjonesborobbqfest.

Monday, September 28

KASU'S BLUEGRASS MONDAY, featuring "The Farmhands Bluegrass Quartet" at the Collins Theatre. KASU will "pass the hat" to collect money to pay the group. The suggested donation is \$5 per person. KASU, 91.9 FM, is the 100,000 watt public broadcasting service of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. For more information, contact KASU Program Director Marty Scarbrough at mscarb@astate.edu or 870-972-2367. Bluegrass Monday is also on Facebook (search "Bluegrass Monday").

Monday thru Saturday,

September 21-26

NEA DISTRICT FAIR, at the NEA District and Exposition Center. Enjoy animals, exhibits, music, rides and food. For more information, log in to www.neadistrictfair.com.

Tuesday, December 8

TASTE OF HOME COOKING SHOW, presented by First National Bank and Premiere Magazine/MOR Media. Tickets for the event in the ASU Convocation Center are \$15 and on sale soon. For sponsorship and vendor information contact MOR Media at 870-236-7627 or email sales@mormediainc.com.

Recurring EVENTS

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

First & Third Wednesday: Perking on Pruet, 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 p.m.

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

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

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

Second Thursday of every month: The Compassionate Friends, 7:00 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 p.m. 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 p.m. at Chateau on the Ridge.

Fourth Tuesday of every month: Greene County Master Gardener Meeting, Greene County Library, 6 p.m., 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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Happenings



1. Guest Speaker

The Greene County Master Gardeners' speaker for August Brown Bag Lunch, Tuesday, August 11, was Dr. Kim Pittcock, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Arkansas State University. Dr. Pittcock made a presentation on Ornamental Grasses. The master gardeners' plans are to decorate the north side of the south "Welcome to Paragould" sign in ornamental grasses. Holly Fletcher, BBL project leader, is standing beside Dr. Pittcock.



2. Community Fund Chair

The Greene County Community Fund's fundraising goal for the coming year has been set at \$260,000. Beverly DePew, pictured, has been selected as the 2016 Campaign Chair. GCCF committee members will be calling on area businesses in the coming weeks to line up funding pledges for the many agencies that depend on contributions.

3. Fun At The Ballpark

Wade Talley, center, posed for a photo with his former high school baseball coach Bob Camp, and his son, Jade, who was getting ready to compete in the Cal Ripken World Series in Jonesboro.



4. Helpful Donation

Subteach donated bags to third and fourth grade students at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. The students change rooms between classes and the bags are used to carry books and materials for class. Subteach is Woodrow Wilson's Partner in Education.

To have your news and events included on Premiere Magazine's Happenings page, email information to:

editor@premiere-magazine.com

Stay Tuned

What's in store next month



October just wouldn't be October without spooks and goblins and witches and ghosts, all part of the Halloween observance. Premiere will bring readers some interesting Halloween features to get them ready for the night set aside for Trick or Treaters.

Features

County Fair



The Greene County Fair and the NEA District Fair will both have come and gone but Premiere will provide photographic recaps of both events. Be sure to see if you or someone you know makes the pages of the October issue of Premiere.



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