

# DREMIERE

KIM PROVOST AND ROBBIE JOHNSON  
GETTING THEIR DUCKS IN A ROW  
FUN AT THE FAIR  
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS  
FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESSES  
CORY JACKSON

October  
2016

A PUBLICATION OF MOR MEDIA, INCORPORATED



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## From The Managing Editor ...



The good people featured on the cover are only two of many who band together to see that the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation Duck Classic makes a big splash every year.

The Foundation supports programs that benefit countless families and individuals in the Northeast Arkansas/Southeast Missouri area in a variety of ways, and the Duck Classic is just one method of putting together funding for the much-needed projects and services offered.

Kim Provost and Robbie Johnson may be getting the cover photo, but they will be quick to tell you their efforts are just part of what makes this annual event such an amazing success. As for the participants, the hunters themselves get to take part in an extremely worthy cause while doing something they love; for the shoppers at the auction and banquet, spending money to help others better their lives just makes good sense. Check out that story on the inside pages of this month's issue.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and two survivors were more than willing to share their stories with us -- and with you.

When Kesha Haggans and Elizabeth Forehand learned they had breast cancer they didn't put their lives on hold. Instead, they charged forward and will serve as inspirations to others who have faced -- or will face -- the disease.

Their stories appear on pages 22 and 23 and we encourage you to read their enlightening and positive takes on dealing with breast cancer.

According to statistics, about 1 in 8 U.S. women (around 12%) will develop invasive

breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. In 2016, an estimated 246,660 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 61,000 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer.

About 2,600 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in men in 2016. A man's lifetime risk of breast cancer is about 1 in 1,000.

Besides skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women. In 2015, it was estimated that just under 30% of newly diagnosed cancers in women would be breast cancers. In 2016, there are more than 2.8 million women with a history of breast cancer in the U.S. This includes women currently being treated and women who have finished treatment.

A woman's risk of breast cancer approximately doubles if she has a first-degree relative (mother, sister, daughter) who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Less than 15% of women who get breast cancer have a family member diagnosed with it.

So, as the two women sharing their stories with us this month tell you, stay on top of the situation, take the necessary precautions, and live life to the fullest.

As we do each October, Premiere staffers take a look back at the Greene County Fair and the Northeast Arkansas District Fair, recapping two fun-filled weeks for people in Paragould, Jonesboro and the surrounding areas.

There's plenty more to enjoy this month, with a special section dedicated to family-owned businesses.

Take a look at the mini-features that begin on page 37, then stop by and visit with the owners and tell them you saw them in Premiere.

# PREMIERE

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# Kiss the Cook

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Open since 2001, Kiss the Cook of Paragould has the creative menu with options for any taste buds, and the catering and dinner on demand options make this restaurant even sweeter.

Owner Libby Glasco said when she first opened KTC she had seating for 10 people. Her focus then was on catering and pre-made dinners. "I remember telling my family and friends I never wanted to own a restaurant," she said. "All I wanted to do was cater and provide dinner options for my customers. Little did I know what the future would hold, how large Kiss the Cook would become and how passionate I would be about my restaurant and its ministry."

After nearly 16 years of growth, KTC now seats over 50 customers and includes a pick-up window for customers on the go.

Glasco's menu used to feature 3-4 items a day with daily specials, but now features a full choice of sandwiches, salads, wraps and homemade desserts. Glasco said there is truly something for everyone at KTC.

"Unless, of course, you are looking for fried food, which has always and will forever remain a 'hard no' at Kiss the Cook," she added.

Creating new dishes is a hit or miss process for Glasco and her team. She said they usually spend their own lunch time tossing ingredients together to find what works. They focus on flavor and presentation, as well as having fun, and therefore never really know what they will come up with or what it will be called. Such was the process with the KTC Ole Greg wrap, a dish created by Glasco's son-in-law. He created the inside ingredients and Glasco came up with the powdered sugar on the wrap and the side of pepper jelly.

"We love to have fun with our menu, so the name came from one of our favorite YouTube videos," she said. "My millennial customers went crazy for the wrap and the name, and if anyone is not familiar with the video, it's probably best to leave it there."

Despite its odd name, the Ole Greg wrap tastes anything but. Powdered sugar may not sound like an accessory to chicken and turkey but it



creates a perfect balance of spicy and sweet, especially with the side of pepper jelly. The spinach dip and melted Swiss cheese in the wrap pull it all together in a gooey mix. The wrap is large enough to be a full meal on its own, but the dish comes with a choice of side and the pasta salad is the way to go. Fresh vegetables mixed with pasta doused in dressing taste like comfort food, but with a healthy twist.

KTC's atmosphere is relaxed and more open since Glasco moved her business to the Highway 49 location. Customers are at the door the minute it unlocks, a sign of Glasco's success.

"My favorite part of owning this restaurant is the relationships I've gained over the last 15 years," she said. "My customers are special, they are loyal and they are like family."

She added her customers bring a uniqueness that not all restaurants get to experience, and they have always jumped on board with her ideas, from new menu items to her new location.

"They are all just amazing, beautiful people, and I still get teary eyed when I think about how fortunate I am that they choose to be my customers and friends."

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Those who share a vision of a cure for Alzheimer's gathered at the Arkansas State University Student Union to walk to raise awareness for the disease.

## ALZHEIMER'S WALK

By Caitlin LaFarlette

The Alzheimer's Association celebrated five years of the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Jonesboro this October, with a fundraising goal of \$85,000.

Funds received for the event go toward education programs, research, support groups, and a 24/7 helpline staffed with experts on Alzheimer's. "We must find a cure for this heartbreaking disease," Jane Gunter, director of development for the Arkansas Chapter, said. "This is the only disease that cannot be prevented, slowed down or cured. We are anxiously waiting on our first survivor."

### "We must find a cure for this heartbreaking disease."

In 2015, the Walk to End Alzheimer's brought in 556 participants at the Arkansas State University campus who raised nearly \$55,000. More than 50 teams registered for this year's walk, bringing in over \$20,000 before the Walk date on Sept. 17.

Gunter said those interested in volunteering with the Alzheimer's Association can assist with community education, support groups and sign up as advocates to request more government funding for the disease.

"We always need Walk committee members and Gala committee members," Gunter added. "Anyone who would like to do a third party event, such as a spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast ... there are many ways to help make a difference."

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and more than five million Americans are currently living with the disease.



## Leadership you Know



My name is Frankie Gilliam and I am running for State Representative. My husband Jerry is a retired agri teacher who taught for 27 years at Stanford and Greene County Tech. We live on a farm in Paragould with our niece and nephew, Harper Lee and Lucas, and my mother Evelyn.

Our family's faith is at the center of all we do and reflects in our passion to serve. I have been a member of the Church of Christ since age 11. Jerry's family were early Greene county settlers and members of the historic Pine Knot church, now over 150 years old.

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# LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

**T**ime is like money. If you don't budget it, you will waste it. Rather than investing in what matters most you will regrettably spend much of your time on things that don't matter.

If you want to make your life count you need to plan your life. This can seem to be a daunting task but proves to be incredibly fruitful to those who see it through. Here is what I suggest.

Start with listing the top eight priorities in your life as they should be and not as they currently are. Start with answering the question, what should be #1, #2, #3, etc.? For example, (1) God (2) Self Care (3) Spouse (4) Kids (5) Job (6) Friends (7) Investing in my city (8) Money.

Next, write an envisioned future for each priority. Answer the question, what would this look like if everything in this area was as it should be? What would be ideal?

Then take a few moments to write out your current reality. Answer the question, what is life currently like in this area?

Finally, write our 2-3 SMART goals to help you bridge the gap between your current reality and the envisioned future. SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Sensitive.

## Remember, the goal in doing this is living well.

Remember, the goal in doing this is living well. Think about when you are gone. What do you hope others will say about you? What do you want to be known for? What will a life well lived look like? Create your life plan in light of these questions.

When you are done creating your Life Plan share it with your spouse or a close friend. Re-visit your plan often and ask them to help hold you accountable.



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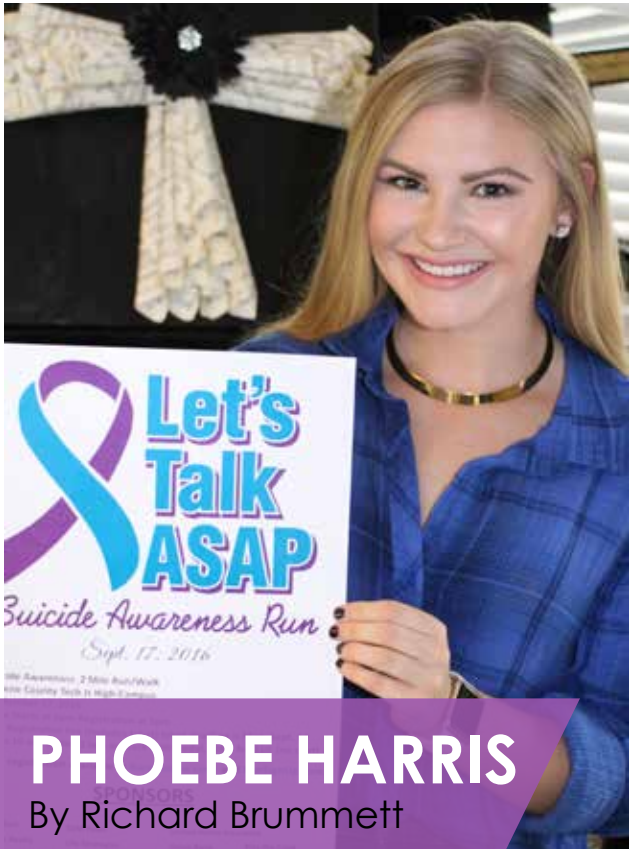
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"It's hard to grasp on to why someone would take their life," said Phoebe, the 14-year-old daughter of Kyle and Leanne Harris of Paragould. "It's never expected. Since then, I've researched it and learned that it has a lot to do with being depressed and it's a mental illness. AND, it's the second-leading cause of death among youth my age. I could pass someone in the hall every day at school that's thinking about taking their own life.

"I think maybe it's my calling," she said of her decision to stage the "Let's Talk ASAP" Suicide Awareness Run during September in Paragould. A large and supportive group of walkers and runners gathered at the Greene County Tech Jr. High campus to show support for Phoebe and her efforts, and she was overwhelmed by the response to her first-ever charitable event. (See photos on page 13.)

"As far as with her, I don't think we'll ever know why. It was not her ... it was her mental disease taking control. Something did it to her. So if I can do something to help prevent it from happening to someone else ... yes, that's what I want to do."

Phoebe said suicide is "a sore subject for most people. It's listed as the 'silent epidemic.' I would encourage people to talk when it happens. When I lost my grandmother, no one wanted to actually talk about it; I needed to talk. We need to talk."

So that's exactly what she was hoping to do with her walk/run – encourage not only those struggling with life to talk it out with someone, but also pointing out to others the need to be a willing and sincere listener. "It was so hard for me to understand. I can't relate," Phoebe said again of her grandmother's actions. "The cause ... I can't understand it. But it touched my heart and I want to do something about it. A lot of friends and family want to help and support me, and I want to make this a priority. There are a lot of people touched -- or as greatly affected -- as I was. Suicide ... you really have to go through it to understand. I'm overwhelmed by the number of people wanting to participate and wanting to help."

Admitting she learned even more about her grandmother after her passing by going through her personal effects, she also feels she learned an even more valuable lesson about herself.

"This happened to me for a reason," she said. "I can make a difference. Paragould is a small town, so many people knew my grandmother or they know me. I think I was supposed to do this to help others. I am passionate about it because of what I've been through."

It isn't every teenager who will take on the task of organizing a community-wide fundraiser, but then Phoebe Harris is not just any teenager.

Having lost her grandmother to suicide a little over a year ago, Phoebe struggled with a way to come to grips with the devastating situation that cast such a gloomy shadow over her and her family. The deep sorrow led her to dive into an intense researching of suicide, its causes and effects, and it served as a great eye-opener for her.

She said her study has helped her understand a bit better the mindset of someone who might be contemplating taking his or her own life, and she wants to help reverse their thinking, if possible. "Love them," she stated simply. "I would not want anyone to go through what I went through. I want to help. I think it's what my grandmother would want me to do.

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*Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Professional Office Building Auditorium, 1000 West Kingshighway, Paragould*  
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victims due to accidents and burns; heart surgery; organ transplants; women with complications during childbirth; newborns and premature babies and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer and other diseases such as sickle cell anemia. At Arkansas Methodist Medical Center alone, approximately 100 units are transfused monthly. To give blood for transfusion to another person, you must be healthy, be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law (includes Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee). You must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks (56 days) or double red cells in the last 16 weeks (112 days). "Healthy" means that you feel well and can perform normal activities. Each person who successfully donates blood at Arkansas Methodist will receive three \$5.00 coupons to be used at the Auxiliary Gift Shop, Beacon's Deli, Cafeteria or The Foundation Station.

**MOMMY AND ME BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

**Monday, October 10**  
**1:00-2:00 PM**

*Second floor conference room in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
Arkansas Methodist Medical Center and the Greene County Health Unit combine to sponsor a monthly breastfeeding support group meeting for new and expectant mothers. 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. For more information, please call the Greene County Health Unit at 236-7782.

**CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION CLASS**

**Saturday, October 22 and 29**  
**10:00 AM-3:00 PM (1-hour lunch)**  
*Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
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**BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS**

**Thursday, October 20**  
**11:00 AM-5:30 PM**

*Professional Office Building Auditorium in the Professional Office Building at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center*  
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**Meet Lindsey Williams, Stylist at Rouge.**

Lindsey has always been a resident of Paragould. She is a happy mother of two boys, Drake and Jagger. She is the vice president of Pay It Forward Paragould and loves serving our community. She is a new member of Fellowship Bible Church and devoted to her Missional Community Family. She has enjoyed building her career as a cosmetologist for 11 years now.



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# CORY JACKSON

By Richard Brummett

Cory Jackson certainly has no trouble finding the words when he stands behind the microphone and performs, but the aspiring country singer struggles to properly capture the feeling of opening for The Oak Ridge Boys.

"I don't know the words to describe how awesome that was," said the 21-year-old Jackson of his opportunity to serve as the opening act for the country music superstars. By winning a contest sponsored by WSM 650 AM in Nashville, Jackson earned the right to take the stage at the Wilson County Fair in Lebanon, Tennessee, in August.

"The contest started in May," Jackson said, "with about 24 people, then it was cut down to the top 12. The one that won First Place got to open for the Oak Ridge Boys and the one that came in second got to open for Darryl Worley. I thought, 'Either one of those ... that'd be great, especially for the Oak Ridge Boys, because they're legends.'"

Performing a mixture of his own original work and some of country's hot tunes, Jackson won the contest and the honor of taking the stage right before the famous group. Among the songs Cory chose to perform was Merle Haggard's *Mamma Tried*. After making the top 12, he returned in June to play two more songs, his original *Take My Breath Away* and Ronnie Milsap's *Day Dreams About Night Things*, clinching his victory.

"We were doing the sound check before the Oak Ridge Boys and we were in this riding arena where they show horses and stuff," he recalled, "and there were seats everywhere. I was thinking, 'And they're going to fill this place up,' and they did. Every seat was full and people were standing up; it was easily the biggest crowd I've ever played for."

And his personal assessment of the performance? "Probably the best performance

I've ever done, that night," he said proudly. "The day before, I actually had some allergy issues, coughing and stuff, and I was so worried about that that it took my mind off of being extremely nervous because of where I was and who I was with."

Now a senior at Arkansas State University, Jackson credits his grandfather with getting him interested – or re-interested – in music. "I was probably in the 10th grade and I had played the guitar a little, not much, but then I put it down because I was playing sports and that kind of stuff," he said of his days at Westside High School. "My grandfather encouraged me to pick it back up and I absolutely fell in love with music. I knew a few chords but real quick I went to learning more chords, then to writing a song, then to wanting to sing the song."

He competed in a talent show at NEA District Fair about three years ago and enjoyed the numerous compliments he received and "that got me hooked" and he has been climbing the performance ladder since. "In college, I was going the medical route," Jackson said, "but music is my passion. My backup plan will be medicine."

During his sophomore year at ASU he was convinced by Randy Lloyd and Kevin King of Lazy Dawg Music Group to join their production company and said, "We've been going ever since. In May we released my second album, *Let's Get It Right* and since the Oak Ridge Boys, things are up in the air. A lot of people saw me and things are going great. We think things are going to be really, really good come next year.

"I'm trying to finish my last year of college, and trying to get onto every stage I can," he said. "No telling what will happen."

Jackson is scheduled to perform at the Corning Harvest Festival on October 22.



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## TOUCH A TRUCK

Touch A Truck, a fundraiser for United Way and HopeCircle and put on by Nettleton Schools' East Lab students, drew a big crowd and included many activities for children such as characters, fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, sidewalk chalk, face paint, and more.

The event allowed children and adults to explore vehicles of all types. Through interaction with both the vehicle and operator, children gain valuable knowledge of the things that make Northeast Arkansas great. The vehicles represent those in public service, emergency, utility, construction, landscaping, transportation, delivery and still others.

NEA Baptist hosted the Touch A Truck day of fun.





# NATURE CENTER

By Anthony Childress

It will surprise no one that Northeast Arkansas stakes claim to many historic properties and places set aside for their beauty.

The Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, tucked away among trees on Jonesboro's south end, brings out the region's passion for wildlife, rural landscapes and a closer connection to the land itself.

The center, managed and maintained by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, was christened in late August 2004 and extends across three stories. It was constructed using revenue generated by state voters in 1996 via Amendment 75, a one-eighth cent sales tax designated to provide Arkansans with a deeper appreciation of their state's natural wonders.

Its namesake founded Ranger Boats in 1968 at Flippin (Marion County) and built a reputation for his love of the outdoors and commitment to its preservation.

Open free to the public year-round, the center is one of four such facilities in the state funded by Amendment 75, joining the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center (Little Rock), Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center (Fort Smith) and Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center (Pine Bluff).

## Some Other Facts

The Wood Center is housed at 600 East Lawson Road and covers a total of 17,033 square feet on 160 acres of land and is home to educational programming, exhibits and a meeting facility, according to its website ([www.crowleysridge.org](http://www.crowleysridge.org)). Its grounds include woodlands, a pond and prairie, reflecting the region's own environmental heritage.

Visitors can expect to see lightning and hear thunder inside the center, as part of its aesthetic presentation. There are exhibits of native waterfowl, including ducks (naturally!).



Other exhibits feature snakes, fish and other creepy-crawly creatures (enclosed behind glass, by the way). Once outside, the senses are treated to a thick forest of trees where birds chirp.

Animal feedings are another popular staple, along with wildlife walks, on a daily basis. The center offers a 16-minute film of the ridge's history over time and another movie looks more broadly at the state's natural features.

## Peace and Tranquility

Over the years, people from across NEA have made the trip to enjoy Wood's tranquility.

"I used to come here with my school and again with my family," said Jon Perkins of Jonesboro. "I don't live very far at all, but it's almost like going on a road trip to drive out here. That's one of the things I really like about it. You get the outdoors without it taking so long to make it."

The center's grounds connect to Craighead Forest Park, giving those more inquisitive visitors a chance to take a wooded path linking them. Hiking trails are open daily (dawn to dusk).

Hours of operation are:

Tuesday – Saturday (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)  
Sunday (1-5 p.m.)

Closed Mondays, as well as Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Day and New Year's Day.

Programs are offered as follows:

Saturday – "Creature Feature" (10 a.m.)

Sunday – Matinee (2 p.m.)

Daily – Crowley's Ridge Movie (every 30 minutes)

Daily – "Feeding Frenzy" (3:30 p.m.)

In addition, guided tours can be reserved by visiting the center's website or calling (870) 933-6787.



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# DEER HUNTING IN GREENE COUNTY

By Chuck Long



Photo courtesy of Rodney White

**I**t was a cold morning, even for December. It was the kind of damp cold that would creep through even the best layers of insulation, chilling to the bone in a short few moments after a hunter becomes still. Kevin and I were bundled up as much as possible as we planned to sit on the ground in hopes of catching a deer, which would be his first, moving through a draw looking for some acorns. We entered the woods as quietly as possible on the crunchy, frost-covered leaves. We then settled in next to a big white oak that gave us a good view of a wooded bottom. The open woods were almost devoid of leaves as the oaks and hickories had shed their leaves in preparation for winter.

We sat as motionless as possible, with an occasional move to reposition a body part that had begun to feel the cold ground beneath us. The sun came up and the woods began to come to life, or at least as much life as is possible on a cold day. We waited patiently for a deer, any deer, to venture toward us on the trail just upwind from our position. Finally, there was movement down the draw and I saw a doe headed our direction. I whispered to Kevin to reposition his gun and asked if he could see the deer and he had not yet spotted the animal. It was getting closer, and my heart was beating faster but the young hunter sitting next to me had still not seen the deer. Finally, in an excited voice, he whispered, "I see it" and he fired. Practice paid off and Kevin had harvested his first whitetail deer.

Very similar stories play out now in Greene County every hunting season. Approximately

1,700 deer were killed by hunters last year during the bow and gun seasons in our county. That fact alone is pretty astounding considering the deer population in the entire state of Arkansas was estimated to be in the neighborhood of 500 animals in the 1920s. Think about that for just a moment: 500 white-tailed in the entire state of Arkansas less than 100 years ago. Whitetail deer were considered to be nonexistent in Greene County up until the mid- '70s, and even into the '80s deer were limited to local populations along Crowley's Ridge.

With the low populations, hunting opportunities for deer in Greene County were limited and I can remember communities like Agnos, Hardy and Saddle being mentioned as destinations for both my granddads and my dad as they tried to find a place to hunt. Many other area residents ventured to Hamburg or Sylamore and other locales to hopefully bring home a whitetail.

Finally, in the mid '80s and into the '90s we began to see an increase in deer populations in Greene County. The deer harvest for the year 2000 in Greene County was approximately 600 deer with most being taken on Crowley's Ridge. As stated earlier, the annual harvest is now around 1,700 and expected to increase as the deer numbers have grown, with the majority killed on Crowley's Ridge, but we are also seeing an increase in herd numbers in the Cache, Black and St. Francis River bottoms. This increase can be attributed to lots of factors but some of the greatest influences have been

the men and women of our county who have seen the need to insure these populations exist for future generations. Many individuals and organized groups like the Greene County Wildlife Club have always been at the forefront of conservation efforts. The Scatter Creek Fightin' Toms Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Ducks Unlimited have also made major contributions to habitat management both on and off Crowley's Ridge.

Our deer population continues to grow and with that we do encounter problems. Deer/car collisions have increased, as well as the reports of crop and property damage and an increased possibility of disease within the herd. As sportsmen, we now have the responsibility of managing this herd through ethical harvest during our hunting seasons. It is also our responsibility to pass this on to young hunters as they grow in the sport of hunting by showing them that proper management will insure that the future is bright for deer hunting in our area.

Good luck this year and I hope to see you out there hunting. Introduce someone new to the sport and have a safe and enjoyable season!

## CHUCK LONG

Regional Education  
Coordinator Northeast  
Education Division  
Arkansas Game and  
Fish Commission



# HUNTING TIPS

Deer populations continue to thrive in Northeast Arkansas, drawing more hunters to the sport than ever before. With that in mind, here are some tips from the experts aimed at helping the novice deer hunter have success.

## 1. You Have to be Out There

If you are serious about harvesting a deer, maximize your actual time in the field. Pack enough food and water to stay out for an entire day. If you are in a deer camp with others and they choose to stay up late, head for the bed. Your priority has to be getting a deer over socializing. Adequate rest is vital for a successful day in the field.

## 2. Dress Correctly

If the weather is warm, wear layers. Temperatures are likely to be cold in the morning and evening and hotter during the course of the day. Be sure the layers are all camouflaged if you are bow hunting; if gun hunting, wear ample orange. Orange vests are good choices because they can be worn over other clothing items. Coveralls and heavy coats are the norm for really cold days. Keep your head and neck warm with neck warmers and caps. Boots are the most important piece of clothing for cold weather hunting. Buy quality waterproof boots or your hunt may be spoiled.

## 3. Tools of the Trade

Bringing a rope to hang the deer and speed up the cleaning process is necessary. Another idea is to bring along an inexpensive tarp that will make dragging your deer back to the truck easier and keep the body cavity free of debris.

## 4. Know your Weapon

Shoot as much as possible prior to actually joining the hunt. Your skills improve when you

learn your limits and the gun's. Know what practice distances you are shooting from to help judge distances in the field. If you plan to hunt in wide open areas, start shooting at 50 and 100 yards, then move up to 200 yards. If hunting in heavily forested areas, 50 yards may be the longest shot you can manage.

## 5. Scout


Having someone help you scout for deer movement is a good idea. Early morning and late evenings – maybe before and after your workday hours -- are the time to scout as deer are more active. If you are hunting public land, find more than just one prospective place to hunt; on opening day, the good-looking spot you “discovered” may be full of hunters who have been going there for years.

## 6. Opening Day

Know where you are going to sit depending on the wind. You want to hunt with the wind in your face to blow your scent away from where deer will approach. Once you're settled in, evaluate shooting lanes where a deer may surface. This helps you mentally prepare if a deer does walk into shooting range.

## 7. The Moment of Truth

As a first time hunter, any legal deer is a good deer. If you have a deer in range, focus on the vitals. Once they clear any vegetation, pull the trigger or release the arrow. Target the area just behind and above the front shoulder. You can whistle or grunt at a walking deer to get it to stop. If you are confident your shot was true but the deer doesn't immediately fall, give it up to two hours to lie down. If the deer isn't pressured, it will typically go down within 150 yards of the shot. If you hit the deer in a non-lethal area, try a second shot.



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# PAINT THE TOWN RED

Arkansas State University Athletic Director Terry Mohajir addressed a crowd of Red Wolves' supporters at the Paragould Community Center during Paint The Town Red Week.

Paint The Town Red celebrates the first ASU home football game of the season and entices businesses and individuals to break out the red and black and decorate their storefronts and working spaces.

ASU mascots Howl and Scarlet interacted with guests, and Howl even helped out by serving lunches to the crowd.



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# JONESBORO BBQ & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Two main acts will highlight the Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission's Downtown Jonesboro BBQ and Music Festival this year, scheduled for Saturday, October 1.

Bret Michaels, lead singer of Poison, will headline the free festival. The acclaimed solo artist has also appeared in several movies and TV shows, including Nashville Star, and his VH1 reality show Rock of Love With Bret Michaels. Michaels was the winning contestant on NBC's reality show Celebrity Apprentice 3, and was also featured in his own reality docu-series Bret Michaels: Life As I Know It, which inspired his highest charting album as a solo artist, Custom Built, reaching No. 1 on Billboard's Hard Rock list. In 2006, Hit Parader Magazine listed Michaels as one of the Top 40 Most influential Heavy Metal singers of all time. Poison has sold over 45 million records worldwide and charted six top ten singles and the number one single, "Every Rose Has Its Thorn."

The Festival will also include another free show with the American country music duo, Brothers Osborne.

In recent years the festival has seen The Commodores, Lee Brice, 38 Special, Rick Springfield, Easton Corbin and Night Ranger perform in Downtown Jonesboro. Tim McCall, Festival Chairman, said they are excited to "host two big acts this year for the public at no cost." McCall said the event is also about "providing our community and visitors with an opportunity to see Jonesboro and all the things we have to offer."

The festival also hosts the Kansas City Barbecue Society-sanctioned Arkansas State Championship. Jack Turner, event coordinator said, "The past few years we have seen contestants from all over the country and as far away as Washington state. Last year's event saw over 50 contestants competing for more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes."

The Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) is the largest BBQ organization in the world. Each year, the Grand Champion is invited to the American Royal and Jack Daniels World Championship. Turner said, "Everybody's got a chance to win some big cash; this is fun for some and serious business for many grillers."

McCall and Turner, who have organized the event since its inception, said they are "excited to have two acts this year and want to invite all of Northeast Arkansas to come out for a great show, that is FREE to the public."

The event also includes activities for the kids, plenty of food, vendors, crafts and even wrestling.

Visit the Downtown Jonesboro BBQ & Music Festival Facebook Page for more info.



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## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

By Caitlin LaFarlette

**I**t has been four years since Keshia Haggans was diagnosed with breast cancer at 34 years old, and she is now using her experience to help others.

Haggans, a drug and alcohol safety education program instructor with Mid-South Health Systems, accidentally discovered the lump in May 2012 that led to her Stage 2 diagnosis later that summer. That diagnosis, she said, shocked and angered her.

"I thought my name got mixed up with someone else's," Haggans said. "To me, I would have never thought the words 'breast cancer' would ever be attached to me. I was only 34 years old."

Haggans was in school at the time, as well as working and taking care of a family. She

was devoted to a life of ministry and felt the cancer was the most unfair thing to happen to her. She said the biggest question she had was, "Why, and why now?" Haggans knew of no types of cancer in her family until she was tested for the BRCA gene, one linked to breast cancer.

"The more I talked and did research on my family, I discovered that I had a lot of history of cancer on my father's side — my grandmother, aunt, uncle and sister all died from cancer — but only a few cases on my mother's side," Haggans said.

Haggans added she was only aware of her sister on her father's side fighting the disease, but she didn't grow up with the sister and therefore didn't know that information until it was too late.

"I cannot begin to stress why it's so imperative to know and be aware of your family's health history," she said.

After her diagnosis, Haggans' life became a whirlwind. She traveled to UAMS for her surgeries and received a double mastectomy and reconstruction in October 2012. Haggans originally wanted a lumpectomy but after finding the BRCA mutation gene, opted for the mastectomy. After the surgery, Haggans thought her ordeal was over, but doctors informed her she needed eight rounds of chemotherapy. She finished her treatment in March 2013.

Throughout everything, Haggans' friends and family stayed by her side and offered unwavering support. Friends from church attended appointments with her and family members gave her strength and love.

"My husband, Johnathan, showered me with love, affection, prayer and laughter," she said. "His love gave me strength to fight and keep going. He would go take care of the children, go to work, take care of me, take care of our home, and never complained once."

Haggans said others may not realize how deeply cancer can affect one's life, as it touches everyone they are connected to. She recognized that while her cancer was hard on her physically and mentally, it took an emotional toll on her husband as well.

"I also had to realize it was okay to not be okay," she added. "It took me almost two years to figure out who this new person was. I had to figure out things that I did and didn't like about myself. I had to figure out my real purpose. I had to deal with insecurities, fear, doubt and uncertainty."

These were the things Haggans had to face that the doctors never mentioned, the "residue of cancer." Haggans said many people still struggle with it because society says after you ring the bell for the last treatment, all is well with the world.

"And that's just not always the case," she said.

Despite having those lingering emotions, Haggans has taken her experience to help others. As a 34-year-old African American woman with a family, Haggans said she saw no representation for herself. She now works

to put a face with the pink ribbon that represents her community, as breast cancer affects all races, ages and statuses.

"I want to bring awareness and attention to the supporters of those going through cancer battles," she added. "There is no way I would have made it without my supporters, and sometimes they get lost in the shuffle. They get tired and burned out as well."

## "I want to bring awareness and attention to the supporters of those going through cancer battles"

Haggans also strives to support mothers with young children who fight this battle. She said she felt out of place and like a failure during her treatment as she was weak and tired, and couldn't be as present as she wished with her children.

All of this led to the creation of her organization, Pink Unveiled, a group designed to unveil the truth about cancer, support the supporters and help survivors discover what is next for them after cancer. The group also offers breast cancer life coaching services to help survivors seek a new purpose. Haggans has also published a children's book, "The Coolest Mommy," to help mothers and children smile through cancer battles. The book gives insight on a child's level about chemotherapy and the illness in general.

In her spare time, Haggans enjoys traveling, experiencing new food, writing and just living life to the fullest.

"When I was first diagnosed, I did ask the question, 'Why me?' Then my question over time became, 'Why not me?'" she said. "I didn't like cancer at all, but it has truly shaped me and pushed me into my purpose."



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

By Richard Brummett

**T**he possibility of having breast cancer was not out of the question for Elizabeth Forehand, since her mother was a two-time cancer survivor. But hearing the actual words spoken to her by a doctor was something else entirely.

"I always knew eventually I could be affected by it sometime in my life," Elizabeth said. "I was actually sort of paranoid about it. But when it really does happen to you, it's pretty devastating."

In October of 2014, while exercising one night at home, Elizabeth said she felt "not pain, really; it was clearly God saying, 'Something is going on here, check it out.'" So that's what I did the next day."

Conferring with Carrie Rowland at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Elizabeth was told to see her doctor, get a referral and "get straight to the hospital. The thing was, my mammogram in May looked exactly the same in November. I would tell everyone to get a 3D mammogram; it's very important."

And so the process began. "It started with an ultrasound, and that's when they found it. Dr. Bob Warner was fantastic; he was wonderful. Then we did a bunch of tests in the imaging center at St. Bernards and on December 8th I got the call: You have breast cancer. I went back to see Dr. Warner the next morning and he told me what my options were."

It was the decisions that followed that immediately set the tone for the rest of her life.

**Continued on page 24**

She could live every day mired in worry or she could charge full-speed ahead.

"You can't let it keep you from doing the things you've planned to do," she said. "After listening to what all the options were, I chose a lumpectomy. I thought I had one lump. I went back in January, and my margins were not clear. They said, 'You have cancer all over your breast,' and I needed to have a mastectomy.

"That can be very devastating," she added. "The mastectomy was the hardest decision to make. Right when I found out, we actually had a Christmas party to go to and my husband, Tony, said, 'What do you want to do?' And I said, 'We're going to the party. I have a life to live.'"

When the medical staff suggested bilateral surgery upon her return, she said it was "a no-brainer. If I have to have one removed, I want to have both removed. In January of 2015 I had both breasts removed, and also had reconstruction; that's the best part of the story."

A Mental Health Paraprofessional at Families, Inc., for 9 1/2 years, Elizabeth obviously missed a lot of work throughout her ordeal -- three weeks for the lumpectomy, six weeks after her mastectomy. "Back in August of '15 for expanders," she continued, "out four weeks, then back in November to have expanders removed and implants in, then I missed another two weeks. I dealt with depression ... I couldn't do anything -- no lifting, no driving, I couldn't really go anywhere. But friends and co-workers came by and visited and brought food and my Sunday School class was incredible and I realized I was not alone. I had wonderful friends and was part

of a group of people I met just because of this cancer. When I resumed activities, I did not feel like I was normal. But when I talked to many survivors who had had it and found a wonderful support group, I went back to work and now I just keep going on."

Going on in a positive way. Elizabeth said she would suggest that women check themselves regularly. "Get your yearly mammograms, know your breasts," she said. "You've got to know the warning signs. You have to know what's going on. A lot of women will think they don't have breast cancer and let something go on for two months ... why not check it out? My doctor said if I hadn't found my problem until May, it would have been a whole different ballgame.

"Dr. Warner said, 'You are no longer normal. If you get a cough or a headache, go to the doctor. Don't ignore even the simplest thing.' I do that now, more than I did before. Cancer definitely changes how you look at life. Before, my husband and I always had these things we wanted to do but there was no time or not enough money. Now, we do it. It totally changed my life. Things like appointments, doctors, tests ... you can't focus on them, you have to live life. And that's what I'm doing."

### *Additional Facts About Breast Cancer*

• Breast cancer incidence rates in the U.S. began decreasing in the year 2000, after increasing for the previous two decades. They dropped by 7% from 2002 to 2003 alone. One theory is that this decrease was partially due to the reduced use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) by women after the results of a large study called the Women's Health Initiative were published in 2002. These results suggested a connection between HRT

and increased breast cancer risk.

• More 40,450 women in the U.S. are expected to die in 2016 from breast cancer, though death rates have been decreasing since 1989. Women under 50 have experienced larger decreases. These decreases are thought to be the result of treatment advances, earlier detection through screening, and increased awareness.

• For women in the U.S., breast cancer death rates are higher than those for any other cancer, besides lung cancer.

• Besides skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women. In 2016, it's estimated that just under 30% of newly diagnosed cancers in women will be breast cancers.

• In women under 45, breast cancer is more common in African-American women than white women. Overall, African-American women are more likely to die of breast cancer. The risk of developing and dying from breast cancer is lower in Asian, Hispanic, and Native-American women.

• In 2016, there are more than 2.8 million women with a history of breast cancer in the U.S. This includes women currently being treated and women who have finished treatment.

• About 5-10% of breast cancers can be linked to gene mutations (abnormal changes) inherited from one's mother or father. Mutations of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are the most common. On average, women with a BRCA1 mutation have a 55-65% lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. For women with a BRCA2 mutation, the risk is 45%. Breast cancer that is positive for the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations tends to develop more often in younger women. An increased ovarian cancer risk is also associated with these genetic mutations.

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# CASA ADDS BOARD MEMBERS

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program of the 2nd Judicial District is welcoming three new Board Members from the Greene County area.



Gary Taber

The program, which serves children that have been taken into foster care due to abuse or neglect, has seated Gary Taber, LCSW and Paragould's Clinic Coordinator for Mid-South Health Systems; April Laws, a Paragould resident working as a Nail Technician at Blonde Ambition in Jonesboro; and Jeremy Heath, COO/CFO of Heath Funeral Home in Paragould.

"In the past, I have always received help and support from these community leaders working on projects for CASA here in Greene County," said Amanda Frankenberger, CASA Volunteer Coordinator. "Now that they are Board Members, we look forward to their assistance and leadership in even more strategic ways that will benefit and grow our program."

The new Board Members join a team of 24 business and community leaders representing and servicing the five-county judicial district which, in addition to Greene, includes Clay, Craighead, Mississippi, and Poinsett. The expanded group will continue to provide sustainability and strategies to ensure the recruiting and training of CASA volunteers, and the supervisory work of the CASA staff.

"It is wonderful to have these talented leaders from Greene County join our team," said Donna Lamb-Bowyer, CASA Executive Director. "Their knowledge and insight will help us expertly identify and reach out to organizations, business partners, and audiences for our volunteer recruiting and program fundraising efforts within Greene County."

CASA volunteers help investigate foster care cases for the courts. Their mission is to assist with the decision that will result with the child in a safe and permanent home. They visit with all parties and witnesses, and document and share information through court reports and court testimony.



Jeremy Heath

CASA volunteers also meet with the children in foster care at least twice a month to check on their wellbeing for the judge. During these visits they listen to and discuss current issues and interests of the children and intervene when assistance is required or requested.



April Laws

CASA of the 2nd Judicial District is the second largest of 25 programs in Arkansas and one of 949 programs nationwide that recruit, train and supervise volunteer advocates for children in foster care. In fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, 104 CASA volunteers from the 2nd Judicial District advocated for 327 children in foster care.

For more information on the CASA program visit [neacasa.org](http://neacasa.org) or call 870-935-1099.



**JOHN DEERE**



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# GREENE COUNTY FAIR

Visitors of all ages took part in the Greene County Fair in Paragould in early September, enjoying the 129th edition of the weeklong event.

As always, the midway's rides and games were a big draw among the younger generation but entries in the Exhibit Building drew interest from a variety of folks as well, when champions were named in the various categories.

When it came time for entertainment, Gary Prince and the Sugar Creek Band delighted the audience in the B.C. Lloyd Entertainment Building while guests also had the opportunity to choose from activities like a demolition derby and rodeo, among many other options.





# NEA DISTRICT FAIR

The Northeast Arkansas District Fair in Jonesboro wrapped up a successful week, providing visitors with a wide array of entertainment options.

Musical acts, rides and livestock judging contests highlighted the outside activities while in the exhibit building booths were staged to attract potential customers and onlookers. Plenty of visitors took advantage of the concession stand manned by the Jonesboro Jaycees as the fun ran late into the night during the six-day fair.



# HAUNTED FOREST

By Caitlin LaFarlette

**T**ime travel back to the 1800s this Halloween with a new haunting experience in Paragould that is sure to send shivers down your spine.

According to creators Casey Wayne and Stephane Davis, Nightmare Forest is an attraction intended to frighten and entertain those who dare to enter. The Halloween haunt takes place in a village “plagued with atrocities,” and guests are guided through trails by the village’s tormented souls.

Wayne has hosted his own Halloween parties over the years and the haunt will be Davis’ second go. “I did this once five years ago and it was very difficult to do on my own, and I have never been able to find someone who enjoys scaring people as much as I do,” Davis said. “Last year, my daughter-in-law suggested I partner with a friend of hers from high school and in a chance encounter at Lowe’s, it was love at first bite, and the haunt has been on ever since.”

Wayne said he and Davis share the same lifelong passion of Halloween.

“The parties and past celebrations have only been fuel to the fire,” he said. “Halloween is the one time of year that it’s acceptable to come up with the most out-of-the-box stuff and people love it.” Wayne said with Davis in her early 50s and himself in his mid-20s, their work has brought together two completely different visions of the haunt. Yet the end goal of scaring guests is the same for the pair. “From the atmosphere to the props and costumes, we have nailed down everything we believe will make our haunt one of the best,” Wayne said.

Davis added the storyline and realism of the haunt is what sets it apart from others in the area. “We have striven to make this an experience in which once you step through the branches of the entrance, Northeast Arkansas is the last place you’re thinking of,” she said.

Nightmare Forest is located at Cornbread Corner Farm, 832 Greene 632 Road. The haunt is open every Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. through October and admission is \$15. To support the Mission Outreach, Davis and Wayne offer \$2 off admission when guests bring three canned goods. More information can be found at [www.paragouldhaunt.com](http://www.paragouldhaunt.com)





## MARMADUKE HOSTS REUNION

**M**armaduke High School played host to a school wide reunion in early September. About 300 people from the various MHS graduating classes attended and enjoyed a program in the high school gym, where the band played and a group of district performed a '60s melody ensemble.

Keith Richey, Assistant Superintendent, presented a slide show of the traditions still alive at Marmaduke High School and featuring the new technologies and programs the district offers. After a BBQ lunch alumni toured the campus and visited at their leisure.



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# FIRE SAFETY

Every day, at least one child dies from a home fire and almost 300 more children are injured from fires or burns. Ninety percent of all fire-related deaths are due to home fires. Home fires can spread rapidly and leave families as little as two minutes to escape after an alarm sounds, according to information provided by Safe Kids.

Since October is Fire Prevention Month, we share some safety tips for two sectors of society most often affected -- children and senior citizens.

Children under 5 years of age are at the greatest risk from home fire death and injury; their death rate is nearly twice the national average. Often, children do not learn proper fire safety behavior such as dropping and rolling on the ground if clothing catches fire, crawling instead of running out of a house, or covering their mouths if it is smoky.

## FOR KIDS 10 Fire Safety Rules

- 1.) Don't play with matches and lighters. If you see matches or a lighter where you can reach them, don't touch them. Go tell a grown up.
- 2.) Ask your parents to install smoke detectors on every floor and in the sleeping areas of your home. Smoke detectors can save lives.

3.) Remind your parents to test your smoke detectors every month. Make sure everyone in your family knows its piercing sound means danger, and they must escape quickly.

4.) When your parents change the time on your clocks for Daylight Savings, ask them to change your smoke alarm batteries.

5.) In case of fire: DON'T HIDE, GO OUTSIDE! Fires are scary, but you should NEVER hide in closets or under beds when there is a fire.

6.) To escape during a fire, Fall & Crawl. It is easier to breathe in a fire if you stay low while getting out. Use the back of your hand to test if a door is hot before you open it. If it is hot, try to use another way out.

7.) If your clothes are on fire, Stop, Drop, and Roll until the fire is out. Shout for help, but don't run. Running makes fire burn faster.

8.) Have an escape plan and practice it with your family. Find two ways out of every room in case one way is blocked by fire or smoke.

9.) Choose a meeting place outside, such as a big tree or the end of the driveway, so you will know that everyone has gotten out safely. NEVER go back into a burning building for any reason.

10.) Know your local emergency number. Put stickers and magnets with emergency numbers on your refrigerator and every telephone in the house.

## FOR SENIORS

• If you don't live in an apartment building, consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escape easier. Make sure that smoke alarms are

installed in every sleeping room and outside any sleeping areas. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency.

• The majority of fatal fires occur when people are sleeping, and because smoke can put you into a deeper sleep rather than waking you, it's important to have a mechanical early warning of a fire to ensure that you wake up. If anyone in your household is deaf or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.

• Conduct your own, or participate in, regular fire drills to make sure you know what to do in the event of a home fire. If you or someone you live with cannot escape alone, designate a member of the household to assist, and decide on backups in case the designee isn't home. Fire drills are also a good opportunity to make sure that everyone is able to hear and respond to smoke alarms.

• Make sure that you are able to open all doors and windows in your home. Locks and pins should open easily from inside. If you have security bars on doors or windows, they should have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened easily. These devices won't compromise your safety, but they will enable you to open the window from inside in the event of a fire.

• Stay connected

Keep a telephone nearby, along with emergency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke.



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# FOUNDATION DUCK CLASSIC

By Richard Brummett

There are a number of reasons why the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation's Duck Classic has turned into one of the biggest fundraisers around but the true driving force behind the success is people – people who participate, people who promote and people who organize.

Two who help ensure smooth sailing for the event are Kim Provost and Robbie Johnson, folks who understand both the need for the annual Classic and the good it does.

Provost, Director of Events for the Charitable Foundation, spends her time in charge of “planning and carrying out this event,” she said. “It takes the entire community, the support of volunteers – landowners, community members, sponsors. They have really grasped ownership of this event and made it the success it is.”

Johnson, the Foundation's Director of Development, said he is “tasked with raising money for the Foundation. This event is obviously a key component and allows our programs to do what they do. It is our biggest fundraiser, one of the biggest in Northeast Arkansas. And, it's a fun time.”

The Duck Classic is a two-day affair, featuring an evening banquet with live and silent auctions where corporate sponsors and individuals donate items. Raffles are held for guns, hunting equipment, and guided hunts, along with various other ways for participants to win cash and prizes on Day One, followed by a competitive duck hunt for registered teams on Day Two. Each team has four members and a host. The host takes the team to its designated hunting location and helps with the competition scoring system. Entering its 14th year, the Classic has come a long way from its initial effort, when the first banquet attracted 150 to 200 people and about \$18,000 was raised; now, around 1,800 attend the banquet and last year the Charitable Foundation was blessed with some \$550,000.

“The physicians from our clinic were looking for something for our Foundation, a way to fund it,” Provost said of the Classic's beginning. “It was a round table discussion with staff and administration. ‘What is something people like to do, and then, what will it take to raise money?’ We created this event because it was something unique to our community. The activity is a hunting element, like a golf tournament only with ducks.”

Johnson said, obviously, the hunters and landowners who take part have an interest in the sporting aspect but he has gotten countless positive comments regarding how the money raised is to be used.

“The guys who participate, one notion they really like is that the money is used locally,” he said. “Every time you hear someone talk about it, they mention that the money raised not only goes to a good cause, but it stays local. The money goes toward any one of the five programs that comprise the Charitable Foundation: ShareHope, HopeCircle, Medicine Assistance Program, Center For Healthy Children and Wellness Works. Each meets a specific need, absolutely free to anyone in the community, regardless of where they receive care. These programs, and this event, help people, literally, from all over the region. Jonesboro, the bootheel of Missouri ... they come from all directions and benefit from this.”

“Some of the people are not even patients,” said Danial Reed, Marketing Coordinator for NEA Baptist. “When you focus on where the money goes and then you try to estimate how many lives are touched, it's impossible. The Medicine Assistance program helps something like 1,800 patients itself.

“It does make it easier to get people on board because it's a really fun event,” she added. “The banquet, even more than the hunt, brings in people from 10 states and all over the area, and that's good for our local economy. They stay in hotels, eat, spend money here.”

“About two months ago, in the Cancer Center, a lady heard about the HopeCircle and that it provided wigs at no expense,” Johnson recalled. “She came in and was so grateful. It's something cancer patients deal with, going to church with a turban on or to the mall with a cap on. Something as simple as getting a wig helps them maintain their dignity. It's human nature that others are going to stare at them or make them stand out in a way they don't want to. That's one area that this money goes to.”

Provost said the integrity of the event is assured through the banquet and sponsorships. “There has been such huge acceptance by the community and our sponsors have pushed us to the next level,” she said, mentioning Under Armour, Drake, Avery, Sitka -- big names in the duck hunting world – along with area supporters like DNW Outdoors, the Glen Sain automobile dealerships, Barton Powersports and the area media partnerships, to name just a few.

This year's Classic is set for December 8-9, with the banquet being held at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center in Jonesboro. The doors open at 5 p.m. and the banquet is “open to anyone, men, women, children ... it's family friendly,” Provost said. “Some people actually do their Christmas shopping there and at the auctions.”

As for the hunt, teams may register at a cost of \$2,000 per 4-man team. Information is available at the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation home page, or at [Duckclassic.com](http://Duckclassic.com).



DUCK  
CLASSIC

DUCK  
CLASSIC



# MEN'S HEALTH FAIR

**A**rkanas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould hosted its 19th annual Men's Health Fair in September.

Forty vendors set up with a variety of information available, and the AMMC staff offered a number of health screenings. Everything at the health fair is free to the public, and a big crowd turned out to learn more about being healthy and staying healthy.



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# FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS

Family businesses provide a number of advantages to family members, but also benefit all who trade with them as they get to witness firsthand community pride in action. Family businesses normally provide for closer contact with those in management positions, have a larger trust factor, and provide invaluable training for the next generation to enter the business and serve as community leaders.





*Gerard Connors, President*

## allyIT: THE GO-TO GUYS FOR IT SUPPORT

Gerard Connors started allyIT and has built a reputation as a “go-to” guy when computer issues arise. Now in business for three years, Gerard directs the everyday business while his wife Sheina handles billing audits.

“We offer monthly contracts, rent-a-tech or hourly solutions for businesses who don’t have a full time IT person,” he said. “allyIT can handle any IT nightmare that you may have, from phone/tablet repair, to antivirus issues, all the way to complete IT support for any size business.”

Here are just a few ways the allyIT team can help:

- Implementation of cloud-based hosted email
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- Wi-Fi installation and cabling
- Business phone solutions
- Online data backup solutions for all your computers
- New computer builds, configurations, and deployments (PC and Laptop)
- New equipment implementation and deployment
- Network assessment
- Information security policy writing and implementation
- Disaster recovery planning

Gerard said his philosophy is “more than just providing answers. It’s helping customers even when they don’t know they need help. It’s teaching them how to do more with your products.”

He said starting off with a smile and a friendly word is a good beginning, then he likes to finish by sharing his expertise ... “even when it has nothing at all to do with your products.”

He said customer service can be your “secret weapon” when dealing with small businesses and the customer base.



allyIT can help eliminate unnecessary downtime by offering around the clock web-monitoring and on-site certified techs that are equipped to handle just about any emergencies. “Immediate response times give you peace of mind no matter the project,” Gerard said.

Employees have over 100 years of combined experience with 10 technicians on staff, owning over 50 certifications and multiple college degrees.

Located in both Paragould and Jonesboro, allyIT can be reached by calling 870-933-1500 or at [www.allIT.net](http://www.allIT.net); on Facebook, it’s allyIT.

870.933.1500 | 3212 E. Nettleton | Jonesboro, AR  
870.565.4747 | 2407 Linwood Dr. | Paragould, AR



# THE TRUCK PATCH GETTING BACK TO NATURAL

For Michael and Sarah Adler, the idea of The Truck Patch Natural Market and Café came to life in May of 2010, when they opened a Mountain Home store in hopes of bringing people an opportunity to shop for healthy alternatives to conventionally, mass produced food.

By October they had also begun a Jonesboro store, emphasizing the importance of eating organic foods. "Food is medicine, disease prevention," said Sarah. "Finding good, quality food – clean food – is hard." So that's the idea behind The Truck Patch and the Stem & Spoon Café, the places to find food that is both tasty and healthy.

Sarah said for those who shop with them, they will find "no artificial, no corn syrup, no MSG. Shop with ease, knowing it is clean."

The Adlers believe that the increased use of partially hydrogenated oils, high fructose corn syrup, chemicals, pesticides and artificial additives and preservatives in the general food supply is a major factor in the rise of many current day illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity. They say eating quality, organic and natural food is one of the best steps you can make to greatly improve your health.

"We believe if quality food is a priority in your life, as it is in ours, you will feel and see the difference in your life," they said in information provided on their website.

Items on the shelves at The Truck Patch are filled with plenty of options for gluten free diets, lots of alternatives for diabetics and numerous paleo options as well. Some of their goals include:

- Improve the health of our customers by offering the highest quality organic and natural products that do not contain harmful ingredients
- Educating and delighting our customers with our incredible level of service
- Reduce our carbon footprint by supporting local sustainable agriculture whenever possible
- To create a happy, healthy and fun environment where our staff can grow professionally and personally

The Truck Patch has similar sections to a conventional grocery store, but the products on the shelf make it different. Products are screened for artificial sweeteners or colors, trans-fats, high fructose corn syrup or added MSG before they are put on the shelf.

The Stem and Spoon Café is located inside of the Jonesboro Truck Patch. The café has a creative and delicious menu that will satisfy every taste. Sandwiches are made using top quality ingredients and served on locally baked bread. The café also has gluten free, vegan and paleo options available for those with food intolerance or on special diets. The kids' menu is clever and fun and sure to please your little one's palate. Coffee and smoothies are also available daily.



**Store Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8AM-8PM  
Sun. 10AM-6PM**

**Cafe Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8AM-6PM  
Sun. 10AM-2PM**

870.333.2977 | 906 Southwest Dr. | Jonesboro, AR | [thetruckpatch.com](http://thetruckpatch.com)

# THE STATE FARM FAMILY



## VIRGINIA WALLS STATE FARM IN BUSINESS SINCE 1993

The Virginia Walls State Farm Insurance Agency opened in Paragould in 1993, continuing a trend of family-owned business enterprises.

Virginia's father-in-law, Bill Walls, had a State Farm agency of his own in Camden for 25 years so for her and her husband, Alan, the insurance business was not unfamiliar territory.

"We want to help our customers with all their insurance needs," Virginia said. "We try to provide outstanding customer service and make sure our customers get all the discounts they qualify for."

State Farm is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to take care of customers' needs and the Virginia Walls agency is licensed in both Arkansas and Missouri.

"Everyone in the office is fully licensed," she said. "And State Farm Pocket Agent® allows customers to view ID cards, make payments and file claims."

Pocket Agent gives mobile access to State Farm® insurance and financial information, and allows customers to manage their policies and accounts anytime, anywhere. For instance, Pocket Agent lets customers get an auto, homeowners, renters, life, and condo owner's insurance quote.

The Virginia Walls agency offers options in auto, home, renter's, business, life insurance, and annuities as well as long term care, disability, and Medicare supplements.

"State Farm Banks offers competitive rates for car loans, CDs and money markets," Virginia said. "In the future, there will be even more options for homeowners and, hopefully, lower rates."

State Farm Bank officially began operations in March 1999. Its focus is on consumer-oriented financial products, complementing the State Farm® insurance focus on personal lines. State Farm Bank is a nontraditional financial institution and doesn't have branch offices. The majority of direct customer interaction and product assistance is provided by State Farm agents, supplemented by a telephone call center, the mail, and the Internet.

State Farm Bank offers a variety of deposit, loan, and financial card accounts to benefit customer needs.

For more information about any or all of the services offered go to [www.virginiawalls.com](http://www.virginiawalls.com); or check out the Virginia Walls State Farm Facebook page.



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Website:[www.virginiawalls.com](http://www.virginiawalls.com) | Email:[vw@virginiawalls.com](mailto:vw@virginiawalls.com)





## WILKINS ELECTRIC, LLC: REPRESENTING 40 YEARS IN THE ELECTRICAL BUSINESS

**W**ilkins Electric, LLC, was established by Byron and Barbie Wilkins in October of 2009. Byron has been a Master Electrician for 21 years and has worked in every aspect of electrical contracting. Barbie worked as Office Manager in the electrical contracting field for several years prior to helping start the family business. Both continue to be involved in the daily operations.

Their oldest son, Cory, who was attending Arkansas State University studying electrical engineering, was instrumental in getting the business off the ground. While attending ASU, he was also enrolled in Electrical Apprenticeship School, completing that in 2012 and obtaining his Electrical Journeyman's License the same year. In 2014 he earned his Master Electrical License.

"From day one, Cory has taken charge of the electrical side of the business by handling our estimating / project managing needs, as well as overseeing crews and scheduling jobs," Barbie said. "Basically, he does every aspect of our electrical contracting business."

The Wilkins' younger son, Aaron, graduated high school in 2013 and has also been on board from the start. He worked part-time while attending Paragould High School, then started the four-year Electrical Apprenticeship Program at Black River Technical College and is currently a 4th year apprentice. He will test for his Journeyman License upon completion of the course and currently works on construction jobsites as well as helping out with estimating / project management. Office Manager Lynlee Brannon became a Wilkins in 2013 when she married Cory, and has worked for the company since 2012. "She is a

huge asset to our business," Barbie said, "and currently runs our office. She is very knowledgeable about the construction business and truly loves what she does."

Aaron and Kassian Jones also recently married and she joined the office staff in 2015. "She is another valuable asset to us and seems to really enjoy learning about the family business," said Barbie.

Even two-year-old grandson Greydon, who is Cory and Lynlee's son, spent the first year of his life in the office with his family.

"We like to think our uniqueness stems from treating our customers like we like to be treated," Barbie said. "We conduct our business with honesty and integrity and like to think we go the extra mile in making sure all of our customers are pleased with their dealings with us. That may not always be the best thing for our bottom line, but our reputations and our relationships with our customers are the most important to us."

Besides being commercial / industrial electrical contractors, Wilkins Electric is an authorized Kohler Generator dealer, with technicians trained to install and service residential, commercial and marine generators. You can reach them by calling 870-239-5009 or go to their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WilkinsElectric/](http://www.facebook.com/WilkinsElectric/).



870.239.5009 | 310 E. Kingshighway | Paragould, AR

# IRONHORSE BBQ CO.

## 16 YEARS OF GREAT BBQ

IronHorse BBQ Company, LLC, has been a family owned and operated business for more than 16 years. Dave and Lynn Aronson started the barbecue company in 2000 and continue to run it today – along with DJ and Tiffany Aronson -- having expanded to include a second Paragould location.

The Aronsons describe their enterprise and services as a “dine-in restaurant and steakhouse, convenience store and caterer.”

A list of staff members and their duties gives a clear picture of just what “family owned” means. Dave and DJ serve as both Pit Masters and Owner/Operators. Crystal Aronson was the office manager until earlier this year, when she left the company to pursue a career as a music teacher. Crystal is a classically trained operetta with a masters degree in Vocal Performance. Upon her departure, Lynn Aronson took over as General Office Manager and works at both Paragould locations. Tiffany Aronson is Shift Manager at the steakhouse location and their son Weston works part-time at both the local steakhouse location and in the catering service.

One of IronHorse’s unique qualities is that it is a motorcycle themed enterprise in the restaurant, steakhouse and catering divisions. Adding to its celebrity status, Dave and DJ were interviewed twice last year for the reality TV show “Chopped.”

“With IronHorse, it’s all about the food,” they said. “Our pork steak is so tender you can cut it with a plastic fork. Everything is cooked fresh. We have a self-contained mobile kitchen to go to any location



and feed hundreds of people at a time. However, I would be amiss to leave out our outstanding staff. They are the heart of IronHorse. We have employees who have been with us for more than 10 years. Our employees are more like family. We have watched them grow up, and start their own families as they have grown with the company. “We have a very loyal customer base who are more like family than customers,” he added, “... always there to lend a helping hand.”

IronHorse just celebrated its one-year anniversary at its newest location at 2108 Linwood Drive in Paragould. “It has been a good move for us as a company and we look to have the same success with this location as we have had with our previous one,” they said.

For more information, check out their Website: [www.Ironhorsebbq.net](http://www.Ironhorsebbq.net), or Facebook pages: Iron Horse BBQ and IronHorse BBQ & Steakhouse.



870.239.9758 | 2801 Hwy. 49N | Paragould, AR | [ironhorsebbq.net](http://ironhorsebbq.net)

# PRODUCTIVE STAFFING WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The McNeces dreamed of owning their own business and began planning to turn their dream into reality.

“William managed five rental equipment stores while we were in Albany and absolutely loved his job too, but Albany was just not home,” Janet said. “We saved every dime we could so we could move home and start our own business.”

The dream became a reality in September 1996, when “we took every ounce of our savings and opened Productive Staffing downtown at 113 S. Broadway,” she said. “We had no idea if we would be successful or not, but we took a leap of faith and worked tirelessly to build our business. We picked up small accounts at first, but within the first year had landed several major accounts with local manufacturers including Briggs and Stratton. Gates followed and we continued to grow by leaps and bounds for many years.”

In 2008, a client asked the McNeces to come to Trumann, Ark., and establish an on-site office and staff their production lines. “I took on this challenge and loved the people in this area. This experience led me to open a full-time office in Jonesboro in 2009.” The McNeces purchased a building at 720 S. Main St. in downtown Jonesboro. “It is a beautiful historic building and has so much character. The downtown area of Jonesboro is really growing and we are so excited to be a part of it. The Jonesboro office has really grown in the last eight years. Our oldest son, Ethan McNece, is the Operations Manager there and he has an amazing staff there and they do an excellent job for me,” she said. They are doing tremendous things in the Jonesboro area.

Janet keeps busy with her family and business, but she makes time to give back. Community involvement and giving to others is part of being successful, she said.

“I have always supported the Chamber of Commerce in both Poplar Bluff and Jonesboro. They do so many great things for the community and I have always believed if you want your community to be great, you have to be actively involved in making it great. It’s that simple,” she said. She just finished a three-year term on the Jonesboro Chamber Board. She has also been an active member and board member for Women Aware, Inc., since 1994. Ethan is carrying on that tradition by being very active in the Jonesboro community.

Family and faith have been integral parts of their success. “My children know hard work,” Janet said. “They have enjoyed the fruits of our labor, but they realize no amount of money or success can buy happiness. They realize you have to treat people with respect. We have also taught them our success is a gift from God and it is not always a given. You have to continue to work hard and do your part in order to succeed. You have to be conservative in the big years so you can withstand the lean years.



“We have gained major accounts we kept for many, many years, and we have also lost major accounts and had to restructure and move forward. These have been valuable learning experiences for our entire family. In business you have to take the good with the bad and keep moving forward. I am a very positive person. I surround myself with positive people that lift me up and believe in my abilities.

“I have an amazing family that is healthy. That in itself is a gift. Our oldest son, Ethan, and his beautiful wife, Kelly, have our first granddaughter, Amelia, who just turned 2. Our twin daughters, Kelley and Kasey, were both married this year so we gained two sons in Tristan and Trenton. Both daughters attend TRC and are majoring in Nursing. Our youngest son, Dillon, is 13 and an awesome young man. He never forgets anything and has so much drive and passion in everything he does. He has the potential to be a very strong leader one day. Who knows, he may be our future CEO.

“God has blessed our family beyond measure. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine my life the way it is now,” she said. “I am not speaking from a financial standpoint, even though He has blessed us in that way. I am speaking of the gift of being able to build something you love and be able to make a living by it. I have been able to have so many experiences and opportunities to help others because of the business I’m in.

“I have been able to pursue other interests as well, such as our vacation rentals,” she said. “That hobby of renovating homes has also turned into a successful vacation rental business. In today’s economy you have to be driven and diversified to be successful. What started as a rental investment of a few homes has grown into numerous properties in Poplar Bluff and the surrounding areas as well as vacation rentals in Branson, Nashville, Mountain Home, and in Grand Lake, Colorado.”



870.931.5627 | 720 Main St. | Jonesboro, AR



# HYDE'S TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL KNOW-HOW THAT'S HARD TO BEAT

**W**hen it comes to know-how in the pest control business, Jerry Hyde is hard to beat. He has more than 40 years of experience in the field and is following in some big footsteps as owner/operator of Hyde's Termite and Pest Control, Inc.

"My father-in-law, Telpcher Campbell, got me started in the termite and pest control business in the fall of 1972," Jerry said. "Telpcher started his business in the late '60s. His son Butch, his brother Bob and myself worked with Telpcher until he sold his business due to health issues in 1993."

During that timeframe Jerry had become co-owner of a Walnut Ridge branch of the business, owner of Hyde's Insulation Service, and "had established a few pest control accounts in Missouri under the name of Hyde's Termite and Pest Control."

Due to a non-compete agreement, I was restricted from performing pest control services in many Arkansas counties until 1998."

Now the company serves all of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri in a variety of ways.

"We provide termite and pest control services for residential, commercial and industrial customers," he said. "We provide real estate inspections when clearance letters are required. We hope to increase our service areas in Arkansas and Missouri in the near future."  
In addition, Hyde's will also do power washing, trap and remove unwanted animals, provide mosquito treatment, and inspect and treat homes or businesses for problems with bed bugs.



Hyde's daughters -- Shannan Prince and Bobbie Williams -- are now co-owners in Hyde's Pest Control, Inc., and both work in the business. Shannan manages the Paragould office while Bobbie is in charge of the Walnut Ridge business, as well as the office in Highland.

"We are a three-generation, family-owned business," Jerry said, "and I'm hoping to bring my grandson into the business when he graduates college. We are local, and know many of our customers on a first name basis."



The Paragould office is located at 716 Fairview Road and may be reached by calling 870-236-2382 or on Facebook at Hyde's Termite and Pest Control, Inc.



870.236.2382 | 716 Fairview Road | Paragould, AR



## EXODUS MOVING, LLC MOVING JUST GOT EASIER

**M**ike and Erin Pekrul opened Exodus Moving, LLC, after searching for a way to find balance in their lives. Late in 2014 she was an occupational therapist and the rehab clinic coordinator at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould and he was a furniture deliverer, and they decided to take the plunge and go into business for themselves.

“We both had comfortable full-time jobs, but struggled with balancing it all,” they explained. Life was busy, and about to get busier with their fourth child coming in February. “We knew God had big plans for our family and decided to take a leap of faith, trusting Him to provide for our family the way He chose.”

In March of 2015 Exodus Moving became a reality and now they say they couldn’t be happier, thanks to the venture’s continued growth. “We prayed that God would establish the work of our hands, and He did just that,” they said. “God opened doors quickly and we were in business before we knew it. We have continually grown since the start, slow at times ... but always steady. We love serving NEA. We love serving Paragould. And we love serving God. We truly feel honored to have met so many people through moving.”

Exodus offers full service moving: packing, loading, unloading, setup, and cleaning “... even power washing. We will do as little or as much as the customer needs.”

While moving – whether on the personal or commercial level – can be a burden, the Pekruls said one of their goals is to ease the difficulties of setting up shop in a new home or different business location.

“Moving is naturally a stressful time,” they said, “but we get to help with that a little bit. We get to be a little light in an otherwise overwhelming situation. God says, ‘In everything you do, do it for the Lord.’ (1 Cor. 10:31). Our family tries our best to live by God’s standards. We hope Exodus Moving continues to grow so that we can continue to serve our community. Our goal is simple: “To provide excellent customer service at an affordable rate ... and not break your stuff.”

“Seriously, we love our job and we hope to be around a long time.” Exodus Moving can be reached at 870-450-6914 or at [www.exodusmovers.com](http://www.exodusmovers.com).



870.450.6914 [exodusmovers.com](http://exodusmovers.com)



## REDDICK MARBLE & GRANITE SERVING NEA SINCE '98

**R**eddick Marble & Granite has been around since 1998, and the services provided just keep growing with the times.

Jerry Hoggard started the business, which concentrated on supplying cultured marble and granite (man-made) to the customer. Now run by his daughter, Terri, and her husband Eric Reddick, the company added the natural stone (granite, marble, soap stone, onyx) and quartz, in 2005 at Eric's suggestion.

"Our business has served the Northeast Arkansas area since 1998," the Reddicks said. "We are unique because of our workmanship, service and exceptional quality."

Reddick Marble and Granite does new construction and remodels for residential and some commercial properties. They provide skilled craftsmen and the latest technology, two ingredients that ensure customers will get the new kitchen or bath of their dreams. Workers can guide shoppers who stop by the workplace through sketching out exactly what they want in a new room, or a visit to the Reddick website provides a virtual tutorial on how to draw out the desired look.

"We would like you to make a simple sketch of your kitchen," the Reddicks said. "This makes it easy for us to give you an accurate complimentary quote."

According to the company website, Reddick's stocks granite and quartz "from around the world. We also purchase from all major suppliers. We stock quartz and granite. Our selection of stone allows a wide array of colors to choose from at a reasonable price. We also purchase from local suppliers in the event we don't carry the right material for your project. With thousands of materials to choose from, granite is here to stay. Let our design team help you select the perfect material for your next project."

Their in-house selection of quartz allows the customer a wide array of colors at a reasonable price, as well. They also know you don't always

need a slab and they make new remnants every day. Whether you select a simple white quartz, or an exotic granite, the Reddicks can save you money.

"Our state-of-the-art machinery ensures our customers get the highest quality cuts and seams," they said. "Our commitment to quality shows up in every project we install. Our craftsmen are highly skilled and will work hard to make sure you love your new countertops."

Whether searching for marble, granite, quartz, soapstone or exotics, Reddick Marble & Granite is the place to start looking. They have served satisfied customers in Northeast Arkansas, Southeast Missouri, Western Tennessee and Northwest Mississippi for years.

Reddick's is located at 12221 Hwy. 49 South, and may be reached by phone at 870-932-2551.



870.932.2551 | 12221 HWY. 49 S. | Paragould, AR



## HEATH FUNERAL HOME SERVICE THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

Heath Funeral Home is in its 71st year of serving Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Verlyn L. Heath began his business in 1945 when he bought Irby Funeral Home. In 1952, he purchased A.J. Emerson Funeral Home and merged it with his current business. Heath Funeral Home is currently owned by his children, Lynda Heath White and Verlyn G. "Butch" Heath. Since Lynda and Butch are semi-retired, Butch's son, Jeremy, manages the day-to-day operations of the business. Jeremy Heath, Chief Operations Officer, commented, "We are a third generation funeral home focused primarily on service to our community."

They provide traditional and graveside funerals as well as cremation services. "Our focus is to celebrate the life of the deceased by personalizing every aspect of the funeral." To help them accomplish this, the funeral home has made numerous technological advances which they believe helps them to serve families more efficiently while providing them with more personalization.

The list of services Heath offers is long and impressive, contributing to its good standing in the industry. "We provide a 10% discount on our services to all veterans and emergency service personnel, free tribute videos to every family with a funeral, and a free family limousine. We will chauffeur the family from their home to the location of the funeral, drive them to the cemetery, and return them to their home. We are the only funeral home in our area to provide this service."

Heath Funeral Home was also the first funeral home in the area to provide the personalized eGuest registry package, which includes a register book filled with pictures of the family, personalized Thank

You cards, and personalized address labels. Additional books can be ordered by friends and family as a keepsake, and it is displayed on the person's obituary page on the funeral home's website.

According to Jeremy, "We are also the first funeral home to advertise complete pet funerals. We demonstrate the utmost care and respect during the loss of a pet. We will provide transportation for the pet at the time of death, prepare the pet for burial or cremation, complete an obituary for our pet website, and assist the family with other needs during their time of loss. We can even create a tribute video and picture book as a remembrance of the life shared with your pet. You can visit our pet website at [www.heathfuneralhomepets.com](http://www.heathfuneralhomepets.com)."



Verlyn L. Heath, Founder





The funeral home also provides pre-paid funerals for as little as \$25 per month. When pre-paying a funeral, it will freeze the price of the services ensuring the price will never increase. It will also relieve a lot of the emotional and financial stress families experience when making funeral arrangements. "We are one of the only, if not the only, funeral homes to finance funerals. After a down payment is received, we will provide financing options to assist families with a payment that fits into their budgets," said Jeremy. "Our goal is to always enhance our business to maintain the high quality of service to which every family is entitled while always doing it at a reasonable price."

The Heath family is proud to call Paragould home and knows the importance of serving those they see on a daily basis. "Our future is in Paragould," Jeremy believes. "Our family roots are deep in this area. We have always been involved in community service, and we believe in doing our part to make Greene County a better and safer place to live." Founded by Butch in 1983, the Greene County Rescue Squad has done just that. Butch and Lynda have also served on, and chaired, numerous committees on various organizations in Greene County, including the Chamber of Commerce and Paragould Rotary Club. Jeremy is currently serving on committees with the Paragould Chamber of Commerce and on the board of directors for CASA and House of Virtue. "We

believe if we want to continue improving the place we live, we must maintain an active role in providing 'A Sincere Personal Service' to the citizens of Northeast Arkansas."

For more information, go to [www.heathfuneralhome.com](http://www.heathfuneralhome.com); [www.heathfuneralhomepets.com](http://www.heathfuneralhomepets.com); [facebook.com/heathfuneralhome](https://facebook.com/heathfuneralhome), call (870) 236-7676, or email [hcc@heathfuneralhome.com](mailto:hcc@heathfuneralhome.com).



Butch, Lynda, and Jeremy



**Heath  
Funeral Home**

American Made Caskets • Prearranged Funerals • Personalized Services

*Compassion and Understanding  
in your time of need.*

(870)236-7676 • 321 W. Garland St. • Paragould, AR 72450



## Chuck's RV SALES

# RVS FOR FAMILIES

The Guthrie family has directed business activities at Chuck's RV Sales, LLC, in Paragould since 1997 but the firm actually got its start in Corning 16 years prior to setting up shop locally.

Chuck Guthrie started the RV service in 1981, moving to Paragould in '97 after buying out Austin's Auto and RV. He now teams up with family members Jason, Sandy and Cody Guthrie – as well as Cody's dog and company mascot, Big Black Bear – to serve a broad area of customers in a variety of ways.

"We are a full service sales, parts and repair service for all RV needs," Jason said. "We are a family oriented business interested in making sales and friends."

Chuck's is an official KEYSTONE RV sales and service dealership, carrying a large selection of Keystone RV's Bullet and Springdale lines,

plus a large array of pre-owned RVs, motor homes, fifth wheels and travel trailers.

The Guthries are involved in community events – for instance, Chuck's supplied the RV for the Arkansas Children's Hospital Radiothon in Paragould this year, providing a base of operations for the annual fund-raising event – and honestly want to make friends of all who stop by their lot.

In fact, Jason said one of the company's goals is to see "more families in RVs at the lakes and rivers with their kids and friends."

Chuck's is located in Paragould at 3301 Linwood Dr., on Hwy. 49 South, and can be reached by calling 870-236-8200 or by trying [chucksrv@gmco.net](mailto:chucksrv@gmco.net). They also have a Facebook page at Chuck's RV Sales.

870.236.8200 | 3301 Linwood Dr. | Paragould, AR | [chucksrvsales.com](http://chucksrvsales.com)



## QUALITY FARM SUPPLY SUPPORTING NEA FARMERS

**Q**uality Farm Supply was started in the 1960s by Bill Hurt, Sr., who owned the John Deere dealership in Jonesboro but was looking for something a little different to serve the business community.

He saw a need for a hard-ag parts supply store where he could be a resource for the hard working farmers of Northeast Arkansas. After building the successful farm parts and hardware store known as Quality Farm Supply, he then left the business to his youngest son, Porter Hurt, who continues to run it today with the help of his daughter, Jessie Hurt.

The hard-working staff continues to provide just that – quality – to its customers and in 2013 ownership expanded the efforts to include a second NEA location, this one located in Trumann.

“We have been in business for over 50 years serving farmers all across the region,” they said. “We are unique because while we do have ‘Big Box’ farm, industrial, and hardware stores in Jonesboro and Trumann, we are the only store that has it all.”

And it’s not just the long list of items available that makes Quality Farm Supply stand out. “Our service is the best of the best,” they said. “You can bring in a rusty old bearing with worn off numbers, and we’ll help you find an exact replacement quickly so you can get back to work.”

It’s that type of know-how and rapid response that helps keep the Quality Farm Supply staff at the top of the list.

“We carry everything from home and shop cleaning supplies, to yard sprayers, to heavy-duty coolers and stainless steel tumblers,” they said, “to hard-ag parts for your planter or combine. We hope to continue being a top resource for farmers in Northeast Arkansas for many generations to come.”

For more information or for help with any ag-related issue, contact Quality Farm Supply in one of these methods:

Jessie Hurt (Head of Marketing / Advertising / Accounting)

Store Phone Numbers:

Jonesboro – 870-935-4622

Trumann – 870-483-6341



870.935.4622 | 2933 Industrial Dr. | Jonesboro, AR | 412 Hwy. 463 N | Trumann, AR

# WAREHOUSE FLOORING

## QUALITY PRODUCTS & PEOPLE

Derek and Lisa Exum at Warehouse Flooring have more than just a retail flooring business going for them.

Heading up a family-owned-and-operated business that has been up and running in the Paragould area for 22 years, the Exums feel it is the personal relationships they have built with customers over the years that sets them apart.

"We've served Northeast Arkansas, Central Arkansas and Southeast Missouri with quality products, services and customer support time and time again. We have all types of flooring options for cash and carry or professionally installed," Derek said. "And we hope to continue to have the one-on-one interaction with owner to customer."

At Warehouse Flooring, the staff – which includes Bradley Wofford, a nephew of the Exums -- helps take the guesswork out of picking the perfect floor for home or office. They are "ready to assist you with finding the right color, pattern, material and style that suits your personal taste."

They have a large selection of quality products in stock in the showroom and offer not only great products but also provide professional installation, remodeling and new construction. They are ready and willing to make changes to a bathroom or add a new backsplash to a kitchen.


Warehouse Flooring has a variety of hardwood, ceramic and vinyl tile, laminate, vinyl and carpet flooring in the showroom and will transform your home or office with comfortable and affordable flooring throughout.

In addition to flooring, their professional installers can help you with creating custom showers, tub surrounds, fireplace surrounds and more. "Our staff can schedule an in-home or in-office visit to give you a free quote based on the project and materials requested," they said.

So, from basic installations to custom builds, Warehouse Flooring can take care of the dirty work for the customer by offering a variety of flooring products and services. "We love helping our neighbors and businesses with their projects both big and small," they said.

Warehouse Flooring was voted by the Paragould Daily Press' readers as their favorite flooring business and is a member of the Paragould/Greene County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The business is located at 1709 N. Campground Road in Paragould and may be reached by phone at (870) 236-1754.



**FLOORS**  
for all of life's little moments.

*Warehouse Flooring*

*"Where the Prices Won't Floor You, but the Selection Will"*

1709 N. Campground Road, Paragould, AR (870) 236-1754

870.236.1754 | 1709 N. Campground Rd. | Paragould, AR



## ADAMS NURSERY GROWING A BUSINESS

While the Adams family has always been a part of Adams Nursery and Landscaping, the official company name has seen a few changes.

Seeing a need for a full service garden center offering landscape services, Neal Adams opened Bushes and Blooms Nursery at 311 Carroll Road in Paragould on March 1 of 1990. The original location is now part of Gazaway Lumber Company.

In August of that same year the nursery expanded and Neal's brother, Steve, joined the business. To better serve the customers, the nursery started growing its own bedding and vegetable plants. When the demand for locally grown plants increased rapidly, the need for additional greenhouse space soon followed.

In 1993 Bushes and Blooms once again considered the needs of its customers by adding a subsidiary called Adams Turf Care. Around the same time, Bushes and Blooms officially became Adams Nursery and Landscaping to add congruency to the business' name and services. When tremendous growth ensued, a larger space was required to house the business.

In 1995, Neal and Steve purchased land and moved the nursery to 215 North 23rd Street, which remains the location of the business today. Adams' landscape services include a custom landscape design, soil amendment, plant and edging installation and mulching. Its turf service treats your lawn to keep the weeds out and promote greener and thicker grass. They are also willing to help you with your DIY landscape project. They have years of experience and like to share what they know.

With the help of the brother's parents -- Rita and Larry Adams -- and Neal's wife Jamie, Adams Nursery and Landscaping has grown into a regional nursery serving Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri.

Contact them by phone at (870) 236-2066, or by Fax at (870) 236-4741.



**Fall Colors That Last All Winter!**



**FLOWERING CABBAGE & KALE**  
**6" pots only \$3.95!**

**Get Ready for Fall with**  
**Flowering Cabbage & Mums!**



**236.2066 | 215 N. 23rd St. | Paragould, AR | [adamsnursery.com](http://adamsnursery.com)**

# HILL TOP SPIRITS

## TOP CUSTOMER SERVICE

Hill Top Spirits will celebrate its fourth birthday as a retail liquor store this month, having opened on October 8 of 2012 in Paragould.

Michael Roleson, President of the business, is also the founder and operates it along with his son, Shawn, who is the Vice-President.

Before opening Hill Top Spirits, the Roleson family built a good reputation in the wholesale beer distributing industry, operating locally for 68 years. Michael's father, Ed Roleson, was the founder of Ed Roleson Jr., Inc., and Michael started working for him in 1963. Shawn joined in with them as a part of the family enterprise in 1997 and they still have the same secretary – Angela Hale – who has been with them since starting to work at Roleson's 33 years ago in the 1980s.

Hill Top Spirits has been at its current location for four years and is proud of the exterior picture it presents, as well as the quality on the inside.

"It's the only liquor store on the north side of Paragould," Michael said, "and the only one with landscaping, and lights up like a Christmas tree at night. We carry a wide variety of craft beer, wines and spirits, and gift cards for that special occasion."

Every Tuesday, Hill Top offers ten percent off on all wines and the employees are "encouraged to help customers find what they are looking for, and help them carry out their products. In the future we hope for more new products, more friendly customer service and – with more homes being built in the area – to hopefully increase our customer base," Michael said.

Hilltop may be reached by calling 870-236-6150, faxing 870-236-1795 or by emailing queries to [hilltopspirits@paragould.net](mailto:hilltopspirits@paragould.net).



**HILLTOPSPIRITS**

**4th Anniversary Celebration!**

870.236.6150  
 9AM - 11PM Monday - Thursday  
 9AM - Midnight Friday & Saturday  
 HWY 49 NORTH, PARAGOULD  
[hilltopspiritsparagould.com](http://hilltopspiritsparagould.com)

- Miller Lite & Coors Light  
30 pack cans \$22.99
- Bud & Bud Light  
30 pack cans \$24.99
- Absolute Citron  
1.75 liter bottle \$32.99
- Captain Morgan Spiced Rum  
1.75 lt. bottle - \$27.79
- Crown Royal Reserve  
1.75 liter bottle \$69.99
- Frio Lt 30 pack \$13.99

Register for a **FREE** Coleman Steel Cooler  
 Winner announced October 7th, 2016



Albert Rudi and Mike Rudi opened up Rudi's Auto Repair in 1976. Eight years later, Mike bought his first wrecker and changed his business to Rudi's Auto repair and wrecker service. Albert's wife, Dorothy, did the office work from 1976 to 2000, when Albert decided to retire.

From there, Mike ran the shop and wreckers with help from his son, Dustin. In 2015 Mike and Dustin became owners of the business together and mostly do towing now. Dustin's wife, Hannah, mostly does office work, but from time to time you will see her out driving a wrecker, too.

"We offer anything from light to heavy duty towing and recovery," the Rudis said. "Over the past year and half we offer mobile mechanic repair on tractor-trailers. We do install batteries on any type of vehicle on site. We would love to continue for our business to keep growing and maybe one day Dustin's son, Willie Rudi, would like to take over the business."

Rudi's Towing has been serving Northeast Arkansas for 40 years. Rudi's owns nine trucks: three heavy duty wreckers, four rollbacks, a small wrecker, and a service truck. Rudi's not only serves Greene County, but over the past year they have added services to take care of Clay and Craighead counties, as well.

The company drivers are wrecker master certified and are required to attend yearly training and continuing education programs. Employees John Roney, Rodney Newman and Randy King help keep the reputation of Rudi's Towing at the top of the heap. "These men enjoy doing what they do and like the challenge of recovering vehicles and working with the local police departments," Rudi said. "It is a passion of Mike's and Dustin's to continue serving Greene County and taking care of their customers night or day."

When it comes to heavy towing, Rudi's has the equipment to handle the job no matter the class of truck. Rudi's Towing does load swaps

and load shifts, site restoration, and minor repairs. They also offer indoor dry storage, forklift services, and private property impounds on class C trucks. Rudi's is Wreck Master certified, Heavy Duty Towing and Recovery certified, and the Miller Industry Heavy Duty Recovery certified.

The medium duty tow trucks are available 24 hours a day and are able to handle all kinds of delivery trucks and school buses. Rudi's Towing also offers medium duty flatbed services for towing forklifts and other types of equipment, continually updating equipment to better provide for customers.

Also, Rudi's provides damage free towing and recovery for all types of passenger cars, SUVs, and light trucks and motorcycles. They tow for all county, city and state law enforcement agencies in Northeast Arkansas and surrounding areas, and also provide private property impounds and service most major motor clubs. They have secure indoor and outdoor storage available at their facilities.

Rudi's Towing is bonded with the city, county and state and is located at 1102 Ward Lane in Paragould. Contact them by phone at 870-236-6410; Fax: 870-236-8908; Email: rudistowing@gmail.com; or check them out on Facebook at Rudi's Towing, Inc.

"We would like to thank Greene County for 40 years of business," they said.



870.236.6410 | 1102 Ward Ln. | Paragould, AR



## DELTA GLASS INVESTING IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

Owner Weston Curtner said glass turned out to be a clear path toward his career goals, explaining how he wound up as owner of Delta Glass. “It all began with my father-in-law, John Simpkins,” he said. “John started working at S&S Glass in Jonesboro in October of 1987. Over the years he worked in all areas of the glass product and service industry for S&S, specializing in automotive glass. In 2005, he began managing the day-to-day storefront operations and carried out that role up through the later part of this past June. This month makes 29 years that John has served Jonesboro and the surrounding areas for automotive, residential, and commercial glass products and services.”

Curtner’s own interest in business led him to earn Bachelor of Science degrees in both Business Administration and Accounting in 2014, and while working helped him developed his skills, he felt owning and operating his own business was all that would truly make him happy. “John knew that I had my heart set on starting my own business,” he said. “In early 2015 he mentioned to me that he had always wanted to start his own glass business. Immediately my wheels began turning, and it occurred to me, this was everything I had been looking for. John was more than capable of carrying out day-to-day operations of a glass service. I knew that the wealth of knowledge and experience he has acquired from 29 years of hard work and dedication in the glass product and service industry of Northeast Arkansas would provide a clear path to a perfect opportunity for us.”

After doing the necessary research and with numerous prayers for guidance from family members, Curtner formed Delta Glass, LLC, in late 2015. “With an unmatched level of support and assistance from both the A-State Small Business and Technology Development Center and First Community Bank in Jonesboro, I was able to secure our location here at 3101 Dan Avenue in Jonesboro,” he said. “First Community Bank allowed me to give the facility a complete renovation to provide a

clean comfortable and appealing storefront showroom and waiting area for our customers. After the renovation process we were able to open for business just before the holiday on June 27, 2016. We have assembled a team of highly skilled glass installers who share our passion for quality and excellent customer service.”

Curtner said he and Simpkins hope to provide the highest quality of product and service possible to all of their customers, focusing on consistent attention to detail, adamant pursuit of quality assurance, disciplined efficiency in everyday tasks, and most of all a sincere desire to serve the community’s glass needs. They provide a wide array of glass products and services amongst automotive, residential, and commercial glass categories. The most common automotive products and services include: windshield repair (rock chips), windshield replacement, tempered automotive glass replacement (door glass and





rear windows), automotive mirror replacement, and window regulator and motor repair. Residential glass products and services include: table tops, cabinet door glass, mirrors, custom shower enclosures, plate windows, and insulated glass window repair and replacement. Commercial products and services include: storefront glazing, curtain walls, teller windows, drive-thru windows, and tempered insulated glass window repair and replacement.

“One of the most unique features of Delta Glass is a constant desire to improve our level of service to our customers,” he said. “One way we are already striving to do so is through investment in equipment and technology to produce insulated glass units locally at our facility. We are currently the only glass service provider in Northeast Arkansas that has this capability. Production of these units in-house allows us to more effectively control the quality of the insulated glass units that we are providing to the customer. In-house production also serves as a competitive advantage over our competition. Provided we have the material in stock, which we strive to do, we can produce an insulated glass unit in hours that our competitors have to order and wait weeks for. This rapid process allows us to serve the customer more quickly with a higher quality product than any of our competition at equal or lesser cost.”

Call 870-520-6290 for more information, or visit [www.deltaglassllc.com](http://www.deltaglassllc.com) or find them on Facebook.



870.520.6290 | 3101 Dan Ave. | Jonesboro, AR



## LARRY'S AUTO SALES

FOCUSED ON QUALITY SERVICE & VEHICLES

**L**arry's Auto Sales of Paragould, Inc., has been in business since 1997 and they like to say they are centered around family and friends. "We count our customers as friends," they said.

Larry Breckenridge has been the owner of the used car sales and service since its inception, and got his start in the auto business in 1976. His wife, Flossie, and son, Corey, run one of the two Larry's locations. Business at the main lot is directed by daughter Annette Drew and grandson Matthew Drew, and they can be found at 1910 Purcell Road; Lot 2 is located at 3519 Hwy. 49 North, where you will be greeted by Flossie and Corey.

Larry's Auto Sales is driven by customer service and is focused on its clients. Serving Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri, they strive to provide customers with friendly quality services and vehicles. Larry's offer 0% interest financing as well as layaway. They provide a free warranty on most vehicles and boast a top-notch buying experience aimed at providing great deals on quality vehicles.

"With two car lots full of various pre-owned vehicles with price ranges suitable for working individuals with little or no credit, we guarantee you'll find a vehicle that fits your budget," they said. "We offer a family-friendly buying experience and quality clean, pre-owned inventory of 350-plus units."

Larry's also sells RVs, ATVs, motorcycles, campers, boats, farm equipment and more with one of the largest selections in the Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri area. Larry's Auto Sales works with customers to provide reasonable prices on all vehicles and says, "We hope to serve Northeast Arkansas for many, many years to come."

Call 870-239-9328 to reach the sales team at Lot 1 (Fax number is 870-239-5293) or 870-215-0320 for Lot 2 (Fax number is 870-236-2607) to learn more.



# LARRY'S AUTO SALES



870 · 239 · 9328

INCORPORATED

**BUYING THAT  
WON'T SCARE!**



'08 Lexus ES 350



'09 Chevy Traverse LTZ  
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4x4

'02 Toyota Camry  
auto



**CARS TRUCKS RVs MOTORCYCLES  
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND MORE!**

3 MONTH/3,000 MILE WARRANTY\* CONVENIENT LAYAWAY  
350+ VEHICLES NO INTEREST FINANCING  
LOW WEEKLY PAYMENTS WITH YOUR DOWN PAYMENT

# LARRY'S AUTO SALES

HIGHWAY 49 NORTH - ACROSS FROM MONROE - (870) 239-9328

#2 - HIGHWAY 49 NORTH - AT THE CITY LIMITS - (870) 215-0320

LarrysAutoSalesOfParagouldInc.com



# SDM PAWN

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF PAWN SHOP

Stacey McBride and Mike Bomar have been at SDM Pawn in Paragould since the doors first opened in 2002. Prior to that, SDM was doing business as a car lot (since 1996), but the opportunity to expand into other areas presented itself and the two have turned the business into a successful enterprise for pawning, selling or buying products.

“We try to change the persona of a pawn shop,” Stacey said. “We try to make it comfortable for every person, regardless of income or stature.” SDM offers a wide range of items for its customers. It has more than 500 guns – new and used – in stock and boasts a huge music department with equipment and various other needs for musicians of all ages.

In addition to new model electronics, SDM has motorcycles, ATVs, tools and various unique items too numerous to mention. Not only do they sell computers, SDM has technicians on staff who can help you with your buying inquiries and needs. Laptop or desktop, new computer or old, PC or Mac, it doesn’t matter; whatever the brand or

issue, they encourage shoppers to bring their computers in for top-notch advice.

SDM has a great variety of electronics for gamers as well, from high-speed laptops to major gaming consoles like Xbox, Play Station, Wii, and more.

If it’s jewelry items you’re looking for, SDM has a large selection of watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, charms, bridal and engagement, and estate jewelry to choose from.

For the handy man, SDM is willing to make tremendous trades for tools and tool belts of all kinds – residential, commercial, power tools of almost all makes and models can be found on the shelves.

Currently located at 129 East Park Street, SDM will soon be moving into a new and bigger location just across the street from the present building. SDM may be reached by calling 870-236-1987; on its Facebook page SDM Pawn Gun & Music; or via email at [admin@sdmpawn.com](mailto:admin@sdmpawn.com).

### NEW LOCATION COMING SOON!



### 870.236.1987 | 129 E. Park St. | Paragould, AR



# HOMETOWN EMPLOYMENT

## HELPING FIND JOBS FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEA

**D**iane Culver opened Hometown Employment Agency in April of 2013, following up on a desire to own her own business.

“My parents were my major support in opening Hometown Employment,” she said. “They encouraged me to follow my dreams and convinced me I could do anything I set my mind to. They are my best friends as well as advisors and guides.”

Diane’s daughter Emily serves as Director of Operations and works full-time in the office. Another daughter, Claire, works part-time, doing clerical work in the office as well.

“It is so awesome to have my family involved in the business with me,” Diane said. “My other daughter, Danielle, is in Florida at college right now but, hopefully, she will join the Hometown Employment team when she returns from college.”

Diane said the business has served the Northeast Arkansas area for almost four years and thinks it has a unique approach in that “we are locally owned and operated. We have no corporate headquarters outside the Northeast Arkansas area,” she explained. “Every dollar spent with us stays right here in our community. Our prices are very good and we care about people!”

She said providing quality employees for the workforce is a boon to the local economy.

“We want to make our community a better place by finding people the right jobs and finding the right people for jobs,” she said. “At Hometown Employment, we treat people like family. We care about our citizens and truly want to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors and friends.”

Future plans for Hometown Employment are much the same as today’s ... helping people find jobs and helping employers find the right people for their job openings.

“We hope to continue to serve and to be a difference maker in our community for many years to come,” Diane said. “We have been voted Paragould’s favorite staffing agency by both the Premiere Magazine and the Paragould Daily Press since we opened in 2013. We are honored to be your favorite staffing agency and want you to know you are so very important to us as well. We appreciate our community and love serving you. Please come by and see us.”

Hometown Employment is located at 1801 W Kingshighway, Suite 11, in Paragould and may be reached by phone at (870) 215-0555.

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TODAY!**

870.215.0555 | 1801 W. Kingshighway, Suite 11 | Paragould, AR



# GLEN SAIN MOTOR SALES TURNING EMPLOYEES INTO FAMILY

**G**len Sain Motor Sales started in Rector in 1954 by Glen Sain and R.C. Tracer.

Danny Ford went to work for Glen Sain (his father-in-law) in 1972 after he graduated from Arkansas State University. Danny, and his wife, Gail Ford bought the dealership from Glen and Neda Sain in 1983.

Then they purchased Blackwell-Baldwin Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-Cadillac in Kennett, Missouri, in 1989. Next was the purchase of Harold Perkins Buick-GMC in 1999 and they consolidated the two dealerships into the current Glen Sain Chevrolet-Cadillac-Buick-GMC in Kennett. In 2005 Danny and Gail purchased Pannell Ford in Paragould. It is now Glen Sain Ford, Inc. on Hwy 49 in Paragould. Then in 2007 they bought

Horner Motor Company – Buick - GMC- Cadillac in Paragould and Tom Kirk Chevrolet from Tom and Teresa Kirk in 2010. They consolidated those two dealerships into the current Glen Sain, Inc. located at 6345 Hwy 49 South in Paragould.

Family members in the business are Danny Ford – he is in contact with all four dealerships during the week. His sons, Kirk and Todd, are also in daily contact with management at all four dealerships. That is how they keep everyone working together.

All of their managers have access to inventory and service at all dealerships. Joey Pruett is parts manager for all four dealerships and has been with Glen Sain Motor Sales for 32 years. Mike Benson, Service Operations Manager at all four dealerships, has been with the company for 26 years.

“We feel like all of our people at Glen Sain are our families,” Danny said. “We have a cookout lunch for each dealership once a quarter for all employees – Mike Benson does the cooking and our people enjoy that time very much.”

Glen Sain employees are also advocates for supporting military troops and first responders. “We have recognized our troops through print, TV, and radio advertising and we also have a cookout for veterans each Veterans Day,” Danny said. “This year, we had a cookout for first responders at all four dealerships. It was a huge success. We are making that an annual event – starting next year on September 11th – a day we all remember.”

Glen Sain sponsors three American Legion baseball teams in the area, along with many other youth sports teams in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri.

“At Glen Sain, it is not just about selling cars and trucks – it is about building relationships, helping in the community, our people being involved, and helping others,” Danny said.





*"God Bless  
Our Troops"*



# Glen Sain

**6345 HWY 49 SOUTH**  
**Paragould, AR 72450**  
**(870)236-8503**  
**1-866-531-8503**

**HWY 49 North**  
**Paragould, AR 72450**  
**(870)236-8546**  
**1-866-296-8554**

**421 E. 9th Street**  
**Rector, AR 72461**  
**(871)595-3563**  
**1-800-358-8690**

**1607 Independence Ave**  
**Kennett, MO 63857**  
**(573)888-1972**  
**1-800-871-0691**



## CHOCOLATE CHOO CHOO CANDY & FUDGE FOR ANY SWEET TOOTH

The Chocolate Choo Choo has been in business in Paragould for just over a year now and the results have been really sweet for the proprietors.

The candy and fudge store in Downtown Paragould is run by owners Greg and Barbara Stokes – with help from their children – and they are more than willing to accommodate the sweet tooth of any and all who walk through their door.

Catering to his love of the historic look of downtown areas, Greg decided he wanted to open a store in just such a setting and the candy-fudge offerings just seemed to be a good fit locally. The couple’s willingness to promote family activities is another reason they seem to thrive.

“Our service to the community is to offer a fun, family oriented place to visit and get a sweet treat,” Barbara said. “Something for everybody from young to old. The future looks bright as more people discover our fanciful delights.

“Ours is the only ‘old-fashioned’ candy and fudge store in Northeast Arkansas,” Barbara said, “offering over three hundred kinds of candy, and preparing fresh fudge daily.”

A trip inside the store reveals shelves lined with colorful wrappers advertising the candy items ready for purchase, from the ones Baby Boomers enjoyed “back in the day” and haven’t even thought about for years, to the current favorites of young and old alike. There are bins full of candy items ready to be scooped up and weighed, just as a shopper can find familiar names like Laffy Taffy, Charms Pop, Pop Rocks, Air Heads, Hubba Bubba, M&M, Tootsie Rolls, Rock Candy and more. There’s popcorn, Red Hots, Valomilks, Chicklets, jelly beans ... you name it, there’s a chance you can find it, but it’s the incredible fudge that draws so many of the rave reviews from the

cliente. Just the names of some of the flavors are enticing to potential shoppers: Red Velvet, Heath English Toffee Vanilla, Cinnamon Crumb Cake, Cookies and Cream, Chocolate Cheese Cake, Chocolate Mint, Raspberry, Black Walnut, Strawberry Shortcake ... you get the idea.

The Chocolate Choo Choo also has specialty items for holidays and special dates on the calendar.

Paragould’s own little “step back in time” is located at 217 South Pruet Street and may be reached by calling 870-573-8103 or by looking up Chocolate Choo Choo on Facebook.



870.573.8103 | 217 S. Pruet St. | Paragould, AR





Party season is right around the corner so we have gathered some tips to help you with your next event.

From picking a venue to decorating and the all important , FOOD, use this guide to check off and party with ease!



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WEDDINGS

## Theme and Décor

Pick a fun theme that is easy to pull through as many aspects of your party as possible. Remember the “KISS” principle: Keep it simple stupid. Your choice affects many other choices such as invitations, décor, paper goods, food choices and even what your guest will wear.

Office parties for the holidays do not have to be the same ole same. Think of fun themes like holiday movies or hold the party for your employees’ kids instead of the adults.

## Venue

The venue will depend on the size and theme of the party. When discussing venue options remember to ask what is included in the quoted price. Are there tables and chairs? Do you have access to a kitchen? What about linens, dishes? Find out what time you can get in to decorate and by what time do you have to be out.

If the venue does not include items you need, a party rental company can help you with the basics like tables and chairs as well as all the frills from linens to dishes and décor.

## Food

Deciding on what food to serve again goes back to the theme but you should also consider the time of day you have your event. Caterers use terms like: light or heavy appetizers, full buffet or plated meals. If your event falls over a major mealtime then your guests are likely to expect to have some food provided.

Talk with your caterer about your theme and timeframe and the objective of the experience of the event. They need to know if it is fun and casual, formal and intended to impress or if the food is expected to be the center of attention or not.

When it comes to liquid refreshments there are again many choices. Your choice will go back to the theme and purpose as well as time of the event. If you plan to serve alcohol it is popular to have a signature drink that makes a statement about the event or those throwing it.



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## Fun

Your event purpose may determine the entertainment activities but try to think out of the box.

Office Holiday ideas:

Promote philanthropy at your office party by drawing names with instructions to purchase a toy that reminds the buyer of the co-worker's name they drew. All the toys are then donated to a charity.

Or, if your company culture merits doing so, instruct them to purchase an alcoholic beverage that has a name that reminds them of the co-worker's name they drew.

Friends/Family Holiday Parties

Of course you can go with the "Ugly Christmas Sweater" party or for new twist bake sweater shaped cookies and have a decorating the "Ugliest Christmas Sweater Cookie" contest. Post them on Facebook and let your friends vote on the winner.



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Company Events Family Gatherings

# TASTE OF THE RIDGE

Gina Jarrett of Main Street Paragould termed the initial Taste of the Ridge a rousing success, and thanked all who helped sponsor, work and attend the food tasting event.

After all the sampling was done, winners in the various events were:

**Appetizer ...**

CHOW at 118 -- Ciabatta Toasts with Pimento Cheese & Bacon Jam and Beer Cheese Puffs

**Salad ...**

Downtown Gypsy -- Gypsy Salad

**Entrée ...**

Chow at 118 -- Shrimp & Grits

**Dessert ...**

Something Sweet -- Mini Cupcakes and Apple Caramel Cake

**Presentation ...**

CHOW at 118

Pianist Tom Marsh entertained at the event and wine and beer were served by representatives of MOR Media.

Proceeds from "Taste of the Ridge" will be used to help fund the many services provided by Main Street Paragould.





# GET RICH

with Richard Brummett

**I**t was well past time for me to join the world of modern telephones and I knew it but the fact was driven home when my cousin, unaware I still resided in the Stone Age rather than the Phone Age, sent a photo to me. It depicted the hotel where family members were going to gather before attending a funeral, and in order for me to try and read the information contained therein I actually found myself holding a magnifying glass over the tiny screen on my flip phone ... to no avail.

I forwarded the photo/message to my wife and asked her to read it on her "real" phone and tell me what it said; that's when I decided maybe it was time to move up a few levels telephonically.

The family had a good plan. It was time for my wife and daughter to do something called an upgrade, so when my spouse moved on to a more expensive and complicated piece of machinery I would in turn inherit her Smartphone and all would be well with the world. So, on my birthday of all days, my wife, daughter, son-in-law and I walked through the door of the phone store to make me a bona fide member of the new world. For some reason, I pictured the phone-buying process the way it would have transpired back in my day – which we now apparently refer to as "olden times." When I was a phone buyer, it went like this: I walked in, looked at the phones and said to the salesman, "I'll take that one."

He went to the cash register and said back to me, "That'll be \$42."

I went home, plugged the phone into the wall jack and in about 15 minutes was talking to one of my friends.

Now that we have progressed as a society, it went like this: I spent more than two hours in a store full of stuff I absolutely did not recognize and listened to conversation that could have originated on the planet Googly Moogly. While the women went to shop for their new phones, I sat at a table with my son-in-law and a salesboy who looked to be about old enough to have just finished his nap at the daycare center. While they traded words like apps, G7, gigs and quad-core processor, I occasionally raised my eyebrows and nodded my head in approval just the same as I would if I were in the Metropolitan Museum of Art listening to someone critique a painting by Renoir before backing away to look at a picture of a flower.

"You do realize I haven't understood a single word of this conversation?" I said as I left the table and meandered over to the display of headphones, which was the only thing I recognized in a store full of I-pads or P-pads or pixel thingies. The women had finally made their selections and Doogie Howser began transferring information from their old phones onto their new ones through some magical process concocted by the wizard Merlin, and once that task was completed everyone turned to me as if I were supposed to know something.


I didn't.

Apparently, any old fool would have known to bring his old phone with him so something called his "contacts" could be moved over to his wife's old phone; no one told me that. All I heard was, "Cindy's getting a new phone and you can have her old one." That sounded simple enough and I was more than ready to get it over with and get down to the business of celebrating me and my birth. In fact, while everyone around the table frowned at me and shook their heads in disbelief, I reminded them that the only question I had felt secure in asking our salesboy was, "I don't guess you sell birthday cake here, do you?"

I told them that as party planners go they could use a lot of work, but I accepted the new phone – which is about the size of the plastic tray I ate my lunches on at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School -- and put it in my back pocket. I reiterated that I had no idea how to work the thing, and my daughter said, "Don't worry; we'll put it on 'Easy' mode for you."


Well, now I feel better. I was just placed in the remedial telephone class and my new phone is so heavy I had to tighten my belt to keep my pants up. I went ahead and put in my bid for next year's birthday party, when maybe we can go look at vacuum cleaners or potato peelers. At least I know how to work them and won't have to bring my old one with me in order to get a new one.

*You're Invited for Coffee*



Join us for coffee during National Business Women's Week  
**Tuesday, October 18th from 8:30am-10:30am** as we honor  
**Deanna Harris, Computer Support Analyst from the ASU  
 College of Nursing and Health Professors, as**

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# HAPPENINGS

## 1. Paragould Civitan

Paragould Civitan was recently awarded the DuPont Pioneer Grant worth \$5,000 for its work with special needs of Greene County. Proceeds of this grant will go toward continuing events hosted by Paragould Civitan, such as Miracle Rodeo, Christmas Party with Santa and gifts for Greene County Tech, Paragould, and Marmaduke schools self contained classrooms, Special Olympics lunch for participants and volunteers, Summer Book Bag Program, supplies for Back Pack Programs at GCT, Paragould, and Marmaduke schools, and various other special request needs in the county. One of the biggest accomplishments to date is handicap accessible playground equipment at Harmon Park in Paragould. Pictured from left are: Toni Etheredge, Joyce Sullivan, Melissa Cobb, Kassie Phillips (2015-16 President), Blake Phillips, Steve Kerns (DuPont Representative), Debbie Smith, Mary Crawford (grant writer), Kristen Hailey, Tammy Hailey, and Kathy Carr.



## 2. Broadcaster of the Year

KAIT-TV's Chief Meteorologist Ryan Vaughan was honored with the 2016 Broadcaster of The Year Award at the National Weather Association's annual meeting in Norfolk, VA. "KAIT Chief Meteorologist Ryan Vaughan winning the NWA Broadcaster of the Year is really no surprise to those of us in Region 8. Ryan gives continuously to the community he serves and takes his role at the station to heart. You will never meet a more caring individual than you will in Ryan," said KAIT News Director Josh White. "Thank you, everyone. It's an honor to be named the 2016 National Weather Association's Broadcaster of the year. There are many broadcasters that are great at their job. I'm just fortunate to have someone nominate me that saw my passions on and off of the TV," said Vaughan. He has been a part of KAIT and Raycom Media for over 15 years. He is a full member of the American Meteorological Society, the National Weather Association and also holds the NWA Seal of Approval.



## 3. GC Single Parent Scholarship

The Greene County Single Parent Scholarship board presented 18 scholarships in September at Bancorp South in Paragould. The board presented the checks after a barbeque meal catered by Iron Horse. Those who could attend brought family — children, parents, and grandparents.

The goal of Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship statewide is to help single mothers and fathers achieve education to reach their dreams and support their families. Organizations like the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Entergy, and the United Way have supported Single Parent Scholarships with grants. Locally, First National Bank, Kiwanis, Shelton Sanitation and many individuals donate to make a difference in the community.

Students receiving the scholarships (\$500 this semester, \$1,000 for the year) go to a variety of schools in the area including Black River Technical College, Arkansas State University Newport-Jonesboro, and Arkansas State University, as well as online options.

This year's recipients include:

Jerra Bynum, Caitlin Cooper, Jordan Curtis, Jamie Gill, Chris Johnson, April Mancias, Libby Shaw, Cheyanne Shearer and the following named scholars:

ADHE Scholars:

Jodi Brownfiel  
Veronica Hernandez  
Michelle Hernandez  
Jennifer Jackson  
Callie Wilson



Entergy Scholar:

Brandon Lee

First National Bank:

Sara Brogdon

Kiwanis:

Kassie Allen

Tammy Cuadra

Shelton Sanitation:

Candy Mosley

The GCSPS board -- Greg Slayton President, Sharon Grogan Vice-President, Linda Mobley Treasurer, Joan Linnstaedter Secretary, Brad Baine, Kelly Clayton, Shawwna Gassaway, Lindsay Rippy, Mike Weaver and Stephanie Woods -- planned the dinner and check presentation.

For anyone interested in learning more about GCSPS, visit the website <http://www.aspsf.org/> or contact a board member.

# October

## 2016 Kids' Events

**5, 12, 19, 26**

### Story Time

**When:** Wednesdays, 10:30 AM  
**Where:** 120 North 12th Street, Paragould  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [www.mylibrarynow.org](http://www.mylibrarynow.org)

**14**

### Science is Electic

**When:** Friday, 12:30 PM  
**Where:** ASU Museum  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [www.astate.edu](http://www.astate.edu)

**4, 11, 18, 25**

### Legos: Rock the Blocks

**When:** Tuesdays, 4:00 PM  
**Where:** 315 W Oak, Ave., Jonesboro  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [www.libraryinjonesboro.org](http://www.libraryinjonesboro.org)

Rachel Stracener took a pleasant trip on one of the many rides at the NEA District Fair. Rachel, 5, is the daughter of Lee and Marci Stracener of Jonesboro.



# October

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 01

**What:** Greene County Master Gardeners' Fall Tree, Shrub, Climber Sale

**When:** Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Where:** Centennial Park, Downtown Paragould

**Info:** Sales support the efforts of the Master Gardeners to help beautify Paragould.

### 06

**What:** 3rd Annual NEA Baptist Women's Day

**When:** Thursday, October 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Where:** NEA Baptist Clinic lobby, 4802 E. Johnson Ave. in Jonesboro

**Info:** The free event will include screenings such as 3D mammogram vouchers (to those who qualify), blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and BMI. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call 870-936-0262.

### 07

**What:** The Addams Family

**When:** Friday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

**Info:** Musical production by the Greene County Fine Arts Council

**What:** Arkansas Science Festival

**When:** Friday, October 7

**Where:** Arkansas State University College of Sciences and Mathematics

**Info:** Event dates and times vary and will be updated as they are finalized.

**What:** Science Fun Night & Mad Scientist Glo Run

**When:** Friday, October 7

**Where:** Arkansas State University College of Sciences and Mathematics. Science Fun Night will start at 6:30 p.m. and the run will begin at 7:30 p.m.

**What:** Mobius Trio

**When:** Friday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Fowler Center, Arkansas State University

**Info:** Mobius Trio, guitarists Robert Nance, Mason Fish, and Matthew Holmes-Linder. Their mission is to fully integrate the classical guitar into the 21st century's musical lexicon.

### 08

**What:** The Addams Family

**When:** Friday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

**Info:** Musical production by the Greene County Fine Arts Council

### 09

**What:** The Addams Family

**When:** Friday, October 7, 2 p.m.

**Where:** Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

**Info:** Musical production by the Greene County Fine Arts Council

**What:** Sunset Kayak Tour

**When:** Sunday, October 9, 6 p.m.

**Where:** Lake Frierson State Park

**Info:** \$12 per participant. Join park staff to paddle beautiful Lake Frierson, learning about the lake and finishing the evening with a beautiful sunset and a Dutch oven snack. The fee includes the tour and a Dutch oven treat. Participants must be at least 12 years old and physically strong enough to paddle themselves.

### 14

**What:** MatheMagic! Starring Bradley Fields

**When:** Friday, October 14, 11 a.m. (Schools); 7 p.m. (Community)

**Where:** ASU Jonesboro Fowler Center

**Info:** Magician and educator Bradley Fields captivates school-age audiences with his magic illusions. His show promotes math skills and problem solving through visuals, history, language and world-class entertainment. For info contact the Fowler Center.

### 16

**What:** Dinosaurs: Fossils Exposed

**When:** Sunday, October 16-April 30

**Where:** Arkansas State University Museum

**Info:** "Dinosaurs: Fossils Exposed" explores the bones and fossils belonging to the giant creatures that once roamed the Earth. Go to [astate.edu/museum](http://astate.edu/museum) or call 870-972-2074 for information.

**What:** The Magic of David Garrard

**When:** Friday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Fowler Center, Arkansas State University

**Info:** David's unique mix of magic and music has made him popular with audiences. For more information, visit [www.davidgarrardmagic.com](http://www.davidgarrardmagic.com)

### 21

**What:** Denise Donatelli Quintet

**When:** Friday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Fowler Center, ASU

**Info:** Denise Donatelli is a multi Grammy®-nominated jazz vocalist alternating between jazz and adult contemporary music.

**What:** The Diva Show

**When:** Friday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

### 23

**What:** Scarecrow Workshop

**When:** Sunday, October 23, 6 p.m.

**Where:** Lake Frierson State Park

**Info:** Admission: \$15. Join park staff as they teach you to make your very own scarecrow. Bring clothes to stuff and they provide the rest! Space is limited and reservations are required.

### 24

**What:** KASU's Bluegrass Monday

**When:** Monday, October 24, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

**Info:** Breaking Grass performs.

### 28

**What:** Ken Wadley and Friends

**When:** Friday, October 28, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Collins Theatre, Downtown Paragould

**What:** Sunset Kayak Tour

**When:** Friday, October 28, 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Lake Frierson State Park

**Info:** \$12 per participant. The fee includes the tour and a Dutch oven treat. Participants must be at least 12 years old.

**What:** Volunteer Work Day

**When:** Friday, October 28, 5 p.m.

**Where:** Crowley's Ridge State Park

**Info:** At the CCC pavilion ... calling all volunteers! Crowley's Ridge State Park will need a lot of volunteers for our annual Ghosts, Legends, and the Unexplained Halloween. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the park interpreter at (870) 573-6351 as soon as possible.

**What:** Ghosts, Legends and the Unexplained

**When:** Friday, October 28, 5 p.m.

**Where:** Crowley's Ridge State Park

**Info:** Free admission. Meet at the CCC pavilion. There will be a charge for the hayride and picture booth station. For further information, contact the visitor center at (870) 573-6751.



# 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](mailto: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.

**Every Second Thursday:** Alzheimer's Support Group with the Alzheimer's Arkansas Association and Home Helpers Senior Care, 1:00 PM at Chateau on the Ridge.

**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.

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

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# WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS



## *Barringer & Brown*

Crystal Barringer and Dayton Brown have announced their plans for an October wedding ceremony.

Crystal is the daughter of Lynnette Barringer of Paragould, and Darrin and Cheryl Barringer of Yorkville, Illinois.

Dayton's parents are Linda and Robert Brown of Leland, Illinois. The couple will be married October 3 in Rector.



## *Maxwell & Mooneyham*

Mandy Renee Maxwell and Benjamin Robert Mooneyham have announced their plans for an October wedding ceremony.

Mandy is the daughter of Galen and Deborah Maxwell of Earle.

Benjamin is the son of Robert and Alice Mooneyham of Paragould.

The wedding is scheduled for October 15th, at Cedar Ridge Venue.

# BIRTHS

## *Layne Joshua Crossno*

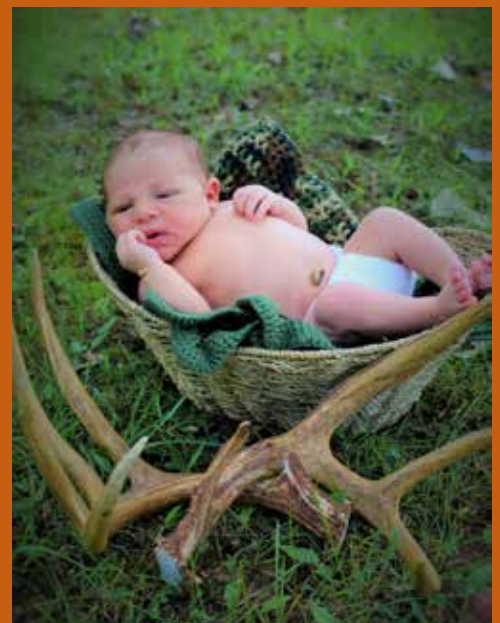
Logan and Diedra Crossno of Paragould announce the birth of a son, Layne Joshua Crossno.

Born August 17 at NEA Baptist Hospital, the baby weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.

He has a brother, Jax Crossno.

Grandparents are Ron and Nancy Robinson, Retha Kappelman, Jeff and Chevonna Rousseau, and Lavaughn and Cyndi Crossno.

Photo by Wendy Dunigan Photography



# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month

## Adoption



In November, Premiere will take a look at the practice of adoption, examining the need in Northeast Arkansas for more families willing to give a home to a child. Be sure to read the feature from people who have seen the practice at work from both ends of the spectrum.

## Thanksgiving



No November issue would be complete without some form of Thanksgiving story, and Premiere writers will come up with some we're sure you will enjoy.

## Veterans Day



November is also the month hosting Veterans Day and one of the features we'll present centers around the Wounded Warriors softball team, a group that travels the country sharing their stories with any and all who care to listen.

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