



# PREMISE

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS  
**PROGRESS**  
AMMC Heart GALA  
**AG FOR AUTISM**  
TURKEY TALK  
**GREEN LIFESTYLE**  
**EARTH DAY**  
**EVENTS**  
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APRIL  
2016

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Dr. Brent Reddick, DVM



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# From The Managing Editor ...



Many people refer to the corridor between Paragould and Jonesboro as the "pathway to progress," a very apt description considering the continued growth both cities have experienced. New businesses, medical facilities, housing subdivisions and more adorn the roadside as one travels either north or south on Highway 49 between the two locations, and continued progress is certainly expected and anxiously anticipated in the coming years.

At the forefront of the Northeast Arkansas success story are people who believe in their hometowns and are invested in seeing that jobs, housing and all the particular pieces of the puzzle that lead to economic success remain viable and attainable.

Both Paragould and Jonesboro are fortunate to have people who understand the importance of developing industry and workforces locally, who give of their time to promote and support local businesses and recruit still more firms to the area, and who

participate in efforts to improve schools, tourism and local ventures. Visionary leadership at every step along the way keeps the quality of life in NEA at a high level and makes it an inviting place to live, work and raise a family. This month we examine some of the thoughts of community leaders regarding economic growth and expectations for both the present and future in Paragould and Jonesboro.

I gave Jana Wineland a new job in last month's issue, or gave her her old job back or some such nonsense. In a story about the Belle Meade Green House project, I referred to Jana's involvement in helping organize the meeting at the Greene County Senior B.E.E.S. Center, then listed her as still being with a former employer. Jana is the Director of Marketing for Home Helpers and Direct Link of Northeast Arkansas and does a wonderful job. I apologize for any confusion my mistake may have caused. ♦

*We never stop moving!*

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# PREMIERE

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# PREMIERE

## AWARDS

### 2016

	(Paragould)	(Jonesboro)	(Other)				
<b>Health</b>				<b>Business of Business</b>			
Physician/ General (List Clinic) _____	P	J	O	Attorney (List Firm) _____	P	J	O
Nurse (List Clinic) _____	P	J	O	Computer Service & Repair _____	P	J	O
Dentist (List Clinic) _____	P	J	O	Dress Shop/Formal Wear _____	P	J	O
Audiologist _____	P	J	O	Employment Agency _____	P	J	O
Dental Clinic _____	P	J	O	Real Estate Co. _____			
Orthodontist (List Clinic) _____	P	J	O	Screen Printing _____	P	J	O
Chiropractor (List Clinic) _____	P	J	O	Sign Company _____	P	J	O
Ophthalmologist (List Clinic) _____	P	J	O	Office Supply _____	P	J	O
Medical Supplies _____	P	J	O	<b>Life Events</b>			
Home Health Agency _____	P	J	O	Caterer _____	P	J	O
Pharmacy _____	P	J	O	Florist _____	P	J	O
Counselor (List Agency) _____	P	J	O	Funeral Home _____	P	J	O
Home Medical Supply Service _____	P	J	O	Photographer _____	P	J	O
Medical Clinic _____	P	J	O	Retirement Center _____	P	J	O
Optometrist (List Clinic) _____	P	J	O	Custom Cakes _____	P	J	O
Therapist (Clinic) What Kind? _____	P	J	O	Party Rental _____	P	J	O
Other Medical Specialty _____	P	J	O	<b>For the Home</b>			
<b>Construction/New Home, Repair</b>				<b>Financial</b>			
Heat & Air _____	P	J	O	Accountant (List Company) _____	P	J	O
Electrician (List Company) _____	P	J	O	Bank _____	P	J	O
Excavating _____	P	J	O	Charitable Organization _____	P	J	O
General Contractor _____	P	J	O	Financial Planner (List Company) _____	P	J	O
Landscaping _____	P	J	O	Insurance Agency _____	P	J	O
Siding _____	P	J	O	Tax Service _____	P	J	O
Title Company _____	P	J	O				
Other Construction _____	P	J	O				
<b>Beauty &amp; Fitness</b>							
Beauty Salon _____	P	J	O				
Massage Therapist _____	P	J	O				
Cosmetic Studio _____	P	J	O				
Fitness Center _____	P	J	O				
Tanning Salon _____	P	J	O				
Day Spa _____	P	J	O				



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Live Entertainment Venue \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Local Festival \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Movie Theater \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Night Club/Bar \_\_\_\_\_ P J O

**Kids**

Child Care Center \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Dance \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Gymnastics \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Martial Arts \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Park \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
School Administrator (List School) \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Teacher (List School) \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Coach (List School) \_\_\_\_\_ P J O

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Baby \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Wedding \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Holiday \_\_\_\_\_ P J O

**Restaurants**

Bakery/Sweet Treats \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
BBQ \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Buffet Style \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Burger \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Catfish \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Frozen Treats \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Pizza \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Steak \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Ethnic \_\_\_\_\_ P J O

**Shopping**

Consignment Store \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Flea Market \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Farm Supply Store \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Jewelry Store \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Pawn Shop \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
Grocery Store \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
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Liquor Store \_\_\_\_\_ P J O  
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Uniform Clothing \_\_\_\_\_ P J O

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# Paragould Main Street

## AWARDS

**Main Street Paragould honored several of its citizens Thursday March 3, at the Main Street Award Ceremony in downtown Paragould. Winners were as follows:**



### Nominations for State MS Awards....

Total Building Renovation - 5,000 Square Feet & Under  
Mosaic Salon and Spas

Best Web Presence / Use of Social Media  
Main Street Paragould

Best New Downtown Business  
The Chocolate Choo Choo

Best Window Display  
The Hairloom/Shear Glitz

Main Street Hero  
Andrews Jercinovic and Ben Mooneyham

Volunteer of the Year  
Mandy Maxwell

### Main Street Arkansas State winners...

Best Web Presence / Use of Social Media  
Main Street Paragould

Volunteer of the Year  
Mandy Maxwell

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY.**

**“Some people used to think ‘it’s not here’ or ‘it’s not good enough’ here when they are shopping. You can’t purchase everything here, but you can purchase a lot.”**

## Celebrating Small Business in downtown Paragould

### MAIN STREET

**G**ina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, said, “We have done a good job of supporting existing businesses, but we can do better.

“Some people used to think ‘it’s not here’ or ‘it’s not good enough’ here when they are shopping,” she said. “You can’t purchase everything here, but you can purchase a lot.

“At Main Street, it’s our job to promote downtown. Maybe we’re not constantly doing it in the whole community. Seasonal shopping offers a financial boost but we constantly need a reminder to promote, promote, promote.”

Jarrett said a national move several years ago called the 3/50 Project was designed to lead consumers to a better understanding of how important shopping locally is.

“Its scope was to take the three businesses you frequent the most and commit to spending \$50 per month in each,” she said, “because what would you do if the coffee shop, or the gift shop or the restaurant you like the most was gone? Recently, we’ve lost some businesses that have been here forever. It’s sad, but it’s a sign of the times. Yet, Downtown has lots of expansions, lots of taking the adjacent storefront spaces and utilizing them.” Jarrett was discussing economic development in the city and the role her organization shares with the entire community.

She referenced area schools, calling them “a big plus” in helping the economy thrive. “They foster creativity with band, drama, thespians,” she said. “Those students are more involved in those things and then their parents and grandparents

are more likely to get involved and that continues to foster a desire for arts, drama, music ... these kids may continue their education in those areas and become the next to partner with leaders in our community to play an active part.” She said our schools’ promotion of the arts helps foster interest in them for years to come. “The talent was always here, whether you’re talking about visual, musical, theatrical,” she said. “We have so many talented people. The schools are helping build an awareness of art, and music, and arts and crafts, even handmade purposeful items that can be used. That’s becoming more important and this is money invested in us. It gives people a reason to come Downtown. Events like First Thursdays, arts and crafts festivals, artists, our bakeries ... they all provide a chance for us to show off what we have. Art, music ... creativity gets more exposure and that draws people to an event.”

Paragould’s downtown area has enjoyed a growth spurt and a rebirth as a place to eat, shop and stroll. Jarrett said the national trend is one of moving back to downtowns, so it is important to provide services for those who choose to eat and shop there.

“We grew up in the day of window shopping; it’s making a comeback,” Jarrett said. “In order for your downtown to work, though, you have to be attractive, welcoming, vibrant and safe. Building by building with the facade, signs, colorful awnings ... it has to be inviting. It’s the experience you offer. Yes, you’re shopping but you’re strolling while you experience it.” ♦

Richard Brummett

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2 p.m. until "End of Business" (if you know what we mean)

Habitat for Humanity of Paragould will give away \$5,000 in our "Drop It Like It's Hot" contest on April 16th! Contestants buy a random "square" on our grid, and then we let a cow meander on the grid until it, well, you know. The holder of the square where the "Stuff" lands wins the cash prize! **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

For more information contact: 870-240-3917 or  
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MAGAZINE

May's theme is:

# HONORING NEA MOTHERS

Mothers, we all have one, and this May, Premiere Magazine will be honoring the women that have always been there for us. We will have a special feature on ACH Ambassador, Josie Melton and her mother.

May is also mental health month and we're approaching summer which means it's time to look forward to all things outdoors.

Also, be looking out for our special 30 Under 40 section. We will be honoring 30 of NEA's most involved members of the community. These 30 individuals have been selected by you, our readers. Don't miss exclusive interviews with these incredible people.



**We started advertising in Premiere Magazine the first part of March. Since then, we have seen a tremendous increase in business!"**

**Autumn and Belinda of A&B Pet Salon**

Be on the lookout  
June's theme  
will be:

**Cancer  
Survivor Month**

The 4th annual Paws for a Cause Dog Show sponsored by the Paragould Rotary Club will be May 7th, 2016, at 1PM at the BC Lloyd building on the Greene County Fair Grounds.

\*For more information, visit the Paragould Rotary Facebook Page\*



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### Ag for Autism: 2016 Bracket Bonanza Breaks Records Again

The fifth annual Ag for Autism Bracket Bonanza was held Tuesday, March 15 at Arkansas State University's Centennial Hall in Jonesboro. The event once again broke Bracket Bonanza records for attendance and fundraising with a sold-out event that raised nearly \$82,000 for local autism therapies.

A packed house enjoyed an exciting evening which featured a silent auction, a delicious dinner and a number of fun-filled activities. Highlights included:

• **\$3000 Drawing.** Every ticket purchased served as an entry for the drawing, which culminated in the selection of the "Sweet Sixteen." The winner, Jennifer Misner, scored the 'Bracket Bonanza' then promptly turned around and donated her winnings—in their entirety—right back to Ag for Autism!

• **Lucky Key Sale.** Buyers purchased one of 30 keys to a gun case—inside which was a Benelli Super Black Eagle II 12-Gauge Shotgun. Terry Gray of Jonesboro was the lucky key holder.

• **Silent Auction.** New this year! Buyers were able to shop and bid on items a week in advance of the event and continue mobile bidding right up through the evening of the event. We were blessed with the greatest number of items and bids to date!

• **Golden Puzzle Piece Winner.** Cache River Valley Seed topped this year's Employee Giving Program which all together raised more than \$12,000 among the respective employees of five companies—Armor Seed, Cache River Valley Seed, Centennial Bank, Farm Credit Midsouth and Regions Bank. If your employees would like to participate in the 2017 Golden Puzzle Piece Employee Giving Program, please contact Melissa Powell at 870.336.3866 for details.

• **Guest Speaker.** Attendees were treated to a few words by ASU Head Football Coach Blake Anderson. ♦



Ag for Autism  
**GENEROSITY**

# BRACKET BONANZA

**Ag for Autism** was born after a number of agriculture-related organizations—Armor Seed, Cache River Valley Seed and Farm Credit Midsouth—were compelled to **band together with the support of other area agriculture companies and organizations in support of a very worthy cause.** They are joined by a long and growing list of sponsors, a complete list of which may be found at [www.AgforAutism.org](http://www.AgforAutism.org).





Make plans to attend the next Ag for Autism event in August!

Attention Parents, Therapists & Educators



Sponsored By Ag For Autism

**Thursday, August 4**  
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas

**Register Now!**

[www.agforautism.org/conference](http://www.agforautism.org/conference)

**Space is limited to 250 attendees.**

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**NEA'S**  
Who's Who  
**PREMIERE**  
MAGAZINE

**30**

**UNDER 40**

Coming to you this **May**

Your Premiere Magazine 30 Under 40 winners are in!

- |                 |                    |                      |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Rose Hankins    | Taylor Garner      | Jared Pickney        |
| Nathan Waldrip  | Monica Zdonkiewicz | Jeremy Biggs         |
| Brian Neal      | Kimberly Dale      | Allison Hestand      |
| Deana Vanhoozer | Kaleigh Workman    | Blake Phillips       |
| Brian Emison    | Shae Lynn Nunn     | Meredith McMillon    |
| Daniel Robinson | Tiffany Henson     | Shay Willis          |
| Lauren Johnson  | Brittany Murray    | Kyle and Jana Holmes |
| Jennifer Bell   | Kelli Rollins      | Jenny Keller         |
| Zachary Hatley  | Jeremy Edgar       | Hailey Knight        |
| Andrew Muse     | Adam Long          | Payton Futrell       |

Pick up a Premiere Magazine in May for exclusive interviews with this years winners.

# Heart Gala



Al Paris of Al Paris and the Heartbreakers singing to Casey and Jannie Distretti

The James Bond Gala, hosted by the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Ambassadors, on Saturday, March 5 at the Paragould Community Center was a success. More than 130 people attended and more than \$50,000 was raised. Theresa Peoples was the lucky winner of the jewelry from Sissy's Log Cabin and the following individuals won the parties that were up for auction:

- BRUNCH Party at Chow at 118: Crystal Hydrick
- Trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi: Josh Agee
- Cocktail party for up to 20 guests: Kyle Harris
- Trip to Hot Springs for 2017 racing season: "FKG Group"
- Trip to St. Louis Cardinals game + hotel/meal: Kyle Harris
- Mississippi River catfishing trip: Chad Register
- DINNER Party at Chow at 118: Sissy's Log Cabin ♦

## Going for Gold Greene County Girl Scout

— ALISSA MOORE —



Alissa Moore is working toward her Gold Award for Girl Scouts (in the photo, she is speaking to the GCT elementary faculty and staff to present her project to them). The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. Alissa is the daughter of Andrea Moore and a member of Greene County Girl Scout Troop 3339. She is in the 10th Grade at GCT, and the title of her Gold Award project is ANIMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION. The final product of her project will be a week-long Animal Science learning unit placed in 2nd grade classrooms at GCT Elementary. The Gold Award is only obtained by a tiny percentage of Girl Scouts. ♦

## JOB FAIR

PARAGOULD



**MAY 3, 2016**  
Noon – 4 p.m.  
Paragould Community Center  
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Sue McGowan  
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smcgowan@paragould.org

# Celebrate Earth Day

2016

Don't miss out on the Earth Day festivities. Celebrate the planet and clean living with these events.

## Jonesboro

What: Earth Day 2016  
When: Friday, April 22, 9AM-11:30AM  
Where: Jonesboro Human Development Center, 4701 Colony Dr  
Admission: Free  
Info: 870-514-5817  
kayla.snyder@smail.astate.edu

## Memphis

What: Earth Day Family Camp Out  
When: April 22-23, 6PM-11AM  
Where: Shelby Farms Park  
Admission: \$15  
Info: 901-222-7267  
nwilson@shelbyfarmspark.org  
Register by April 18

## Helena-West Helena

What: Earth Day 5K Fun Run  
When: Saturday, April 23, 10AM  
Where: Delta Heritage Trail State Park  
5539 Hwy 49  
Admission: \$15  
Info: 870-572-2352  
deltaheritagetrail@arkansas.com

## Hot Springs

What: Upcycle Sculptural Festival  
When: Saturday, April 23, 9AM-1PM  
Where: Historic Downtown Farmer's Market  
121 Orange St.  
Admission: Free  
Info: 501-624-0489  
info@hsfac.org

## Little Rock

What: Earth Day Celebration  
When: April 17  
Where: Pinnacle Mountain State Park  
West Summit Picnic Area  
Admission: Free  
Info: 501-868-5806  
pinnaclemountain@arkansas.com

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Our featured speaker will be  
**Dr. Koyia Figures**

Founder and CEO Alliance Senior Health  
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Please RSVP by Friday, April 8  
Contact Carrie at 870.347.3329



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## Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

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### **MOMMY AND ME BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

**Monday, April 11, 2016  
1:00-2:00 PM**

Second floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. This meeting is an opportunity for new and expectant mothers to meet other moms and share experiences. Greene County Health Unit's Leisa Kennedy, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, is available to teach and assist participants.

### **BREASTFEEDING CLASS**

**Monday, April 11, 2016  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. AMMC sponsors a breastfeeding class that discusses the importance of breastfeeding, breast preparation, feeding techniques and positioning options for mother and baby. Tips on hand expression, breast pumps, collecting and storing milk and breastfeeding after returning to work are taught.

### **BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016  
11:00 AM - 5:30 PM**

Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. AMMC is sponsoring a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross.

### **INFANT SAFETY CLASS**

**Monday, April 18, 2016  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. This class will include education on safety for your infant. Topics discussed will include car seat safety, childproofing your home and crib safety, as well as infant CPR. Anyone caring for your infant is encouraged to attend. Registration in this class is done individually.

### **AMMC AUXILIARY HOSTS JEWELRY SALE**

**Thursday, April 28, 7AM-5PM  
Friday, April 29, 7AM-4PM**

Auditorium at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. Masquerade Jewelry and Accessories Sale. This event is sponsored by the AMMC Auxiliary. Almost all items are only \$5.00. Cash, credit and debit cards are accepted. Proceeds from this event will go toward projects within the medical center.

### **F.A.S.T. 5K RUN/WALK**

**Saturday, April 30, 2016  
8:00 AM**

Walcott State Park. AMMC emergency department and the AR Saves program host F.A.S.T. 5K run/walk and one-mile fun walk. Among stroke victims in the United States, Arkansas ranks first. This event is designed to create awareness of the signs and symptoms of a stroke and to educate the community of what services are available at AMMC for rehabilitation after someone has experienced a stroke.

### **CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS**

**Saturday, April 30, 10AM-3PM  
Saturday, May 7, 10AM-3PM  
(With an hour for lunch)**

Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. The childbirth class series provides detailed information about late pregnancy, preparing for labor and birth, how to know if you're in labor, the process of labor and birth, comfort measures, Lamaze techniques (relaxation and breathing), importance of early skin-to-skin contact, medications, anesthesia, variations (including cesarean delivery), newborn characteristics, and postpartum care while rooming in with your baby. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring two pillows and a blanket to class with you. Plan to attend four to six weeks before your due date. Saturdays. Pre-registration is required.

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# LIFE style

It's **springtime!**  
Which means it's  
time to cut back  
to the **basics.**

While you're cleaning out the closet, try some of these ideas to make the most out of your basic wardrobe.



**Jute Totebag**  
Hays Clothing  
\$29.99



**Plaid Scarf**  
Tropical Glamour Boutique  
\$24.95



**Costa Sunglasses**  
Hays Clothing  
\$199.00



**Turquoise Bracelet**  
Delta Traditions  
\$20.00



**Turquoise Flats**  
Tropical Glamour Boutique  
\$34.95





# DON'T TRASH IT, UPCYCLE

**Ah, spring.** It brings so many things to mind, from budding flowers to warming weather, everything is starting fresh. You're cleaning out your closets in the aftermath of all those shopping trips you took to keep yourself busy through the winter, bad Christmas gifts and things that seemed like a good idea when you got them but now you have a home gym taking up the majority of your guest bedroom and Fido has to run a gauntlet through the collection of vintage record players to get to the doggy door. Lets get real, this is getting out of hand. But have no fear! Before you toss the busted door or consign Grandma's floral printed couch take a look at our suggestions for refreshing your home décor!



**Door to headboard:** Take an old, paneled door, flip it on its side and voila, headboard for your rustic bedroom. Ok so maybe it's not THAT easy, get details at: [www.vintagerevivals.com](http://www.vintagerevivals.com)

**Drawer to shelf:** Ok, so Fluffy has really clawed the crap out of your dresser, it has to go. But maybe you can salvage the drawers? Mount the drawers to the wall to make a fun stylish shelf. Ideas and instructions here: [www.diyforlife.com](http://www.diyforlife.com)

**Dresser to sofa table:** I feel like this one is kind of self explanatory; I mean look, there's a picture to the right, but you can also find instructions here: [www.twoityourself.com](http://www.twoityourself.com)

**Bed frame to bench:** Don't give up on the hand me down bed frame just yet! You need a bench for the backyard anyway, why not make your own? Try this: [www.diycoop.com](http://www.diycoop.com)

**Window to picture frame:** Why buy frames? Just bolt that old window to the wall and slap some pictures in it. Trust me, it'll be awesome. [www.wendysheafferphotos.com](http://www.wendysheafferphotos.com)





**Ok,** this sounded fun but seriously, ain't nobody got time for that. For a price you may be able to get it done for you, talk to some of our friends at these local thrift shops and see what they can do for you. They love to make your old furniture look like new. You may even be able to sell your projects or find something to refurbish. Check them out:

Rustic Charm, Jonesboro  
 Rocking Rooster, Paragould  
 Twisted Peacock, Paragould

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**"We anticipate our business growth to continue. We continue to have tremendous opportunities here."**

## THE GAME PLAN

# BUILDING JONESBORO

"Just this past year we completed a comprehensive strategic plan," Young

Avalanche Consulting assisted in the due to roll out in December. Young intricate and an important direction to take, and it is made up of three. Avalanche provided a competitive determine where Jonesboro economic development, which opportunities for growth and may be challenges.

The plan also includes a target to identify different businesses to

"Food processing, still a part of  
"Agriculture, still a part of that

Headed professional industries technology, medical and engineering included in the study. This Commerce direction on which marketing efforts.

Young said the final piece the actual five-year strategy quality of life, talent initiatives and how to implement the

A basic strategic plan developed in 1985 to recruit varying industries to Jonesboro's city limits has evolved in the past 30 years into a need for a larger, more detailed project to bring even more businesses into the area.

Leaders of Jonesboro in 1985 recognized a strategic plan was needed and identified industrial property to be purchased, Mark Young, president of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, explained. What began as 750 acres for an industrial park has since expanded to more than 1,500 acres over the past three decades.



"We've started that implementation process and we're off to a great start," Young said. "Our hope and desire is that whether it's 10 years from now, people will look back and go, 'Gosh, in 2015, starting that implementation plan was key for our community.'"

According to the executive summary, Jonesboro offers amenities that make the community a desirable place to live. Investing in that goal includes strategies such as supporting downtown revitalization, organizing networking events for young professionals and advocating for a convention center to support retail, healthcare and recreation. The plan also includes strategies to advocate for funding for early childhood education programs, increasing the Jonesboro Municipal Airport's connections and investing in transportation infrastructure.

Aside from this current plan to take Jonesboro's economy up a notch, the past few years have treated the city well. According to the chamber's city guide, more than 400 business privilege licenses were issued in the first three quarters of 2014, and 34 new restaurants opened that year, too. The construction of The Mall at Turtle Creek and multiple businesses on the former fairgrounds property have also contributed to the economic rise. In addition, the Arkansas State University Osteopathic Medical School is expected to have a \$70 million annual impact on the community.

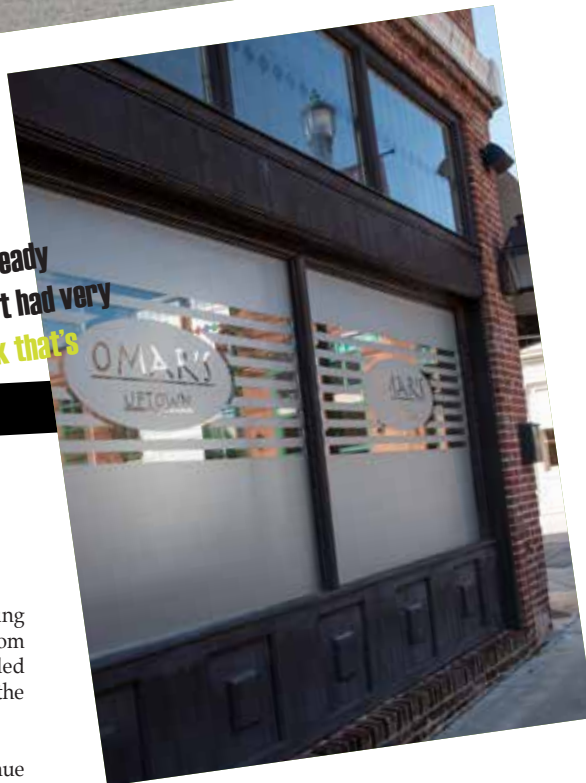
"We've had very steady growth," Young said. "We haven't had very many busts. I think that's very healthy."

**"We've had very steady growth. We haven't had very many busts. I think that's very healthy."**

For new businesses or industries looking to place roots in Jonesboro, Young said the strong workforce in the area is a key component. Labor comes from a 12-county region and the various ASU campuses provide much-needed training in technical skills. With such a strong labor force, Young said the unemployment rate is currently at 3.8 percent, the lowest in a decade.

"We anticipate our business growth to continue," Young added. "We continue to have tremendous opportunities here." ♦

Caitlin LaFarlette



**"It's like a big puzzle and all the pieces have to fit to make the big picture. I can accomplish very little if not all the citizens are working together."**

# Community Tradition Growth

# PARAGOULD

**W**hen cities address economic development, it requires more than a few people sitting around a table for an idea exchange; it takes an entire community willing to invest in hometown businesses and progress. Paragould has been extremely fortunate to have people both with vision and a desire to see the city grow, and because of that local industry, schools, retail and residents' quality of life have benefitted.

Overall in 2014, the city issued 357 building permits, totaling more than \$52,340,000. A year prior, those numbers were 326, and just under \$28,500,000.

"We had an increase in commercial remodels, and new commercial went from \$7 million to \$28 million," Gaskill said.

Sue McGowan, Director of Economic Development and CEO of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, said involving the entire community is one of the keys to local success.

"It's like a big puzzle and all the pieces have to fit to make the big picture," she said. "I can accomplish very little if not all the citizens are working together. This community is the exception, not the norm. The people of Paragould step up, whether it's supporting a backpack program or building a large structure."

McGowan said the Chamber's goal is "to create an environment where entities can be successful. To do that, it takes cooperation and input. I can't make anyone be successful; I don't know their makeup and their management. But I can try to be sure that citizens can be employed to purchase the goods that are available here."

**W**hen I ran in '97, I said I wanted to do my share to present opportunities that when people got out of school they could come back home and find a job and not have to move somewhere else to support a family," said Mayor Mike Gaskill. "I think we have done a good job of that."

Gaskill referred to the last 12 months as "a very progressive year for Paragould" with the addition of CVS, Tractor Supply, the new WalMart, Arby's, Burger King, the Hampton Inn and more. "That's a good idea of the growth we're experiencing. We had a big year in building permits; residential was down a little, but still pretty consistent and it made for a very good year commercially. Income-wise we're up, sales tax is good, which means people are spending money here."

**It all comes back to the quality of life. Younger folks are going somewhere that they want to live, somewhere that offers what they want, then finding a job. That was unheard of in the past.**



Also, we try to make sure the highways are sufficient for manufacturing and retail and other entities to travel and to get to our community easily, and also so that product can go out."

Assessing issues related to health care, local education systems, and the availability of utilities needed to attract businesses and individuals to Paragould is another role of the Chamber. "We all think everyone has electric, cable, Wi-Fi," McGowan said, "but that's not the case in all communities. Our job is to make sure someone makes it work."

Gaskill said for a city to consistently be able to keep up with growth and change, foresight is required of its leaders.

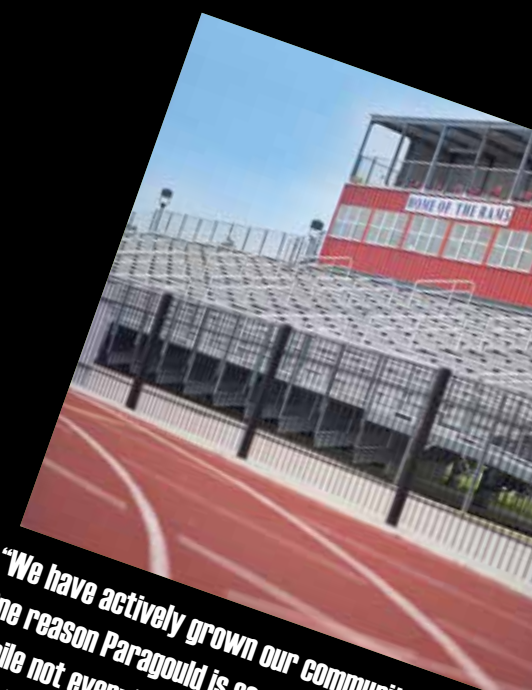
"One thing we did, maybe a decade ago, was develop a future land use plan for all the land in Paragould," he said. "Where we would automatically rezone for commercial, and so on. We had a guy look at some proposed arterial transportation to connect roads for the future. The bypass is a huge thing. It's starting this year, but it's been on the books for a long, long, long time. You don't want to find yourself in a situation where you say, 'Now what are you going to do?' You have to have a strategic plan.

We're continually looking at growth. When we bought the property for the Community Center we felt that going south is where the growth would happen first, and as you see, it's beginning to happen."

McGowan credited Paragould's leaders of the past with having a good grasp of what the city could become. "Our forefathers were great at staying ahead of the curve," she said. "They could see that change for the better was coming. When dealing with change you have to look at the overall effect, not just one sector."

Obviously, with major growth comes a new set of issues. Where will people live? Where will they work? Will the current streets and roads handle the expected increase in traffic?

"Some things that happen, you keep your fingers crossed," Gaskill said. "But you need to be prepared for any growth you come under directly. You can see what's happening with our schools; they are continuing to grow. You have to look at the amount of population growth with each decade. The more you have, the more you need residential areas. The more you have, the more commercial areas come in to play.



**"We have actively grown our community. One reason Paragould is so successful is that while not everything is perfect, we have people willing to oversee it and keep it strong."**

All of that is addressed in the planning of the utility, the economic development group, the city and the Chamber of Commerce. You have to be able to anticipate, to be prepared for it, because it happens quickly ... you have to plan, plan, plan.

"I'm a firm believer that if you get to the point where you're satisfied – like when you're running a race and you stop to catch your breath – everyone else will pass you by," he said.

While planning ahead is vital for growth, so is making use of existing assets like buildings, schools and people. Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, said, "One thing for all of us in economic development, whether you're a corporation or a small business: It all comes back to the quality of life. Younger folks are going somewhere that they want to live, somewhere that offers what they want, then finding a job. That was unheard of in the past. You had to have a job first. So now, a place has to be livable to keep its people. And then, the people have to make an effort to take advantage of what's there."

Gaskill reiterated that theme. "We've been good at realizing that a generation of people coming up have to be willing to work for the community," he said. "This generation, and the one before that, and the one before that took pride in Paragould and made it what it is today.

For instance, in 1955 when our Chamber and leaders were recruiting Emerson Electric to come to Paragould, Emerson said before it would come here we would have to have a hotel, an airport and zoning laws. We got those three things done so Emerson would come to Paragould and just think what it has meant to the community for all the years.

"The generation coming up has to extend that and get involved in local things. That's one good thing Leadership Paragould does; it opens the doors for them to see what it takes to grow a community. If I decide I want to live in a community, I need to be a part of it so I am satisfied that we can keep it where it's at. We have actively grown our community. One reason Paragould is so successful is that while not everything is perfect, we have people willing to oversee it and keep it strong."

Through seminars and networking, the Chamber seeks to educate the local citizenry as to what it takes to be a part of a community on the move. "Whether it's a small business of even one person or a business employing 1,500," McGowan said, "every citizen of Paragould plays a part. Whether it's volunteering to help an elderly neighbor or citizens voting to pay a sales tax to build an entity such as the Community Center -- it doesn't matter your status, we all play a part."



Leadership Paragould, Class 18

**“ This is a good place to live, a successful community. We are committed to keeping it that way.”**

That's where programs like Leadership Paragould come into play, introducing more and more people to the finer points of what it takes to make an area thrive. McGowan goes back to square one, having helped start the first-ever class locally. “A group of folks met for about 18 months before we offered the first class,” she recalled. “Now we're on Class 19, our largest ever, with 35 participants.” She said the “awareness part” of the course is phenomenal. “People say, ‘I had no idea’ or ‘not a clue’ as to what it takes to make a community work. I encourage them to get involved in things that hit their ‘hot button,’ that they're interested in. Not all of them are going to be on a committee at the Chamber. But they can play an important role in their homes, schools, and community activities.”

She said Paragould is currently “on the move. We're doing several things you won't see the results of immediately. We're preparing the community for long-term sustainability, with an eye on things like transportation. If you don't stay ahead, you're always behind.” Gaskill summed up the economic outlook by saying, “This is a good place to live, a successful community. We are committed to keeping it that way.” ♦

Richard Brummett

# Paragould Chamber Banquet

2016

The Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Banquet was quite entertaining and worth the postponement for the speaker, Trooper Taylor, to be at his daughter's State Basketball Tournament. Her team won, by the way! Trooper, the ASU Assistant Head Football Coach, entertained the crowd first with his illustration of growing up in a household with 15 children, 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom! The annual banquet is an opportunity to thank and honor those who volunteer with the Chamber to help make Paragould a great place to Live and Work. The honorees for 2015/2016 are pictured.



- 1) Ambassador of the Year-Dina Mason presented by Virginia Walls, Ambassador Chairperson
- 2) Paragould Young Professional of the Year-Kris Goodman presented by Shay Willis, 2014/2015 PYP Member of the Year
- 3) Chamber Member of the Year-Ryan Vaughan, presented by Kevin Lange, 2014/2015 Member of the Year
- 4) Lifetime Chamber Member of the Year-Fred Swindle, presented by Jerry Crocker
- 5) Steve Kieffner passes the gavel to the 2016/2017 President Bobby Kasserman



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# NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

# BANQUET



The committee decided in recent years that its local beneficiaries are the Paragould, Greene County Tech, Marmaduke, and the 4-H Archery and Shooting teams

The National Wild Turkey Federation had another successful banquet this year with live and silent auctions, raffles and a wonderful meal. Despite lower attendance than hoped for and expected, preliminary numbers suggest after miscellaneous banquet expenses organizers were able to raise between five and six thousand dollars. The NWTF is a nonprofit organization, so with the exception of chapter living expenses, all proceeds are directed toward national,

state, and local conservation efforts. The committee decided in recent years that its local beneficiaries are the Paragould, Greene County Tech, Marmaduke, and the 4-H Archery and Shooting teams. Without youth education of safety and conservation, our hunting heritage could become lost over time. The committee appreciates all of sponsors, underwriters, donors, those who attended and those who donated to the banquet, even if they couldn't attend.



Anybody interested in joining the committee to help out or those wishing to make charitable donations, contact **Kyle Franzen 870.530.2320**







Turkeys have recovered well in most parts of the state and offer hunting opportunities throughout Arkansas.

**I** tried to place each foot carefully on the roadbed to avoid any sound but it seemed as if my feet found all the sticks, twigs and leaves that lay in the path and each crackle and pop sent out a warning noise to the animals in the woods surrounding me. I stopped in my usual place to listen and in just a few minutes the stillness of the woods began to cover me like a heavy blanket. I jumped just a bit as the stillness was suddenly broken by an unseen whippoorwill that sounded off his melodic tones from the forest floor just off the old road. I listened more intently as the woods came to life with geese honking in the distance, crows ringing out a caw or two down the valley and a few farm animals doing everything from braying to clucking. Finally, I heard the sound I was hoping for as a big gobbler rolled off a sleepy gobbler. Another one followed and within ten minutes there were three or four birds gobbling with increased intensity. The hunt was on.

The Eastern turkey has been studied extensively in Arkansas and many efforts have been made to increase their numbers. Habitat management, predator control and season manipulation have all been used as strategies to increase the population. Even with all this effort, turkeys still fall victim to many of the effects of nature like rainy springs, loss of habitat and winter storms. Predation is also a key factor in turkey survival. Wild turkeys and their eggs are as popular with predators like fox, coon, skunk, coyote and bobcat as are Butterballs on the Thanksgiving table. These efforts will continue and private landowners hold the key to turkey survival by managing for turkeys and wildlife on their land.

Now that there is a little background to get us to this point, back to the hunt. The gobblers I heard early quieted down pretty quickly so I set up in a couple of likely locations and made a few calls, to no avail. I decided to pack it in for the day and tend to some family business so I headed out, but maintained a slow, quiet pace hoping to hear a bird before I got back to the truck. I was almost out and my phone buzzed and it was one of my buddies looking for a report. I was texting him back "no luck," when I heard a gobbler. I eased to a place to sit down, put out a decoy and made a low series of yelps that got an answer. Within five minutes a red head came bobbing through the woods, saw the decoy and got within gun range. Within 10 minutes after the "no luck" text I sent my buddy a picture of the turkey.

Just hearing a turkey in Greene County is an almost historical event in itself. Our older hunters will remember the times of turkeys being basically non-existent in our county and throughout most of Northeast Arkansas. Historical records show turkeys were widespread in Arkansas as the state became settled in the 1800s but overhunting and loss of habitat decreased their numbers. Some estimates say there may have been as few as 1,000 throughout the state in the 1920s and 1930s. Hunting was curtailed and stocking efforts were made and turkeys have recovered well in most parts of the state and offer hunting opportunities throughout Arkansas.

This scene would have never played out if our early conservationists had not seen a need to start a movement to insure there would be huntable populations in Arkansas and Greene County in the years to come. Local conservation groups like the Greene County Wildlife Club, Scatter Creek Fightin' Toms chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited and many individuals made this possible. It is up to us to keep the "conservation movement" alive and well in our area. Please support our local conservation groups.



**CHUCK LONG**  
Regional Education Coordinator  
Northeast Education Division  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

## THE HUNT

# WILD TURKEY

# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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 ✓

02

## Autism Walk and Family Fun Day

When: Saturday, April 2, 2016 @ 9AM to 12PM

Where: Jonesboro High School

Info: [www.aanea.org](http://www.aanea.org)

14

## Cinderella

When: Thursday, April 14, 2016 @ 7PM

Friday, April 15, 2016 @ 7PM

Saturday, April 16, 2016 @ 7PM

Where: Jonesboro High School Center for Performing Arts

Info: [jonesboroschools.net](http://jonesboroschools.net)

16

## Kids Kraze & 1K Superhero Fun Run

When: Saturday, April 16, 2016 @ 9:30AM to 12PM

Where: First Baptist Church  
120 N. 3rd St. Paragould, AR

Info: Whitteni Lindsey

501-253-4444

[whittenilindsey@gmail.com](mailto:whittenilindsey@gmail.com)

30

## Sensory Saturday "Ratchet and Clank"

When: Saturday, April 30, 2016 @ 9:30AM

Where: Jonesboro Hollywood Malco

Cost: \$5.50 per person

Info: 336-2786

[thecenterforexceptionalfamilies.org](http://thecenterforexceptionalfamilies.org)



Brantley Miller, who will turn 3 on April 15, was all ready for Spring and warmer weather on a sunny day at Reynolds Park. Brantley is the son of Jason and Kerry Miller of Paragould.

# Art Contest

## WINNERS



### BALDWIN ELEMENTARY

**Grand Prize:**  
Hailey Hutcherson  
(3rd grade)

**2nd grade:**  
1st place: Alec Watson  
2nd place: Cammy Brown  
3rd place: Angel Condray

**3rd grade:**  
1st place: Keali Lamb  
2nd place: Travore Herd  
3rd place: Madison Green

**4th grade:**  
1st place: Eric Copeland  
2nd place: Lacey Boling  
3rd place: Shakira Brown

And a special award was awarded to Wade Stokes.



### GCT PRIMARY

**Grand prize:** Elle Wellsted

**Kindergarten:**  
1st place: Lilly McNeil  
2nd place: Marley Patterson  
3rd place: Kennedi Robb

**1st grade:**  
1st place: Gauge Rose  
2nd place: Anna Hardee  
3rd place: Nate Krumholtz



**Next month**  
we honor the Jonesboro girls basketball team!  
Pick up a Premiere Magazine in May for the pull-out poster.

# GCT ARCHERY

The Greene County Tech Middle School Archery Team placed first in its division at the Regional Archery Tournament on Saturday February 27th at Valley View. They scored 3258 out of 3600 which is an all-time best. There were only two other teams in the state that scored higher and they were High School teams. They will compete in the State Archery Tournament in Hot Springs, AR April 1.

In the Middle School Division of their region, GCT had 6 of the top ten shooters. Jacob Jones (2nd), Lauren Clark (3rd), Caise Austin (6th), Aaryon Vaughn (7th), Jadan Hudson (8th), Jonah Warmath (10th).

#### Team members:

**Front:** Kaidence Miller, Dylan Bryson, Olivia Ward, Matthew Exum, Aaryon Vaughn, Bridger Vines, Aspen Coffel, Delaney Aaron  
**Middle:** Mackenzie Rawls, Reece Middleton, Jasa Reed, Jadan Hudson, Klarie Wilson, Blake Strope, Lauren Clark, Marcus Lemm  
**Back:** Caise Austin, Jonah Warmath, Hunter Massing, Jacob Jones, Drake Williams, Adam Coffel, Rylee Cook, Gage Snyder, Coach Kristy Rowe



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The Arkansas State University's St. Jude Up 'til Dawn team rallied together at the Red W.O.L.F. Center March 11 to stay up from midnight to 6 a.m. to fundraise for the hospital. Nearly 100 teams of six collectively raised \$50,011 by the end of the night.

Pictured, from top to bottom:

- 1) Miss Arkansas State University Bailey Moses and Miss Greater Jonesboro Jade Collins
- 2) ASU Up 'til Dawn Executive Board
- 3) Ashley Burrows and Caleb Strain
- 4) McKenzie Griffin, Gracie Hicks, Sydney Kuizin
- 5) Brittany Bohannon and Sarah Thompson



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**M**y wife and I have a number of similar likes and dislikes, possibly contributing to our long and happy marriage. There are several of those instances, however, where the "opposites attract" theory comes into play. For example, when we were kids my family went to ballgames, hers went to the lake; my family generally found a homestead and stayed put, hers moved often as her dad followed the construction industry to wherever work led them.

But the biggest area where we don't see eye to eye is in our opinions of the automobile and its role in family life. My approach is very basic: I don't care what a vehicle looks like and I don't need all of today's fancy doo-dads. As far as I'm concerned, all these electronic playthings today's vehicles feature are just more things that can tear up and require expensive and time-consuming repairs.

When I turn the key, I want the car to start and get me to and from my appointed destination. I would like to have air conditioning in the summer and heat in the winter, but if they don't work I know how to roll down a window or wear warmer clothes. If the radio works and I can listen to music from my era or to a sports talk show, that's good; if not, I can sing or even interview myself. That's all I need.

Cindy says if it were up to me we'd be driving a covered wagon, but that's not necessarily true; I think the cover is unnecessary. The basic wagon is good enough.

For part of my childhood our family had only one vehicle, shared by Mom and Dad as they juggled their work schedules around the transportation issue. Later on, Mom had a car to get us around town while Dad had another to further his new career as a travelling salesman. Neither my sister nor I had a car of our own at any time while we were in high school, and our parents' vehicles would always top the 100,000-mile barrier before being traded away.

Cindy's family, on the other hand, had cars all over the place and they didn't let them cast a very long shadow. When we were dating I often thought they had company when I stopped by, only to learn that one of them had gotten yet another new car or truck. Her brother used to call me and say, "I waved at you on the highway a few minutes ago, and you ignored me," and I would truthfully answer, "Sorry. I have no idea what you're driving this week."

So every once in a while I just have to give in and go along when the wife has a new car on her mind, even if she really isn't going to buy one. She enjoys looking at them and sitting in them and daydreaming about driving a luxury vehicle, which to me is just time away from whatever ballgame is on the TV.

We did the car shopping thing recently and I played along, feigning interest while coming to the realization that I'm not actually smart enough to own a new vehicle. We were looking at an SUV and Cindy told me to raise the back hatch, to which I was forced to respond, "I don't know how."

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I pushed the only button in sight, but it apparently unlocked the window atop the hatch and signaled the main computer not to open the back door. Once that obstacle was finally overcome and she told me to go ahead and close it, I had to say, "I don't know how."

Another button, another beepy noise, another setback.

Trying to get to the driver's seat was even worse. I opened the driver-side door and Cindy said, "You'll have to unlock my door before I can get in."

"I don't know how," I said, staring down at the armrest and its accompanying icons. One looked like a TV screen, one beside it like a compass and still another resembled a broccoli floret. When I was a kid the door was pretty simple to decipher. At the top, where the window disappeared into the door, was a knob; push it down to lock and pull up to unlock. Just ahead of the armrest was a crank to roll the window up or down, and centrally located on the door panel was the handle to open the door. It didn't matter what make or model you were in, you knew where all the important stuff was and how to work it.

On the dashboard, there were two levers you pushed from side to side to control the temperature. One ranged back and forth to designate Air, Heat, Vent and Defrost; the other went from hot to cold. The radio had the on/off/volume button to the left and the tuner to the right. The five buttons below them could be programmed to tune in your favorite stations and, if you were really lucky or high-class, there might be a button to switch between AM and FM stations. Simple. Easy. Do-able. This modern vehicle we were in had more of a futuristic look. There were buttons and display screens for everything. I felt like I was in the pilot's seat of a NASA product, needing to punch in the correct launch codes before takeoff. Everywhere I turned there were lights and pictures and words ... way too complicated for an old ballplayer.

Touch a screen and it gives you all sorts of radio options, hit it again and it will answer your phone and send emails and, I think, start cooking your supper and possibly do some laundry. Punch on this screen and you can see behind you without even turning around or do still something else and you can program in your destination and the vehicle will talk to you and let you know you just missed your exit.

It doesn't have a key to start the engine. I pushed a button, as directed, and either started the car or fired a missile at the one behind me, James Bond-style.

We bought it, because I was told we really needed that million-station radio and the sunroof, which I can't open. That covered wagon is looking better all the time. ♦

**Cindy says if it were up to me we'd be driving a covered wagon, but that's not necessarily true; I think the cover is unnecessary.**



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# APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

05

**What:** Spark: Ignite Your Style Fashion Show  
**When:** Tues., April 5, 6PM  
**Where:** Jonesboro Elks Lodge  
2112 W. Washington Ave. Jonesboro, AR  
**For:** Family Crisis Center  
**Cost:** \$25/reg. tickets, \$50/VIP  
**Info:** [www.facebook.com/spark0216](http://www.facebook.com/spark0216)

07

**What:** ArkansasGives Online  
**When:** Thur., April 7, 8AM to 8PM  
**Where:** [ArkansasGive.org](http://ArkansasGive.org)  
2112 W. Washington Ave. Jonesboro, AR  
**For:** Food Bank of NEA  
**Info:** Mary Beasley, 870-932-3663

09

**What:** Perceive: What's Your Story Women's Conference  
**When:** Sat., April 9, 9AM-3PM  
**Where:** Community Fellowship Church  
**Cost:** \$25  
**Info:** [www.tinyurl.com/WYS16Perceive](http://www.tinyurl.com/WYS16Perceive)

15

**What:** Special Olympics Track & Field  
**When:** Fri., April 15, 9AM-1PM  
**Where:** Jonesboro High School Track  
**Info:** Beverly Lee, 870-761-4098  
[soararea7@gmail.com](mailto:soararea7@gmail.com)

16

**What:** Paragould Clean Sweep  
**When:** Sat., April 16, 9AM to 12PM  
**Where:** Paragould Chamber of Commerce  
300 W. Court St. Paragould, AR  
**For:** City of Paragould  
**Info:** Sue McGowan  
870-236-7684  
[smcgowan@paragould.org](mailto:smcgowan@paragould.org)

16

**What:** Kids Kraze & 1K Superhero Fun Run  
**When:** Sat., April 16, 9:30AM to 12PM  
**Where:** First Baptist Church  
120 N. 3rd St. Paragould, AR  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Info:** Whitteni Lindsey  
501-253-4444  
[whittenilindsey@gmail.com](mailto:whittenilindsey@gmail.com)

16

**What:** Health and Fitness Expo  
**When:** Sat., April 16, 8AM-4PM & Sun.,  
April 17, 11AM-4PM  
**Where:** ASU Convocation Center  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Info:** [www.stbmdexpo.com](http://www.stbmdexpo.com)

19

**What:** Freedom Through Hope Luncheon  
**When:** Tues., April 19, 12PM  
**Where:** Journey Campus  
1701 Disciple Dr. Jonesboro, AR  
**Cost:** \$30 (only available in advance)  
**Info:** 870-336-1421  
[www.freedomthroughhope.eventbrite.com](http://www.freedomthroughhope.eventbrite.com)

21

**What:** Alzheimer's Gala: Night on the French Riviera  
**When:** Thurs., April 21, 6:30PM  
**Where:** ASU Cooper Alumni Center  
**Cost:** \$75/each, \$125/couple  
\$650/premium reserved table of 8  
**Info:** Jane Gunter, [jgunter@alz.org](mailto:jgunter@alz.org)

22

**What:** Annie Get Your Gun  
**When:** Fri. & Sat., April 22-23, 7PM  
**Where:** Paragould High School Auditorium  
**Cost:** \$5 General Admission

22

**What:** Earth Day 2016  
**When:** Fri., April 22, 9-11:30AM  
**Where:** Jonesboro Human Development Center, 4701 Colony Dr., Jonesboro, AR  
**Info:** Kayla Snyder, 870-514-5817  
[kayla.snyder@mail.astate.edu](mailto:kayla.snyder@mail.astate.edu)

23

**What:** "Their" Lives 5K Walk/Run  
**When:** Sat., April 23, 7AM  
**Where:** Blytheville Sportsplex  
**For:** Acts of Hope, Pregnancy Resource Center  
**Cost:** \$35/pre-registration, \$40/day of  
**Info:** [racesonline.com](http://racesonline.com)  
[www.facebook.com/actsofhopeprc](http://www.facebook.com/actsofhopeprc)

23

**What:** Casting Crowns  
**When:** Sat., April 23, 7PM  
**Where:** ASU Convocation Center  
**Cost:** \$45, \$35, & \$28  
**Info:** [www.astateconvo.com/shows\\_and\\_events](http://www.astateconvo.com/shows_and_events)

30

**What:** Crowley's Ridge Vintage Market  
**When:** Sat., April 30, 9AM-5PM  
**Where:** Downtown Harrisburg  
**Info:** Kim Harkey, 870-578-7855  
[graysattic@yahoo.com](mailto:graysattic@yahoo.com)

30

**What:** Sensory Saturday, "Ratchet and Clank"  
**When:** Sat., April 30, 9:30AM  
**Where:** Jonesboro Hollywood Malco  
**Cost:** \$5.50 per person  
**Info:** 336-2786  
[thecenterforexceptionalfamilies.org](http://thecenterforexceptionalfamilies.org)



# Recurring EVENTS

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

**First & Third Wednesday:** Perking on Pruett, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM. 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.

**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 PM 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 PM. 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 the Senior B.E.E.S. Center, North 12th St. in Paragould.

**Second Wednesday of every month:** St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner, 11 AM-1:00 PM 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.

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**FMH Conveyors to expand operations in Jonesboro. Company to create 110 new jobs and invest \$12.5 million.**

FMH Conveyors, a global leader in material handling equipment for fluid truck loading and unloading applications, announced it is expanding its operations in Jonesboro. As part of the expansion, the company will begin construction on a new 195,000 square foot manufacturing facility, and the \$12.5 million investment will create 110 new jobs.

"FMH Conveyors has experienced tremendous growth over the past several years, and our success is greatly attributed to our commitment to meeting our customers' equipment and service requirements," said Mike Kachmer, President and CEO of Duravant, the parent company of FMH Conveyors. "We are investing accordingly to ensure the highest standards of quality and delivery for our customers and we are excited to build upon the local talent, resources and partnerships available here in Arkansas."

FMH Conveyors is a member of the Duravant family of operating companies. Duravant acquired their FMH Conveyors Jonesboro business in 2012, which has been manufacturing products locally for over 30 years.

"FMH Conveyors is a world-class company that has had a presence in Arkansas for many years," said Governor Asa Hutchinson. "The fact they chose to expand their operations in Jonesboro is testament to the quality of the local, existing workforce. We appreciate the significant investment FMH Conveyors is making in Arkansas and look forward to the company's continued success and growth."



# JONESBORO

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"This expansion is great news for our community," said Mark Young, president and CEO of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce. "We appreciate the continued investment in Jonesboro and our partnership with FMH Conveyors."

## SAVE A LIFE.



The AMMC Foundation asks you to support the brave men and women in our ambulance service by donating money to purchase bulletproof vests for them. Visit [ArkansasGives.org](http://ArkansasGives.org) between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, and make an online gift toward this project. You can also donate now by sending a check to The AMMC Foundation (P.O. Box 339; Paragould AR; 72451). Learn more about this effort on [www.facebook.com/AMMCFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/AMMCFoundation).



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# HAPPENINGS

## 1. Paragould Quiz Bowl Team

The Paragould Jr. High Quiz Bowl Team placed first in the Arkansas Governor's Quiz Bowl Association (AGQBA) State Tournament Saturday, February 20th. The tournament was held in Vilonia.

Ninth grader Jackson Parker was named State Tournament MVP.

Team members are (front row, left to right) Sarah Sellen, Sofia Garcia, and Abby Stevens;

(back row, left to right) Max Hooten, Noah Coffel, Jackson Parker, Noah Hughes, Matthew Bermea, and Gabe Waddell. Not pictured is team captain Payton Hooten. The team is coached by Krystal Hooten.

1



## 2. GCT Hydroponics

Pictured is Cody Gray, Greene County Tech Jr. High Ag. teacher, with several Greene County Master Gardeners as he explains his two hydroponic systems that his classes are using as a class project. Cody stated that the systems are inexpensive to set up and have been quite successful in producing "flavorful" vegetables throughout the winter. The tomatoes were very impressive!

2



## 3. Alley Cruise

The Fast Glass Corvette Club raised over \$4000 for St. Judes at the 2016 Alley Cruise at the Jonesboro Bowling Center.

3



## 4. Teachers and Teamwork

Teachers all across the Paragould School District attended professional development training the morning of Feb. 22nd. They participated in a lesson on teamwork as they completed the "Spaghetti and Marshmallow Challenge." The teachers were instructed to work in teams to construct the tallest standing tower using spaghetti sticks and marshmallows. This lesson was to promote active engagement while practicing teamwork.

4



# NEA COOKS

Caroline **Schenk**



## Occupation and family:

I'm the principal at Baldwin Elementary School in Paragould. This is my 24th year in education and my 5th year as a building administrator. I am married to Dale and we have a son, Aaron, and a grandson, Rylan.

## How did you learn to cook?

I learned to cook by watching and helping my parents in the kitchen. Cooking is something we can all do together. It's a great time to talk, laugh and prepare dishes for the ones you love. Little Rylan gets in on the action when it's time to crack eggs and stir.

## What is your favorite dish to cook?

If you're feeling under the weather, you might receive a warm pot of cheesy potato soup. A favorite of my boys' is puffy tacos. This is a recipe passed down from my mother-in-law. I'm sure her's are still better than mine, but I haven't had any complaints.

## Funniest/worst cooking disaster?

When making a pot of chili, I accidentally put cinnamon in the pot instead of chili powder. I wasn't paying attention and the spice bottles looked alike. Needless to say, I had to throw that pot down the drain.

## What advice do you have for others wanting to learn to cook?

Find a family member or friend who would be willing to let you watch and/or help them cook. My sweet friend, Beth Pace, recently showed me how to make her famous sourdough bread. She shared her starter and now I make bread, too. You just have to jump in and give it your best shot.

## Caroline's Chicken Salad

### Ingredients

4-6 chicken breasts, cooked and diced  
1 C celery, chopped  
1 small can pineapple tidbits  
1 C slivered almonds, browned at 350 for 5 min.  
1 C grapes, halved  
1 C heavy whipping cream  
1 C mayonnaise  
pinch of salt

### Directions

Place celery, pineapple and almonds in a large bowl. In a mixer, whip the whipping cream until thick. Fold mayo into cream mixture. Add a pinch of salt. Fold the cream mixture into the celery mixture and then add chicken and grapes.

## Mimis Lemon Bars

### Ingredients

**Crust:**  
1 stick butter  
¼ C powdered sugar  
1 C flour

**Filling:**  
2 eggs  
2 tbl. Fresh squeezed lemon juice  
2 tbl. Flour  
1 C sugar  
½ tsp. Baking powder  
½ tsp. Salt

### Directions

Stir crust ingredients together and form dough. Pat dough into a 9x13 glass baking dish. Bake at 350 for 15 min. Let cool completely.

Stir all filling ingredients together. Stir until well blended. Pour over cooled crust. Bake at 350 for 15 min. Cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cut into squares.





# Perfect Touch



## Registry

- Ali Mangrum and Jim Buck Walton  
March 12
- Christina Walls and Peter Burrow  
April 16
- Graycen Colbert and Alex Bigger  
May 21
- Makenzie Strope and Hunter Rawls  
May 28
- Mackensie Nutt and Clayton Davis  
May 29

- Julie White and Zack McCoy  
June 4
- Shana Williams and Ryan Cupp  
June 4
- Jordon Miller and Skyler Droke  
June 25
- Taylor Garner and Trase Davis  
July 23

## BABY Registry:

- Felicia Brokaw
- Erin Holland
- Melissa Carpenter
- Isha Fletcher
- Emerald Kemp

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# ENGAGEMENTS



Amber Beck and Joshua Bryant  
Photo by Viele Meister Photography

## Beck-Bryant

**A**mber Beck, of Piggott, and Joshua Bryant, of Paragould, have announced their plans for an April wedding. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Jeff Beck, and Michele and Walter Wilson of Piggott. The prospective grooms' parents are Cindy and Luther Bryant of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place at Lake Frierson State Park on Saturday, April 30th.

## Cobb-Wheeler

**R**achel Lynn Cobb and Jonathan Paul Wheeler will exchange wedding vows in a September ceremony. Rachel is the daughter of Miles and Ronda Harvey, and Steve and Nianna Cobb of Paragould. Jonathan's parents are the late Paul Wheeler, and Jane and Mike Moudy of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 17th, 2016 at Pine Valley Herb Ranch in Paragould.

Photo by Becca Cobb  
Rachel Lynn Cobb and Jonathan Paul Wheeler



Samantha Davis and Adam Watson  
Photo by Heather Ellis

## Davis-Watson

**S**amantha Davis and Adam Watson, have announced their plans for a May wedding. Samantha is the daughter of Steve Davis and Cynthia Cosby of Paragould. Adam's parents are Michael and Judith Watson, also of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place at Lake Frierson State Park on Sunday, May 29th.



Callie Layer and Dustin Kellums

## Layer-Kellums

Callie Layer and Dustin Kellums have announced their plans for an April wedding ceremony. Callie is the daughter of Dennis and Dawn Layer of Jonesboro. Dustin's parents are David and Kim Kellums of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 30th at the home of the brides parents.

## Garner-Davis

Taylor Garner and Trase Davis have announced their plans for a July wedding ceremony. Taylor is the daughter of Patty and Bill Garner of Paragould. Trase's parents are Barry and Stephane Davis, also of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 23, 2016.



Taylor Garner and Trase Davis

To have your engagement announcements and births included in Premiere Magazine, email information to:  
[editor@premiere-magazine.com](mailto:editor@premiere-magazine.com)

Submissions must be received 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.

## BIRTHS



## Smith

Zoe Blagg and Spencer Smith of Paragould announce the birth of their son, Myles Alexander Smith. Myles was born at AMMC. He weighed 7 pounds, 15.8 ounces and measured 21 inches long. His grandparents are Carla Tyson and Mitchel and Shelly Smith.





Christina Elaine Walls and Peter Norman Burrow  
Photo by Jason Hudson Photography

## Walls-Burrow

**D**r. Christina Elaine Walls, of Paragould, and Peter Norman Burrow, of Hot Springs, have announced their plans for an April wedding. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Virginia and Alan Walls of Paragould. The prospective groom's parents are Meg and Tommy Burrow of Hot Springs.

The wedding is scheduled to take place in Eureka Springs on Saturday, April 16th at Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church.

## Jones-Schrader

**L**atasha Leanne Jones and Loring Jay Schrader III (Jonny) have announced their plans for an August wedding ceremony. Latasha is the daughter of Patsy Johnston and Raymond "Bo" Jones of Paragould. Jonny's parents are Molly and Jon Schrader of Harrisburg.

The wedding is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 6th, 2016 at Broken Arrow Ranch in Jonesboro.

Photo by Joy Robinson Photography  
Latasha Leanne Jones and Loring Jay Schrader III




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# OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

**Wendy Blankenship**  
Oak Grove Elementary



**W**endy Blankenship has been teaching for 20 years. She currently teaches 3rd and 4th grade Math, Science and Social Studies at Oak Grove Elementary School.

"I recently had a student in my classroom come in tardy," she said, relating a touching moment from her normal work day. "The first words that came out of his mouth were, 'The only reason why I came to school today was because I knew you would be worried about me.' Those simple words made my day, knowing a child knew exactly how much I care about him. Moments like that are priceless and make me love my job even more. I am blessed to work in an environment where my students and co-workers are like part of my family."

Wendy said she has "grown up and attended school all of my life in Paragould. I am married to Chris Blankenship. We have one son, Gage Blankenship. We are members of Southside Community Church where we work with the youth."

**Teddi Mabry Martin**  
Paragould Jr. High School



**T**eddi teaches EAST to all 6th grade students at Oak Grove Middle School at Paragould. EAST stands for "Environmental and Spatial Technology." The goal of the course is to empower students to make a difference in both their own lives and in the lives of others by combining service learning projects with technology.

"The best part of my job," she said, "is witnessing students find confidence. Every teacher loves seeing reactions to success, whether it is a sheepish grin, squeals and giggles, or high fives and fist pumps. Much of what we do is difficult and intimidating at first. My goal is for my 11-and-12-year-olds to build skills and attitudes that can help them tackle challenges and problems head on. And yes, we have tons of fun! Students building and programming robots become school rock stars. One team has 3D printed and assembled a prosthetic hand. Sixth graders operate the school store and take care of the school food pantry and clothing closet. One group is helping to design and cost estimate a new school "outside activity area" while another is learning how to create and edit video. My best days are when I just get to sit back and watch the kids run the show!"

Teddi is the wife of Scott Martin and the daughter of Ted and the late Betty Mabry. Her stepmother is Anna Hall Mabry. She has two daughters, Lesli Megan Ballard and Arin Anderson, one stepson, BJ Martin, and two step daughters, Heather Watson and Hannah Jackson. Teddi and Scott have seven grandchildren: Ethan, Harper, Parker, Lilli, Abel, Knox and Oliver.

## Baby Registry

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bliss Fox       | Isha Fletcher   |
| Mallorye Wesley | Sadie Cremeens  |
| Meagan Cole     | Tina Bruce      |
| Brittany Spence | Autumn Lawrence |
| Kasey Nelson    | Emerald Kemp    |
| Felicia Brokaw  | Jill Vaughn     |



"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."  
Proverbs 22:6

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# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month



We sought readers' help in determining 30 individuals under the age of 40 who you believe are having a positive impact on the community, and you responded. Meet the new crop of go-getters in the Northeast Arkansas area in the May issue of Premiere Magazine. Get ready to learn about your friends and neighbors who are contributing to the continued success of NEA.



Meet my mom! Premiere staffers take a look at not only the holiday itself, but at some area mothers who are living examples of what a good mom should be. Be sure to look for the touching accounts of mothers we know in the May issue of Premiere.

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\*SOURCE RADIO ADVERTISING BUREAU

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