

PREMIERE

July
2018

AMERICA STRONG

Chad Overman

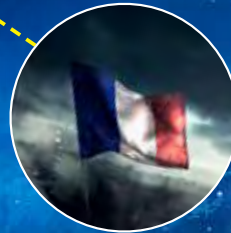
SUPPORTING AMERICA
PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS
PARAGOULD PREMIERE AWARDS

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AUGUST – DECEMBER, 2018

- **AMATEUR ARTISTS IN AUGUST** Aug 18
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- **MARLSGATE PLANTATION** September 27
SCOTT, AR
- **NEW YORK** October 26-29
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Shopping in the Big Apple
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- **LES MISERABLES** December 1
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CONTENTS

22 AMMC Auxiliary

Awards Scholarships

26 Shop Local Park

Gamble Home

28 Angel Run

Benefit of Arkansas Children's Hospital

30 Patriotic Holidays

What's The Difference?

32 Chad Overman

Local Veteran Supporting America

38 2018 Paragould Awards

On The Cover: Chad Overman
Photo By: Amy Reeves Photography



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From The PUBLISHER... DINA MASON

July may be my favorite edition even though it is challenging to get our largest one to press on time; patriotism is high on my favorite list. This edition allows me to showcase not just the veteran aspect of patriotism but my all-year-round passion to focus attention on “Shop Local” and “Buy American”. I have a hierarchy of shopping: buy from an advertiser, buy from a local Downtown shop, buy from a local store, buy American when I can. Even if I have to buy online -- which I try not to do -- I look for a locally owned business that has an online site. I try not to take for granted that these are the businesses that support our tax base that provides for our schools, roads and infrastructure (like that high speed Internet you use to buy online!). I know it is not easy, but my Granny always said, “Most things that are easy aren’t worth having or lead to no good.”

Our cover story combines the service to country by having served in the military and by opening an “American Made General Store” store in Pocahontas. Chad Overman served in the Persian Gulf and now works to help Americans help themselves by buying American-made products. He has gathered many products and is making it easier to shop by having so many items that are on your list of necessities and at good prices. You will be able to

support the cause without breaking your budget and will want to check out the store after you read his story.

Showing patriotism is always admirable but sometimes we may not know exactly which group the holiday is honoring. Our new graphics designer has put together an article to help you out on page 26, with information of the who and why of each patriotic holiday.

With so much talk of “shopping” you won’t want to miss the perfect list of local award-winning businesses starting on page 33 in our Paragould Premiere Awards. Our Premiere readers have voted and these Paragould businesses have been rewarded by being named Premiere in their categories. Keep this edition around (or you can always find it in our archives on premiere-magazine.com) and you will have the recommendations of Premiere readers when you “Shop Local.”

Of course, our regulars are all ready to celebrate too! Enjoy, and thank you for doing your part in spreading the word of the “Good News and the People who are making it happen” by reading and passing around Premiere Magazine.

Glen Sain Ford

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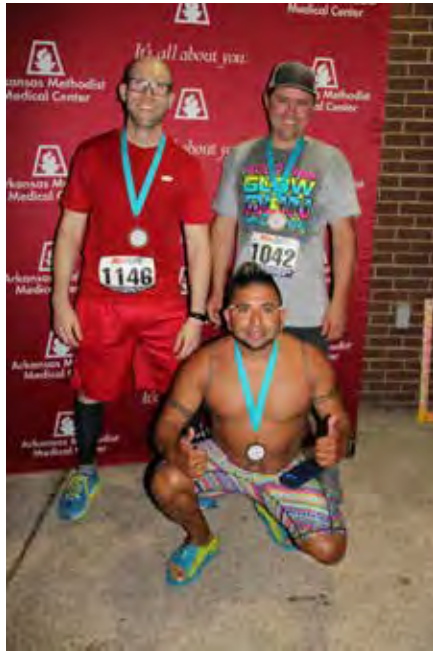
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AMMC DIABETES GLOW RUN

The 4,000 Steps for Diabetes Glow Run in Paragould hosted by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center was an opportunity to raise awareness about diabetes, a disease that touches every family. Through donations, individuals could honor persons currently managing the disease or remember those who succumbed to diabetes-related complications.

Thanks to everyone for taking the time to participate and support a worthy cause. The final total count was a record 394 registered people. What a night! We hope to see everyone again next year and hopefully break the 400 uncharted territory.



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- Do not leave pets unsupervised near pools
- Shave down to one-inch length, never to skin
- Don't allow them to linger on hot asphalt
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- NEVER leave in a parked vehicle



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NEA ARTS

INKFLIKTED TATTOOS & PIERCINGS

JACK DAVIS & LINCOLN TANSIL

By Caitlin LaFarlette

The art of tattooing has evolved in a short amount of time — along with misconceptions about the trade — and two local artists strive to continue that evolution.

Jack Davis, owner of InkFlikted Tattoos and Piercings in Paragould, began tattooing professionally around 2008 but took his first leap into the world at 15 years old. After receiving a tattoo of his then-girlfriend's initials, he took the motor out of a toy car to construct his own machine.

"I've been going ever since," he said.

In that time, Davis has racked up nearly 300 tattoos on himself, everything from Spongebob to his favorite of his children's names. His journey began, however, with tattooing his friends "just to make it hurt" before truly getting into the hobby for the art. He now gravitates to bold, thick lines and colorful pieces, while trying to remain realistic about what he can do for a client.

"People think we're magicians but you can only do so much," he said, explaining that sometimes ink bleeds or a client's mock-up could be too big for the desired area.

Davis holds a strong sense of integrity when it comes to tattooing. He rarely books facial tattoos and has a policy of not tattooing below the elbow on clients under 21 years old.

"I'm trying to think of their future," he said. "As much as tattoos are in the mainstream now, people look down on them."

Lincoln Tansil, an artist at InkFlikted, said people may misunderstand tattooing but the art has evolved so much, such as techniques that have brought the craft into an age of fine lines and realism. Tansil, 24, has expanded his own technique from only drawing in black and gray, to tattooing in color as well. After three years at InkFlikted he continues to aim for a more common social acceptance for tattoos, along with Davis.

"I'd like for more people to accept people getting tattoos," Davis said. "There's more people with tattoos than without."

He also added how important it is for areas to not become oversaturated in tattooing, as it diminishes the meaning.

"It's a social status thing and that's not what it's about," he said.

"I think people here misunderstand tattoos," Tansil added. "Tattoos have been used for religious reasons and I feel like a lot of people look down upon it because of religion. It's one thing you can take with you when you're gone. You can't take material things and it's something you'll have forever."



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CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education
Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

They have a face only a mother could love. They are considered bottom-feeders, trash fish or a throw away catch by many anglers above the Mason-Dixon Line. They were even termed “unclean” in the Old Testament Law given to the Hebrews in Leviticus 9. But for me and many other Southerners the catfish is a prized catch, whether on the end of a rod or on the table alongside some hushpuppies.

Catfish are one of the most popular sport fishes in the Natural State. They are very accessible and found in most all waters of the state whether it be rivers, lakes, streams, ditches or ponds. Catfish are most often willing to bite, sometimes when nothing else will, and provide a good tug on the line when hooked. The end result of a pan of hot, golden catfish tops off the fun of catching them.

There are three main species of catfish that anglers are searching for on the waters of our state. Blue catfish are the largest and the state record for blue catfish checks in at a little over 116 pounds and came from the Mississippi River in 2001. Blues can be caught in many bodies of water but prefer the more open lakes and larger rivers of our state. Flathead catfish are a favorite for many anglers as they are prized for their quality on the table. They are found in larger lakes and rivers, but are also very common in smaller rivers.

The flathead likes to make his home around logjams, trees, rocks and other structures which he uses as an ambush point for live prey. The channel catfish is the most common catfish in Arkansas. The state record sits at 38 pounds, but most channels

that are caught are in the one- to three-pound range. It is also the species that is most often served at restaurants and raised by fish farmers. There are other species of catfish that are pursued as well, but the bulk of the fishermen are pursuing one of the three listed above.

Catfishing can be fishing in its simplest form. A hook and a sinker are all that is required and bank fishermen can fare just as well as someone in a boat. For catfishing our local rivers, I prefer to use a one- to two-ounce bank or egg sinker and a #4 baitholder hook. The hook can be upsized if bigger fish are targeted, but bigger hooks might eliminate some of the catches so



I tend to stay with smaller hooks. A good rod and reel like a Zebco 33 spooled with 15 pound monofilament will handle most eating size catfish. If bigger fish are targeted, a baitcast or spinning outfit with 30 pound braid can handle most any Northeast Arkansas catfish.

Catfish bait is a hot topic among anglers. Opinions of what works best range from live bait to weird concoctions that a chemist cannot understand. Again, basic seems to work well. Worms are a tried and tested catfish bait that will produce all three species. Other live baits like crawfish and minnows are also very enticing to catfish. Catalpa worms, grasshoppers, mealworms, goldfish and rice slicks all have their place in catfishing and have proven to be effective. Live baits will provide a much better opportunity for a flathead, as they spark the flathead’s predatory nature.

Stinkbait can be very productive when targeting channels and small blue catfish. Many stinkbaits are made to roll onto a treble hook, or pre-made into doughballs. Stinkbaits appeal to the olfactory senses of a catfish and this is usually obvious to the fisherman when the lid is opened. My favorite stinkbaits are the dip baits. Doc’s, Sonny’s and Secret are all good choices and pre-rigged dip worms and some tongue depressors to roll the worms in the goo make these potent cat catchers fairly easy and clean to use. Rig up with some one-ounce sinkers for some great fun on our local rivers. A quick and easy version of a stinkbait can be made up at home with hot dogs, strawberry Kool-Aid and minced garlic. Cut four or five hot dogs into bite-sized pieces, place in a container and add the drink mix and garlic and give it a good stir. It can be used immediately or after a few days of sitting in the refrigerator.

Sitting on a slow-flowing river in the shade of a big cypress with a couple of lines in the water is a great way to spend these hot days and catch a good meal for family and friends. Get out and enjoy some of what God has made for us and I hope to see you out there!

2018 Kids' Events

July

11, 18, 25

Kids Club Summer Library Series

When: Select Wednesdays, 2:00 P.M.
Where: Across from H&M Select
3000 East Highland Dr., Jonesboro
Info: www.mallatturtlecreek.com

12, 19, 26

Move and Groove

When: Thursdays at 5:30 P.M.
Where: Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library
315 W Oak Ave, Jonesboro
Info: www.libraryinjonesborp.org

11, 18, 25

Story Time

When: Wednesdays, 10:30 AM
Where: Greene County Public Library
120 North 12th Street, Paragould
Info: www.mylibrarynow.org

A water slide provided the perfect way to cool down for Kennedy Rippey on a hot summer day. Kennedy, 8, is the daughter of Nic and Whitley Rippey of Paragould.



WHAT'S COOKIN'?

4TH OF JULY COOKOUT IDEAS

SIDE DISH

CHEDDAR BACON RANCH POTATO SALAD

Ingredients:

2 lbs petite red potatoes diced into bite size chunks (about 1-inch)
2/3 cup Hidden Valley® Simply Ranch Dressing
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
6 slices bacon cooked and crumbled (about 1/2 cup)
1/3 cup chopped green onions
Salt and pepper (optional)

Directions:

1. Add potatoes to a pot. Add enough water to cover potatoes by about 2 inches. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat then reduce

heat to medium and allow to boil until potatoes are fully tender, about 10 minutes.
2. Carefully pour potatoes into a colander to drain. Set aside to cool (to speed cool them run them under cold water until cool).
3. Pour cooled potatoes into a large mixing bowl. Add in ranch, cheddar, bacon and green onions (you can set aside a few tablespoons of the bacon and green onions for garnish if desired). Toss to coat, season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve or cover and chill up to 1 day (if you like the bacon crispy wait to add it until ready to serve).

Recipe courtesy of www.cookingclassy.com



MAIN COURSE

50 STARS BARBECUE CHICKEN

Ingredients:

1 Bottle of Sweet Baby Rays Barbecue Sauce
1 Stick of Butter
2 packets of Italian Seasoning
Dash of Basil
14 Chicken Drumsticks

Directions:

1. Preheat Oven to 350 (you will use grill a little later).
2. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in Italian seasoning, basil and bottle of barbecue sauce. Bring to a boil.

3. Dip drumsticks generously into sauce mixture. (There should be a good amount left over for later) and place in a 9x13 pan.
4. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes and preheat grill on Medium Low halfway during baking process.
5. Remove drumsticks from oven and give them one last dunk in the barbecue sauce and place them on heated grill. Grill for an additional 15-20 minutes.
Hot Wing Variation: Add 1 bottle of hot sauce. Use wings instead of drumsticks

Recipe courtesy of www.inhonorofdesign.com



DESSERT

RED WHITE & BLUE FROZEN BANANAS

Ingredients:

Bananas
Melting Chocolate or Chocolate Chips
Lollipop Sticks
Red White and Blue Sprinkles

Directions:

1. Peel and cut each banana in half
2. Place each banana piece on a lollipop stick. Freeze for at least two hours.
Melt chocolate chips in the microwave and

use a spoon to cover the frozen banana with the melted chocolate, adding sprinkles after each banana piece is coated before the chocolate hardens.

Place the decorated Red White and Blue Frozen Bananas back in the freezer until you are ready to serve them.

Recipe courtesy of www.twosisterscrafting.com



HAPPENINGS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PROVOST SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



The family of W.H. (Dude) and Peggy Provost of near Marked Tree has set up an endowment fund at Arkansas State University to honor the lasting memory of the couple, who taught them valuable life lessons through their own personal experiences. The scholarship endowment will generate financial assistance for deserving upper-level students majoring in agriculture or engineering.

Through hard work, sacrifice and help from a close family friend and mentor, the couple became successful in their occupation of agriculture. It was because of their experiences with heat and drought and rains and floods that the Provosts desired that their son and grandchildren pursue a college education.

ROUNDRIPPER: DR. SHANE HUNT



By Kayli Thompson

For the past several years, Dr. Shane Hunt has been traveling with his son Andrew with one purpose: to see all 30 Major League Baseball stadiums before Andrew graduated high school. The pair began their adventures when Andrew was just 6. Once summer had ended and they visited a stadium, Andrew would record his adventures with his father as letters.

"I kept all of those letters," Hunt said. When he had all of Andrew's notes compiled, it occurred to him to turn them into a book. "You're seeing it through the eyes of him as a kid, instead of him looking back on it now," Hunt explained.

Hunt, a professor and the dean of the College of Business at Arkansas State University, had already published two other books. This one, *RoundTripper*, is his first non-educational book. It consists of 30 chapters, one for each stadium, and is in order of their visits to each. Hunt describes his book as, "A labor of love," and says it is not entirely about baseball, but also about all the things they learned over the years.

Hunt is already planning on coming out with another publication similar to *RoundTripper*. He and his daughter are currently trying to visit all 59 national parks before she graduates, and they've already been to 30. You can find his book at Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and on his Instagram page, @roundtripperbook.



GREENE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

At the Arkansas Master Gardeners Conference in Fort Smith the Rainbow Garden at the Children's Home in Paragould won the best project in its class for the Greene County Master Gardeners. The project is headed by Joy Gatlin, who worked very hard with the Master Gardeners to bring it to its present state.

NEA STENT FIRST

NEA Baptist has announced its first commercial use of the Medtronic Resolute Onyx™ 2.0 mm Drug-Eluting Stent (DES) – the smallest sized DES on the market, designed specifically for small vessels. The new stent is unique in that it is intended to help interventional cardiologists treat patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) who have small vessels often untreatable with larger stent technologies during percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). It is estimated that approximately 65 percent of smaller vessels (≤ 2.25 mm) are in critical locations of the heart, making them significant lesions to treat.



FISHING FOR FOSTERS

By Richard Brummett

A different sort of fishing experience will be hosted by the Paragould Community Center in July ... this one is fishing for people.

Fishing for Fosters will be held on Saturday, July 21, from 1-4 p.m. at the center, hoping to generate more interest and answer any questions people might have about foster parenting. Omer Overbay, Community Engagement Specialist for Area 8 with the Arkansas Department of Human Services, said the need for foster families locally is drastic.

"I have 549 kids total in Area 8," Overbay said, "and we have 224 foster homes. Some can take more than one child, but some can't. The problem is that foster homes have sometimes certain ages they can take ... maybe a baby, or a teen, or maybe not one in that age group. We have a 1.04 bed to foster child ratio; we'd like to be a 2.1 ratio."

Overbay's jurisdiction includes counties in Northeast Arkansas, and he said many people

are shocked to learn that Greene County (127) outnumbers Craighead (126) with children in need of services. "Lots of reasons," he said, "why children are taken from the home. That's why we need more good people willing to become foster parents."

The July meeting -- the second year in a row for such a gathering -- will feature current foster parents, DCFHS representatives and mental health providers among others. Overbay calls it an "informational" event, rather than solely a recruitment session. "Anyone considering foster parenting is welcome," he said. "Just drop in. There are no speakers set up but when you come by, we will be able to tell quickly where we need to send you for what kind of information you're seeking.

"This was very successful last year," he said. "So if someone thinks they might be interested, by having all the different organizations and actual foster parents there, we should be able to



answer about any question they'd have. Last year we had about fifteen show interest, and I think eight went on and went through the training."

Overbay said more information may be found at any of these outlets: On the "Fishing for Fosters" Facebook event; by calling him at 870-972-1732, Extension 1514; the Greene County DHS at 870-236-8723; or at www.fosterarkansas.org.

The Paragould Community Center is located at 3404 Linwood Drive.

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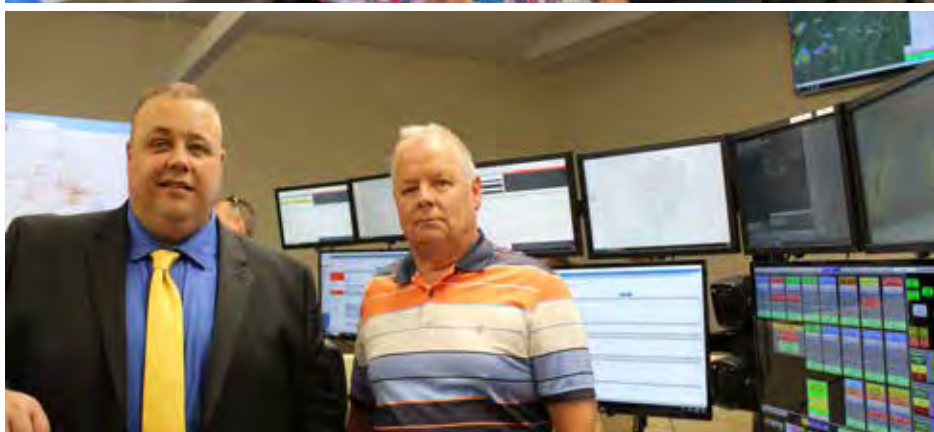


Paragould's new 911 Dispatch Center has been in the works a long time. Mayor Mike Gaskill said former mayor Charlie Partlow and then-Chief of Police Darrell Hyde both told him it needed to be done when he took the realm in 1997.

When the search started for the land to build the facility the first requirement was to be outside of the radius required to evacuate if a train derailed. That is hard to find in Paragould but the land that was chosen -- located on Southpointe Drive -- was owned by Ronnie Brengard and fit the requirement, and he offered to donate the current lot. The city also bought the lot next to it to allow for future expansion in an effort to make a long-term plan. A second consideration was, in the case of severe weather, making the core room of the center a storm shelter so dispatch can keep working when they are most needed. Bullet-proof doors have been installed to handle a third issue, which is the safety of the dispatch team.

Michael McCammon leads The Communications Division, or "Dispatch." Dispatch currently answers an average of 2,900 E-911 calls per month and ten times that in calls over administrative lines. They provide Police, Fire and Rescue services to the community and have been handling all radio communications for the Paragould police and fire departments.

The new 911 Dispatch Center has the latest technology and has been planned to service Paragould and the area in the most efficient manner. In addition to their current duties they will handle calls for the various county fire departments as well as for the Marmaduke Police Department.



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July

EVENTS CALENDAR

04

What: Craft Day for Kids

When: Wednesday, July 4th at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Parkin Archaeological State Park

Info: Parkin Archaeological State Park is continually developing new and exciting educational programs for groups who visit the park. To showcase these, they are hosting a teacher workshop on Wednesday, July 18th. This year's workshop will showcase the early 20th century sawmill community that was located in what is the park today. Participants can earn up to 6 Arkansas Department of Education approved professional development hours. Each teacher will receive information packets on the resources available at Parkin. Reservations are required. There is no cost for the workshop. To make reservations call the park at 870-755-2500 or email Ryan at ryan.smith@arkansas.gov

06

What: Better Breathers Club

When: Friday, July 6th at 11 a.m.

Where: Nettleton Baptist Church

Info: This COPD support group meets the first Friday of each month. Living with COPD in the Summertime will be the topic in July.

10

What: Parkinson Support Group

When: Tuesday, July 10th at 1 p.m.

Where: HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, downstairs lobby

Info: Parkinson Support Group held the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Bethany Moss at 870-932-0440 for questions.

14

What: Cue The Applause presents "Alice In Wonderland"

When: Saturday, July 14th at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Where: The Collins Theatre, Paragould

Info: General Admission: \$10.00
12-years-and-under: \$5.00
2-years-and-under: Free

18

What: Guitarist Leonardo closing out The Greene County Library's Summer Program

When: Wednesday, July 18th at 10:30 a.m.

Where: 120 West Emerson

Info: Closing out the 2018 Summer Program will be guitarist Leonardo with his variety of children's songs and stories that everyone will enjoy. For further information on the program, call the Greene County Library at 870-236-8711 or go to mylibrarynow.org/greencounty.

21

What: Genealogy Night

When: Saturday, July 21st at 6 p.m. & 12 a.m.

Where: The Craighead County Public Library

Info: Trace your roots with help from the experts

28

What: A Time To Dance presents "Noah's Ark" - A Ballet by Elizabeth Miller

When: Saturday, July 28th at 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Where: The Collins Theatre, Paragould

Info: Admission: \$8.00 for one performance
\$12.00 for both performances

31

What: Preventing Skin Cancer

When: Tuesday, July 31st at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Heber Springs, AR Senior Center

Info: Led by Cynthia Abel, MA, BSE, CDP, Education Outreach Specialist, UAMS Center on Aging Northeast

To have your calendar items included in *Premiere Magazine*, email information to:

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Lucy Lu is a two-year-old long coat Chihuahua. Her owner Linda says she loves to be held, and will even back up into you so you can pick her up! With a pretty large wardrobe, she enjoys the attention she gets from dressing up for the holidays. She is sweet and loves everyone she meets. She loves to go out shopping with her momma and her "bye-bye bags" when she gets to go out.

Don't forget each month to check out Premiere Magazine's Facebook page to submit your beloved pets for Premiere Pet of the Month!



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Lifestyles

AMMC

AUXILIARY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Auxiliary recently awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in an education program within the medical profession and be in the beginning of their second year of education in the medical field by August 2018.

This year's scholarships were awarded to:

- Charla Bagwell, currently pursuing her Family Nurse Practitioners degree at Arkansas State University.
- Melinda Becknell, holds her Associates Degree in Nursing and is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- Landon Brinkley, currently pursuing his Doctorate in Occupational Therapy.
- Brandy Cooper, working to pursue her Bachelors and Masters of Science in Nursing as well as her Family Nurse Practitioners degree.
- Lucas Dixon, working toward his Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Arkansas State University.
- Tiffany Duty, has her Associates Degree in Nursing and is currently in the process of completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- Paige Gander, received her Bachelor of Chemistry at Arkansas State University. She is currently a student at the UT Health and Science Center



College of Pharmacy in Memphis, TN.

- Seth Garrett, currently enrolled in the RN-BSN program at ASU and hopes to pursue his Masters Degree in Nursing once he has completed his BSN.
- Elizabeth McDermott, has a BA in Clinical Lab Sciences. She also has Bachelors Degree in Health Science and Healthcare Management and is currently working to obtain her Masters.

The AMMC Auxiliary has been awarding scholarships to students in the community for more than 40 years. The scholarship is a one-time award to any one recipient with the funds sent directly to the educational institution that the applicant attends at the time of registration.

For more information on how you can contribute to the AMMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, contact 870-239-7000 and ask to speak to a member of the Auxiliary.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.myammc.org.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VETERANS

If you are an honorably discharged veteran, you may be buried in a veteran's cemetery and this can save you thousands of dollars. Veteran cemeteries provide a grave, vault, monument, cemetery setup, and digging the grave at no cost to the veteran and your spouse can be buried there also and so can dependent children.

To be buried in a veteran's cemetery you will need your discharge papers (DD-214). You can be pre-qualified to be buried in a veteran's cemetery and we will gladly help you with that process.

If you wish to be cremated, your remains may also be interred in a veteran's cemetery.

The two veteran cemeteries in our service area are located in Birdseye, Arkansas and Bloomfield, Missouri.

For specific details for you and your family, give us a call at **870-561-1197**.

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AMMC RECEIVES AWARDS AT CONFERENCE

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has been awarded the Door to Needle and Door to Call Awards at the tenth anniversary AR SAVES Conference in Hot Springs.

These two awards are the most prized awards given each year. The Door to Needle award is for having the fastest time in treating a stroke patient from the moment they entered the emergency room until they were receiving the clot busting medication used in the treatment of a stroke. This is no small feat as the treatment for strokes has to be accomplished in the first 4.5 hours after symptom onset and the national standard of treatment is a door to needle time of 60 minutes.

The Door to Call time is the time it takes to recognize stroke symptoms, conduct a CT and necessary lab work and to call the AR SAVES Call Center to request a telemedicine consult. The 2017 data showed this period of time as having the greatest room for improvement toward an improved door to needle time. AR SAVES challenged all 54 hospitals to improve this time at the 2017 Annual Conference. On September 5, 2017, the AMMC stroke team had a Door to Call time of seven minutes and a Door to Needle time of 29 minutes.

AR SAVES (Stroke Assistance through Virtual Emergency Support) is a telemedicine program that links emergency room doctors from 54 sites across Arkansas to a stroke neurologist via a live, two-way video, so that even patients in rural areas, or hospitals with no stroke neurologist available can receive care for strokes 24-hours a day. Led by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), the AR SAVES Program works to ensure that patients can receive the time-sensitive care required for good outcomes.

Statistics show that Arkansans are at higher risk of death from stroke than residents of most other states. Thanks to AR SAVES and excellent sites like Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Arkansans are now getting the life-saving treatment they need when they need it, in their hometowns.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at www.myammc.org.



Pictured left to right are AMMC employees Scott Hampton, RN; Robin Smith, BSN, RN, CEN, Emergency Department Director; Bridget Jantti, RN, AR SAVES Facilitator; Dr. Michael Johnson; CT Tech Tommy Tegethoff; Ambulance Service Paramedic John Nichols; Christi Foust; RN, AR SAVES Facilitator; Laboratory Tech Cindy Bowers and AMMC Emergency Department Unit Secretary Nicole Parker. Not pictured is Shawn McDowell, Paramedic.



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Veteran Generations

PRIZED MEMENTOS

By: Richard Brummett



Although he is a decorated Vietnam Veteran in his own right, Darrell Dickson's (pictured above) prized military reminder has nothing to do with his own service. It is, instead, a memento handed down to him by his uncle. "This sword means more to me than my medals," said Dickson, a Paragould resident, "because it came from a true hero."

The tale of how a timeworn Samurai sword came into Dickson's family and into his possession is a fascinating one, full of history and intrigue. Pictured to the right, Adolphus Dot Dickson, known to family and friends as A.D., was only 21 years old and a member of the United States Army when stationed in the Philippines during World War II. After the attack on Pearl Harbor the Japanese focused their attention on the Philippines and Dickson soon found himself in battle. His squad ambushed a Japanese patrol

and Dickson noticed a Samurai sword -- owned by nobility and passed down from generation to generation in a warrior's family -- on the belt of a deceased officer. He decided to take it as a souvenir but knew if he were to be captured with it that it would mean certain death, so he wrapped it in oil cloth and climbed a large tree, where he hid it.

Only a few days later Gen. Douglas MacArthur had the American troops retreat to the Bataan Peninsula where he felt they could set up a better defense but they were overrun by the Japanese and Dickson was taken as a prisoner of war. He then became a part of the infamous Bataan Death March, a 60-to-70-mile journey where 60,000-80,000 American and Filipino prisoners were paraded with no food and water, their hands tied behind their backs, through intense heat. During the march, prisoners were subjected to severe physical abuse, including being beaten and tortured. The "sun treatment" was a common form of torture: Prisoners were forced to sit in sweltering direct sunlight, without helmets or other head covering. Anyone who asked for water was shot dead. Trucks drove over some of those who fell or succumbed to fatigue, and "cleanup crews" put to death those too weak to continue. Some marchers were randomly stabbed by bayonets or beaten. The Death March was later judged to be a Japanese war crime.

At the end of the march the soldiers were placed on a "death ship" that transported them to Japan. "A.D. said they were packed in the hull of the ship so tight that they all had to stand up," Darrell said. "There was no room to move; the only time there was some room was when a soldier died and they moved his body over to the side and created some space. When another one would die, they would stack the bodies up to make more room." A.D. spent the remainder of the war a prisoner, working on the docks and in a copper mine, watching many fellow soldiers die of malnutrition and disease.

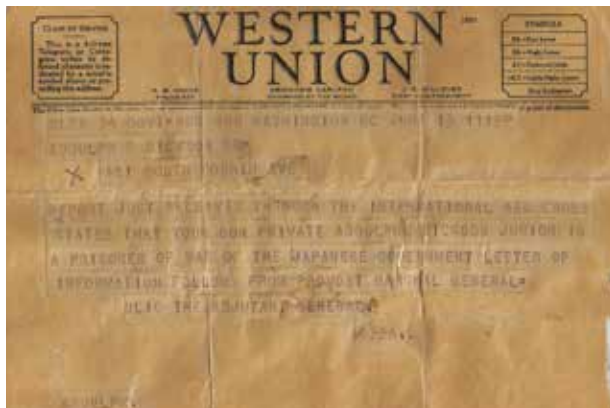
After the Japanese surrendered, Dickson and others were returned to the Philippines for medical attention. While in the hospital he remembered hiding the sword almost four years earlier and walked into the nearby woods, not really

expecting his souvenir to be there. But when he climbed the tree, there it was and he kept it until the day he handed it over to his nephew.

"I was retired and me and A.D. probably visited two or three days a week," Darrell said. "I would take him to Poplar Bluff or to St. Louis or to Memphis for medical appointments, and sometimes we would just drive around and visit. One day he came out of his bedroom and he had that sword and he said, 'I'm giving this to you. I know you'll keep it in the family and I know you know the story about it and will appreciate it.' I couldn't believe it."

Darrell himself had been wounded in Vietnam in February of 1969 when a boat ferrying soldiers across the Rach Dong Nhien River came under fire. The events surrounding the attack and the soldiers' efforts to reunite years later were turned into an episode that aired on The History Channel, but Darrell said all the publicity gained from that and the various medals -- including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star -- still don't measure up to his uncle's gesture.

"We shared stories because I was in Vietnam and we both won the Purple Heart, and he shared some things with me he wouldn't share with anyone else," Darrell said. "Because I know what he went through, and because I know what this sword meant to A.D., it is my most cherished possession. Anyone who knew A.D. knew he was a character, but they respected him, too, because he meant what he said and was always ready to back it up. He was a character, but he *had* character, too. That's why this means so much to me."



SHOP LOCAL PARK GAMBLE HOME

When you hear “Gamble” in Northeast Arkansas you think “furniture”, but Chris Gamble has always put his twist on the business. Gamble Furniture was started in 1990 with a store in Manila by Chris’ father. Fast forward to 2018 and there are locations in Blytheville, Paragould, Searcy and two locations in Jonesboro, with plans for more to come.

The Gambles have always looked for ways to make an impact on the communities they serve and the Shop Local Park, with a huge outdoor screen and amphitheater, 5000 square feet of indoor space, a two-acre courtyard and so much more, will add to and enhance those efforts. “We want this to be a place where the community comes to enjoy some outdoor time,” said Chris Gamble.

sell to the public, holiday celebrations like the 4th of July with plans forming now, and future activities like Easter Egg hunts and more.

The opportunities for use are endless. There is already a wedding scheduled and several local bands and food trucks are scheduled for July 4th. “Just call us and let us know what you have in mind. We will see if it fits the schedule and will be a good fit for the facility and the community,” Chris said.

Gamble’s new Bassett store should be ready by the July 4th celebration and there are plans for six additional buildings to be constructed. Watch for the Norwalk Furniture Store, the Revive-Sit + Sleep Store and the (Art) House coming soon.

If you would like information about the facility or activities contact Gamble Home Furnishings at 870-931-3352.



“We plan to have a weekly movie on the big screen and the guys can watch ESPN. Local bands will be invited to perform and we hope organizations and local church groups utilize it. We have tried to think of as many needs and uses as possible.”

Plans include local art shows for area schools with students participating, local artists with handmade furniture, rugs and art to

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Angel Run

HOSTED BY SAINTS & SINNERS RIDING CLUB



The 8th Annual Angel Run, hosted by the Saints & Sinners Riding Club for the benefit of Arkansas Children's Hospital, was held in March on Pruet Street in Downtown Paragould. This was the first time at the new location and it was a huge success.

The Riding Club members express a desire to thank the many organizations involved, offering a special thanks to the City of Paragould, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, and to the Christian Motorcycle Association for hosting the free breakfast.



boasting individual nationally recognized award winners in Lance McDaniel, Case Cooper and Dave Snell.

Organizers would also like to thank the biking communities and everyone who came out to support the great cause.



The Car and Bike Show and the accompanying auction with lots of amazing items from local sponsors and businesses helped raise more than \$10,000.

Everyone seemed to enjoy a performance by Under The Radar, one of the hottest up and coming bands from Memphis, and the night was finished off with Shotgun Billy's ... fresh off its Mid-American tour, owner of the hottest CD on itunes and



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During her stay, she even cooked a delicious pecan cobbler for the therapy staff to prove to them that she was getting stronger!

After staying almost two months, Ms. Davidson returned home and back to her kitchen.

And she cooks breakfast every morning so her grandkids can stop by and grab a bite.

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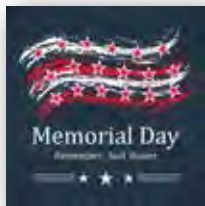


Patriotic Holidays

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

By: Calli Perkins

Thanks to our veterans, Americans are privileged to enjoy several military holidays with family and friends with grilling, fireworks, flags, and summertime activities to celebrate our freedoms and values. Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day give us the opportunity to exercise these liberties and to thank those who serve and have served. However, many Americans do not know how these holidays were established or what they each actually represent. Here's a guide for the differences between our nationally recognized holidays.



Memorial Day, also called Decoration Day, is for remembering specifically those who died while serving in the country's armed forces, and is observed every year on the last Monday of May. It originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades to observe it. Many volunteers will place an American flag on graves nationwide in honor of the men and women who sacrificed

everything for our freedom.



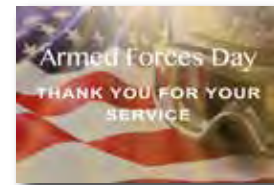
The week of June 14th is "National Flag Week" and Flag Day is celebrated on the 14th. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, made by Betsy Ross in 1777. The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army birthdays on this day. During National Flag Week the president will make an announcement urging U.S. citizens to fly the American flag for the duration of the week. The flag should be displayed outside all government buildings. Some towns and organizations hold parades and events in celebration.

Also referred to as Fourth of July, Independence Day is a federal holiday commemorating the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. With the declaration, the Continental Congress declared the thirteen original American colonies a new nation, the United States of America, and no longer part of the British Empire. The Fourth of July is often associated with fireworks,



barbecues, family reunions, parades, picnics, concerts, fairs, and baseball games. Political speeches and ceremonies also celebrate the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

Observed on November 11th, Veterans Day is a United States federal holiday that honors all persons who served in the United States



Armed Forces. It should not be confused with Memorial Day, which honors those who died while serving, or Armed Forces Day, observed the third Saturday in May, honoring those currently serving in the U.S. military.

We hope you show your patriotism at every opportunity and this information helps you, as these holidays come around each year, to know exactly which category to honor and why.

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GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



It is the time of year when parents -- especially moms, it seems -- flood social media outlets with photos of their little ones, showing off their accomplishments for all to see.

Events ranging from dance recitals, sports tournaments, academic awards banquets and all stops in between have clogged up my Facebook page in recent weeks, giving moms everywhere the opportunity to say how proud they are of a son or daughter for winning something or, if not coming out on top, for just looking pretty. I get it. I have kids. I have grandkids and I, too, want the world to know what good people they have become, so I don't mind too much looking at one more picture of a kid holding a plaque or a certificate -- even though it looks just like 15 others I saw earlier in the day. I generally stop and at least give a cursory glance if I happen to know the parents, but I'm at the stage of life where I'm much more likely to study intently a picture of steaks on someone's grill than I am to appreciate a 14-year-old girl wearing a long dress.

I have often wondered what my mother could have posted about me had she been a member of the social media club. First of all, I don't think she would ever have had a Facebook page because she preferred to live in the shadows. She admitted to me once that she hated for anyone to see a picture of her because in her mind she remained forever the little girl born in the Great Depression Era, the one who wore mismatched clothes and shoes that looked like men's work boots to school. It mattered not that she was a lovely woman all of her adult life; she didn't see herself that way and wanted to be as invisible as possible.

I'm thinking, though, had she been a participant she would have read posts from all the other moms praising their kids, and she would have struggled to come up with something like: "So proud of this boy! Tonight, even though his Little League team lost again, he didn't cry on the field or in the dugout! He waited until we were almost all the way home before he called the right fielder 'that stupid fat kid.' I'm so proud."

That's how it would have gone because I cried often after losses and our team wasn't very good, so I cried a lot. I thought each defeat branded me a loser and it was bound to hamper my chances of making the big leagues, even though I was only 9. And who plays outfield with a candy bar in his pocket, anyway?

Years later: "This boy! What can I say? He is saving everybody so much money; he's so thoughtful. For the third straight year he has asked no one to go to Homecoming or Prom with him. Because of him, not one single girl has to buy a dress, get her hair and makeup done, or purchase new shoes. And we don't have to buy a

corsage. What a good kid!"

Yep, that's how it was. Most of those nights when couples were dancing and smooching and snuggling, I was in the gymnasium of one of the smaller schools, throwing and hitting baseballs with other sports nerd friends. It never occurred to me to even consider asking a girl to one of the all-important dancy things, because I didn't see how holding a girl was going to be as rewarding as hitting a curve ball. Only during my senior year did I go to one, and that's because I had a girlfriend and it was expected, and I never felt so out of place in my life. She had curves, but not the kind I knew what to do with, so I just held her with my arms stretched out like a guy on the Bomb Disposal Unit.

I didn't participate in enough things while in school for Mom to have much to choose from. I was a member of the Key Club, which in my day was pretty much a club for athletes, but even at that she would have had a hard time being too proud. On our initiation day, when it came time for a senior to "tap" me -- indicating I was a chosen one -- he climbed the bleachers where we sat, turned his class ring upside down and hit me on the head so hard that teachers sitting down on the front row gasped audibly.

"I'm so proud!" Mom could have said via the keyboard. "No one in all of Paragould High School has a knot on his head as big as this boy's! What a winner!"

There's nothing wrong with a parent being proud of the offspring and wanting to share. But I still prefer a good steak to a slow dance, just in case anyone wants to post a photo.

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LOCAL VETERAN SUPPORTING AMERICA

By: Richard Brummett

Richard Overman fought for his country on foreign soil and now that he's back home he's fighting for the old-time American way of doing business.

"I was in Iraq, I'm an Army veteran," Overman explained. "I'm pretty patriotic ... in the National Guard for six years. I just think we should all 'buy American' and I'm trying to make that more possible."

Overman is the owner of the new American Made General Store in Pocahontas, a sprawling structure filled with goods manufactured only in the United States. He spends much of his time seeking out vendors and producers of American-made wares and travels to test their quality or to bring some items back home to Northeast Arkansas.

"I feel like if I can make American made product affordable and convenient, people will buy it," Overman said. "I think it can help slow the exodus of jobs out of the country. It has taken about two years to set up many of the accounts and to get things rolling, but I believe we can make a difference with this store."

The 12,000-square-foot building is filled with items ranging from men's and women's clothing to groceries, from bird feeders and housewares to tools and gifts. And much more: Toys, candy, wood crafts, games.

Overman said he feels the loss over time of good-paying local manufacturing jobs has been the reason so many products are not built inside our borders, and if we intend to rebuild pride in American craftsmanship we need to purchase homemade goods and create homemade jobs.

"We've sort of lost the middle class of America," he said, "I think, because of manufacturing. Twenty years ago we had good manufacturing jobs and now a lot of those folks have been laid off and are competing with high school kids for convenience store jobs. A lot of people have jobs, but not as good as it used to be. We lost the good manufacturing jobs."

"Society today seems to want to buy cheap, but it doesn't last long if it's cheap," he said.

"If you crunch the numbers, you find out you wind up paying more in the long run when you buy cheap products that won't last."

After the September 11, 2001, terrorists attacks in America, Overman said he was "deployed to Egypt for eight months, then I came home for a year and then went to Iraq in 2004 for

eight months" exiting as a sergeant.

"When I was out of the country I had some business interests I had to shut down," he said. "Then I'd start back up, then have to shut down. Now, in addition to this store, I have Overman Buildings up and running and have about 30 employees. I spend about half the time here in the office and half the time traveling around a lot, lining up products and day-to-day stuff. I'm leaving soon to pick up six to eight product lines."

Through his American Made store, Overman said he hopes to "empower local people. If you grow your own product you can bring it to my store and sell it here. And we decided right from the start that ten percent of the profits we make will go back into the community. We've been able to give almost \$10,000 back to the community already ... the library, the band, 10 or 12 organizations have benefited. We're going to establish a blue collar scholarship, \$1,000 a year for blue collar workers, like factory workers. We'll try to give away a couple of scholarships to kids who plan to have blue collar jobs instead of becoming doctors or lawyers. It will be to support the what is called the working class type of job."

For example, he has been able to write a \$500 check for the Eddie Mae Herron Center/Museum and another \$1,500 to the Randolph County Recovery Committee, organizations that do good work in the Pocahontas community.

"To support America, we need to buy American," Overman said. "I really believe in that, and that's what I'm trying to help people do."



The store is located at 1100 Pace Road in Pocahontas, and may be reached by phone at 870-202-2550. It is open six days a week -- closed Sundays --from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Overman has planned its Grand Opening for July 4 with free lunch, kids' attractions and several giveaways "and maybe a speaker. It will be a good chance to stop in and see the store and support us as we support America."





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Alice in Wonderland, A Dance Production

The Very Important Date:

*Saturday, July 14, 2018 at
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WHERE?

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\$5 for kids 12 and under.
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children under 2 are free.

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Get Downtown Festival

The 3rd Annual Get Downtown Festival was a great success thanks to the volunteers, sponsors and the community support! Arkansas' Country Music Entertainer of the Year, Cory Jackson literally had them "Dancing in the street."

Pedal the Ridge started the morning off with the largest group of cyclists turning out and Food, Fun and music finished off the night. The Greene County Future Fund appreciates all the participants and look forward to bigger and better things for next year. For more information on GCFF contact Kimberly Dale or see their Facebook page.



NEA BAPTIST HEALTH TALK

NEA Baptist hosted a luncheon in Paragould called HealthTalk: Cancer Care Close to Home, at The Crossing. This was the first HealthTalk in Paragould though there have been many in Jonesboro that were well attended. Danial Reed, Marketing Director at NEA Baptist, said she hoped this would lead to other topics that let the area know what resources may not be available locally but are available to them "just down the road."

A panel of experts from the NEA Baptist Fowler Family Center for Cancer Care discussed local technology and treatment options, research and news in cancer care, and the support and resources that are available to cancer patients, as well as their family and friends. In addition to resources and support, June Morse discussed tips for family and friends of someone diagnosed with cancer, including how you can help, what to say, and more.

certified in both radiation oncology and hospice and palliative medicine and in practice since 1993; Dr. Scott Dorroh, Hematology and Oncology; and June Morris, HopeCircle Manager.

For more information and to get on a list to be contacted for future HealthTalk luncheons email daniel.reed@neabc.com or call 870.936.7652

The panel included Dr. Kevin Collins, board





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Premiere Awards

2018



And the winner is...

Thank You, Premiere readers and Jack, Jill, and iRock Radio Listeners! The votes were overwhelming this year for our annual Premiere Awards and we appreciate your taking the time to participate.

Keep this edition around as your guide to highly recommended businesses in our area! As you can see, most are locally owned or have locals who care enough to give their customers the kind of service that earns them this much-deserved recognition.

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


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The advertisement features two dogs: a Yorkshire Terrier on the left and a Golden Retriever on the right. The Yorkshire Terrier has a red bow in its hair and is wearing a blue and yellow award medal that says '2016 PREMIERE AWARDS WINNER'. The Golden Retriever is wearing a similar award medal that says '2017 PREMIERE PARAGOULD WINNER'. In the center, there is a large yellow star award medal that says '2018 PREMIERE PARAGOULD WINNER'. Below the dogs is a logo for 'A&B Pet Salon' featuring a pair of scissors and the letters 'A' and 'B'. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a list of services: 'New Groomers', 'Doggie Daycare', 'Boarding', 'Cats & Dogs', and 'Nail Trims - Walk-ins Welcome!'. The contact information includes 'Monday-Friday, 7-6', '2700 Linwood Dr, Paragould, AR', and the phone number '[870]-240-0177'.

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July 7 | 7:00 PM | Midsouth Dreamers Beauty Pageant

July 13 | 7:00 PM | "Alice in Wonderland" Dance Production

July 14 | 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM | "Alice in Wonderland" Dance Production

July 20-21 | 7:00 PM | Ultimate Oldies

July 23 | 7:00 PM | KASU Bluegrass Monday - The Kody Norris Show

July 28 | 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM | A Time to Dance - "Noah's Ark Ballet"

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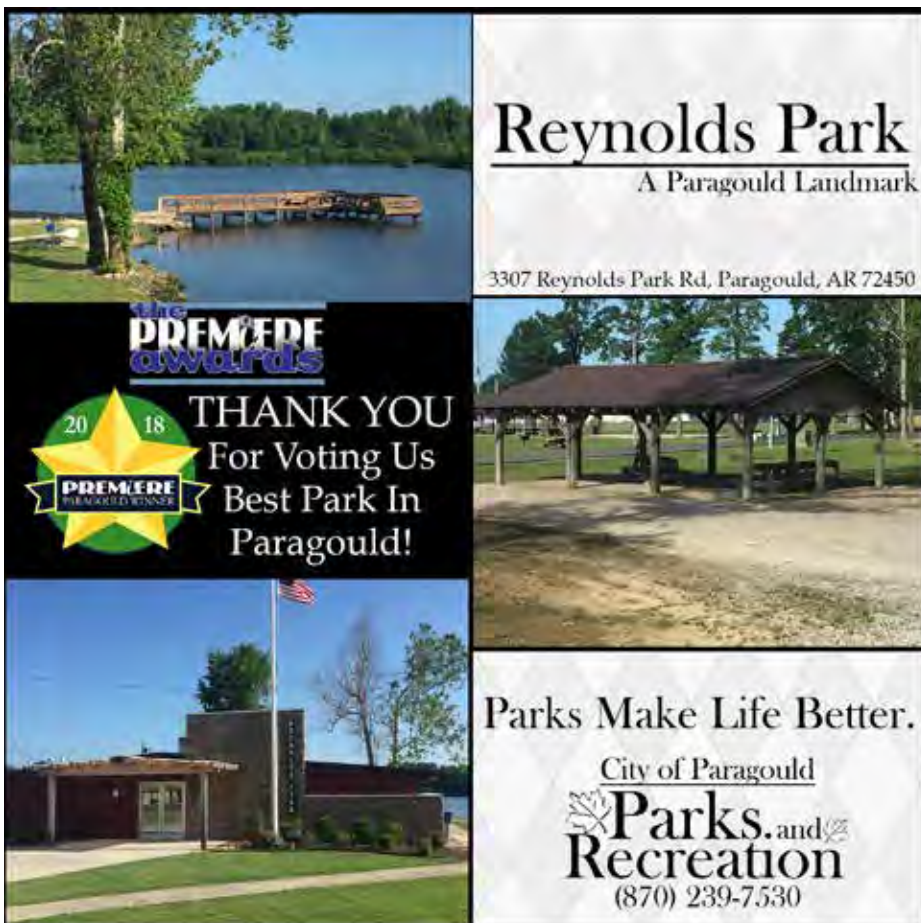
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Brittany Murray (left) for being voted **Best Esthetician**

Shawnda Weaver (right) for being voted **Best Massage Therapist**



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GREENE COUNTY ARKANSAS RELAY FOR LIFE

By: Jason Wert

The Greene County Arkansas Relay for Life took place Friday night, June 8th, at Harmon Field in Paragould.

The annual event to raise money to fight cancer featured a theme of "Knocking Cancer off the Board" with all the teams using a classic board game as the theme for each of their teams. The only team that didn't use a classic board game was the Fraternal Order of Police...because instead they brought out the classic dunk tank!

After the Relay, organizers said that over \$43,000 has been raised this year by Greene County Relay for Life.

The event also gave awards to various teams and a "Spirit of the Relay" award to an individual who goes "above and beyond" for the Relay.



Here is a list of winners:

- Spirit Stick - Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
- Best Campsite - Focus Bank
- Best Banner - Centennial Bank
- Best T-Shirt - Unico Bank
- Spirit of Relay - Peggy Reinhart



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BIRTHS



Rynlee Grace Dixson

Proud parents, Allison and Joshua Dixson of Paragould welcomed their fourth child, Rynlee Grace Dixson, into the world on May 21, 2018. She is also welcomed by siblings Carsyn, Marlee, and Jacksyn and grandparents Lea Ann Stidham, Chip Vanaman, Amanda Mullins, and Douglas Dixson.

Rynlee was delivered at St. Bernards Medical Center, weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20.5 inches tall.

Photography credit Melissa Donner Photography

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ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS



Allison Hampton & Camryn Hyde

Engaged couple Allison Hampton and Camryn Hyde have announced their plans to marry on July 7th of this year in Downtown Paragould.

The bride's parents are Rodney and Myra Hampton of Marmaduke. The groom's parents are Teresa Rogers and the late Ley Hyde of Paragould.

Photography by Leah Hughes of Leah Hughes Photography.



Meggie Hodge & Sean Farmer

Meggie Hodge and Sean Farmer announce their engagement and plans to be married. Meggie is the daughter of Bob and Debbie Hodge of Paragould. Sean is the son of Kenneth and Marcia Farmer of Austin, Texas.

The couple will marry Saturday, August 11, 2018, at the home of the bride's parents.



Maddie Hudson & Landon Long

Maddie Hudson of Paragould and Landon Long, also of Paragould, announce their plans to marry on July 27th at a family friend's home in Paragould.

Maddie is the daughter of Jeff and Christa Hudson. Landon is the son of Jamie and Charity Adams.

Photography by Rachel Rowland.

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Paragould School District student Jackson Parker is featured for obtaining a perfect score on the ACT.

Back To School



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Independence Day Event Coverage



Photos and stories of celebrations of Fourth of July in Northeast Arkansas.—

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