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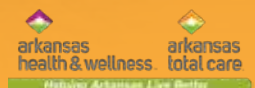


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CONTENTS

- 10** NEA Artist: Sugar Plum Fairy
Alexis Brooks
- 14** Athletic Champion
Bob McKeel
- 20** Taste of the Ridge Winners
- 21** Pet of the Month
- 26** What A Journey
Mike Vaughn
- 30** Golf Prodigy
Simon McBride
- 37** Family Owned Businesses
- 60** Calendar

On The Cover: Simon McBride
Photo By: Amy Reeves Photography



10



20



30



Family Owned Business

Get to know those behind the business.



37

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From The PUBLISHER... DINA MASON

Finally, Fall! Well, sort of.

October is one of my favorite times of year, when the weather changes and we start looking forward to the holidays. It is a busy season with Fall Festivals and all those events that were delayed because of school, vacations and the fact that it was too hot -- all seem to be crammed into the end of September and then October. But busy is GOOD!

Premiere usually takes October to put a little focus on some "manly" stories and we have gathered several for your reading this year. Simon McBride, our young man on the cover, has wise words to pass on as he pursues his passion of golf. Mike Vaughn's journey in a kayak for 340 miles at age 62 will make you think twice about complaining after a trip to the gym or a walk in the park! And if you do complain, you should read the Bob McKeel story, playing competitive tennis at 70.

But not all the stories will shame you as to age; Jake Randleman is a Champion Weight lifter at 44 and if all these physical activities are not your style -- no matter your age-- read the Rodney White story where he gives a new meaning to "shooting" wild game.

We didn't leave out the ladies, though. We have all our regulars and lots of things coming up to do in our communities. Please take the time to let our advertisers know you appreciate their supporting your community magazine and remember to "Shop Local."

Thank you for reading Premiere and remember we are always looking for the "Good News and the People Who Make it Happen," so if you know of someone we should feature tell us at premiere-magazine.com

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AIR EVAC ANNIVERSARY

By Richard Brummett

The Air Evac Lifeteam base in Paragould celebrated 20 years of service to Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri in September, inviting Fire/Police/EMS/Rescue, hospital staff and dispatchers from all of the counties it serves to Kirk Field as honored guests.

Past and present crew members from Air Evac 02 as well as crew members from other bases joined representatives from the corporate office in O'Fallon, Missouri, and other company officers in recognizing the wonderful work done by all involved in the service.

Program Director Jimmy Shields said the Paragould base serves primarily a

six-county area -- Greene, Craighead, Poinsett, Clay, Lawrence and Randolph -- but also helps cover sister bases when needed as backup, mentioning cities like Blytheville, Poplar Bluff, Forrest City and West Plains as destinations. "We provide critical care flights for trauma patients and medical

emergencies to transport them to hospitals," Shields said. "We do cardiac flights to transport to cath labs, and take stroke patients to neurosurgeons. A lot of what we do is trauma related, taking accident victims to Memphis or Little Rock ... car wrecks, burns, things like that. And we do hospital-to-hospital transport to Memphis, Little Rock, St. Louis to a higher level of care."



Air Evac 02 was established in February of 1998 and initially based at the airport in Jonesboro. It moved to Lake City before landing at its current location at the airport in Paragould, where it has been housed for the last five years. Air Evac Lifeteam is the nation's leading provider of

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helicopter air ambulance services to communities in need of rapid medical transport to advanced health care. Flight crews, consisting of a pilot, flight nurse and flight paramedic, are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to the scene of an emergency, or provide transportation between medical facilities.

Shelly Schneider, Air Evac Public Relations Specialist, said the local team “serves not only Paragould residents, but everyone in a 70-mile radius. Hopefully, we will be the best thing to happen on the worst day of their life.



“To me, our people ‘wear capes’ but I don’t want them to act like it. They just blend in but when the time comes they are here for the community. They are invested in Paragould.”

Shields echoed those sentiments, saying a lot of people don’t know exactly what the Air Evac team does or where it is and “that’s kind of good. They see us all the time and don’t know exactly what we do, and hopefully, they won’t ever have to know. I’m excited about 20 years. It’s kind of a milestone for all of Northeast Arkansas. This area will always be home to us. I declined a move to Missouri because I’ve always been in Northeast Arkansas, and it’s where I wanted to be.”

Program Director Jimmy Shields, left, accepts an award from Erik Wright of the Greene County Office of Emergency Management.

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NEA ARTS

FOUNDATION OF ARTS SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

ALEXIS BROOKS

By Calli Perkins

A long standing tradition for the holidays for Jonesboro's Foundation of Arts is the production of *The Nutcracker*, held each year. And this will be the 8th year for a young ballet dancer featured as a Sugar Plum Fairy, Alexis Brooks.

Alexis has been dancing since she was only 8 years old, and at 16 she is only going stronger.

She knew she wanted to be a performer in plays when she saw a production of *Beauty & the Beast* at the Forum in Jonesboro. Her first ever production was *The Little Mermaid* at age 7, when she really knew she wanted to be a dancer so she could participate in musicals and excel at them. She began taking three lessons a week at the Foundation of Arts, still going strong today, and she also takes theater classes at Jonesboro High School.

When asked about the hardest part of what she does, she says that balancing school and dance to keep her grades and performance up is a challenge because her education and future are important to her, but she manages to excel in both with perseverance and dedication to her goals. She doesn't do it alone, however; she has a great support system at the Foundation that helps give her strength to keep going.

"What I think many people don't know about performance ballet dancing," she says, "is how much muscle and endurance is being exerted to pull off those moves while also keeping up with the music, all while keeping a smile on your face."

Her favorite part of the whole process is the performance aspect ... the audience is what makes it all worth it.

It takes several months to prepare the production of *The Nutcracker*, auditions beginning one week before school starts



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in August and starting rehearsals two weeks afterward.

Her advice to anyone who has something they want to do is, "Just go for it. The experience is amazing and the connections become like family."

The Nutcracker, directed by Mollie Potgieter, opens November 16th at 7:30 p.m. and shows at the same time on the 17th, 18th, 19th, and at 2p.m. on the 20th at the Foundation of Arts in Jonesboro.

You can purchase tickets at the website foajonesboro.org or call 870-935-2726



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Johnny Cash Festival

PERFORMANCES AT HERITAGE FESTIVAL

When the lineup featuring Jamey Johnson and Alison Krauss was announced in July for the 2018 Johnny Cash Heritage Festival, John Carter Cash, Grammy-winning son of Johnny and June Carter Cash, promised that this year's festival would be like none other.

"There will be some momentous musical surprises, and I believe history will be made once again in the fertile beautiful land of Northeast Arkansas," said Cash at the time.

Recently, he delivered on that promise when it was announced that the Oct. 20 concert in the field adjacent to the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home in Dyess would be a "50th Anniversary Performance," paying tribute to The Johnny Cash Show tours that began in 1968 and led the following year to a television show that brought Cash into millions of households.

This "new" tour date will bring back songs that were Cash staples 50 years ago. John Carter Cash will serve as the emcee for the show.

"Now, 50 years past, I have gone over set lists and song choices of the shows from (those) performances," said Cash. "Working with award-winning artists Alison Krauss and Jamey Johnson, we have crafted a show from these sequenced performances. Jamey will sing my father's songs, and Alison will musically represent my mother, June Carter Cash. Each person on the shows from 1968 will be represented on stage, including the Tennessee Three, Carl Perkins, Mother Maybelle Carter and the Carter Sisters. Now, the music of Johnny Cash will return to Arkansas, to the roots of Dad's very creative soul, to his home place, in Dyess.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for any lover of great music to first experience a unique creation, performed by leading artists in a way that has never been done before."

Rehearsals are currently under way for the show, and although a final set list has not been established, it is expected to incorporate only songs that were performed during The Johnny Cash Show tour in 1968, including "Folsom Prison Blues", "Dark as a Dungeon", "Ring of Fire", "Jackson", "Wildwood Flower", "Peace in the Valley", "I Still Miss Someone", "Daddy

Sang Bass", "Get Rhythm", and "I Walk the Line".

"We are extremely grateful to John Carter Cash for putting this experience together," said Dr. Ruth Hawkins, director of the Arkansas State University Heritage Sites, of which the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home is a part. "A tremendous amount of work will go into the production, and this concept for the concert will be something that fans will be able to look back on and say, 'I was there when it happened.'"

Entertainment is scheduled to begin at noon with performances by two Grammy-award winning artists, Native American Bill Miller and Arkansas native Shawn Camp, followed by The Johnny Cash Show and a Cash Family Finale.

The Johnny Cash Heritage Festival Oct. 20 concert will take place in the field adjacent to the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places May 4. Other events will be held in the Dyess Colony Circle, Oct. 18-19.

The festival now extends beyond the music of the world-renowned artists on the main stage, to local musicians on smaller stages in the Colony Circle, as well as educational presentations, film screenings, exhibits and local crafts. The academic theme for the festival is "The Ties That Bind."

Tickets for the field concert are on sale at the Arkansas State University Box Office, First National Bank Arena (lower red entrance), 217 Olympic Drive. To purchase online, visit the festival website,



JohnnyCashHeritageFestival.com, and click on "Buy Tickets," or contact the box office at (870) 972-2781 or (800) 745-3000. With the exception of the field concert, all other festival events are free.



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SADDLE UP TO FIGHT CANCER

The 1st Annual Cattle Baron's Ball of Northeast Arkansas is set for Friday, November 9, 2018.

Put on your cowboy boots and hat, saddle up and get ready to lasso up a good time, for a good cause! The American Cancer Society of Northeast Arkansas announces the arrival of its premier event, the first annual Cattle Barons' Ball at 7 p.m. at The Silos in Bono, AR, featuring food, dancing, entertainment, auctions and much more!

"When I was approached about chairing, I was humbled. This inaugural event will fund a desperately needed transportation grant for patients in Northeast Arkansas," said Leslie Conner, the 2018 Cattle Baron's Ball Event Chair. "It has always been a joy to help others, but to put on our boots and stomp out cancer with each committee member and community partner in a way that is tangible

and so incredibly meaningful is nothing short of a blessing."

The Cattle Baron's Ball 2018 at The Silos is the place to be this November! A few of the outstanding sponsors include St. Bernards, Progeny Ag, and many more. Sponsorships, tables and tickets should be reserved early; space is at a premium.

Your ticket will include a western inspired dinner from JTown's Grill, courtesy of Jeffrey Higgins, and live music from the Arkansas Brothers. An auction will be held with many terrific prizes including getaways, sporting events and high-end gifts. Attendees will get to hear the 2019 Honorary Chair, Kimberly Scutero, as she shares her brave story about her fight against cancer.

Organizers will present their first annual Legacy Award to Fred and Susan Cathcart

for their incredible work in raising more than \$5 million for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Lastly, a special Fund the Mission moment will allow attendees to play a pivotal role in funding the local transportation grant.

The 2018 Cattle Baron's Ball of Northeast Arkansas hopes to raise significant funds to support the American Cancer Society's investing in the fight against cancer. The money raised is central to supporting the ACS mission, which aims to focus its efforts in four main areas: research, education, advocacy, and service.

Sponsorship packages are available right now and are going quickly. For more information, call the American Cancer Society at (870)-316-2031 or visit its website, www.cbbofnea.com or the Facebook page, facebook.com/cbbofnea.



BOB MCKEEL

Athletic Champion

By Richard Brummett

If you've played competitive sports anytime in, oh, the last six or seven decades, chances are good you have squared off against Bob McKeel at one time or another. And chances are good you've lost.

The Jonesboro resident *wasn't* a superb athlete back in the day ... he *is* a superb athlete today, even at the age of 70, helping his tennis pals pile up wins frequently. To know him is to know he is one of the all-time great competitors and having him on your side has always led to more wins than losses.

It is more the current generation that will connect McKeel to the tennis courts. Countless others remember him as a high-scoring basketball player and a fireballing righthanded pitcher in baseball, setting

records along the way through high school and college. "I'm in the basketball record book at Harding because I shot a lot," he said, poking fun at himself. "The more you shoot, the more points you can score, and the more points you score, the more hugs you get from the pretty girls."

He should have been hugged plenty. A 1965 graduate of Rector High School, McKeel was a sharpshooting perimeter player, known for his accuracy from both the field and the free throw line. He was the team's top scorer in the state tournament, compiling 65 points as RHS finished second in the state with a 33-5 record. When springtime rolled around he was the ace pitcher and shortstop for the Bobcats' baseball team.

Upon graduation he accepted a scholarship

offer and played both sports at Harding College, where his name is still lodged in the basketball record books. He set the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference mark for free throw percentage, connecting on 130 of 140 attempts for a 92.9% mark (second in the nation) during his senior year. He hit at an 87.4% clip for his career and in 1969 averaged 22.2 points per game and was named All-AIC and All-District 17.

He was just as deadly on the baseball field. As a senior he went 7-1 with five shutouts and ended the year with an ERA of 0.98. His career mark was 1.65 as he again earned All-Conference, All-District and Honorable Mention All-America selections and was picked in the Major League Baseball draft by the Kansas City Royals. He chose not to sign and entered the field of education and still today serves as the math and science instructor for Arkansas State University-Newport's Adult Education Division.

In 1994 he was inducted into Harding's Athletic Hall of Fame, and in 2012 received the same honor from Rector High School. As an amateur athlete he has played for state championship teams

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in baseball, basketball, softball and tennis. "Well, obviously, it's a lot more fun to win than it is to lose," McKeel said. "But really, now, I play tennis because I'm part of a group and it's not like we used to do in softball where you're playing all weekend, every weekend. I will play two or three times a week and work out at the gym, and probably play competitive tournaments six to eight times a year."

He credits his father, Les, for helping him develop his accurate shooting skills and also knows he inherited both the mighty throwing arm and the desire to come out on top from his dad. "I can compete in tennis because I'm an athlete, not because I'm that great of a player," said McKeel, still a fit 6-3, 215 pounds. "I still have good knees, so I can run, and I can hit the ball back at you. Really, it's more for fun now and just being part of the group."

A string of tennis titles began when some Jonesboro friends invited him to join their team and, "I played singles then and we won the state championship. Now I play on a team from Western Arkansas because our son, Brock, lives in Rogers and we bought a place close to him and I wanted to know people there. And we've won a lot, I guess you would say."

He's been on at least 10 state championship tennis teams and in both 2008 and 2010 he won the singles title in the state Senior Olympics. In addition to his athletic prowess, McKeel has also cultivated a flower garden worthy of note, earning mention in newspapers and other publications because of its complexity and beauty. He has a day lily website at mckeelgardens.com (then click "fieldstone".)

"I guess I just like to compete and like to feel like I'm accomplishing something," McKeel said.

This is a vertical advertisement for Adams Nursery. At the top, there are several large, vibrant pink dahlia flowers. Below them is a white oval sign with red cursive text that reads "Now Showing For Fall!". Underneath the sign, there are smaller yellow and orange flowers. The text "Mums, Pansies and flowering cabbage!" is written in bold black letters. At the bottom of the ad, there is a logo for "ADAMS NURSERY" featuring a red flower icon above the word "ADAMS" in green. Below the logo, the address "215 N. 23rd St" and phone number "236-2066" are listed in yellow text. At the very bottom, the website "AdamsNursery.com" is written in white text over a background of orange and yellow flowers.

NUTRITION & BODY BUILDING

Jake Randleman

By Richard Brummett

When Jake Randleman was forced into the weight room as a high school freshman, he wasn't a big fan. The off-season football program was designed to make him and his teammates stronger, but it took a couple of years before he began to buy into the idea.

"It was when I was in the 11th grade that I began to really, really show improvement in sports," said Randleman, now 44. "I could see the benefit of lifting and then when I was competing in college they said I needed to get some weight on, and that's how I did it."

Calling himself "a skinny 6-1, 145 at graduation and eating like crazy," Randleman earned a spot on the track team at Arkansas State University as a decathlete but said he was "not strong. Then I put on 35 pounds

on proper nutrition and training, and I was a believer."

Today, Randleman is a champion weightlifter and a professional nutrition consultant, combining two of his passions into an everyday lifestyle. "I've kept lifting, all the way up to today," he said, looking about as fit as a person can be. In 2015 he started

competing in body building, and then said he entered a couple of power lifting meets. "I've got four Arkansas state records in the dead lift," he stated, then pulled out a certificate very matter-of-factly and added, "and then I've got the world record, too."

He is being neither boastful nor unappreciative of the fact that at a weight



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of 198 pounds, he deadlifted a record 600.7 pounds. "I look at lifting as a hobby," Randleman said. "I don't play ball ... I'm too beat up and I gave it up as our kids got older. So I do it not only for the physical aspect but to feel like I've accomplished something, too.

"I decided I wanted to compete, and wanted to dead lift," he added. "I'm strong for my body weight and I like the atmosphere around other competitors. It's a personal drive to say to yourself, 'How much can you do?' I try to do at least one competition a year. Body building ... I probably won't do that anymore."

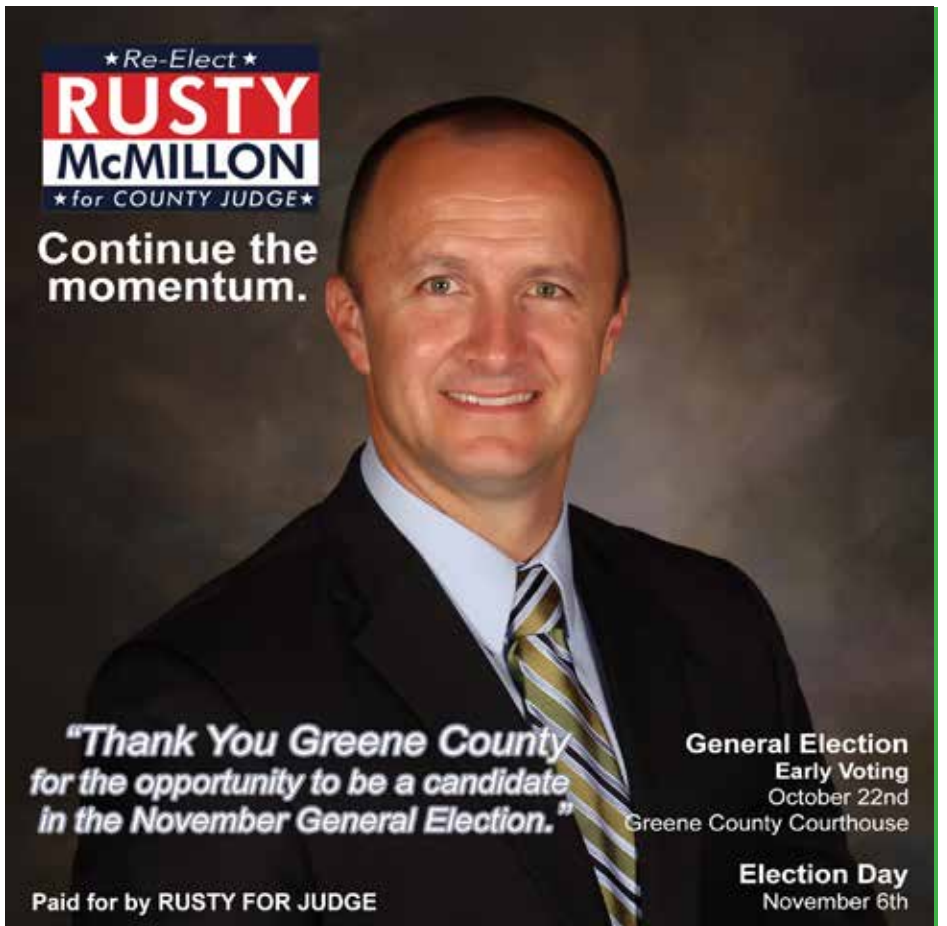
What he wants to do more of now is help people understand that proper nutrition -- what they put into their bodies -- is more important than how their bodies look. In April he opened Randleman Nutrition LLC, providing nutritional and wellness consultations. "We offer specialized meal plans and free consultations where we talk about your life, day-to-day, your goals," he explained. "How well do you know yourself? We give a full analysis, build you a plan and help you stay accountable.

"We take the foods you like, the foods you want and structure the plan around your day. We're looking for nutrients, and tracking your vitamins and minerals. Nothing is 'cookie cutter.' We specifically design each plan for each individual."

Before opening his business, Randleman had been writing meal plans for several years part-time and "clients were getting such good results that it piqued my interest in the nutrition and health side of things. For instance, sugar is the most dangerous thing outside of drugs that we can put in our body. The Lord gave us plants and nuts and certain animals and fish. He didn't give us Irish butter and pork skins. So people sometimes just need guidance. I believe education offers options for a healthier life."

Today he has clients ranging from ages 13 to 63, educating them through categories as diverse as nutritional consultation, athletic nutrition performance, contest prep coaching and specialized meal planning.

"I build you a plan," he said, "and insert myself into your life. I work with what's convenient for you, teaching good habits. You see people in the gym just killing it, and they're drenched, and they look the same every day. It's food-related. People need a healthy plan to get it right."



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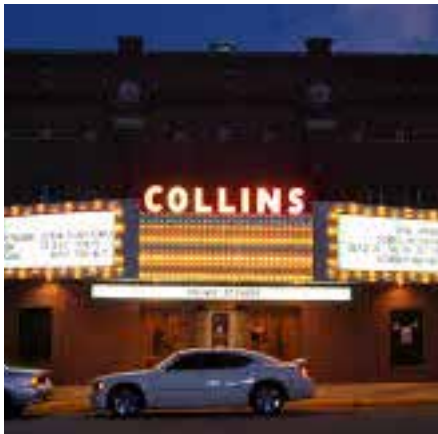
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Sun 5am - 1:30 pm

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SAVE THE DATE DOWNTOWN PARAGOULD EVENTS

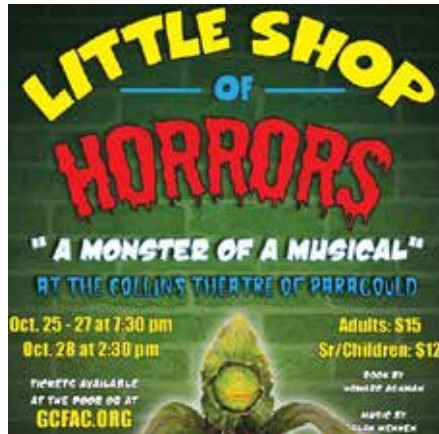
October 12th
The Collins Opry Show
7:00 pm



November 9th
Veterans Day Parade
10:00 am



October 26th, 27th, 28th
Little Shop of Horrors at the
Collins. 7:30 pm



November 24th
Small Business Saturday



October 27th
Trick-or-Treating on Prueff St.
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



December 4th
Dr. Seuss Christmas Parade
7:00 pm



More info at www.downtownparagould.com or call 870-240-0544

Taste of the Ridge

By Joy Robinson



Restaurants showcased their best fares by registering a booth and providing food to the public. Featuring live music with Beyond Brookland.

3rd Annual Taste of the Ridge Winners:
Appetizer
Crawfish Dip---Skinny J's

Salad
Autumn Salad---Hyde Park Cafe

Side
Corn Souffle'---CHOW

Entrée
Shrimp and Grits---CHOW

Dessert
Baby Bundt Cakes and Cookies---Something Sweet



Presentation
Dodge's Chicken Store

Host---Emerald Kemp

Beyond Brookland performed a plethora of jazz standards, ranging from swing ballads to The Beatles. All members of the group are current students of the Jazz Studies program at Arkansas State University.

The "Event Staff" was made up of the incredible kids from the Paragould High School Pride Band. They helped with set-up before the event and with the wait staff during Taste of the Ridge.

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The Vintage Rental Depot

SMOKIE

PREMIERE PET OF THE MONTH

SPONSORED BY ARPETS HOSPITAL

By Nicky Brigance

Smokie is the newest member of the Brigance family and future stud for Brig's Delta Doodles. My husband and I have been raising multigen labradoodles for nearly 10 years.

We realized some months ago that it was time to start looking for a future stud and knew exactly what we wanted. We had the color, size, importance of health tested parents down and were willing to wait patiently and not settle. I have a very sweet friend, Ashley @ Blue Nova Doodles, that knew what I was hoping for and she sends me a text one day of one of the most precious puppies with the name "Yoda" written across the picture. It just so happened Yoda had everything we were hoping for and the fabulous blue eyes were just an extra plus, and that's where Smokie came into play.

Our sons, Chance and Jeb, wanted to name the pup Storm but my husband was set on Smokie. So his official name is Smokie Storm but we call him Smokie. His coloring is the reasoning behind the name choice. Smokie was born on May 14, 2018, and is one of the most chill, laid back puppies you'll ever come across! Smokie enjoys loading up and hitting the pickup line at

school, waiting for Jeb to get in the car after school, and he also enjoys trips to our office in Blytheville.

At home, you'll find Smokie napping often inside around the house at least five or six times a day just to make it until bedtime, or you'll find him lounging on the top step of our pool staying cool!

He is definitely not gonna miss a meal, a nap or a good ole belly rub! We love him very much.



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GREENE COUNTY FAIR 2018

By Caitlin LaFarlette

The Greene County Fair celebrated 131 years of entertaining the community this September and brought together plenty of new and returning participants.

One fair-goer has spent close to 30 years entering crafts and goods into the exhibitions. Glenda Fields' interest was sparked when attending the Greene County Fair with her children and seeing the crafts, vegetables, baked goods and canned items in the Family Building.

"I was raised in a time where if you didn't can or store it in the ground, you didn't eat," she said. "I think that is what really got me excited, when I saw all the canned goods and realized a lot of people still preserve food for later and not everything is bought from the store."

That inspiration was all she needed to get started with her own entries. She began with around 20 items and this year grew that number to 95.

"When I get started working on them

my mind just sees possibilities in everything," Fields said. "And thank goodness for hot glue."

Fields enters most of her items in the "handicrafts" category but does her best to put something in every category except horticulture. She gathered craft supplies over the years to create wreaths, decorated hats, pine cone arts, centerpieces, dried flower pictures, dimensional pictures and paintings. With all of her entries, Fields has taken home many Best of Show ribbons, including ones for a wreath, cornbread



muffins, a pig doll, and even the title of best apple pie in Northeast Arkansas from the Jonesboro District Fair.

On the opposite end of the spectrum is newcomer Amii Quinn. Quinn moved to Paragould from Michigan and entered this year's fair after Fields introduced her to the community activity. Quinn's entries included crafts such as wreaths and even vegetable and flower items.

"It was so exciting to see all the exhibits," Quinn said. "It was also great to see all the families gathering to experience this together. Young or old, there is something for everyone."

Quinn brought home eight blue, eight red and two white ribbons, "not bad for a first timer." She said the fair brought back such fun memories and she plans to participate again. For other newcomers such as Quinn, Fields suggests using what is available — "don't buy new supplies unless necessary" — and to let the imagination go wild.

"The whole purpose is to keep the old traditions alive," she said. "Have fun."



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GREENE COUNTY FAIR

HEART OF A CHAMPION SHOW



The Greene County Fair Board proudly presented a very special livestock show on September 9th at the annual fair -- the Heart of A Champion Livestock Show for kids with special needs. Participants were paired up with a current 4H member and used their 4H partner's animal. Participants chose between pigs, goats and sheep.

The kids got to see what it is like to take care of the animal on show day and then they took the animal into the show ring for a show with the help of their 4H buddy.

There was no charge to participate in the show. Anyone having a special needs child that lives or attends school in Greene County and would like to participate next year should contact the Greene County Fair Facebook page.



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MIKE VAUGHN

Kayaking the Missouri

By Richard Brummett

Mike Vaughn says it was the “Huck Finn” in him that led him to first challenge the Mississippi River in a kayak, but even Mark Twain’s fictional character would tip his hat to acknowledge one of Vaughn’s recent accomplishments.

Vaughn decided to tackle the Missouri River 340, a 340-mile kayak and canoe race that follows the Missouri River from Kansas City, Kansas, to St. Charles, Missouri. It is one of the longest continuous canoe and kayak marathons in the world. “Yeah, this was kind of a crazy one ... 340 miles,” Vaughn said. “A hiking buddy told me about it. You have to finish it in 88 hours, a limited amount of time, and you have check points you have to hit. They weed out the weaker ones that way; if you don’t make the first one, you’re out. So naturally, I thought, ‘I’ve really got to do this.’”

Now 62, Vaughn started pleasure kayaking about seven years ago and also enjoys backpacking in cold weather. “But I needed something to do in the summertime,” he said, explaining his entry into a race in June of 2016. “I don’t golf. I had done a little kayaking rivers in Missouri, camping and whatnot. And Memphis holds a kayak and canoe race every year, sponsored by Outdoors, Inc. I heard about it and, the Huck Finn that I am, I wanted to get on the Mississippi River in a little boat. I tried that; I took a little plastic boat out and it was interesting, to say the least. You have to deal with swirly things, boils, whirlpools. You have to fight it constantly or you wind up turned around 90 degrees. You start at the mouth of the Wolf River and go to the north end of Mud Island, 3 1/2 miles. I came in second in my division. I was really pleased.”

Apparently, he craved more. Vaughn said he worked most of the time when he was in high school, leaving little time for team sports, and he never really considered himself the competitive sort. “I just kind of got into the races, and found out I enjoy it,” he said.

So he started training for the big race, even though the Paragould area offers few suitable

spots.

“I go to the Big Slough and paddle,” he said. “I try to keep in decent shape. I walk every morning. The exercise portion of it is great. Getting ready, I try to paddle three times a week, to keep up the aerobic and core strength. I knew I needed to be ready physically, but I’m also a big planner. I sat down and figured out how far I needed to go each day to finish in under 50 hours.

“That was my goal ... to finish under 50 hours. There’s a club called the 50 Hour Club. I knew I could do it within the allocated time but I’m used dealing with about 35 pounds total. In this race, I was going to be paddling with over 100 (pounds) with utensils, food and water. But I just knew I could do it within the allocated time.”

When race day arrived, Vaughn and a friend from Kentucky who served as his ground crew were greeted by “their biggest field ever. They had 433 boats this year, every kind imaginable that you can paddle, from little inexperienced kayakers to sleek ones built especially for that race ... multiple people boats, everything. The start was a hoot. All the solos and male and female racers started together. There were right at 300 in my race. I was concerned about getting jammed up right from the start and getting stuck in a spot where I can’t paddle, and I didn’t want to fall out; beyond that, it was just a whole lot of paddling.”

There were safety boats out to help distressed racers and the entrants were conscientious about aiding each other, as well. In fact, Vaughn lost some time when he stopped to make sure a pair of capsized racers were safe, waiting on a rescue crew before resuming his quest. His plan for the race was to make four stops: First at Miami (105 miles from start) for thirty minutes to eat and resupply before getting back into the boat; second at Franklin Island (171 miles from start) for an hour to lie down for 30 minutes, eat and resupply; then at Jeff City for another half hour before the final stop at Hermann, 271 miles from the starting point.

Thanks to a strong current his average speed for the first 20 miles was 9.1 mph and his boat handled huge “rollers” created by an upstream bound barge with little trouble. At each of the first two checkpoints Vaughn was averaging more than 8 mph, so he called ahead to his pal to let him know he would be arriving at his first stop in Miami earlier than expected.

Vaughn said by late evening he was beginning to tire, since he is accustomed to going to bed rather early. This time, though, he downed an energy drink that kept him awake and alert and he continued on his way. At one point a safety boat team let him know a barge was just around the bend, meaning he would have to contend with rollers and waves, but he fought through and made his next scheduled stop.

By the time he left the Jeff City stopover he had been paddling more than 36 hours. He had dealt with physical pain in his shoulders and hands and had a brief encounter with hallucinations due to exhaustion, but when he cruised under the I-70 bridge at 7 a.m. on a Thursday morning, he had completed the course in 48 hours and 6 minutes, almost two hours ahead of his goal.

“I was extremely weary, but satisfied,” Vaughn said. “A big part of what makes the races so enjoyable is the people you meet. I was amazed at the age of some of them who entered. Over half were above the age of 40. You would think it’s a young man’s game, but some of the older guys are in amazing shape.”

Looking back, Vaughn said the necessary pre-race experiments to find just the right craft, a bout with a cranky sciatic nerve and the physical demands while in the water all seem worthwhile today.

“It was great,” he said, “just great. Tiring, but great.”

Rodney White

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SHOOTING

By Richard Brummett

Avid hunters can put a check mark beside several ways of having made a successful shot at a deer ... muzzle-loader, shotgun, rifle, handgun, long bow, recurve, crossbow. Paragould's Rodney White has made them all, but has also added another unique form of gaining the perfect shot: With his camera.



A longtime hunter -- especially of deer, turkey and ducks -- White started taking his camera to the woods about 10 years ago and admits today, "Sometimes I'd just as soon be shooting with this as with a gun."

He said he first began shooting wildlife photos because "a lot of people didn't believe some of the stories I was telling about how close I had gotten to a deer or about what I had seen. But that wasn't my goal. I just wanted to get that really good picture of a deer still in velvet ... and, you know, that meant going out to the woods in the summer when it's hot, and snake-infested, and you've got mosquitoes and ticks. But the velvet-ant-

lered deer was the goal, and that's what I had to do to get it."

While sharing some of his work with friends, one suggested White enter some in contests and he finally did so in a calendar competition sponsored by Orscheln's, and while he didn't win the grand prize he did wind up with photos on the annual calendar for "about four years in a row. And I got \$100 gift cards, so it really was worth the time and effort.

"The big payoff for me was Arkansas Ducks Unlimited," White added. "I entered some stuff in their contest and to get on their calendar was a big deal for me."

White, 53, admits he didn't have the knack he desired for competitive sports as a teen but sees his ability to produce beautiful wildlife photos as a great skill in its own right. "You have to know the habits of the animals you're trying to shoot," he said. "Before I started taking pictures I had at least 20 years of hunting deer and turkey, too. Hunting experience helps me get closer to what I need in order to take the picture. Turkeys are exclusively daytime creatures, deer are consistent late in the evening, which makes it hard to get the shots because light is not your friend."

He said he has "hit a slow spot here lately" because the rigors of his full-time job at L.A. Darling sometimes leave him a bit too tired to "get out and play with the camera. Sometimes I just don't feel like it after work, and wildlife is getting tougher to find every year because a lot of the places I usually hunt



are disappearing. That means you need better camera stuff and I was looking at some the other night and the lens I was looking at was five to six thousand dollars. And, if you want to do it for anything other than just for yourself, you've got to fall into the right clique to get in the door. DU did some nice things for me. I didn't make any money, but I got some attention and some real nice compliments, which I appreciate.

"I really just do it because I love to get that great shot," he said.



2018 Kids'
Events

October

8

Stories in the Forest

When: Saturday at 3 PM-4 PM

Where: Mall at Turtle Creek
St. Bernards Fun Forest
3000 East Highland Drive, Jonesboro
Info: www.mallatturtlecreek.com

9

S.T.E.A.M.

When: Tuesday at 4 PM

Where: Craighead County Public Library
315 W Oak Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401
Info: www.libraryinjonesboro.com

13

Monster Prints

When: Saturday at 10 AM-2 PM

Where: Room 107 at Fine Arts Center
at Arkansas State University
2105 Aggie Road, Jonesboro
Info: www.astate.edu



Haisley Huffer showed some sisterly love to her younger sibling, Haddie, at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Paragould Air Evac Lifeteam. Haisley, 3, and Haddie, 1, are the daughters of Marcus and Mallory Huffer of Jonesboro.

Simon McBride

GOLF PRODIGY

By Caitlin LaFarlette

Simon McBride was only six years old when he first stepped onto a golf course to play and he hasn't looked back in 10 years.

"My dad would take me with him when he played with his group and I would chip and putt," the 16-year-old said. "Any free time I had, I wanted to be golfing."

McBride's passion has led to not only playing out of state for matches but a drive to continue this hobby after high school. He said though it is hard work and up to him to put in the time needed, he plans to carry on with golf in college.

"There are dream colleges I would love to go to, especially places that are warm all year," McBride said, "but realistically, just to have an offer is a dream come true and I would be thankful."

In his 10 years of playing McBride has had the opportunity to make several lifetime friends, all traveling through the state to play, just like him.

"During the match we are focused and working hard but when it's over, it is good to have some free time and just hang out," he said.

McBride added during his travels he has seen several great courses and this summer alone he visited

Texas, Tennessee, Florida and Minnesota. This allows McBride to play outside of the courses he is used to, creating more challenges. "Some days are great and some days are just super hard," he admitted.

With the challenges come rewards. In March of 2014, McBride and his family traveled to Washington, D.C., for spring break. During a visit to The Newseum they discovered Tiger Woods in a conference room with ESPN for an interview. McBride recalled his mother's being told Woods wasn't meeting with anybody that day and that he would leave out the back elevator.

"My mom waited anyway for two hours and the guard at the door came and told her Tiger would meet me," he said. "He was so nice and asked me if I liked to golf. Tiger cleared the elevator so I could have a picture with him."

It was, McBride said, an unforgettable day.

Golf can be fun but McBride added he does have frustrating days. He advises any players experiencing this to stick with it and keep working. And although he is young, golf has given even more wisdom to McBride.

"It enables me to control my own destiny," he said. "It has taught me to be my own motivating force. It is a game against me and myself only."



WHAT'S COOKIN'?

SPOOKY HALLOWEEN TREATS

ENTRÉE

TOXIC WASTE MAC & CHEESE

Ingredients:

1/4 cup unsalted butter
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
2 1/2 cups milk or Half & Half
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon onion powder
1 tablespoon dry mustard powder
Pinch of cayenne pepper
8 ounces Vermont sharp white cheddar cheese
Package frozen spinach (thawed and drained)
Green food coloring (optional)
1 pound box pasta, cooked and drained
1 head fresh cauliflower (steamed**)

Directions:

1. Melt butter in a large pan/Dutch oven over medium-low heat.
2. Add the flour and whisk to combine. Simmer, stirring constantly for 1 to 2 minutes.
3. Pour in the milk and whisk to combine and remove all lumps.
4. Add the salt, pepper, onion powder, paprika, cayenne, and mustard, stir to combine.
5. Continue cooking until mixture starts to simmer, 6 to 8 minutes.
6. Remove from heat and add the grated cheese. Stir until melted and completely combined.
7. Add the drained spinach, stir to combine. Add a few drops of green food coloring if desired.



8. Add the drained pasta and stir until completely coated.
9. Stir in the steamed cauliflower, and serve immediately.

Recipe courtesy of cookingwithcurls.com.

TREATS

APPLE SPIDER WEB POPS

Ingredients:

2 large Granny Smith apples, stemmed
4 ounces chopped bittersweet chocolate
2 teaspoons coconut oil
4 ounces chopped white chocolate
Special equipment: 8 wooden ice-pop sticks and a toothpick

Directions:

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment or a silicon baking mat.
2. Cut the apples lengthwise (stem to bottom) into 4 thick slices each. Remove any visible seeds and keep the core intact. The end slices will be rounded; cut a thin slice off so they lay flat. Poke a small hole in the bottom of each slice with a wooden ice-pop stick and push halfway into the apple.

3. Combine the bittersweet chocolate and 1 teaspoon of the coconut oil in a medium microwave-safe bowl and microwave at 50 percent power for 30-second increments, stirring in between, until melted and smooth. Add the white chocolate and remaining 1 teaspoon coconut oil to another medium microwave-safe bowl and microwave at 50 percent power for 30-second increments, stirring in between, until melted and smooth.
4. Dip half of the apple slices completely in the bittersweet chocolate, letting the excess drip back into the bowl, and place on the prepared baking sheet. Dip the remaining apple slices in the white chocolate. Let sit at room temperature so the chocolate thickens a bit, 10 to 15 minutes.



5. Transfer the leftover dark and white chocolate to 2 separate small resealable plastic bags and snip a small corner off each bag. Pipe 3 to 4 dark chocolate concentric circles on the white chocolate-dipped apples and vice-versa. Drag a toothpick through the circles, starting the center and working your way out to create a spider web design. Refrigerate until hardened, 15 to 20 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of foodnetwork.com.

COCKTAIL

SWEET POISON

Ingredients:

1 oz. light rum
2 oz. coconut rum
1 oz. Blue Curacao
1 handful ice
Pineapple juice
Pineapple wedge (for garnish)

Directions:

1. Combine both rums and Blue Curacao in a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake, then pour into a cocktail glass.
2. Fill the rest of the glass with chilled pineapple juice. Garnish with a pineapple wedge.

Recipe courtesy of Sarah Dawson



AMMC *Foundation Golf Tournament*

The Foundation at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center hosted its 24th annual golf tournament on Thursday, September 13th. Golfers from all across Northeast Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi comprised 46 teams for the event. The tournament raised \$62,000 to further the important work of The Foundation. At this year's event, a new hole sponsored by United Home Insurance was dedicated in memory of Dr. Asa Crow, who was a longtime physician and supporter of AMMC. Next year's event will take place on September 12.



Shelton Sanitation Team



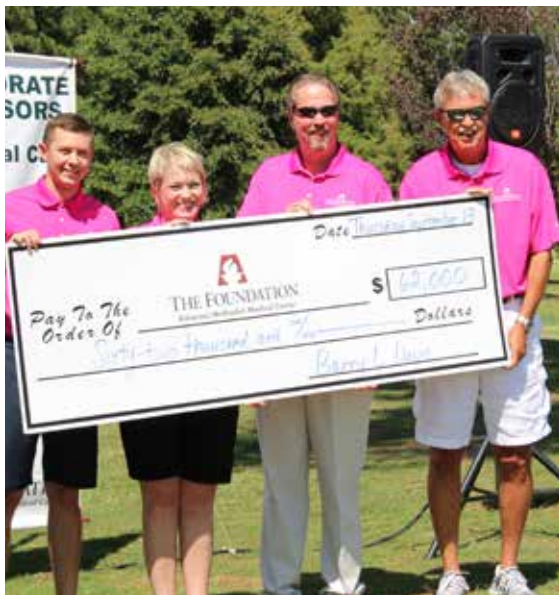
RGB Team



Dr. David and Mrs. Carol Brotman and Dr. Jennifer Susoreny-Velgos and Mr. John Velgos



Unico Bank Team



Todd Sanders OT, Shay Willis, Director of The Foundation & Marketing, Jeff Deniston, AMMC Rehab Director and Barry Davis, President/CEO



Shay Willis and Wanda Crow in front of the hole sign in memory of Dr. Asa Crow, provided by United Home Insurance

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CRAIGHEAD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DEDICATES 1-MEGAWATT SOLAR ARRAY IN BROOKLAND

Craighead Electric Cooperative (CEC) headquartered in Jonesboro partnered with Today's Power, Inc. (TPI) to complete a 1-megawatt solar array in Brookland.

"Craighead Electric is dedicated to providing our members with safe, reliable electricity in a cost-effective manner," said Brian Duncan, CEO of Craighead Electric. "Our board works to meet the needs of our membership both today and in the future. Our members will all share in the benefits from the renewable energy produced by the solar array."

The project features one of the most advanced single-axis tracking systems in the country, containing 3,888-panels covering approximately eight acres of land. The solar site is located in Brookland off State Highway 230 East. The system consists of 1.4 MW of DC installed and 1.0 MW of AC inverted. All the energy produced by the 1-Megawatt solar facility will be consumed locally. Craighead Electric provides electric service

to approximately 30,354 members across Craighead, Crittenden, Greene, Independence, Lawrence, Poinsett, Randolph, and Sharp counties.

"Partnering with Craighead on this project is extremely gratifying because it helps improve the quality of life in a part of the state where I was raised" said Michael Henderson, President of TPI.

In addition, this partnership between Craighead Electric, Today's Power, the City of Brookland and Quail Forever will not only provide renewable energy to Northeast Arkansas, but also provide habitat important to pollinators and wildlife within the region.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor of the City of Brookland, who was instrumental in helping find a suitable location for the solar



generating facility said, "We appreciate the partnership between Craighead Electric Co-op and the City of Brookland. Our town is one of the fastest growing towns in Arkansas and having a cutting edge, renewable source of energy available will enhance our ability to attract more retail businesses to Brookland."

B.E.E.S. SENIOR CENTER GETS SOME NEW ART

By Carol Fleszar



The wall behind our stage was just plain. One of my staff approached me and asked if I thought we could have a mural painted on it. She sketched an idea of hers and presented it to me. She had also contacted an artist she knew from being a teacher at an elementary school. She told him her idea and he came and looked at the wall and at the bees in her office.

He was inspired and was looking forward to painting this mural. He gave her a price and I approved the project. She put a fresh coat of paint on the wall and he and his brother came and painted this beautiful mural. It has drastically changed the look our entire dining room. So here's a BIG Thank You to Tammy Cole, BEES Staff, and to Bobby Willis and his brother George for making our wall come to life!

Our Senior Citizens noticed it immediately and have expressed to us several times their appreciation for brightening their day. And a very special Thank You to the anonymous donors who helped make this happen.



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PEAK FITNESS

PEAK FITNESS LLC., located at 216 S. Pruett St. in Downtown Paragould, is a premier fitness club offering the most diverse programs in town. Owners and certified personal trainers, Ronnie and Jordan Richardson, offer a wide variety of fitness opportunities including daily 45-minute boot camp classes, group classes, and a 24/7 gym equipped with cardio and strength training equipment.

Group classes include Kickboxing, Spin, Yoga, Insanity Live, PiYO Live and Grappling/Ju-Jitsu classes. Peak Fitness is open to all ages and fitness levels, and members have access to personal training, nutritional coaching and regular weight loss challenges. "If you're looking for a revitalizing approach to working out, then take the first step to start your new regime at Peak Fitness," Jordan said. "PEAK just updated their 24-hour gym side with brand new state of the art equipment and is currently working on their 7,000 square foot Outdoor Functional Fitness area. That will make PEAK Fitness with 18,000 square feet of fitness options for you!"

PEAK opened in November of 2013 in a 1500 square foot building that offered Bootcamp classes only. It was founded with one goal in mind — create a fun and welcoming environment where individuals can attain their fitness goals through proper training and coaching.

It is truly a family operation. Ronnie's oldest daughter, Morgan, 18, runs the front desk and Jordan's mother, Vicki Nunn, works behind the scenes in accounts. Jordan's dad's wife, Liz Nelson, also works as an instructor and personal trainer. "We can't forget Ronnie and Jordan's three other kids that are always at PEAK to greet you with smiles, give you towels, bring you water and Ryan always has a fitness tip for you," Jordan said. Cash is 9 years old, Ryan is 2 and Kross is 9 months.

"We started PEAK and hope to be blessed enough to keep the family business for years to come and maybe our kids will love fitness as much as

we do," Jordan said. "Fitness is our passion and we plan to keep investing in Paragould to give fitness options for everyone."

They have more than 170 group classes per month, are a Certified Spin Facility and will have the only outdoor fitness area when complete... 18,000 square feet of options, including 1500 square feet of spring board floor for Bootcamp/Group classes that helps reduce impact and injuries.

Jordan said an advantage of owning a business is "having everyone here with me. My husband, Ronnie, just left his job of 20 years to join us full time and we couldn't be more excited to have him here every day! We spend more time at PEAK than at home, and working 12-16 hour days doesn't seem so bad when you get to see your kids and spouse at the same time.

"A disadvantage would be if one of the kids have an event or game or a family vacation, we all want to be there of course! That's where my other employees save the day. I have a great group of people that love PEAK just as much as us and they are here just as much as we are. My other employees/instructors, aka 'extended family,' are Laura Holcomb, Ann Phillips, Elizabeth Stallcup and Larry Huffman."

Jordan's only advice for someone entering the business world "would be to make sure it's something you truly have a passion for. You will spend countless hours at your business and if you don't love it you will soon hate it. There isn't one day in the past five years I have felt like PEAK is a job; it is something I jump out of bed for every morning and feel blessed to get the opportunity to help so many people every single day. PEAK keeps me striving to help others and finding new ways to keep Paragould healthy!"



870.450.6267 | 216 South Pruett Street | Downtown Paragould, AR
www.peakfitnessparagould.com

NUNN'S CONSTRUCTION

Nunn's Construction Co., Inc is an industrial construction company located in Paragould. They specialize in industrial maintenance with the factories located all around Northeast Arkansas.

Started in 1978 by Tollie Sue and Eugene Nunn in a small garage with a one-ton crane, it has expanded into a multi-operational construction company. Eugene had been in construction all of his life and was part of the steel union in Memphis. In 1977, Eugene and Tollie Sue lived in Memphis, but wanted to make the move back home to Paragould. They thought if they could find an older home with Magnolia trees they would buy it. They prayed about it and drove to Paragould. The first home they looked at was exactly that. It had gone on the market that afternoon and they bought it.

Eugene passed away in 2000 and the construction company was passed down to his son, Blaine, with Tollie Sue running the office. Blaine's daughter, Shaelynn, joined the business. After graduation in 2016, his son Jacob, joined Nunn's as well.

A disadvantage is "always wanting to talk about work at the dinner table, or whatever the case may be. We've tried to make a rule that we can't talk about work when away from the office, but we can't always abide by that rule."

His advice for potential business owners would be to "stick to what you love. If you don't love what you do then your business will not be successful. Eugene truly loved what he did and he wanted to pass it down to his family. If he were alive today, he would love the fact that he now has grandkids in the business he started all those years ago."



"We specialize in industrial maintenance and rigging so we basically do anything that a factory might need on the maintenance side," Blaine said. "That could range from as big as building a new addition to as small as installing new cabinets in a break room or repairing a roof leak. Our company takes a lot of stock in being able to take pride in our work. If it's not right then we are going to make sure it gets corrected and our guys know that. We leave the job site better than we found it and our guys do a very good job at that."

Blaine said being able to see your family at work every day is a huge plus. "Not many people get to see their family as much as they like," he said, "but when you work with family that is never an issue. That atmosphere carries over with the other employees as well. When everyone is checking out for the day, many of the guys will stick around for 10 to 15 minutes and joke with each other to blow off some steam from the day."



870.239.3348 | 101 East Northend Avenue | Paragould, AR
nunnconstruction.net

JONESBORO TRAVEL

As close as “family” can get, that is Larinda Rainwater and Amy Cantin, owners of Jonesboro Travel Cruise & Tours. “We may not be blood but we are family!” said Rainwater. She and Amy stepped out on a leap of faith in 2015 after close to 20 years of working in the travel industry together.



“We wanted our agency to be our family, our customers and employees all one big happy family. We have many repeat customers that know they will get the personal service they are looking for,” Cantin said.

“We couldn’t do this without the family members that are our staff! They go above and beyond each and every day to help make our agency fulfill our commitment to our family of clients,” said Rainwater.

Jonesboro Travel is a full-service, award winning travel agency that goes the extra mile to make sure your vacation is as you dream. They have gone on the tour and checked out places to see and eat before their group tours to assure everything is what they present and they can even go along on destination weddings to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Larinda and Amy are proud of the awards in their short three years but mostly because that means they can offer more services and better prices. The agency has been awarded Diamond Club status with Delta Vacations; President’s Club Award with Vacation Express; and was one of the Top 20 qualifiers for the Circle of Excellence Award with Nexion for sales volume.

Jonesboro Travel has many group travel opportunities as well as a full-service custom travel planning for your business or family. “I wish everyone understood that we do not cost more than going on-line and booking and we will be there to help if something goes wrong. You get personal service in planning and while you are on your vacation if there is a hurricane, illness or family emergency we are right there to help you,” Cantin said. “You cannot get that from the Internet.”



Preview of Our 2019 Escorted Group Tours

Jonesboro Travel
CRUISE & TOUR

2018 TOURS STILL AVAILABLE

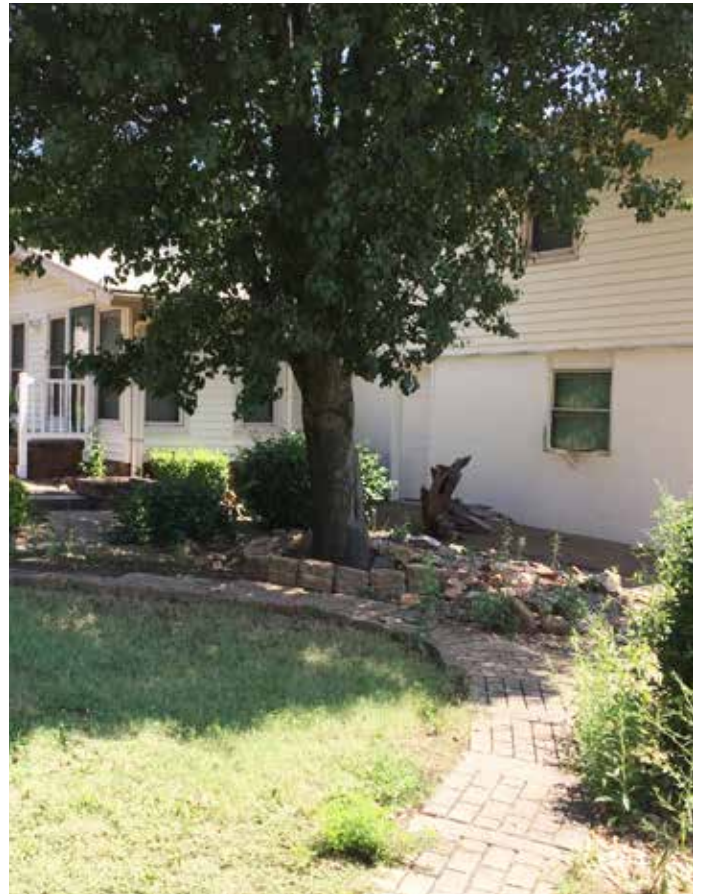
San Antonio, Padre Island & Magnolia Market
Nov 4-10, 2018

Ozark Country Christmas in Branson
Nov 29 – Dec 2, 2018



Jonesboro Travel Cruise & Tour
1825 East Nettleton Ave, Suite II
Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-932-2060
Like us on Facebook for updated info!

<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Panama Canal & Caribbean Cruise Jan 5-16</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Winter Blues Cruise 7-day Exotic Caribbean Jan 26 - Feb 3</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Hawaii Cruise Tour 2 Nights in Honolulu & 7 Night Island Cruise March 21-31</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Spain & Portugal Escape April TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Natchez Spring Pilgrimage w/ Vicksburg April 11-14</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Spring Baseball Getaway 2 Nights, Club Tickets for 2 Cardinals Games, 4 Meals & More! May 7-9</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Washington DC, Philadelphia & New York Fly -In May 21-28</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Summer in New England Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Boston Fly -In June 5-12</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Montreal, Quebec & Ottawa Motorcoach Tour June 14-23</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Alaska Land & Sea Journey July TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Alaska Cruise Featuring Glacier Bay 7 Night Cruise & 1 Night Seattle pre-stay August 23-31</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Mediterranean Cruise from Barcelona Rome, Naples, Florence, Cannes, Palma de Majorca Aug 29 – Sep 8</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">America's Western Wonders By Motorcoach Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Black Hills of South Dakota Sep 14-22</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Autumn in New England Returns! Fly-In Oct 1-9</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Featuring Santa Fe Fly-In Oct 11-16</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Holyland Journey Nov 14-22</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Charleston & Savannah Christmas in Dixie Motorcoach Tour Dec 2-9</p>
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ON Q

On Q Real Estate & Property Management, Inc., located at 4504 East Nettleton Ave., Suite C, in Jonesboro, opened for business on the first day of January in 2017.

Owners Robin Rapert-Quick, her brother Jerry and sister-in-law Stephanie Rapert are just a part of the five siblings, who have made substantial contributions to the business. They say the “entire family keeps us going strong with their individual contributions:

- Gloria Rapert, mother/matriarch: Mom is the glue that holds us all together with her wisdom and, of course, love.
- Rebel Rapert-Nichols, sister: Her office skills put us together by creating our filing system and organizing the office to be both efficient and productive.
- Retha Rapert-Hattenhauer, sister: With her background in property management, Retha is our ‘sounding board’ when a thought needs to come together. Retha is also the creative one that helps put together any designs.
- Jimmy Rapert, brother: Jimmy is our construction guru and inspector extraordinaire. Jimmy supports any construction issues that may arise, guides us with state and local code matters and built the fabulous counter/ work spaces at the front of our office. There is nothing he can’t build for us when needed.
- Molly Inhofe-Rapert, sister-in-law: Molly is our marketing genius. Always available to guide us in the right direction and help us understand what works, what doesn’t and why.
- Jerry Rapert, brother: Co-owner and Real Estate Sales Agent. Jerry is an ASU graduate and has made Jonesboro his home for a long time. With his contacts we have the ability to address anything that comes up without spending hours and / or days searching for vendors.
- Stephanie Stutts-Rapert, sister-in-law: Co-owner. As the co-owner and pharmacist for The Pill Peddler in Osceola, Stephanie helps us all be better

people by example with her caring and compassionate manner.

- Robin Rapert-Quick, sister: Co-Owner and Principal Broker with almost 30 years’ experience in property management, Robin is the one who runs the office, manages the properties and does all day to day operations.
- James Brandon Quick, son: Brandon takes care of all our needs for our properties in Northwest Arkansas.”

Robin holds a number of industry specific designations such as CPM, ARM, HCCP, C5P ... all of which required extensive education in the field of property management. On Q’s main purpose is to meet the owners’ financial and physical goals and objectives for the managed asset.

“Our team has invested in a complete and modern software solution, helping us to more effectively market your properties and fill vacancies; price rentals right for your market; screen for the best residents; you will be paid faster and more securely and collect rent faster with online payment options; you have on-demand access to your statements and handle property maintenance issues faster.

“Working as family we know each other well,” the owners said. “We are not tied by corporate structures but by family values.”



“Your Home Is Our Business”

870.520.6468 | 4504 E. Nettleton, Suite C | Jonesboro, AR 72401
www.onqproperties.com | rquick@onqproperties.com

LARRY'S AUTO SALES

INCORPORATED
870 · 239 · 9328
SINCE 1976



LARRY'S AUTO SALES IN BUSINESS SINCE 1976

Larry Breckenridge with Larry's Auto Sales has been in business since 1976. The original location was just a little over a mile from where the current location is at 1910 Purcell Road in Paragould. Larry was partners with Randal Clark for 20 years and his daughter, Annette Drew, came to work for him in 1997. A few years after Randal retired, Larry's moved to the Purcell Road location, and now has a second lot -- Larry's Auto Sales #2 -- at 3519 Highway 49 North.

Larry, Annette and grandson Matt operate the main location and Larry's son Corey runs the second. "We are a very family oriented business," they proudly claim. Daughter Benita Easley and granddaughter Bree Drew have just started working at their offices at the beginning of the year.

"Our business has grown so much over the years. What started out as a small car lot with 30 or 40 vehicles has grown into two car lots with over 350 different vehicles combined on our two lots. Our second location even has motor homes, heavy equipment, farm equipment and boats. We offer 0% interest financing as well as layaway. We love having our customers come in to make their payments. Some of them are like family since they and their families have been purchasing from us since the very beginning way back in 1976."

A disadvantage of owning one's own business is "you never can go home and leave work behind. It is always on your mind ... that being said, we love our family and our business and hope to still be selling vehicles to our friends and neighbors in and around Greene County for the next 40 years."

870.239.9328 | 1910 Purcell Rd | Paragould, AR
www.larrysautosalesofparagouldinc.com



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1991 Chevrolet
Corvette



2007 Hyundai
Santa Fe



VISIT EITHER OF OUR LOCATIONS:

HIGHWAY 49 NORTH - ACROSS FROM MONROE - 870.239.9328

#2 - HIGHWAY 49 NORTH - AT THE CITY LIMITS - 870.215.0320

LarrysAutoSalesOfParagouldInc.com 

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."

"We take the guesswork out of picking the perfect floor for home or office. We 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.

**Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8AM-5PM
Sat-Sun: 9AM-1PM
After Hours Appointments Available**



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

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 Mobile App® allows customers to view ID cards, make payments and file claims."

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

State Farm customers can save with Community Offers. These are discounts for local merchants that can be accessed within the app. (If any business wants to sign up to be a part of this free program, let Virginia know and she can help you get enrolled.)

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

They have new options for Homeowners – Identity Theft Protection, coverage in case your CH/A breaks down, and service line coverage.

State Farm also offers earthquake coverage which is very important "since we live on the Fault Line. There are also some new rates for car insurance and some customers may see a lower premium which is great news. State Farm offers Final Expense, Term and Whole Life policies for all your life insurance needs to protect your family."

State Farm not only covers you with insurance but financial services as well. "We offer competitive rates for car loans, camper loans, CDs and money markets," Virginia said.

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

For more information about any or all of the services offered go to www.virginiawalls.com; or call 870-236-9544 to reach Virginia or her team.



870.236.9544 | 2305 Linwood Dr. | Paragould, AR
Website:www.virginiawalls.com | Email:vw@virginiawalls.com

MIDSOUTH ROOF CONSULTANTS

Mid-South Roof Consultants is a roofing company located in Paragould, having opened its current location just over a year ago.

Brian Bastel and his wife, Heather, own the business with Brian acting as managing partner. Heather is an APRN by trade and works for Hendrix Medical Clinic in Paragould. When she's not working at the clinic, she does anything from running errands and picking up materials, to helping with scheduling and taking calls. "My mother is also the office manager and handles all of our billing, invoicing, filing and various other duties," Brian says. "Both my 8- and 9-year-old boys occasionally work a few hours in the afternoon or on Saturday as part of the clean up crew." Five family members have worked for the business in some capacity within the last year.

Brian says he started the business "from the ground up. Now, whether or not it's passed along as a legacy will be completely up to my children. I truly enjoy my work and am blessed to make a comfortable living doing it. I want the same thing for my children, whether it's following along in this business or finding their way in something completely different."

The company specializes in roofing, primarily handling residential work but takes on some commercial projects as well. "I think what separates us from our competition is three things," Brian says. "One, we have excellent customer service. We always pick up the phone and call our customers. On the rare occasion that we miss a call, we pick up the phone and call you back right away. We show up when we say we will and do what we tell you we'll do. If we make a mistake, we own it, and do our best to make it right. Two, we provide timely service. We can usually turn a roof around in about three weeks from the original date of inspection. Service interruptions happen to everyone, but we take a highly coordinated approach to everything we do, which allows us to be productive and get your roof back to normal as soon as possible.

"Three, I am a licensed insurance adjuster and I have worked as an adjuster for two major insurance carriers. My experience allows me to help people navigate the insurance claim process and make things easy for them."

Brian says the advantage of owning a business is "simply having the ability to control our customer service and the final product. This allows us the satisfaction of doing a job the right way, for the right reasons.

"I don't know that I could come up with any disadvantages," he added. "Sometimes I work long hours and sometimes we're talking about work around the dinner table. Although, when you're putting in those extra hours for yourself, your family is still benefiting financially. There are some days when I get to go to lunch with the kids, or do things that I might not otherwise get to do. I also love that I get to teach my children about business, how to work hard, managing money, and skills that will prepare them for life. If they choose to be doctors or tradesmen one day, I want them to start learning at an early age and have all the tools they need when the time comes."



Brian Bastel 870.335.8614



PARAGOULD HOME SOURCE

Paragould Home Source, Real Estate and Property Management, now located at 105 Reynolds Road, first opened in August of 2012 at 2407 Linwood Drive.

Owned by the husband and wife team of Jason and Sandra Kelley, the enterprise truly is a “family” business with three family members currently working there with a real estate license. “Sometimes even my mother-in-law fills in as a receptionist,” Sandra said. “My son has helped put up signs many times.”

She said they specialize in “family-friendly service for all your real estate needs. We tend to look to the future and how we can make it better for future family members.”

Sandra (ABR, CRS, GRLA, GRI) admits the Kelleys do tend to take work home with them and discuss “the office” at all family gatherings, adding, “It is also hard to take vacations as a family.”

As far as advice for other prospective business owners, Sandra said, “Remember to follow your dreams and have a business plan in place as a road map, but try to stay flexible” even though “sometimes there are detours.”



1907 N. 20th Street

Well cared for home in a great location. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has a large living room with vaulted ceiling. Huge master with walk-in closet. There is a large sunporch and additional storage building in the back yard. Call today for your personal tour.

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paragouldhomesource.com





WILKINS ELECTRIC, LLC: REPRESENTING 42 YEARS IN THE ELECTRICAL BUSINESS

Wilkins Electric, LLC, was established by Byron and Barbie Wilkins in October of 2009. Byron has been a Master Electrician for 23 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.

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 which he completed in May of 2017. He obtained his journeyman license the same year. After holding it for a two-year period, he will be able to test for his Master Electrical License.

"From day one Cory and Aaron managed our business for us in every aspect," the Wilkins said. "They handle everything from estimating/ project managing needs, as well as overseeing crews and scheduling jobs."

Lynlee Wilkins, Cory's wife, has worked at the company since 2012 and is currently the Office Manager. She's considered a huge asset and is very knowledgeable about the construction business and truly loves what she does.

Daughter-in-law Kassian, Aaron's wife, has worked at the company since 2015 and is the Office Administrative Assistant. She is also a valuable asset, and seems to really enjoy being involved and learning about the family business.

According to Byron and Barbie, the best members of the clan are grandsons Greydon and Sebastian: "Greydon, Cory and Lynlee's son, is 4 years old. He attends daycare now, but did spend his first year with us at the office. Sebastian, Aaron and Kassian's son, is 10 months old and now attends day care after spending his first six months with us at work. Family is everything to us and having the grandkids with us at the office was great.

"We like to think that our uniqueness stems from treating our customers like we like to be treated. We like to 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. Our reputation and our relationships with our customers are the most important to us. Last, but definitely not least, we would like to give a shout out to our employees. We have such an amazing crew and without them we wouldn't be able to accomplish what we do!"



870.239.5009 | 310 E. Kingshighway | Paragould, AR

IRONHORSE BBQ CO.

IronHorse BBQ Company, LLC, has been a family owned and operated business for more than 18 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 about three years ago, 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 the truck stop location.

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 three years ago 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 three-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, or Facebook pages: Iron Horse BBQ and IronHorse BBQ & Steakhouse.



870.239.9758 | 2801 Hwy. 49N | Paragould, AR | ironhorsebbq.net



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.

In 2012, Jason took over the day to day operations, Chuck and Sandy have shifted to doing a majority of the book work although they still work with sales and help with decisions for the company.

Jason said one of the company's goals in 2018 is "to see more families in RVs at the lakes and rivers with their kids and friends," as the #1 Springdale Dealer for 3 years in a row.

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@grnco.net. They also have a Facebook page at Chuck's RV Sales.

870.236.8200 | 3301 Linwood Dr. | Paragould, AR | chucksrvsales.com



MIDSOUTH DIGITIZING

Midsouth Digitizing, Inc., specializes in graphic design for the promotional product industry. It first opened in 1996 in Paragould, but is now located on Main Street in Jonesboro.

Jared Peeler, who runs the day-to-day operations, assumed that role when his father -- who started the company -- passed away and ownership was transferred to his mother, Debi Peeler. Three family members have worked in the business; one day Jared hopes to pass along the company to his son.

The experts at Midsouth Digitizing, Inc., primarily focus on accommodating screen print and embroidery shops. "What makes us unique in the industry," Jared said, "is our ability to provide a number of outline formats for all embroidery machines and software."

He said an advantage of having a family-owned business is "a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am finally realizing how much my father did to provide for his family."

"Everything is work," Jared added, but offered encouraging words for other prospective business owners. "Holidays, evenings ... anytime we are together we talk about clients or future clients. It can be one of the scariest and yet most rewarding things you will ever experience. Do not give up in the tough times."



Digitizing and Graphics



888-447-9992 | PO Box 2737 | Jonesboro, AR 72402
www.midsouthdigitizing.com | Email: info@midsouthdigitizing.com



A to Z LAWN CARE

A to Z Lawn care, LLC, is a lawn maintenance/landscaping company in Jonesboro, serving not only Jonesboro but the region including Batesville, Newport, Paragould and others. Brian Fielder started the company in March 2004 in Jonesboro.

Brian and his sons, Jeremiah and Branden, currently operate the business. Brian's wife, Valerie, worked with them from 2007 to 2011 but now only does billing and other office support in addition to working full-time outside the home. She is even licensed by the Arkansas Plant Board to spray chemicals. Brian and Valerie know when the time comes to pass the business along to their sons, they will be fully capable to not only operate it day to day, but also take it to the next level.

"We offer most lawn care services from A to Z!" Brian said. "Our specialty is drainage solutions, as well as sod and sprinkler installation and repair. Hardscapes such as retaining walls, laying rock for various projects and dirt work are included. In particular, we also provide various excavator/drainage solution services for local farmers. Other mainline services include lawn and landscape maintenance for commercial and residential, as well as landscape design, site preparation, installation and weed control. Our reputation proves we provide a quality service." During his years in business, Fielder said his contacts with local home builders and contractors produced another customer base that has resulted in a loyal following. "Many of our competitors offer one or two specialty areas while we strive to provide what our customer needs from A to Z. For instance, when our commercial customers asked for it, we started doing snow removal, even traveling out of town for that as well. We are not the highest in the industry in terms of cost, but we are also not at the bottom. We consider ourselves middle of the road, which is a unique place to be." He said being able to set your own rules and work hours as well as being able to count on each other to get the job done is a benefit of a family-owned business. "If Dad has to go out of town, we know our sons can handle whatever needs to be done," Brian said. "That's a great peace of mind."



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Disadvantages include “taking the work home. It seems as there is not much downtime away from work. We often talk about jobs or something about our day while eating or trying to relax. We do try to leave work out of our holidays because there is plenty of time for that outside of those days.” Also Fielder said they hold themselves to a higher standard and expect more or too much from each other and that can weigh heavily on a family.

For those just entering the business world, they suggest, “Make sure you research and consider the need for what you’re doing in your area. We believed there was a need in the Jonesboro area for quality lawncare and more than 14 years later, we are busier than ever. In the service industry, good skills and great customer service are a must and when necessary, develop the skills to do the job right. Stay on top of the current trends and one way to do that is by working closely with other landscaping companies. Having dependable equipment helps to cut down on repairs and maintenance costs. Good relationships with equipment and auto dealers helps with that, too.

“We thank God and our community for the many blessings our company has received in nearly 15 years of business. We look forward to serving them for many years to come.”



A vertical graphic with a green background. At the top, the text "A to Z" is written in a large, stylized font. Below it is a silhouette of a wheelbarrow filled with green foliage. Underneath the wheelbarrow, the word "LAWNCARE" is written in a bold, blocky font. In the center, the text "Taking Care of God's Green Earth" is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, the phone number "870.897.1191" and the address "Jonesboro, AR 72401" are displayed in a white, outlined font. The background features a soft-focus image of daisies and green grass.

DR. CHARLES LOGAN SERVICE AWARD

ARKANSAS PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION

“The Dr. Charles Logan Service Award is given in memory of Dr. Logan, with whom I was fortunate to spend a considerable amount of time during my tenure as Executive Director. Dr. Logan was involved with the Foundation from its inception, and he chaired its Medical Advisory Board during the last years of his life.

on radio, at the mayor’s office, or at any number of education and screening events – whenever called upon he is more than willing to do all he can to share the Foundation’s message. It is my privilege to present the 2018 Dr. Charles Logan Service Award to Jerry Jett.”

-Bev Eckert, Executive Director of Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation

This award is given annually by the Board and staff to an individual who demonstrates an unusually high level of commitment to the mission of the Foundation. This year’s recipient has not only served two three-year terms on the Board, but he is an outstanding champion for prostate cancer awareness and outreach.

The most effective outreach efforts are those involving prostate cancer survivors who are willing to tell their personal stories, and the Logan Award will go this year to someone who travels all over Northeast Arkansas to represent the Foundation and to publicly share his experience with prostate cancer. Whether



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Lifestyles



LIVING A BETTER STORY

By Jared Pickney

What does it truly mean for one to be a man? It's a question that can seem simple enough, but one that many cannot answer.

Our culture typically presents us with two sets of males. One is the bumbling, stumbling Homer Simpson type who is generally put down by his wife and children. He is stationed in a reclining chair with half his gut hanging out. He's harmless and cute and never taken seriously.

Then there's the action hero type like Batman or John Wayne. This individual doesn't do well with relationships, but he can sure win a fight or blow things up!

While most people agree these two male types do not and should not reflect what it is

to be a man, many boys take their masculinity cues from them. Because their biological father is either physically or emotionally absent, the boy is left to learning manhood from the media.

The result is a confused, scared, apathetic boy who shaves. So what does it mean to be man?

First, a real man takes initiative for the benefit of others. He isn't passive. He is a servant. He steps up to meet a need without needing to be told to do it.

Second, a real man accepts responsibility. He doesn't blame-shift or live with a victim mentality. He cares well for what he has (a wife, kids, home, job, body, etc). He is more of a contributor than a complainer.

Third, a real man leads courageously. He lives in such a way that others want to follow him. He goes against the cultural tide by doing the right thing even when it's hard.

Fourth, a real man invests eternally. He doesn't build his life on things that will be in a junkyard 100 years from now. He lives with eternity in mind. This shapes his relationships, how he handles his money, time, etc.

This is what manhood is all about. It's not about killing your first deer, winning a ball game, having muscles, drinking beer or having lots of money.

May we be the real men God created us to be for the good our families and community.

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CELEBRATING LOVE

Chandler Gill & Mitchell Weber

Although Mitchell and I grew up in towns that were only 20 miles apart, we never officially met until college at Arkansas State University. We had a lot of mutual friends, and these friends often told me how Mitchell's goal was to date me one day. After almost a year of finding ways to message me or comment on my social media, I decided to go for it, making one of the best decisions of my life.

I instantly realized he was the boy version of me, yet completely balanced me out. Fast forward two years to the proposal. It was our anniversary weekend, and we had nothing planned. I began to get suspicious, because I had run across an email about his getting a ring. We had been looking at rings, so I assumed it would be happening soon.

The fact that I do not like surprises had the suspense killing me, only causing me to try and snoop more. Little did I know, my best friends told Mitchell I was reading his emails. They decided to set me up by having him send an email to the ring lady saying that he was proposing on Superbowl Sunday. Saturday night came, and Mitchell was coaching in a tournament and I was going to eat with my best friends from high school (who were in on the plan). While we were eating it hit

me that maybe he was going to propose at the Collins Theatre, since that's where I have performed since the age of 12 and where I wanted to get married, so I asked them if we could drive by there after dinner (which helped them in getting me there).

When we got there, I saw the marquee announcing that we were "getting hitched." My friends went running in, leaving me in the car, which kind of confused me. I wouldn't go in because I still thought it was happening Sunday, and that maybe they were there decorating. My dad came to the car and told me I needed to come inside because Mitchell was waiting on me.

He brought me inside to a fully decorated theater that was beautiful. When I got on stage and sat down, Mitchell came from backstage and asked me to marry him. He had the song I've always wanted as our first dance song playing in the background ("Falling Again" by Barrett Baber). It was a sweet, emotional moment, and I was genuinely surprised! It couldn't have been more perfect. We took the same stage again on June 16, 2018, to say, "I do."

We had a very large wedding with around 475 guests. The design/backdrop of the stage

was something I found online that we made into our own. I wanted it to be something different that would give people the "awe" effect as well as represent a backdrop since we were on stage. My designers/decor helpers handmade the faux broach, and the chandelier hanging above us was my great-grandmother Wessell's. I prerecorded two songs to surprise Mitchell with during the ceremony.

Our reception was at the Paragould Community Center. Our first dance was to "Falling Again" by Barrett Baber, the song played during our proposal. Mitchell is from Rector and I am a third generation Paragould native. He works for the Rector School District and coaches girls basketball there. I work at Paragould Junior High, where I teach math and coach volleyball and basketball. We live in Paragould.

We loved being able to share our special day with our wonderful friends and family from near and far.

Photography by Taylor Howard



October

EVENTS CALENDAR

2

What: Annual Battle of the Banks Golf Tournament

When: Tuesday, October 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Sage Meadows in Jonesboro

Info: All proceeds will go to the United Way of Northeast Arkansas..

5-6

What: Tailwagger Fast4

When: Friday, October 5th and Saturday, October 6th

Where: Jonesboro Parks & Recreation Tennis Courts, Earl Bell & Allen Park

Info: NEA Tennis Presents Tailwagger Fast4 benefiting the Northeast Arkansas Humane Society in honor of Mike Kingston. Pet parade and pop tennis mixer. \$40 per player on Friday, \$20 per player on Saturday. As a thank you to our players, we will serve complimentary lunch and beverages on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Earl Bell. Each player will receive a T-shirt and lots of fun tennis!

6

What: 38th Annual Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival

When: Saturday, October 6th

Where: 1105 East Highland Drive, Jonesboro

Info: Carnival for the kids from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Games in tents, bounce houses, and more behind the school. International foods, silent auction, entertainment, country store, concession stand, tea room, purse and jewelry store, and more!

6

What: 4H Sand Creek Band Concert

When: Saturday, October 6th

Where: Gamble Home Furnishings Shop Local Park

Info: Free Admission to all events, family friendly, lawn seating available, bring your own chair or blankets.

13

What: Caring for Kidneys Run/Walk

When: Saturday, October 13th at 8:00 a.m.

Where: 2905 Longview Drive

Info: This event benefits the National Kidney Foundation and all proceeds raised will stay in Arkansas. The cost is \$20, increasing to \$30 on October 11th. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 male and female finishers. To sign up go to caringforkidneys.racesonline.com

18

What: Art Show Opening at The Garage

When: Thursday, October 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Where: The Garage Downtown Jonesboro

Info: Featured during the last Alive After Five, The Garage is hosting a vast amount of artwork from many local artists, including 2D and 3D original artwork to be viewed and purchased. Free admission.

18-20

What: Johnny Cash Heritage Festival

When: Thursday, October 18th to Saturday, October 20th

Where: Dyess Colony Circle

Info: This three-day festival honors Johnny Cash and the New Deal programs that shaped his childhood in Dyess, the nation's largest agricultural resettlement colony. The event includes regional music, public presentations, food and craft vendors, demonstrations, and tours, culminating in a world-class music concert in the cotton fields surrounding the Cash home. This year's closing concert, from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 20, features a tribute to the 1968 Johnny Cash Show tours. This banner year for Johnny Cash led the following year to a television show that brought him into millions of households. Hosted by producer/performer John Carter Cash, the performance features award-winning singer/songwriter Jamey Johnson and Grammy record-holder Alison Krauss, along with Ana Cristina Cash, Suzanne Cox, Heather Berry Mabe, Ira Dean, and others.

27

What: Victorian Dutch Oven Workshop

When: Saturday, October 27th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Powhatan State Park

Info: In the 19th century, homes lacked electricity and gas to see with or cook food. How'd they do it then? Why, over the fire! Come learn several recipes from the Victorian dinner table and stay to eat them! Participants will leave with a recipe booklet, and know-how of 19th century cooking. Fee includes all materials. Class size is limited; for questions and reservations, call (870) 878-6765 or email powhatan@arkansas.com to reserve your space today. Admission: \$25 per person

Nov. 3

What: 4th Annual Cheers for Charity

When: Saturday, November 3rd from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Where: The Crossing in Paragould

Info: The Junior Auxiliary is celebrating its fourth annual Cheers for Charity which raises funds for the children of Greene County. Each year, many of our children face hunger, literacy issues, and a Christmas without any gifts. Junior Auxiliary strives to provide these missing essentials by raising money through the Cheers for Charity event. Junior Auxiliary hosts its guests through this casual event with a great meal, music by Drive South, as well as a silent auction of items donated by area businesses and supporters. One fortunate guest will go home with a beautiful item generously provided by Sissy's Log Cabin that will be raffled off throughout the night. The Angel Tree will be adorned with ornaments and guests will be able to choose a child to provide a gift and necessities to ensure a happy Christmas that extends into the upcoming year.

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

graphics@mormediainc.com

GET RICH WITH RICHARD BRUMMETT



Sometime within the last decade it was brought to my attention that two female classmates were accusing me of mistreating them during our school days. I feel the need to set the record straight, just in case I decide to run for public office in the future.

These two women -- we'll call them Janie and Kathy, since that is their names -- say that when we were in the third grade at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School I tattled on them for playing with their Barbie stuff during class time and they were forced to miss the next recess period. I deny all charges and feel I can build a strong case for redemption by stating the facts as I know them. I would say this all seems politically motivated, but since I'm not seeking office I will have to assume it is part of an extortion plot of some kind. I also wonder why these accusations are just now coming to light since Janie and I were a couple in a Powder Puff Football game or some such nonsense, and Kathy and I were on the same bowling

team in a local league and not once did either of them broach the subject.

First of all, I don't know why I would care if two girls played with dolls and doll furniture while I tried to hurry through whatever I was supposed to be learning at the time. I just wanted four things out of grade school: One, to hear the first recess bell; two, to hear the lunch bell; three, to hear the last recess bell; and, obviously, to enjoy the "let's go home" bell at the end of the day. So I find it hard to believe that while I was adding 14 and 5 amid constant glances at the clock on the wall that I would be distracted by a Barbie couch and chair combo. On top of that, my closest friends at the time can attest that I talked neither to nor about girls, because I lacked both the courage and the knowledge to do so. Pretty much the only thing I can remember saying out loud in the third grade is, "May I go to the restroom?" and "Are you going to eat your fish sticks?"

I can't picture myself sidling up to Mrs. Oliver and whispering in secret agent fashion, "I don't know if you noticed or not, but Janie and Kathy were playing with Barbie stuff instead of coloring a flower like you told us to." I made good grades, all A's, as a matter of fact; I didn't need to concoct some scheme to get a couple of girls burdened with a zero for academic malfeasance in order to stay atop the charts, and I certainly wouldn't be competing with them during recess in such activities as Hop Scotch or jumping rope. I would, in fact, be forcing my swing as high as it could possibly go and then "bailing out," or standing on the merry-go-round Evel Knievel-like and tempting fate, actions that were very much against the playground rules ... but that was

just the rebel in me coming out.

I corresponded with Janie just the other day, telling her I had a dream only the night before where we were both in the high school lunch line and arrived at the starting point at exactly the same time. There was only one tray left and we each grabbed an end of it before I, in quite respectful fashion, released my grip and allowed her to go through the food-gathering process while I waited for a woman wearing a hair net to bring out an additional stack of steaming-hot plastic trays. In my mind, this absolved me of any third-grade discretions that may or may not have happened, depending on who's story you believe.

"That was most gentlemanly of you and it is a point in your favor," Janie replied. "Sadly, the Barbie incident, which most certainly happened, will not be canceled out by a dream."

I suppose that means I will have to continue building my case, even though the quest is hampered by the fact that Mrs. Oliver is no longer with us and can't confirm or refute the ladies' charges and most of my friends from that time period can't remember what they had for lunch yesterday, much less what did or did not happen at recess in 1961. Several of them don't hear very well, either, and I can picture them listening to my version of things and then saying, "Oh, yeah, I remember now that you played with Barbies. You can count on me."

Thankfully, I have no political aspirations so stories like this one and many others will remain out of the voting public's scope.

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CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

In recent years I have come to enjoy the pointing breeds, like Sassy and Jinja, who are Brittany spaniels. English pointers, English setters and German shorthairs are also often thought of when it comes to breeds that find and hold birds. They are a true joy to follow in chasing quail in the fence rows of Arkansas or pheasants on the plains of South Dakota.

Sassy and Jinja weaved patiently in and out of the thick cattails testing the air that moved through the thick growth for the scent of a pheasant. Methodically, but quickly, they worked through the maze of trails under the dense vegetation. They were occasionally visible but often we had to track them by the rattle of the cattails and the cottony fluff they loosened from the plants.

All at once the motion and sound stopped. The smell of birds had become intense and the dogs had finally located the source and held on point. As we approached it was obvious Sassy had caught the heavy scent in midstride as her body was contorted in a fashion that put her head pointing over her lowered shoulder with her rump slightly raised. Her bob tail twitched every now and then to show her happiness with finding the source of the pheasant scent. Jinja waited patiently and respectfully a few feet away. We eased nearer and suddenly the serene scene was broken by exploding bushes and the cackling and flailing of wings as a couple of rooster pheasants took to the air. Shots rang out and soon Sassy was back with a big rooster she delivered to my hand. Then they were off again, looking for more scent.

Dogs have always been a part of my outdoor life. In this column I have recounted great times I had as a youngster with my Granddad Long as we followed beagles that chased rabbits all over Greene County. He also traded and sold beagles to many prospective rabbit hunters, both far and near. Papa Blanton always had a kennel full of foxhounds that he ran in many places along Crowley's Ridge. He was always talking dogs with a group of hound men that included names like J.P. Reed, Hershel Johnson and Doodle Brummett,

among many others.

As I got older, my thoughts turned to duck hunting and retrievers became an important part of that scene. I have had several labs that would help us find downed ducks. Chase, Babe and Daisy were three of the better ones that I had over the years and each of those retrieved numerous fowl. I have been blessed to hunt with many other great retrievers that saved many steps in the duck woods or in the fields. Cally and Cody, owned by Fred and David Wilcox, have retrieved many birds for us in the Black River bottoms. Ruger, owned by Cody Taylor, has been a valuable asset to many hunting expeditions. Jett, owned by Stacey Speer, has also picked up lots of ducks and saved us many steps as we have chased snow geese. Another dog, Reese, owned by Kevin Keen, has helped us find many, many downed doves in corn stubble as well as pheasants on the South Dakota prairie that would have been hard to locate otherwise.

All of these dogs, and many others, have added greatly to hunting experiences over the years. Beagles provide lots of fun as they chase rabbits through woodlots, fence rows and ditchbanks. A good dog man can tell what is happening in the chase by the sound of the dogs as the pitch and urgency of their barking changes during the race. The same can be said of hounds that chase raccoons or fox and the terriers or feists that chase squirrels.

A retriever, whether it be a Labrador, Chesapeake Bay or golden can be a lifesaver when chasing birds of any type. They are a true conservation tool as they often find birds that might be otherwise difficult to find or retrieve cripples that might make their escape.

There is so much more to hunting and the outdoors than most people realize and watching a well-trained dog work a field or make a long retrieve guided by hand signals are a couple of things that make outings even more special. These wonderful dogs are great tools for the hunter, but are often great companions around the home. I am very thankful for the times I have got to spend with these and other wonderful dogs.

I hope each of you will take some time to get outside this fall and enjoy the outdoors. Maybe you will even have a dog alongside to make it more enjoyable and memorable.

Have a blessed fall, y'all, and I hope to see you out there.



HAPPENINGS

PARAGOULD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR DUKE TIP 7TH GRADE TALENT SEARCH



Eighteen seventh grade students from Paragould Junior High School qualified for the Duke Tip 7th grade Talent Search. Students qualified for the program by earning a qualifying score on a recent administration of the ACT Aspire.

Pictured from left, front row, Madison McCamey, Rylee McDougle, Corbin Bailey, and Lane Holden. Middle row, Sam Deerman, Cassey Pearson, Lacey Boling, Kiley Williams, and Kasyn Orr. Back row, Lucas Deatherage, Keller Hall, Qwenlyn Crittenden, Ava Biggs, Gracen Cooper, and JoBeth Mitchell. Not pictured: Keaton Courtney, Olivia Ellis, and Hannah Vowell.



At its annual meeting, the Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corporation, which oversees Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, met to review AMMC's activities and accomplishments over the past fiscal year. During 2017-2018, AMMC's activities and accomplishments included: Caring for 115,900 patients, providing \$9 million in uncompensated patient care, in keeping with the medical center's non-profit mission, employing 650 employees and pumping more than \$37 million into the local economy in wages and benefits. Adding seven new providers with sterling credentials to its team of healthcare providers, AMMC President/CEO Barry Davis said, "It is important to understand that YOU own Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. We're not owned by someone from a different city, or state, or some for-profit chain or governmental entity. We are truly community owned and operated. Each of us has a stake in what happens at 900 West Kingshighway. While this can create challenges other organizations may not face, we take great pride in our community purpose."

THE SMOKING SKULLS ANNUAL BENEFIT



The Smoking Skulls Motorcycle Club held its annual Ride for Knowledge event on Saturday, August 25. Donations of school supplies were collected and donated to the Paragould School District. Hundreds of students will benefit from the generosity of the Smoking Skulls. Pictured are Smoking Skulls members Justin Noblin, Arty Hood, Justin Bryant and Bryan Drennen.



Greene County Tech High School football coach Nathan Morgan's sister, Tech Sergeant Morgan, based at Medina Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, surprised him for his first game on Friday, August 24. Athletic Director Trey Harding organized a "game" where coach Morgan had to identify a football player blindfolded. His sister was the surprise player and she hugged him and it only took a couple of seconds for him to yell, "That's my sister!" Tears were shed by not only them but onlookers as well. Students stood and clapped for this special moment.

BIRTHS



Maggie Mae Cupp

Proud parents Ryan and Shana Cupp of Paragould welcomed their daughter, Maggie Mae Cupp, into the world on September 5, 2018. Her grandparents are Doug and Dana Williams, Darrell and Kim Wall, and Paul and Aimee Cupp. Maggie was delivered at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 20 3/4" inches long.

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ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS



Jenna Davenport & William Craft

Engaged couple Jenna Davenport, of Paragould, and William Craft, of Jonesboro, have announced their plans to marry on December 15th of this year at Walcott Baptist Church, with the reception immediately following at The Crossing.

The bride's parents are Dennis and Norma Davenport. The groom's parents are Lorrie and Randall Wright, and Wes and Sania Craft.

Photography by Whitney Vassar Photography



Elizabeth Biggs & John Norred

Elizabeth Suzanna Biggs and John Jordan Norred announce their engagement and plans to be married. Elizabeth is the daughter of Bill and Carolyn Biggs of Jonesboro. John is the son of Larry and Cathy Norred of Piggott.

The couple will marry October 20th, 2018, at the Nettleton Baptist Church.

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Sgt. Wesley Foster Day



Announcement of a new day of dedication to Sgt. Wesley Foster

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