

# PREMIERE

June  
2019

ERIK WRIGHT

WHAT TO DO:  
EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS 101

PREMIERE  
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# From The PUBLISHER... DINA MASON

“

Severe weather is nothing to sneeze at, and as we watch flooding and tornadoes happen in our neighboring states we encourage everyone to be familiar with the resources our counties and cities have in place --- just in case.

What might surprise you is the amount of work being prepared ahead of time and what duties these resources fulfill on a day-to-day basis that keep us safe even when we don't know we need them. When emergencies happen and we as a media company play our role in keeping you informed, your knowing the availability these resources and how they work will help you help yourselves and others, if need be.

June has our quarterly special section for NEA Seniors, so don't miss the stories and information detailing much of what our area offers to enrich the lives of those citizens and how they enrich the lives of those around them.

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# IN BETWEEN

BY LINDSEY MILLS



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“What are you up to these days? What are you doing now?” Nervous laughter precedes my response to the inquiries.

The questions are familiar. They mirror those that were asked upon graduating high school: *What are you going to do now? Where are you going to go to school? What are your plans? What will you study?* And those that were raised after college: *What's next? Any jobs lined up? What do you want to do?*

The answer has remained the same to each version of this nature of questioning: I DON'T KNOW.

The only difference between then and now is that I've come to be okay with this answer.

I don't know where I'm headed. I don't know what's next. I'm not sure where I'm going, so I'm certain I don't how I'll get there.

My personal self-discovery has unfolded over many miles traveled, run, and hiked. I've learned that this feeling of confusion and uncertainty is universal, that we're all trying to figure out our place in this big world, and that most of our lives are made up of this “in-between” period. I've decided it's important, it's *essential*, to accept this and keep taking steps forward anyway.

It's okay to not know what's next. It's okay to not know where you're headed. It's okay to feel lost.

*It's okay to be in-between.*

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# THE ULTIMATE OLDIES SHOW

On April 19 and 20 Paragould was graced with the Ultimate Oldies Show, a fun and exciting blast from the past that takes you back to the early days of rock and roll, classic country, '50s, '60s and '70s! Hosted at the Historic Collins Theatre, many talented musicians and performers gathered on stage to bring the audience a fast-paced, energy-filled evening of music and dancing to their favorites from back in the day. People of all ages enjoyed seeing the musicians, bringing together generations through music. The Ultimate Oldies Show will be returning to the Collins Theatre July 19 and 20, so if you missed it you can be sure to mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this! You can find out more about the event on Facebook, and you can view more events at the Collins at CollinsTheatre.com.



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# DANGERS IN THE SUMMER!

By: Dr. Kristin Sullivan

Summertime is a time for relaxing, for family vacations, for playing outside and having fun. However, we are not the only ones out and about in the summertime. This time of year at veterinary hospitals, we see many patients that present for acute allergic reactions, heat stroke, being hit by a vehicle, and snakebite wounds, to say the least. This is why it is so important to always be aware of your surroundings and to keep a close watch on all your furry friends.

Allergic reactions can be caused by many different sources, but in the summertime the two most common causes are insect bites/stings and pollen. Symptoms observed with this include, but are not limited to, intense itchiness, facial and neck swelling, hives over the body, severe reddening of skin, sneezing and wheezing, watery eyes and nasal discharge.

Heat stroke can come on quickly or slowly. Veterinarians unfortunately most often see this when a pet is left in a hot car for even a short amount of time or left outside on a day with high humidity. Heat stroke is very often fatal – patients that present for heat stroke require very intense hospitalization and intravenous fluids. Instead of taking your pet out and about on those hot days, I find it best to leave your pet at home to rest.

Pets get hit by vehicles all too often. This is especially true when the days are longer and nights are shorter – animals are more active in the warmer months. It's always best to keep your pets inside a fenced-in yard, but this is not always possible. In cases where you cannot have a fenced-in yard, it is always safest to walk your pet on a leash outside to use the bathroom. Keeping your pet leashed to a fixed spot in the yard is very dangerous; when pets are kept on a leash in the yard they have no way to escape a potential danger/threat and they also may entangle themselves in the leash, leading to serious injury and even accidental strangulation.

Snakebites! Yikes! Snakes are already out and about and the venomous types are the ones that cause the most damage to healthy skin, but any snakebite can cause a very bad infection. Venomous bites can cause severe swelling and then dying of tissue at the sight of the bite; in more severe cases they can even lead to death. You may not always be able to visualize the bite wounds, especially with smaller snakes, but if your pet is painful or you notice any swelling, best to get them to their vet right away. Please do not try to catch or handle the snake. You can take a picture of the snake from a safe distance or just describe it to your vet. These are just a few of some very common summer dangers. If you have specific questions about summer dangers, contact your veterinarian. I hope this helps to keep your pets safe this summer so that you can all relax and enjoy the warm weather.

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# PET OF THE MONTH

"Van, nicknamed Vanner, is a four-year-old cat named after Van Morrison because of the orange patch of fur on his head.

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By Angela & Zac Baker

"When we had just bought our first home and could finally get a pet, I came across a lady online trying to give away a litter of sick kittens that were just born eight weeks earlier. I showed my husband, Zac, pictures, and he immediately picked the one with the orange patch on its head. We went and picked him up right away. After a trip to the vet, we were told he had an infection that could cause blindness if left untreated. My husband was not going to let that happen. He paid for the medication and spent the next several months nursing him back to health. Luckily, he made a full recovery, although he does have a bit of a lazy eye now that makes him look like he's winking.



"He absolutely adores Zac and his fur sister, Lucy, but really doesn't care for anyone else. He loves Christmas time because the tree is just so much fun to play in and nap under. He also enjoys staring at the fish tank, sunbathing by the window, and birdwatching.



"He's incredibly vocal. If you meow at him, he'll keep meowing back with you until you stop.

"He's such a fun addition to our family, and we're very blessed to have him."

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# E911 DIRECTOR MIKE MCCAMMON

By: Richard Brummett



Now that the City of Paragould's Emergency Dispatch Center has been up and running for about a year, Director Mike McCammon said there is no doubt the move to consolidate emergency calls from all over Greene County into one centralized location has been the right one.

"Oh, yes," McCammon said when asked about the success of the merger creating the consolidated emergency dispatch center. The original goal was to decrease response times and improve communication between

departments, and he said the new center has proven its worth.

"We went live June 24 of last year," he said. "We handle all emergency and non-emergency calls for the rural fire departments, Arkansas Regional Medical Center EMS, Paragould Police Department, Paragould Fire Department, Greene County Rescue Squad, Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Marmaduke Fire Department, among others. We average on a 12-hour shift in a day about sixty-five 911 calls. Calls for service average about 100 a day. In April, we took 8,064 calls for service. We have almost tripled the number of calls since moving it from the police department."

McCammon came to Paragould after 15 years in law enforcement just across the state line in Dunklin County, and had experience as the 911 director there, so it made for a smooth transition. He said he and 14 other dispatchers at the center serve as "the starting point on emergency calls. We handle the issue at the beginning, then, say, the Paragould Police Department is the one to have to handle it from start to finish.

"When we take a 911 call, first, we verify the address, then we get all the information we can from the caller. Next, we get responders en route and it depends where it is ... Paragould Police, county sheriff's office, Marmaduke Police ... whichever needs to be contacted. We attempt to stay on the phone with the caller as long as we can, as long as they're safe, until the officer arrives. Then we're done."

The new facility has sleeping quarters if needed, a conference room, and a dispatch room that McCammon calls "the lifeline." It includes five state-of-the-art workstations with room to add up to a total of nine if the need arises, and is housed inside 12-inch thick walls capable of withstanding an F5 tornado. Its doors are bulletproof and McCammon said regardless of what is happening outside, dispatchers will be in a safe place prepared to continue addressing local emergencies. "People need to know this is not a public building; it's not a place to come for help. They will have no access to the dispatchers. They call here and we take it from there. What people do need to know is to have their 911 address posted clearly so responders can see it."

"Mike was really instrumental in making the consolidation happen in spite of insurmountable political hurdles," said Erik Wright, Greene County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator. "Greene County is very fortunate to have his expertise here. We in Greene County are light years ahead of what others are still trying to get."

McCammon was expecting visitors from the Springdale Police Department later in the day of this interview, and had representatives from Polk County scheduled as well. He said groups often request tours of the new facility and want to know how the conversion is proceeding.

The 911 center is located at 24 Southpointe Drive and its non-emergency number is 870-239-7552.

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# Local Destination: Norfolk Inn

By: Richard Brummett

When arriving at the Henderson area near Lake Norfolk from Paragould, the obvious reaction is to turn one's eyes to the right, toward the lake. It is a large and beautiful expanse of water and nature that draws visitors from all over the country during the spring and summer months.

But in looking that direction it is easy to miss another attraction situated on the other side of the road. The Lake Norfolk Inn is a hidden gem even though it sits in plain sight. My wife and I took a short trip to the inn for an overnight stay and have to admit neither of us knew what a treasure it is. From the outside it looks like countless other places to stay, with windows and doors and multiple levels, but once inside it comes to life.

The area surrounding the indoor pool, spa tub and sauna is particularly beautiful with windows running almost from floor to ceiling on one side and greenery situated throughout, adding a touch of nature to the mood. An enclosed atrium on two separate levels invites either individuals or groups to sit and enjoy a relaxing few moments, suitable for a person to sit back with a cup of coffee and the morning newspaper -- as I did -- or for a group to surround tables and host a meal. Two large windowed garage-door structures can be raised to let the morning breeze filter in, providing some pleasant rest and relaxation while looking out over the inn's picnic area.

The inn was established in the 1980s and owners are currently updating many of the 78 rooms to better serve guests with a more modern look. Ours was perfect for a good night's sleep and morning after with a king-sized bed, microwave, refrigerator, work table and small breakfast table provided. Most of the rooms have an unrestricted lake view but many offer just as much to enjoy on the inside. A "honeymoon suite" rests at the top of the stairs near the pool area and it is a cozy, nicely decorated and furnished room, but there are also kitchenettes available, adjoining two-room suites, a Jacuzzi suite and at the end of May, a modernized condominium looking out over the lake should be ready for use.

All rooms furnish hair dryers, coffee makers, flat screen TVs with cable programming, and data port phones with free local calls. Complimentary wireless Internet access keeps you connected, and bathrooms have shower/tub combinations and complimentary



toiletries. Fax and copy services are available in the office area, where a breakfast room and complimentary breakfast are also provided.

Our hostess for our short stay was Charlotte Wyckoff and she gave us the grand tour of the inn and the grounds. For those who plan to make use of the lake, the inn has boat and trailer parking on the premises with power hookups to charge their batteries. Marinas with jet ski and boat rentals are right across the highway -- as is the boat launch ramp -- and the inn works closely with local fishing guides for those who want to make use of their services. Lake Norfolk Inn also has a sizable area suitable for weddings, reunions, meetings or banquets, again with an incredible view of the lake. Known as The View Event Center, it will accommodate around 250 people.

While the picnic area behind the inn boasts tables and grills, there is also an area just off the



front parking lot where guests can sit and enjoy the lake view. A large deck/veranda/patio has a fire pit, tables, and chairs, all suitable for a picnic-style meal or for moments of conversation with friends.

Charlotte said the inn is extremely busy during the summer months but a phone call is all it takes to find out about the availability of rooms. The inn is pet friendly and literally a one-minute drive from Lake Norfolk. Area golf courses are within 15 miles or less and attractions like the Norfolk Dam, Bull Shoals Lake and Dam, the famous Jacob Wolf House and the Buffalo National River are all less than 30 minutes away.

To contact the Lake Norfolk Inn, call 870-488-5144 or go to [lake\\_norfolk\\_inn@yahoo.com](mailto:lake_norfolk_inn@yahoo.com) for more information.

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# WHAT TO DO: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

## Erik Wright

By: Richard Brummett

**E**rik Wright is the Greene County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator and says he is well aware many people know his job exists, but might not actually know what he does.

“My office is one of those ‘not really sure what it is’ places for a lot of people,” Wright said, “but we are at the front of situational awareness information gathering. We work very hard to pass it out to the public.”

What he does, he said, “... depends on the day. Luckily, 99 percent of the time we have no disasters. But we are core partners in emergency management with first responders and schools, and state and federal partners to develop and exercise outreach programs to benefit Greene County. Historically, emergency management in Greene County has not had a very public face or aggressive stance on outreach. We are working hard to reverse that at the local and state levels. And we’re making a lot of headway. We’re making a name for ourselves in emergency management.”

As an example, Wright refers to agencies from other cities making trips to Paragould to see just what it is that we are obviously doing right. During his three years in the department, Wright said the range of issues requiring attention has broadened and he feels Greene County is among the leaders nationwide in making the necessary adjustments.

“The three years I’ve been here are a hallmark for my involvement in earthquake awareness,” he said. “People in this area are sick of hearing about the potential for an earthquake but it doesn’t negate the fact that the federal government must mitigate against disaster. We’re rewriting the New Madrid Seismic Zone catastrophic plan. It has kept me very busy. It’s something that goes on behind the scenes that folks don’t necessarily see, but we are constantly assuring we are prepared.”

“Another thing not publicized much is the Greene County School Safety Task Force. Schools, the Paragould Police Department, the FBI and more sit down and meet -- like a

think tank -- on how to move school safety readiness beyond what it already is. They may have similar problems, and with the FBI there they may come up with solutions. Everyone shares the same problems and may have different solutions but all want the same outcome. No matter if it’s a tornado, an earthquake or terrorists, everyone wants to have a plan in place.”

Wright works with local, state, federal, and international emergency management and preparedness partners to help alleviate or lessen damage done by man-made and natural disasters in Greene County. While many may think only of weather-related issues when speaking of the office responsibilities, areas that must be addressed also include public awareness of hazards presented by active shooter threats, hazardous chemicals and train derailments.

He works closely with Mike McCammon, Director of Paragould Emergency Services, whose office oversees all consolidated Greene County dispatching capabilities. The consolidation of all 911 calls into one center is another example of Greene County’s move to the forefront in disaster preparedness. “When it comes to disasters I feel like Mike and me and the first responders can cover it,” Wright said. “As Emergency Management Coordinator for the county, I serve as a conduit for resources at the state and federal level in case of disaster.”

Wright said he is available to speak to or offer advice to individuals or groups, and hopes Greene County citizens understand the importance of information he shares via the office Facebook page.

“When I post information, it’s not for my own amusement,” he said. “Heed the information and advice offered. State and federal weather services and I pass it along to you to keep you safe.”

Wright’s office is located at 320 West Court Street, Suite 107, in downtown Paragould and may be reached via Facebook or by phone at 870-239-6300.



# WHAT'S COOKIN'?

## FRESH & EASY FARMERS MARKET RECIPES

### GRILLED CORN SALSA

**Ingredients:**

6 ears fresh shucked corn  
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
1/2 cup minced red onion  
1/2 cup chopped cilantro  
1 teaspoon grated lime rind  
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
2 red jalapeños, seeded and minced

**Directions:**

1. Preheat grill to medium-high. Brush corn with 1 tablespoon oil. Grill, uncovered, turning often, until charred, 15 to 20 minutes. Cut kernels from cobs.  
2. Combine corn, remaining 2 tablespoons oil, onion, and remaining ingredients. Store in refrigerator up to 1 week.

*Recipe courtesy of cookinglight.com*

### ONE POT FARMER'S MARKET PASTA

**Ingredients:**

12 oz spaghetti  
1 medium red onion, peeled, halved, and sliced  
1 small Japanese eggplant, halved lengthwise and sliced  
Several stalks asparagus, cut in 2 inch pieces  
A handful of broccoli florets, cut in half  
2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved  
1 colorful bell pepper, chopped  
2 cloves garlic peeled and minced  
2 handfuls baby greens (I used baby kale and wild arugula)  
1 - 1-1/2 tsp salt and lots of fresh cracked pepper  
1/2 tsp red pepper flakes  
2 Tbsp olive oil  
1 cup dry white wine  
3 1/2 cups water  
1 Tbsp white wine or sherry vinegar  
1 cup shredded hard Italian cheese

**Directions:**

1. Put everything except the cheese into a large pot.  
2. Add the wine and water (measure exactly since you will not drain the pasta) to the pot and bring up to a boil. If your pasta doesn't fit completely in the pot, nudge it down into the water as it softens.  
3. Cover the pot while it comes to a boil then uncover and boil for about 7-9 minutes, until the pasta is just al dente. Babysit the pan a little bit to ensure that the pasta doesn't stick. Don't overcook the pasta; there will still be some water left in the pan.  
4. Toss the pasta with the cheese, and serve with the extra tomatoes and lots of fresh basil.

Notes: You can use lots of different veggies for this dish, whatever looks good. Mushrooms would work well, also carrots, zucchini, cauliflower. Tomatoes are a must, though.

*Recipe courtesy of theviewfromgrestisland.com*

### PEACH & BLUEBERRY COBLER

**Ingredients:**

3 tablespoons unsalted butter  
3 tablespoons canola oil  
1 cup whole-wheat flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup reduced-fat milk  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
3 ripe but firm peaches, (about 1 pound), pitted and sliced into eighths, or 3 1/2 cups frozen  
2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

**Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.  
2. Place butter and oil in a 12-inch cast-iron skillet or a 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Heat in the oven until melted and fragrant, 5 to 7 minutes.  
3. Meanwhile, combine flour, baking powder and salt in a large bowl.  
4. Add milk, sugar and vanilla; stir to combine. Add the melted butter mixture to the batter and stir to combine. Pour the batter into the hot pan. Spoon peaches and blueberries evenly over the batter.  
5. Return the pan to the oven and bake until the top of the cobbler is browned and the batter around the fruit is completely set, 50 minutes to 1 hour. Remove to a wire rack to cool for at least 15 minutes. Serve warm.

*Recipe courtesy of eatingwell.com*



## 2019 Kids' Events

# June

**10**

### Arkansas SkyDome Planetarium

**When:** Monday at 12 PM

**Where:** Round Room, Jonesboro Public Library

315 W Oak Ave, Jonesboro

**Info:** [libraryinjonesboro.org](http://libraryinjonesboro.org)

**Various Dates 5-17**

### Summer Reading Program

**When:** 10:30 AM

**Where:** Greene County Public Library

120 North 12th Street, Paragould

**Info:** (870) 236-8711

**19**

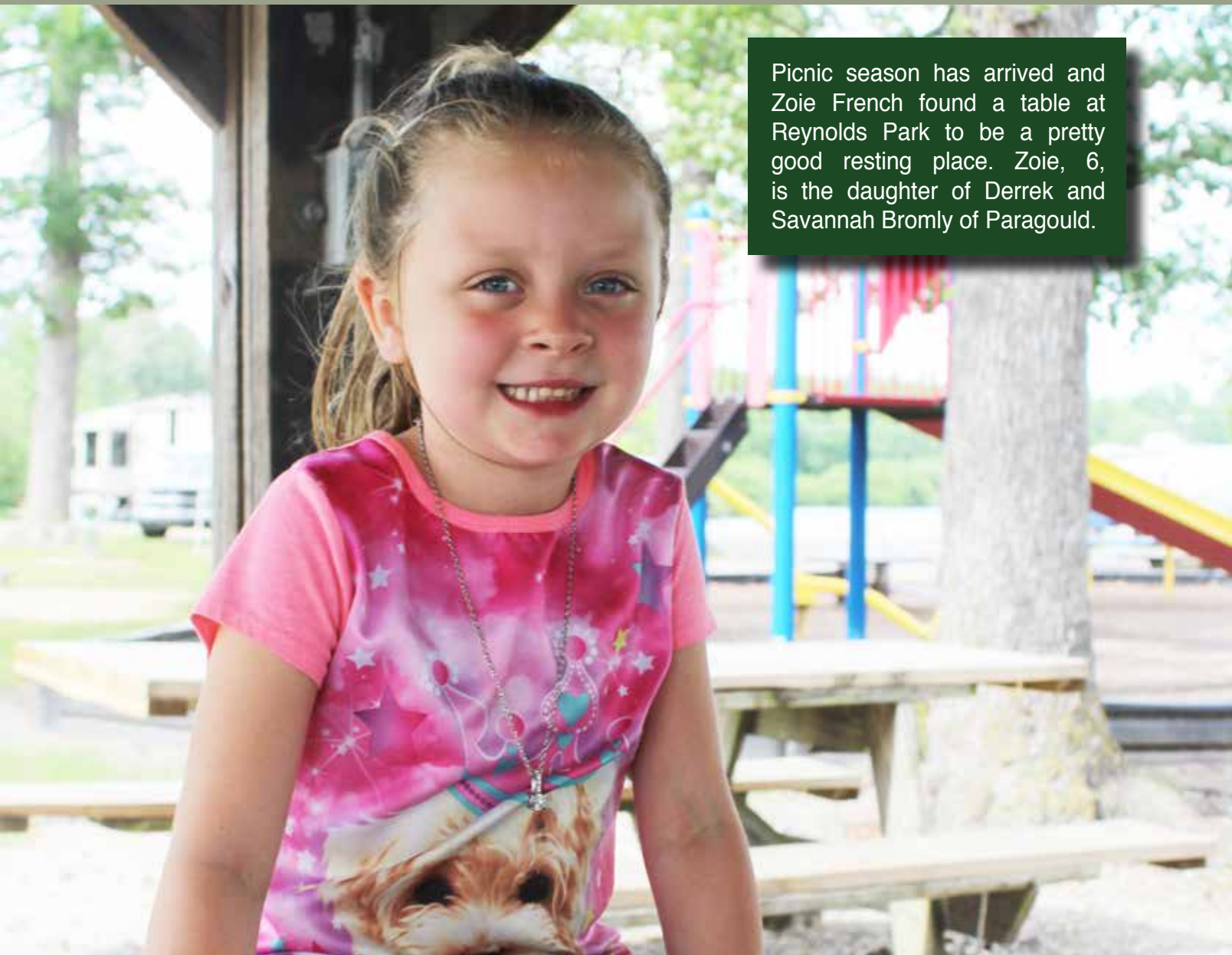
### Actlvated Story Theatre

**When:** Wednesday at 2 PM

**Where:** Mall at Turtle Creek

3000 E Highland Dr, Jonesboro

**Info:** [libraryinjonesboro.org](http://libraryinjonesboro.org)



Picnic season has arrived and Zoie French found a table at Reynolds Park to be a pretty good resting place. Zoie, 6, is the daughter of Derrek and Savannah Bromly of Paragould.

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF JONESBORO: CENTENNIAL PLAZA

The Rotary Club of Jonesboro celebrated 100 years of working in the city April 26 with the dedication of its latest completed project, Centennial Plaza, gifting Jonesboro a new location to host open-air events.

The event included pre-ceremony entertainment with Jonesboro Jazz, The FOA Music Show Cast, art displays by Jonesboro Academy of Visual and Performing Arts and Nettleton STEAM, and pianist Andrew Pulliam, followed by many speakers representing Rotary Club who reflected on the past 100 years of Jonesboro Rotary Club and delivered hopes and ideas for the future.

Working on it for three years total, club member Jerry Brackett said the Rotary Club is happy to have served the community 100 years and hopes to continue on to at least 100 more.

The Centennial Plaza will be a great location to host outdoor events downtown, including concerts, arts and craft fairs, stage performances, and more. The Forum will also have the opportunity to use the venue for its programs.

The Rotary Club impacts the community through improvements, large and small, and members raised the funds for this project themselves through fundraisers and donations.

You can learn more about the Jonesboro Rotary Club and everything it does for the community at [JonesboroRotary.org](http://JonesboroRotary.org).





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# RESTAURANT **insights** By Gayle Brock



If you ever find yourself in Waldenburg on a Friday or Saturday night you may just want to stop in at Pintails Steak and Seafood, owned and operated by Shawn and Theresa Powell from Weiner. The restaurant has so much comfort and country you will wonder if they butchered the cow out back and brought it in and grilled it to perfection.

"A little out of the way," stated Theresa, but definitely a place you want to stop if heading to a nearby destination. When asked why they decided to build in Waldenburg, Theresa simply said, "It is in the center of all the major cities and it is close to home."



Shawn and Theresa embarked upon this venture almost a year ago this month and have never looked back. "We carried every board in here and even stained them," Theresa claimed. "See that boat up here above the register? This was carried out of a garage and was owned by the grandfather of Mr. Tad Raby. If you look all around, you will see comfort." She went on to say, "My husband and I own C and B Trucking and Rice Country Tarps, and I have never lost sleep over those businesses like I have this one. This is a labor of love, and every decision has been one we take so much pride in."



When asked why she thought the place is so packed every Friday and Saturday night, Theresa replied emphatically, "Our employees, hands down! You may not believe this, but our employees have made this establishment what it is today." She added with evident pride: "Folks come from miles around to get that great hometown feeling in a restaurant, and they get that right here at Pintails Steak and Seafood!"



Theresa and I were sitting at a long, wooden table during the interview, and a couple, Mr. Jonathan and Mrs. Catina Ashlock, were seated down from us at the same table. "We are all friends here," Theresa exclaimed. "Everyone sits together; nobody is a stranger here."

This allows you to sit and mingle with your neighbor as you create a bond, even if you are between cities, Theresa explained. It put me in mind of a Japanese restaurant where folks sit around a hibachi grill, only this is a country setting. Think of a throwback to the Walton times with everyone sitting down for Sunday supper. Theresa put it this way, "The way the world is now, we know more people through a screen than we can say we honestly do face to face. This gives you that chance to make new friends, and family become closer together over an affordable meal that won't break you. This is where you come, sit together and share stories."

To say the place was packed was an understatement and busy was in the air. As Theresa got up to get the phone and take a call-in order, I mingled with Mr. and Mrs. Ashlock. Jonathan is a local farmer and Catina works for a seed company not far away. When I asked what it was about the restaurant that keeps them coming back, their answer was, "The way they make you feel when you walk in, the food, the price and the pride of it being in a town of a population of 60-plus people." I think the whole town came out on that night and brought Newport, Weiner and Jonesboro with them. Not a seat was empty, and the call-in orders were plentiful. It just goes to show, as small as a town can be, life can "bring it to life" in a very large way.

Pintails Steak and Seafood is open every Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. until duck season starts; they then open three days a week just so the local folks can have the opportunity to get a meal.

You can find more information about Pintails Steak and Seafood, including the menu, by going to [www.facebook.com/Pintails-steak-seafood](http://www.facebook.com/Pintails-steak-seafood). The place is a true hidden treasure with staff and food that will make you look forward to returning again and again.

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# WHAT TO DO: JONESBORO E911 DIRECTOR *Jeff Presley*

By: Caitlin LaFarlette

**J**eff Presley once had a career as a brick mason but today he can be found in the midst of directing emergency dispatching.

For 12 years Presley has served as the Jonesboro E911 director. It was an injury over 20 years ago that set him on the path to emergency dispatch.

"I worked as a brick mason in my 20s," he said. "After a back injury and surgeries, I was blessed with an opportunity to receive a grant for vocational rehabilitation with the state of Arkansas to help pay for training for a career in a new field I could physically handle."

Presley always had an interest in radio and the technology surrounding it, so he spoke with lifelong friend Bud Marshall about a new job. Marshall was the training officer at the Jonesboro Police Department at the time, and he informed Presley of a new E911 dispatch center under construction that would change the role of public safety.

"I was excited, to say the least, to be a part of the new center and learn the ins and outs of emergency dispatching," Presley said.

The state approved the grant Presley needed and he began a new career in public safety in 1992.

Presley rose to his current director's position after five years as a dispatcher and 10 years as a certified E911 training officer. A typical day for the director begins at 5:30 a.m. with debriefing before moving on to monitoring calls and radio transmission for traffic alerts, as well as safety related calls for morning school traffic. Presley also handles daily testing of radios and fire paging systems.

"We not only answer 911 calls but we operate a statewide public safety radio system for emergency dispatching," Presley added. "We are also under compliance with the FBI. All employees must be tested and certified to use the National Crime Database."

For the general public, Presley stresses the importance of having an emergency safety plan for not only the home, but for the workplace.

"Practice the plan often," he said. "Springtime in Arkansas brings storms. Be prepared, have your weather radio ready."

Presley also added having an earthquake plan is crucial because of Northeast Arkansas' location on the New Madrid fault zone. This type of planning is what drives Presley and he said for him, knowing his work and training can save lives and protect citizens is the most satisfying thing about his job.



# NEA Artist By Gayle Brock

How many of us can say we own, live in and run a business out of the town's original city hall and jail right in the heart of downtown America? James and Amanda (Mandi) Tinker are among those few who can. James and Mandi are the owners and artists of Black River Beads and Pottery in Pocahontas. The building itself has a one-of-a-kind piece of art history which includes artifacts such as the actual jail house bars that still exist within the walls. The City Hall and jail was erected in 1939 with local stone and locally milled lumber. The plaque on the building shows it was built by the National Youth Administration during the time when J.W. Burrow was Mayor of Pocahontas. I had the privilege of taking a private tour of the wonderful piece of art and history located in the historic downtown area, just yards away from the Black River that runs adjacent to and in areas through the town.

Mandi's parents -- James and Cindy Throgmorton -- own a local photography studio called Camera Corner and in the basement of their business is where the couple got its start as bead and pottery makers back in 2002 with their first store called "Original."

In 2004 the Tinkers purchased the city hall and jail, knowing they would live upstairs and run their Glass Bead and Pottery business downstairs. With beads from Italian and American glass, James and Mandi process beautiful glass designs by lampworking. Lampworking is the process of melting glass

around a stainless steel mandrel, and a torch or lamp is primarily used to melt it. Once in a molten state, the glass is formed by blowing and shaping with tools and continuous hand movements.

James and Mandi both took pottery in college and it was during a school trip to Hawaii that the duo connected and soon after married. James recalls "very vividly" how he grew up in a "row crop" family that raised rice and soybeans. He said with laughter, "I told my dad I didn't want to grow up with my hands in mud and oil, so I am going to go to college, so I don't have to. So, off to college I went, and I then went to work at a local factory called SKIL Manufacturing." That sounded pretty thought provoking, so I asked, "Why was this so funny to you?" "Well" he said "I have had to eat those words each day of my life as my hands are in a constant state of mud and oil. I will always recall this conversation with my dad and it will always be one of my fondest memories brought forward every day as I am working with my hands."

It wasn't until the birth of their first of two sons, Alex, who is now 15, that James took FMLA from SKIL and began making their income with glass beads. Amanda had always run the business while he worked in the factory. "While I was off for those ten weeks, it helped me see that I, too, could help assist in making money from our business that we both love," James said, and little did he know that the 10 weeks would help set them up on a new path with



them both working the family business. SKIL later closed its doors in Pocahontas and moved to Mexico "sometime between the year of 2005 or 2006," he stated, "and this left me with no job. But with the 10 weeks I took off during FMLA for the birth of my son, I had confidence we both could create art and sell it in our business and prosper from it. My wife Mandi does great with the ONE OF A KIND pieces of work; you bring an idea to her and she gives it life. She is more of an artist in the moment. I, on the other hand, am great with the assembly line type of work, and I get lost in the repetitiveness of it all. Together, she designs in the moment and I can mass produce. For example, we have a set of customers who has a new business going into the downtown Jonesboro area called Roots. Roots is a restaurant with an Ecuadorian type feel and vibe to it. The owners asked us to create 250 signature pieces for them to use in their restaurant; they wanted them made of pottery with a glass glaze. We were able to create and achieve the one-of-a-kind pottery plates, bowls, saucers and mugs which they

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were looking for and they were able to keep it local because this, too, was important to them. Each piece is personally signed by me. Roots is very much about local foods and community, and they pride themselves by keeping it local as much as possible, too. Matter of fact, their motto is 'Kitchen, Culture and Community,'" stated James.

The Tinkers specialize in handmade lampwork of all types including handblown lighting, beads, jewelry and pottery along with a line of all-natural bath and body products, with soap made from goat's milk and from a nearby natural spring they have exclusive access to. They use stainless steel, copper, lead-free and nickel-free non-toxic materials, including nylon and leather. Their sons Alex and Jackson take a lot of pride in helping create naturally made soaps. James stated, "Watching them grow up in the business of Beads and Pottery, me and Mandi can see they both have a gift of creating pottery and beads too."

One of their newest product lines is cutting boards that have family heirloom recipes burned into them. They take the handwritten recipe that you bring in and transfer it onto a cutting board. "This was a huge hit for Mother's Day," said James, "and we sell a lot as gifts for birthdays and even wedding gifts. It is just more of a personal type of gift that keeps on giving each time you see it." To say I was amazed was an understatement. I am one who loves to cook, and I enjoy reading family recipes. I will be back to have this created as a gift for a certain family member, for sure!



Black River Beads and Pottery has a Facebook group you can join along with a Facebook page [www.facebook.com/blackriverbeads.com](http://www.facebook.com/blackriverbeads.com). The Facebook group gets first options on new product lines before they are offered to the public. Their website is [www.blackriverbeads.com](http://www.blackriverbeads.com) and they have an online store at [www.blackriverbeads.etsy.com](http://www.blackriverbeads.etsy.com). You can also find their work on Amazon and eBay by searching Black River Beads and Pottery.

you will not see anywhere else, I recommend going to Black River Beads and Pottery.

The prices are very reasonable and the local art they create is truly out of this world amazing! Black River Beads and Pottery is definitely keeping the town of Pocahontas history alive as the Tinkers are creating history each and every day.

Pottery and bead making demonstrations are available upon request. Their email address is [blackriverbeads@yahoo.com](mailto:blackriverbeads@yahoo.com). The phone number is (870)248-0450, and the physical address is 213 East Broadway, Pocahontas. Hours of operation are Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday by appointment only, Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed on Saturdays and open from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

If you find yourself off the beaten path and looking for a place that is very cool and art that



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The warm sun and the smell of cut grass hinted of the coming summer. Landon and I drove up to the edge of Chad's pond hoping the uptick in temperatures would encourage the catfish to bite. We parked close to the pond and got out a couple of rods and reels and molded a small wad of stinkbait around the hook. Landon lobbed the offering into the pond and we settled down on the bank as the ripples died around the floater.



After only a few minutes the floater began to dance just a bit as it indicated a fish was nudging the bait. Landon was ready to set the hook, but I encouraged him to have a little patience until the float disappeared. Suddenly the float slipped beneath the surface and Landon set the hook and the fight was on. He played the fish like a champ as he guided his catch toward the bank.

Landon and I were both excited as the fish neared the bank and soon the two-pound channel catfish was at the water's edge. I reached down to grab it so Landon and I could admire it together but suddenly the line became limp and I heard the rod hit the ground. I turned to look for Landon and he was nowhere near the water. He had hurried up the bank, jumped in the back of the truck and was telling me excitedly and firmly, "Keep that fish away from me!"

That little episode has given Landon, his parents and me lots of laughs. Landon has now changed his tune and is enjoying the water and fishing and I truly expect him to be a lifelong participant in the sport, even though he may not have gotten the best start.

I have had the opportunity to introduce countless numbers of new fishermen to the water, both youths and adults, and Landon's reaction is definitely one of the extremes. There may be a little apprehension in the face of a new participant at times, but, more often than not, the response is one of excitement and joy. It is very often a simple introduction to a sport that can then be nourished into a lifelong pursuit.

We have such a rushed society today that it is often hard to find time to get to the pond or river bank and spend a little time chasing a fish instead of chasing the "American dream." There is always that list of things to do, work to be done and calls, texts and messages to return. From my experience, those are still there when we get to them and a little break from the daily grind can do a person more good than a little extra time staring at a computer or talking on the phone.

Add a child or new fisherman to some time on the pond bank, and it can become an experience that makes lifelong memories. Joyful screams, wondrous looks and wormy hands can cause all the issues of the world to seem petty and less crushing.

I have several people ask me about fishing basics and it seems many people think that fishing, just like most other things in this life, has become much more complicated. That is



## CHUCK LONG

Regional Education Coordinator Northeast Education  
Division Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

far from the truth as the basics of fishing are the same as they were when I was kid roaming the banks of Eight Mile Ditch.

A pack of number four hooks, a few split shot sinkers and a floater will provide all that is needed for a day on the water. A basic spincast rod and reel combo that costs less than twenty dollars will serve the purpose of getting the bait to the fish. Dig some worms, buy a few crickets or round up a little stinkbait and get ready for some action. Put the kid in the truck and head out to a lake or river and make some wonderful memories. A few snacks, cold drinks and comfortable chairs will top off the list for a good day on the water's edge.

To me, that sums up the "American dream." Not money, not fancy vehicles, not big houses or immaculate lawns or anything else like that. The "American dream" is the opportunity to spend time with people we enjoy doing something that brings us together. It is also getting away from all that stuff that ties us down and keeps us strapped to a lifestyle that causes stress and anxiety and allows us to enjoy nature in the Natural State.

I am looking forward to getting Landon back on the water and catching a few fish with him. He may holler and scream just a little, but that adds great memories that cannot be caught elsewhere. I hope you will get out and do the same this summer and I hope to see you out there!

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# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS



The Regional Center for Disaster Preparedness Education located at Arkansas State University was created in 2005 in response to an unmet need for disaster education within the health professions. ASU offers courses in basic and advanced disaster life support, homeland security, and emergency management. The courses are offered via distance education technology to ensure availability for everyone, regardless of geographic location. Northeast Arkansas has a need for these skills; every year for the last 10 years it has had at least one major or federally declared disaster. Being prepared to respond when disaster strikes can be the difference between life and death for victims left behind.

The Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science in DPEM are interdisciplinary programs that prepare students in becoming professionals in the field of disaster preparedness and emergency management. The Master of Science in DPEM is completed online and requires 36 hours of graduate level courses. The program includes a variety of teaching methodologies and activities. The degree culminates in an internship or research project.

The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (DPEM) programs prepare professionals to effectively meet the demands of disaster preparedness, mitigation, planning, response and recovery. These programs offer courses in basic and advanced disaster life support, homeland security, and emergency management. Courses are offered through distance education technology to ensure availability for everyone, regardless of geographic location. Students can obtain an Associate of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science, or Master of Science degree in DPEM. The Master of Science Degree in DPEM offered at Arkansas State was recently ranked number one in the nation for the Best Emergency Management Master's Program by collegechoice.net in 2018.

After obtaining a degree in DPEM, students can work within a variety of settings in education, health services, or non-government organizations at the community, state, national, or international level.

Also housed under DPEM is the EMS Program. This program affords students the ability to obtain an AAS in paramedic, or a certificate of proficiency in EMT, preparing students for entry-level practice as an EMT-Basic or Paramedic. This program offers a skills laboratory as well as hospital clinical and pre-hospital field experience.

The Regional Center for Disaster Preparedness Education at Arkansas State University is an official regional training center recognized by the American Medical Association and National Disaster Life Support Foundation. The center also offers several regional disaster training courses that are open to the public, such as Farmedic, Core Disaster Life Support, Basic Disaster Life Support, Advanced Disaster Life Support and Hospital Decon. For more information on the courses contact [dpem@astate.edu](mailto:dpem@astate.edu).

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# “Discover” The Perfect Day Trip

By Sara Brown



Summer is the perfect time of year for day trips, but one of the biggest problems in planning one is where to go that will satisfy every member of your family. It can be hard to find a place that will keep the little ones, the teenagers, the parents, and the grandparents entertained.

Last year, I found what I think is a solution to this problem, and it's located just an hour and a half outside of Paragould, in Union City, Tennessee.

The Discovery Park of America describes itself as a “unique educational experience for kids and adults,” and once visiting, I absolutely agreed with them. Over the past year, I have visited the Discovery Park three times, twice with friends ranging in age from 18-20, and once with family, ranging in age from 11-79. From interactive

and engaging science and history exhibits inside to the log cabins and tractor barn outside, the Discovery Park really does have something for everyone. There's so much to look at and to do that it'll take you from opening time to close (and then some) to see everything. In addition to everything mentioned above, they have a military exhibit, a vast collection of cars from decades past, a tower with glass floors where you can look across the entire park grounds, the Starship Theater where you can help pilot a mission through outer space, and so much more. My friends, my family, and I enjoyed every second we spent here. We had fun, made some lasting memories, and even learned a thing or two. Go “discover” it for yourself.

For all the information you need to plan a visit to the Discovery Park of America, visit [www.discoveryparkofamerica.com](http://www.discoveryparkofamerica.com) or call 731-665-5455.

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# MORE THAN PINK

## SUSAN KOMEN NORTHEAST ARKANSAS RACE FOR THE CURE 2019

The 2018 version of the Northeast Arkansas Komen Race for the Cure was held on the Arkansas State University campus in April and turned Centennial Stadium PINK!

As NEA prepared for the 2019 Race for the Cure, race week began with Go Pink Week, a time for the whole region to show that it is More than Pink. From April 22-26, businesses decorated with pink to show support for those battling breast cancer and to honor survivors. Banners and signs adorned yards and buildings, hung "In Honor Of" and "In Memory Of" loved ones on Main Street in downtown Jonesboro.

Race weekend festivities began Friday, April 26, with the "Pink Pasta Party," where participants enjoyed a pasta dinner and entertainment. Immediately following was the Pink Prowl through downtown Jonesboro, where many businesses offered happy hour pricing to anyone wearing their Pink Prowl wristbands. Men were invited to participate in the "Pink Pump Run" 100-yard dash as well, where they were to wear heels for a short jaunt down Main Street.

On April 27, breast cancer survivors, volunteers, and community leaders gathered at ASU for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5k. Around 2,760 runners and walkers took off in support for the cause! The event kicked off with a Survivor Breakfast, followed by opening ceremonies and The Survivor Parade.

A total well over \$500,000 was raised to go toward the fight against breast cancer.





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- Jessica Carlile / Jonah Towell: July 27th
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# SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2019

The 2019 Area Special Olympics were held on April 26 at Paragould High School. Hundreds of athletes from all across NEA competed in a variety of events. Lots of first responders, student volunteers, teachers, family, and friends were on hand for support.



The American Cancer Society's Greene County Relay For Life will be held on Saturday, June 8, from 6-9 p.m. at Harmon Park in Paragould. This is a family event, and will include food, fun and games.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement is the world's largest peer-to-peer fundraising event to save lives from cancer. At Relay events, participants celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change. Funds raised help the American Cancer Society attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer – from funding and conducting breakthrough research, to providing free rides to treatment, places to stay near hospitals, and a live 24/7 cancer helpline, leading the fight for a world without cancer.

Ways to participate include the purchase of Luminaria online (or from any team member) in honor of a survivor or in memory of a lost loved one, or donate to the cause. This can be done online at [www.RelayForLife.org/GreeneAR](http://www.RelayForLife.org/GreeneAR).

A great way for businesses and individuals to get involved is to Paint the Town Purple. This will take place from May 15 – June 15. Paint the Town Purple is a chance to raise awareness of the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life in your community. You can decorate your business or home purple in support of Relay For Life. Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill signed a proclamation declaring May 15 – June 15 Paint the Town Purple Days.

For more information visit [www.RelayForLife.com/GreeneAR](http://www.RelayForLife.com/GreeneAR)



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## *congratulations to our winners*

Rebekah Bateman  
Crystal Carter  
Chad Chism  
Megan Dancer  
Kodi Dobbins  
MacKenzie Fisher  
Mark Foster  
Kyle Franzen  
Matthew Gage  
Tiffany Gipson

Shaina Rae Harvey  
Catrina Holt  
Sarah Hunt  
Ty Keller  
William King  
Jessica Ko  
Shannon Lamb  
Katie Lipscomb  
Kila Owens  
Katie Prescott

Noelle Richardson  
Summer Tyson  
Natalie McDowell Underwood  
TJ Underwood  
Drake Wallace  
Kandice Welch  
PJ Williams  
Seth Williams  
Andrew Wills  
Susan Woodring

Enjoy reading the profiles and take any opportunity to thank and encourage these committed citizens and their companies as they volunteer and work toward making your community a better place to LIVE, WORK, and PLAY. If you are interested in getting involved, ask the individuals or contact the organizations directly. Everyone can offer their talents and contribute!  
**NOW GO VOLUNTEER!**

# REBEKAH BATEMAN

*Realtor,  
Arkansas Elite Realty*

Rebekah Bateman lists among her volunteer and community endeavors membership in Junior Auxiliary of Paragould and working with the United Way of Northeast Arkansas.

"Oh, wow! I am flattered," Rebekah said. "I love the people in this community and am honored to be chosen for 30 under 40! Northeast Arkansas is a great place to live!"



# CRYSTAL CARTER

*Branch Manager,  
Centennial Bank*

Crystal G. Carter has been a Branch Manager with Centennial Bank for 20 years. She is a lifelong resident of Marmaduke, where she graduated high school in 1998, and has been married to Michael Carter for 22 years. They have two children: Mallory, 21, and Garren, 11.

Crystal has been a volunteer for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life for the past nine years, in addition to serving as the event committee accounting chair for the past four years. A supporter of Ag for Autism, and Special Olympics Arkansas, she is a graduate of Class XX of Leadership Paragould and is a member of the Paragould Chamber of Commerce Business Development Committee. She also participates with Partners in Education as a lunch buddy at Oak Grove Middle School.

"This nomination is truly an honor," Crystal said. "I am blessed to have a job that I love and the opportunity to be surrounded by such a caring, involved community."

# CHAD CHISM

*Quality Manager / ISO Coordinator / Project Engineer  
Best Manufacturing Inc.*

Chad Chism considers his greatest volunteer effort his association with scouting. He has been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America for the past five years, starting when his son wanted to join the Cub Scouts with his friends and after the first meeting, "I realized that Pack 115 out of Bono needed an adult to step up and lead a group of kids as Den Leader," Chad said. "Just recently, my son has crossed over to Boy Scouts with Troop 115 and I was asked to step up and help lead as Assistant Scoutmaster. It may seem challenging at times, but watching these kids grow up to become leaders themselves is an award in its own."

Of his selection to the 30 Under 40 list, Chad said, "Like many others, I am deeply honored and surprised to be nominated. I hope that one day I can be an influential leader that others look up to."



# MEGAN DANCER

*Clinical Dietitian, US Renal Care*      *Registered Dietician Consultant, LTC Facilities*



Megan Dancer is a member of 7th and Mueller Church of Christ, and has been an active member of Junior Auxiliary of Paragould for the past five years. She served on the board (corresponding secretary and treasurer) for the last two, and was previously the Child Welfare Chair along with being a Provisional Trainer for a year. Megan said JA events like the annual Cheers for Charity, Christmas Blessing, Kids Kraze, and other countless service projects make her feel “extremely blessed. Although it seems as if I am volunteering my time in an attempt to make a difference in our community, the true blessing has been how this organization and the service it provides to others has truly impacted my life. The joy it brings is indescribable. From the smiles on children’s’ faces, maybe even a sense of comfort to others that people really do care, to the numerous opportunities of teaching my boys how to give back by showing them what serving one another truly means.

“When I received my nomination email, I was completely shocked and humbled,” Megan said. “To know that someone even considered me to be recognized as one of the 30 Under 40s in our community was a gift in itself. I’m just an ordinary girl trying to raise a family, educate and care for my patients, and volunteering my time in between as an attempt to give back a portion of what the Lord has blessed me with. Thank you so much for this opportunity.”

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# KODI DOBBINS

*General Manager,  
Hampton Inn*

Kodi Dobbins is the General Manager for the 2-year Lighthouse Award-winning Hampton Inn.

She lists among her community involvement efforts Secretary of the A&P Commission, the Rotary Club, and said she and her husband are in the process of becoming foster parents. "For Rotary, I volunteer as much as possible, such as reading at schools, distributing books, and picking up teens from camp," Kodi said. "I also attend as many Chamber events as possible.

"I am flattered to be nominated for 30 under 40," she said. "I feel since I have moved to Paragould in 2016 that I have grown to be more involved in a community and help make a difference for the future. Paragould has become home and I love watching it grow. During the past 2.5 years I have developed a relationship with many local business and grown our hotel. I strive to provide a family oriented management style that has created a low turnover and strong clients."



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Congratulations to Shannon Lamb on being named to Premiere Magazine's 30 Under 40 list.

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# MACKENZIE FISHER

*Kindergarten Teacher,  
Paragould Primary School*

MacKenzie Fisher serves as the Parent Coordinator for the Greene County Tech High School Band, where her son, Will, is a 9th grader. Mackenzie is married to Matt Fisher.

“First, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Premiere Magazine and MOR Media for this honor,” Mackenzie said. “I was very surprised, and grateful. I also would like to congratulate each person nominated. I love Paragould! I feel like it is a great city to live, work, and raise a family. It is definitely a place that I am proud to call home.”

# MARK FOSTER

*DNP, APRN, FNP-BC  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Family Practice Clinic*

Mark Foster, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, is a Family Nurse Practitioner at Family Practice Clinic in Paragould. He is also an Arkansas State University Assistant Professor, a Family Nurse Practitioner Program Option Coordinator and a Chair Graduate/Doctoral Nursing Studies from the School of Nursing.

He is a Northeast Arkansas Advanced Practice Association Member, formerly on the Mission Outreach Board of Directors, is a National Association of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Member, an American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Member and includes in research areas of interest Suicide Prevention, including regional and national presentations.

“It is great to be part of a community that supports and inspires its citizens to succeed,” Mark said.



# KYLE FRANZEN

*Franchise Owner, Pillar to Post*

Kyle Franzen is the Northeast Arkansas Franchise owner of Pillar to Post, the largest home inspection company in North America.

He was recently presented the award for “2018 Affiliate of the Year” by the Northeast Arkansas Board of Realtors. He has 20 years’ experience in the plumbing industry and has his Master Plumbers License, which is very beneficial in home inspections.

Kyle graduated from Arkansas State University in 2006 with a degree in business. While at ASU, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity and has contributed to various charitable organizations since.

He loves sports, hunting and the outdoors and wants to help preserve it for generations

to come, and is an active member of a number of wildlife organizations. He is currently Committee Chairman for the National Wild Turkey Federation for Greene County. Every year the NWTF contributes funds to area schools and 4-H Clubs for training in archery and shooting sports. Most of Kyle’s family members are lifelong residents of Greene County. He and his family are members of Saint John’s Lutheran Church at Lafe.

“It is truly an honor to be selected as one of Premiere Magazine’s 30 under 40,” said Kyle. “There are so many great business professionals in Northeast Arkansas that contribute to the betterment of our community. I am sincerely thankful for the confidence I’ve been shown.”



# MATTHEW GAGE

*Co-Owner & Operator,  
J and M Detail / B & B Garage*

Matthew Gage is part owner and operator of J and M Detail / B & B Garage. He describes his various roles as mechanic, auto detailer, paint and body man, and networker.

He said his workload doesn't allow for him to be involved in as much as he'd like, but he still tries to be active in the community when he can. "Honestly, I'm not really a part of any groups," Matthew explained. "Unfortunately, between working 60-80 hours a week and then when I am off work trying to be some sort of help to my incredible wife at taking care of our daughter and twin boys, I just don't get the time to be

as involved in our great community as I would like. We do try to donate as much work as we can to our civic groups, school fundraisers, and community events.

"I am truly honored and grateful to be nominated to the 30 under 40 group," Matthew said. "It's an incredible group of people that I'm not sure I'm deserving to be in a list with. I hope to grow and become a better person, business and leader to help our great community flourish. I love our community and city. Thank you so very much again for the nomination, and God bless you all."



# TIFFANY GIPSON

*Director of Community Impact,  
United Way of Northeast Arkansas*

Tiffany Gipson and her husband, Michael, relocated to Jonesboro from Lubbock, Texas, along with their children Kaedence, Tristan and Michael Jr. in the fall of 2016. Since that time Tiffany has been Director of Community Impact for the United Way of Northeast Arkansas, coordinating the largest service project day in Northeast Arkansas -- Day of Caring -- with the help of "an amazing committee and hundreds of volunteers," she said. Tiffany also directs the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, preparing income tax returns for free for those in the community who earn less than \$65,000. She is a certified member of the Highlands Company where

she mentors high school students, college graduates and young professionals as they transition through each career cycle.

"Surprise would be an understatement when receiving news of my selection for the 30 under 40," Tiffany said. "Since moving to Jonesboro in 2016 I have been blown away by this amazing community and the talented, caring individuals here. To be nominated and selected is very humbling. In my brief time in Jonesboro I have come to love and cherish this place we now call home. I have come to love and cherish this community and I am truly grateful and humbled for this honor."

# SHAINARAE HARVEY

*DAABHS, Youth Support Specialist Lead Trainer  
UALR-MidSOUTH*



A non-Arkansas native, ShainaRae Harvey has become an advocate for youth within her community and around the state. She is at the forefront of a new service being provided in Arkansas: Youth Support Specialist. She's assisted in the creation of the curriculum as well as being one of the first Youth Support Specialists trainers for Arkansas. Youth Support Specialists enacts an evidence-based treatment to provide support to peers having gained the ability to empathize with them through lived experience and not formal education. She looks forward to the growth of the service and assisting in its application locally.

ShainaRae partners with multiple youth serving organizations. She is an executive board member for Youth M.O.V.E Arkansas, is a liaison for YMA-Craighead County, the Co-Chair of the Family and Youth committee for Craighead County, as well as a board member for Out of the Dark, a youth drug prevention organization in Craighead County. She has countless years working in her community to advocate for youth and underprivileged families.

"I was so surprised when I found out I was nominated for this; I work with so many wonderful people within our community it is an honor to be considered alongside such impeccable volunteers," ShainaRae said. "Our community is my home and I just want to make a positive impact with the youth. They are our future, the most important work we can invest in."

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# CATRINA HOLT

*Human Resources Business Partner,  
Prysmian Group*

Catrina Holt is involved with several activities in the community offered through the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the board for the Greene County Industrial Technology Center and a regular attendee of the Central Baptist Church – Paragould Campus.

“I am deeply honored that someone thought to nominate me for this,” Catrina said. “I know that it is important to give back to the community that gives so much to us and, although my time is pretty limited with two small children, I try my best to support our community to make it a great place to live and work. Thank you for the nomination and selection. I am so thankful and blessed.”



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## SARAH HUNT

*Director of Marketing,  
Gamble Home Furnishings*

Sarah Hunt teaches 6th grade girls in Emerge (Pre-Teen Ministry) at Central Baptist Church and is an active member of YPACS of Northeast Arkansas (Young Professionals for the American Cancer Society). She also participates in planning and executing fundraising activities for local non-profits and charities through the Gamble's Gives Back Initiative.

"I feel so honored and humbled to be nominated and selected as a 30 under 40 honoree," Sarah said. "Working at Gamble Home has provided me with the unique privilege of being able to coordinate, organize, and plan community givebacks in ways that I had only previously dreamed of. Being allowed to work alongside so many other talented and driven professionals working for a common goal of making this community better has been nothing short of amazing! Thank you."

## TY KELLER

*Director,  
A-State Innovate*

Ty Keller is a member of First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro. He serves as President of the Board for Breaking Bonds Ministries, recently spent three years as a board member of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, and he leads a 9th grade small group for the First United Methodist youth group.

"I am truly humbled to be nominated and selected for the Premiere 30 under 40," he said. "I love the work that you and others do for our Northeast Arkansas communities. We are blessed to live in a place like this, and I am thankful that you are dedicated to shining a light on all of the great things we have going on. God bless! And Go Red Wolves!"



## WILLIAM KING

*Commercial Loan Officer,  
Southern Bancorp*

William King is a member of the Lions Club, Rotary Club and the NEA Mortgage Bankers Association. He helps with the music program at his church and volunteers every year with Relay for Life. "Relay has a special place in my heart," William said. "I also am a Manila BBQ Festival volunteer."

"I was very surprised to hear that I was nominated and even more surprised to hear that I was selected," he said. "It's an honor to be picked. Volunteering is at the heart of who I am."



# JESSICA KO

*Owner & Speech Language Pathologist,  
Hands on Learning, LLC*

Jessica Ko is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Paragould and ASHA (American Speech-Language and Hearing Association) and is on a board for a local start-up non-profit organization. Jessica is passionate in her support of the American Autism Association and the Alzheimer's Association. Many of her volunteer efforts are through Hands on Learning, where they sponsor a Miracle League team every year and assist the Junior Auxiliary as much as possible, providing free hearing and vision screenings, and seeing some children pro bono for therapy services. In addition, they provide free transportation and field trips for children in the summer, some of who may not otherwise have that opportunity, and help local Girl Scouts obtain their volunteer hours.

"I am honored to be nominated and selected for this recognition," Jessica said. "I have always been passionate about speech therapy and helping others. I have dedicated much time and effort in helping children in the Paragould and surrounding areas to succeed and thrive, no matter their situations or backgrounds."



# SHANNON LAMB

*Inventory Control Specialist, Sissy's Log Cabin  
Secretary, NEA Artist Collective*

Shannon Lamb's community involvement and volunteer work include being a Local Works Artist /NEA Artist Collective Member since 2015, and serving that organization as Secretary and Events Co-Coordinator. She has been an ASTATE Art and Design Council Member, an ASTATE Create 2019 Symposium Judge and an Oasis Arts Festival Committee Member. Shannon was also a Sissy's Log Cabin Race for the Cure Team Member and Team Captain, and participated in the Sissy's Log Cabin Walk to End Alzheimer's (Team Captain) as well as being the Sissy's Log Cabin Race for the Cure Team Captain.

"I have only just recently started to contribute to improving my community," Shannon said. "The fact that I was nominated for 30 under 40 is very flattering and tells me that I'm off to a decent start. I look forward to meeting some of the other nominees and seeing if we can use these new connections to get something positive started in NEA!"



# KATIE LIPSCOMB, RN

*Director of Wound Healing Services,  
St. Bernards Medical Center*

Katie was Loaned Executive for United Way during this year's campaign and received recognition as Loaned Executive of the year. She has volunteered throughout the community with The United Way and at City Youth Ministries, and is a member at Central Baptist Church, along with her husband and son. "My husband and I are very involved in our son's travel team," she added, "helping coach, organize and ensuring everything is handled."

Katie said, "I am very honored and blessed to be nominated and selected for this. Completely surprised and excited! I have worked for St. Bernards close to 10 years, doing wound care. I have a passion for my patients, co-workers, and the mission of St. Bernards. I started as a patient care tech and worked my way to Director of wound care. It has been a learning process and extremely rewarding. God has truly blessed me in my personal life and professional life."





# KILA OWENS

*Media Relations Manager,  
St. Bernards Healthcare*

Kila Owens is a member of Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro and volunteers at The Learning Center, with the Microsociety Book Club, was Chair of the Multimedia Committee for Charity Ball (2017-2019) and has been an NEA Family Crisis Center board of directors member since 2017. Kila is a member of First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro, was a Leadership Jonesboro graduate in 2018 and is a St. Bernards Advocate.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be nominated for the 30 Under 40 program,” Kila said. “I have lived in Northeast Arkansas since 2014 and, in that time, have fallen in love with this community and want to do anything I can to make this a better place for all of us to live.”



**Congratulations Catrina Holt!**

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# KATIE PRESCOTT

*Senior Associate General Counsel,  
Arkansas State University System*

Katie Prescott has been a member of the St. Bernards Women's Advisory Council since 2007, working on the Stories in the Forest, Kids Fun Fair, and Kids on the Mile events. As a member of the Southwest Church of Christ she volunteers with the Children's Ministry through Children's Church and the WOW program in the summer. Katie has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since 2007, a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee, and was a member of JYPN. A member of the Craighead County Bar Association and the Arkansas Bar Association since 2007, she has also been involved with the National Association of College and University Attorneys, Junior Auxiliary (chair of the Constitution Committee in 2017 and 2018, First Vice President in 2019), and has spent the last two years tutoring kindergartners at the Jonesboro Kindergarten Center and leading a book club for 6th grade girls at MicroSociety through the Literacy and More project. Katie helped provide bags, blankets and toiletries for children in foster care and volunteers at her children's schools, Brookland Elementary and Brookland Middle. She has also helped with the Bill and Alice Nix Petting Zoo at Arkansas State University during the fall and spring open house.

"I'm humbled, flattered, and pleasantly surprised to have been nominated," Katie said. "I'm blessed to have been raised in a family that taught me to work hard and play hard, but work comes first; to always be willing to help others in their time of need; to seek to leave your corner of the world a better place; to enjoy life and bring happiness wherever you go; and, to always try your hardest at everything you do. I'm fortunate to have a career, an employer, and a family of my own that support me in my effort to live my life with those goals and values in mind. And I am honored to think that by being chosen as one of the 30 under 40, I am living them out."






**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*Kodi Dobbins!*

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# NOELLE RICHARDSON

*Drug Free Communities Coordinator  
Out of the Dark Inc.*

Noelle Richardson started volunteering with City Stars in Jonesboro while attending Arkansas State University, changing her major to Sociology because working with kids was her passion. In 2010 she earned her bachelor's degree and started working for Mid-South Health Systems, which opened her eyes to the Non-Profit world. Noelle volunteered with North Jonesboro Neighborhood Initiative and Fisher Street Community in Action and in 2013 took over Youth MOVE Arkansas as the State Director. She served a two-year term on the Youth MOVE National Board of Directors.

Other community involvement of note includes joining the Craighead Out of the Dark Coalition as a volunteer and later a board member; helping with the Youth

Coalition, better known as the Prevention Squad; chairing the Walk to End Alzheimer's in downtown Jonesboro; and serving in the nursery along with her husband at Walnut Street Baptist Church.

"I am truly humbled for being nominated and selected," Noelle said. "Throughout my career and volunteer efforts I have been dedicated to improving the lives of the youth and their families in the community in which I live. Therefore, being singled out for something that seems so natural seems a bit foreign to me. My oldest daughter asks questions when we attend events or activities out in the community, and her main question is, 'Why are we here?' I always tell her that we are all given a purpose in life, mine is to help others."

# SUMMER TYSON

*DDS, MDS  
Owner, Jonesboro Pediatric Dental Group*

Summer Tyson lists among her community involvement efforts being an annual volunteer for Arkansas Mission of Mercy as well as with Give Kids a Smile. The list continues with Doctors with a Heart, being a DDS4NEA board member, Fellowship Status American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, Diplomate Status ABPD (American Board of Pediatric Dentistry), Board Certified member of ABPD, volunteer professor at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry, winner of the St. Jude's Outstanding Volunteer Award and giving of her time to the Arkansas Special Olympics, Make-A-Wish, clothing and food drives for the needy and making presentations to local schools for children's dental health awareness.

Summer is also an active member of the Arkansas State Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Dental Association, the Arkansas State Pediatric Dental Association, the Northeast Arkansas Dental Society, the Southwestern Society of Pediatric Dentistry and ADPAC -- the American Dental Political Action Committee.

"I am honored and completely humbled to be acknowledged for this recognition," Summer said. "I love children and love what I do. I am blessed to have such a supporting husband, family, and staff that love children as much as I do. We all have the same goals in mind ... to change the life of a child, and make their experience easier and less fearful. I am grateful for the many families that have entrusted me with the treatment and care of their children. I love each and every one of them as if they were my own. God willing, I will be able to serve this community for many generations to come. Thank you."



# NATALIE MCDOWELL UNDERWOOD

*Pharmacist,  
Walden Drug*

Natalie McDowell Underwood is an active member of the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould and said she is thankful to be a part of an organization dedicated to serving and meeting the needs of the children of Greene County. Natalie enjoys supporting her sister -- an Area 1 Special Olympics athlete -- at her various events and cheering her on, and encouraging all the other athletes as well. Her husband T.J., a fellow 30 Under 40 recipient, joins her in giving regular blood donations to the American Red Cross.

"Giving blood is such an easy thing to do and can help so many people," Natalie said. "My weekends are spent with family and attending Rock Springs Methodist Church. I am honored to be recognized as a 30 Under 40 recipient. I love my community and am blessed to be able to serve."



# T.J. UNDERWOOD

*Patrolman,  
Paragould Police Department*

T.J. Underwood is a patrolman with the Paragould Police Department. He is a member of the SWAT team and a Drug Recognition Expert within the department.

He attends Rock Springs Methodist Church with his wife, Natalie, and children, Isabella and Wyatt. T.J. is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police.

"I am very honored and humbled by this recognition," he said. "I am very fortunate that community involvement comes with the job that I do, and I love it and this great community."





# KANDICE WELCH

*Dental Assistant,  
SEMO Health Network*

Some of Kandice's volunteer efforts include being a member of PTO, an assistant Boy Scout Troop Leader and giving of her free time at the gym to help others with weight loss goals.

"I am so honored to be nominated," Kandice said. "I did not realize my journey has inspired so many others. I have worked so hard to get where I am today and I just want others to know ... never, ever, give up on yourself!"



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# PJ WILLIAMS

*Police Officer,  
Jonesboro Police Department*

PJ Williams is a co-founder of Children's Home for Life Foundation and Children's Home for Life Ministries, is a member of the CCC wraparound committee, and is the immediate past president of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8.

"I am very honored and humbled to be nominated for Premiere Magazine's 30 under 40," PJ said. "It is my goal and passion to serve the city of Jonesboro and all of Northeast Arkansas. I believe the more of us that do what we can to serve others in our community, the more our community will thrive."



**Congratulations Catrina Holt!**

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*Congratulations  
Tiffany Gipson!*

Congratulations to Tiffany Gipson, Director of Community Impact, on being selected for Premiere Magazine's 30 Under 40.

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# DRAKE WALLACE

*CNC Programmer/Machinist  
Ranger Tool & Die*

Drake Wallace is a registered adult with the Boy Scouts of America and a Den leader for the Lions for Pack 138 with his step-son, Marshall. Drake is also very active in helping with Girl Scout Troop 3219 with his daughter, Audrey. Being a part of both scouting groups provides numerous volunteer opportunities, mostly consisting of community clean-up.

He is also a part of the Quality of Life Sub-committee of the Economic Development Corporation, which is tasked with implementing improvements to better the Quality of Life for the citizens of Paragould, and belongs to the Paragould Young Professionals.

"I am deeply honored by the nomination and selection for 30 under 40," Drake said. "I would have never imagined being nominated or selected for something such as this."



# SETH WILLIAMS

*Producer/Account Specialist,  
Lennox Insurance*

Seth Williams is an active member of West View Baptist Church in Paragould, where he is on the praise team and helps lead worship. He is also actively involved with the church's youth department, and gets to be a part of a mission trip to Honduras this spring. Seth is a coach for a U10 boys soccer team under the Greene County Soccer Association (GCSA), where he is a current board member. He is also a new member of the Paragould Young Professionals (PYP) and said although he does not belong to either the Kiwanis Club or the Master Gardeners, he is "a familiar face to both groups, via my wife Hannah Williams (Riggs), who is an active member in both. Most of my volunteering is through the church or through the youth, but I hope to help more in communal events.

"I am very honored to have been recommended and selected for the 30 Under 40," Seth said. "I am very humble, but I am a product of a forgiving God, an amazing family and support group, and mostly, I am who I am today because of my grandmother and the Christian values she has instilled in me. I'm blessed to be able to work for a company that has a lot of the same core values I have. We hold customer service to a very high standard, and treat everyone with honesty, just like they are family. I hope to continue to grow, and help grow this community I have spent my whole life in. If we can all remember to be kind to one another, we can be the change we want to see in this world."

# ANDREW WILLS

*Account Executive / Partner Engagement  
Virtual Academy Advanced Training Solutions*

Andrew is a member of the Board of Directors for the Northeast Arkansas Child Advocacy Center, is on the UAMS Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Family Advisory Board, volunteers with the Northeast Arkansas March of Dimes and is a Josh Burson Memorial Golf Tournament volunteer.

"I'm very excited and humbled to be selected for 30 Under 40," Andrew said. "It's our duty as humans to leave this world better than we found it. I hold a core belief that the right training and education can solve many problems we now face in our society. I'm proud that the organizations I work with along with my employer are helping further that mission."



**Congratulations  
Mark Foster, APRN!**



**CONGRATULATIONS, *William King*,  
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# SUSAN WOODRING

*Sales Manager,  
Embassy Suites*

Susan (Suzie) Woodring is the Sales Manager for Embassy Suites by Hilton Red Wolf Convention Center.

Some of her community involvement and volunteer efforts include Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce and Good Will Ambassadors, Paragould Chamber of Commerce, Cattle Baron's Ball, United Way's Stuff the Bus, Back Pack Program, Toys for Tots, and Habitat for Humanity.

"I hope to get more involved with the Paragould community now that we live there," Suzie said, "as well as more programs through our hotel/management company's (O'Reilly Hospitality Management) focus on giving back in the communities in which we operate."

As for her selection to Premiere's 30 Under 40, Suzie said, "Wow, what an honor! I'm truly surprised and very humbled. I've always loved serving others and so glad the hospitality industry brought me to Jonesboro. I've said for a long time what a wonderful community we have in Northeast Arkansas. In the three years since my family and I have moved here from Central Arkansas, we have always felt welcomed and connected to this area. I'm so lucky to be part of this growing community and can't wait to see what else we all can accomplish together."



**Congratulations to Chad Chism!**



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# FOWLERS HOST 2ND ANNUAL DAY OF THE DERBY

Kim and Chris Fowler hosted the 2nd annual Day of the Derby on Saturday, May 4, at their home in Jonesboro. All proceeds from the event are to benefit the expansion of the Arkansas Children's Hospital Jonesboro Clinic, which provides expert pediatric care for children in the Northeast Arkansas region.

The Arkansas Children's Hospital Jonesboro Clinic expansion will double the square footage of the existing clinic from approximately 4,000 square feet to 8,000 square feet. With the additional space, a second full-time specialist, a pediatric audiologist and additional diagnostic and ancillary services will be added to the clinic.

Guests dressed casually and enjoyed a live viewing of the Kentucky Derby over Strawberry's BBQ from indoor and poolside viewing stations. Day of the Derby is presented by First National Bank.



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# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GIVES A HOME

By Caitlin LaFarlette

On April 30, a Paragould family of three closed on a new house built by Habitat for Humanity.

"This is our tenth house to build in Paragould," Charitti Garner, a Habitat for Humanity committee member, said.

The recipients of the house, Holly Muniz and her 9-year-old son Ruperto and 5-year-old son Joshua, received the good news around Christmas of 2018. Habitat members started construction on the house on 7th Street during the summer of 2018.

"That is a little subdivision that was donated to us by the Prespidge family," Garner said. "There is enough land there to build 10 homes."

Garner also said the organization will continue to build in Prespidge Estates until it is completely full. "We've got enough land there to keep us busy for quite a few years," she added.

Committee members join together when it is time to build a home and by way of social media send out word that applications are being accepted. Garner said applications are sent to the Mission Outreach, Department of Human Services, the Paragould Housing Authority and the library.

"Once we get the applications in, then we have a committee that sits

down and reviews the application. I'm the chairman of that committee because it has to be a mortgage loan officer," Garner said.

Applicants for a Habitat for Humanity house cannot be eligible for a bank approved loan and also must go through an interview process.

"We go to their homes and actually do a home visit and look at their living situation, and then from there we just narrow it down to the family that has the greatest need," Garner said.

Muniz's house took about 10 months to complete and the recipients are required to put in a certain number of hours' work on the house, as well as being required to help build the next Habitat house.

Knowing she was part of a group that helped give a family a house was a great feeling for Garner.

"When I first started doing this I just cried and cried," she said. "To know that you're part of such a great organization, to help someone actually have a new start with their lives, is just very overwhelming."

Garner also made note of how important donations are to Habitat for Humanity. She said any and all donations are welcome, and for those interested in getting involved with the organization, Garner can be reached at 870-215-4825.



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insert the card into the chip reader I am told, "Oh, sorry, our chip reader doesn't work. You'll have to swipe it." If I swipe it, someone says, "You have a chip; you have to insert it."

So I asked in order to save some time and I heard from behind me, "It's a sign of old age, Richard." I turned to find Parks Director Pat Austin in line and awaiting her turn to mess something up, and I nodded in agreement with her. I was happy to know that she, too, had failed to do something the way the modern world wants it done and faced the possibility of starting from scratch to get back to where she needed to be.

Sometimes it seems the realities of everyday living put things in motion to impress upon me that I am cruising along in the left lane of life's highway at old man speed while the youth of technology is piling up behind me, waiting for me to move over to the slow lane so it can zoom on down the road to success.

I had to conduct some business at the post office the other day and when it came time to pay I pulled out the plastic card everyone seems to favor today and my first dilemma arose. "Am I supposed to swipe it or stick it?" I asked the clerk, because when I make my own decisions they're usually wrong. If I

Some time back I needed to make contact with Holly Acuff Burnett in order to work on a story and I happened to come face to face with her outside a local store. I have known her, literally, since the day she was born and she greeted me with a giant smile and a friendly hug, and I asked if I could get her phone number. She said I could and I reached into my back pocket and pulled out my note pad, grabbing my ink pen with the other and she said, "That is so precious! I didn't know anyone did that anymore!"

I quickly went from the joy of getting hugged by one of the prettiest women in town to

feeling like a Grampasaurus Rich, standing there with pen and pad in hand. I know most people would have pulled out a cell phone and beep-booped the number into it, but that's not how I roll, and on top of that, I think I was still using a flip phone and wasn't sure how to work it. I went back to my vehicle and my wife -- obviously having witnessed my hugging a gorgeous young woman -- said, "Who was that?"

"Someone a lot younger than I am," I answered.

Not too long ago I attended a dinner with some of my high school classmates, something we do every few months just to keep in touch. When it came time to settle our individual tabs, I pulled out my wallet. "Whoa," someone from across the table said, "Richard still carries a wallet."

"And it's a big old fat one," another added as I looked around to see that just about everyone else had a money clip or a man purse or a credit card or something that would have made James Bond proud. Apparently real men don't carry billfolds anymore and I even listened to a conversation about how sitting on a jam-packed wallet is detrimental to the health of one's spine, so I just smiled, shrugged, paid in cash and trudged on out to the truck, convinced I was going to ruin some vertebrae and run out of spinal fluid before I could get back home.

I cleaned out the wallet and threw away about a pound of old receipts and outdated plastic rewards cards I had never actually used anyway, and placed all the things that made the cut into a newer, thinner version of a billfold. I may not be hip, but at least my hip won't be dislocated because my wallet is too big.

Recently, I was trying to find my sister's telephone number in my cell phone directory and as I scrolled through something called "my contacts" I accidentally applied too much pressure with my fingertip and dialed a former co-worker, Megan Thompson. This wouldn't have happened in my world, because in order to call her I would have had the receiver in my left hand while my index finger on the right would have been spinning the rotary dial one number at a time. Megan answered and wondered why in the world I was calling her right at quitting time, and I had to explain that I didn't really *mean* to call her, even though we wound up having a nice, short conversation ... and then I made my way over to life's slow lane, where I belong.



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# LIVING A Better Story

By Jared Pickney

There is a trauma wound affecting more people than drugs and alcohol combined. It cuts deeper than flesh and bone, and works its way to the soul. It is the father wound, and it leaves a wake of destruction in its path.

What is the father wound? Every person has a deep longing in their heart to hear from their father the same words Christ heard from His Father, "This is my beloved Son (or daughter), in whom I am well-pleased" (Matt 3:17). It is a deep longing to know we have pleased our father.

The father wound is the deficiency or absence of love from your birth father, whether intentional or unintentional.

The effects of the father wound are farther reaching than what many would suspect. It touches everything from marriage to addiction, from education to behavior, and new evidence even suggests it affects us genetically.

According to the Fathers Unite Campaign, children from fatherless homes are: 5 times more likely to commit suicide; 20 times more likely to have behavioral/emotional disorders; 9 times more likely to drop out of high school; 20 times more likely to end up in prison.

So where do we go from here? Healing from a deep wound is never easy; especially when it is as deep as a father wound.

The first step to healing is to share your hurt with God and others, to be honest about your pain.

The next step is to forgive your father. The longer you hold on to bitterness, the longer your pain will control you.

The third step is to tell yourself a new narrative about who you are. If you are a Christian, you are a child of God, loved, forgiven, accepted, redeemed and secured.

Taking these steps in the context of a faith community is the way forward. It is how we can experience a true healing that will free us to relate to God, others and ourselves in a healthy, life giving way.

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# RAM RUN 2019

On Friday, May 10, around 1,300 students grades K-4 participated in the 2019 Ram Run on the Paragould High School football field. This year was the Paragould School District's 12th Annual Ram Run. Every year, the district puts on the event to promote physical wellness among the students, and it's safe to say that the students always have a great time.



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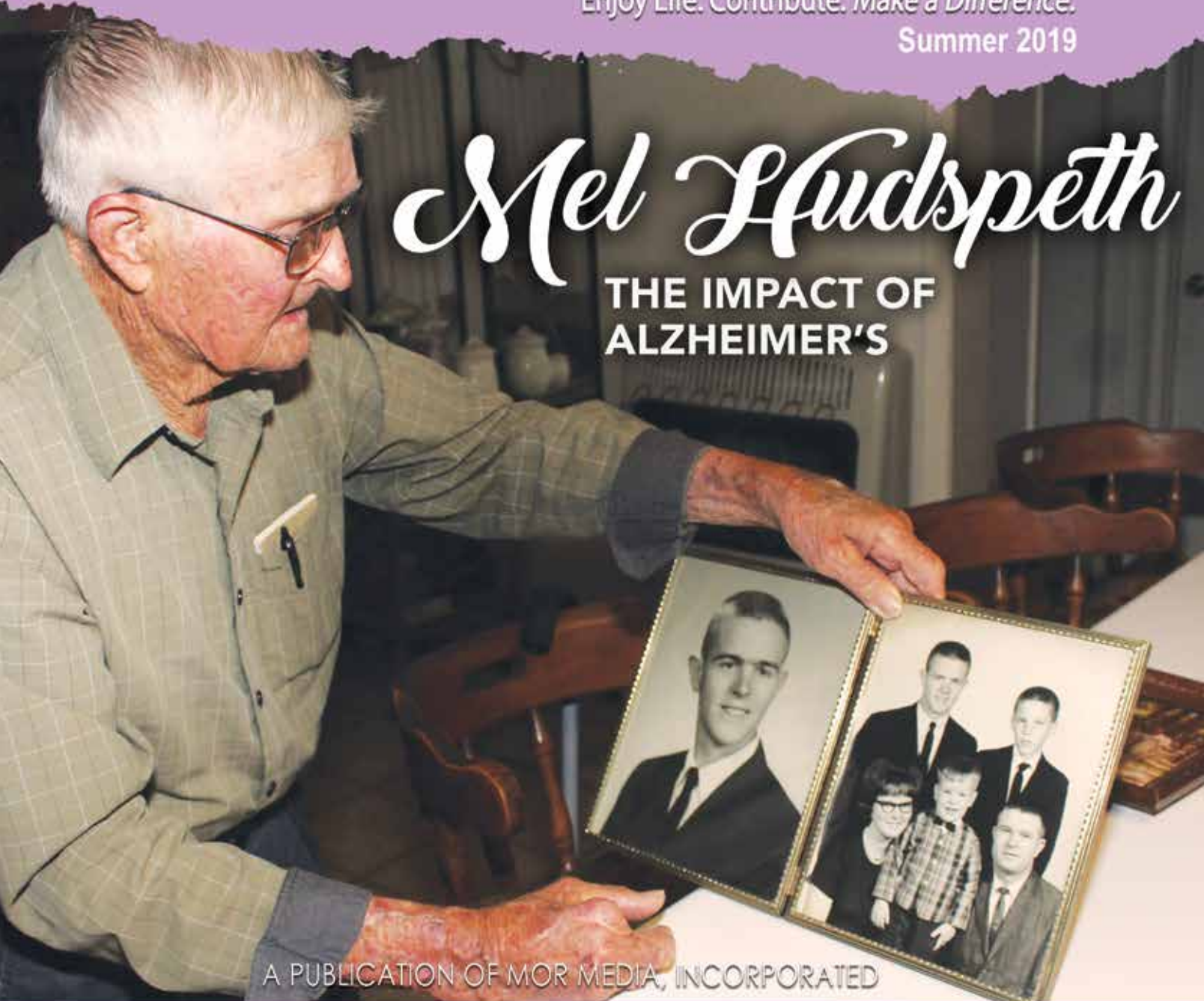
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**AFFORDING  
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**CHATEAU VOLUNTEERS  
HONORED**

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**66**

# Many Americans Will Need Long-Term Care. Most Won't Be Able to Afford It.

By Chad R. Oldham

A decade from now, most middle-income seniors will not be able to pay the rising costs of independent or assisted living.

A recent analysis in Health Affairs, pointedly titled "The Forgotten Middle," investigated how many middle-income seniors will be caught in that bind. The numbers were grim.

Using data from the national Health and Retirement Study, including personal income and assets and health status, the researchers defined the middle-income cohort as Americans from the 41st to the 80th percentile in terms of financial resources.

In 2029, for people 75 to 84 (ages when they're likely to need long-term care), that would mean access to about \$25,000 to \$74,000 a year in current dollars. Over age 85, the middle-income category extends to \$95,000.

About 14.4 million people will fall into the middle-income category, almost double the current number. Sixty percent will need canes,

walkers or wheelchairs to remain mobile, the analysis estimated, and 20 percent will need extensive help with the so-called activities of daily living, such as bathing and dressing.

They're a better educated and more diverse group of older adults than in the past, less likely to experience poverty. Still, most will be unable to afford assisted living, the authors found.

A decade hence, 80 percent of middle-income seniors will have less than \$60,000 a year in income and assets, not including equity in their homes. Yet the estimated cost of assisted living plus out-of-pocket medical expenses will hit \$62,000, by the team's conservative estimate.

"This group gets ignored and underserved in today's long-term care market, and it's a problem that's going to explode over the next 20 years," said Caroline Pearson, a health researcher at Norc (formerly the National Opinion Research Center) at the University of Chicago and lead author of the study. "When you see the numbers, it's sobering."



Depending on how one defines the need, half to two-thirds of older Americans will eventually require long-term care.

Even among middle-income seniors with housing equity, more than half will be unable to pay assisted living fees and medical costs in 2029, the study found. (Independent living, while cheaper, provides some services but no hands-on care.)

While the Genworth survey puts the current national average for a one-bedroom apartment in assisted living at \$4,210 monthly, geographic variations can be extreme.

Moreover, today's middle-income older adults

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have more debt and less savings than earlier cohorts. They're less likely to receive pensions and have smaller families to turn to for unpaid care.

"A lot of us are going to get stuck in this middle, and it's pretty scary," said David Grabowski, a health policy researcher at the Harvard Medical School and the new study's senior author.

As it happens, the same week the research was published, the federal government issued its annual report on Medicare and Social Security solvency. Next year, Social Security's costs will start exceeding its income; the program is projected to deplete its reserves in 16 years. Medicare will deplete its hospital fund in just seven years.

The United States, unlike many Western democracies, has never created a broad public program covering long-term care. Medicare pays for doctors, hospitals, drugs and short-term rehab after hospitalization – not for independent or assisted living.

That burden has fallen on the pocket books of individuals and families, or Medicaid for those with very few assets.

In an effort to encourage private insurance purchases, Congress passed the Deficit Reduction Act in 2005, which included incentives for the purchase of long term care insurance. However, today still less than 10% of Americans have private insurance to pay for long-term care costs. An article published just this month in *Investment News* details the ever increasing cost of such insurance with premiums projected to increase 200% - 300% over the next twenty-four (24) months.

Genworth, the largest U.S. based underwriter of long term care insurance in the country, recently received approval from state regulators to increase premiums an average of 62% compared to increases of 28% in 2016 and 2017, and 45% last year.

So what is a person to do? The prevailing thought amongst practitioners today is to continue to help clients seek out long term care insurance products within their respective budgets, while also structuring estates to maximize benefits through Medicaid and veteran's benefits programs. Perhaps through this "belt and suspenders" approach, and a little luck, one will be able to afford needed care without completely "breaking the bank."

*Chad R. Oldham is an estate planning elder law and probate attorney with offices at 603 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401. He can be reached at (870) 930-9919 or coldham@oldhamlawfirm.us.*



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# B.E.E.S. SENIOR CITIZENS TRAVEL



The B.E.E.S. Senior Citizens recently traveled to Savannah, Jekyll Island, Parris Island, St. Simons Island and Beaufort, South Carolina. Over 40 seniors enjoyed a guided trolley tour of Savannah, with Hop-On/Hop-Off privileges. They also enjoyed a guided tour of St. Simons Island and a tram tour of Jekyll Island. Tuesday night was a buffet at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum followed by a fun night with a great DJ and dancing. Wednesday night after dinner entertainment was at The Savannah Theatre, listening to the wonderful show "The PIANO MEN." The trip consisted of touring, eating, shopping, eating, seeing beautiful churches and homes and did we mention eating?!!! The next trip will be September 29-October 5 to Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The B.E.E.S. trips are very interesting and educational and they have lots of fun and, most importantly, make new friends and have a lifetime of memories. Call Carol at 870-239-4093 for more trip information.

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# CHATEAU ON THE RIDGE VOLUNTEERS HONORED

By: Richard Brummett

The staff at Paragould's Chateau on the Ridge honored its many volunteer workers with a reception and short ceremony in April.

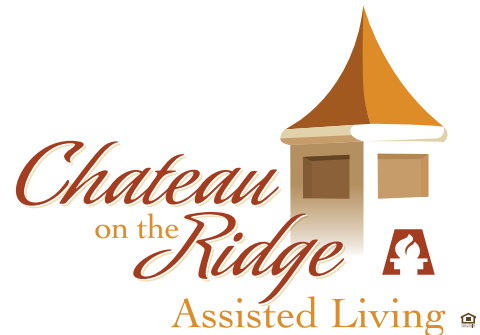
After an expression of thanks for the many hours the volunteers contribute on behalf of the Chateau residents, the staff shared with those in attendance two plaques -- one in memory of Barbara Hazard and a second in memory of Wanda Crow -- to be displayed in the building. Both ladies were remembered as outstanding volunteers and friends of the Chateau staff and residents.

Anyone wishing to have more information on how to volunteer or in the many areas where volunteer workers can be of help should call the Chateau on the Ridge office at 870-215-6300.



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# HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!

## Modean Freeman

On May 11, 2019, Modean Freeman celebrated her 100th birthday at the Hyde House in Belle Meade. Friends and family gathered to celebrate with her and to wish her a happy birthday.



## We Are Pleased To Announce



Two new cottages under construction and to be dedicated at Belle Meade!

Featuring the "Busby Cottage", in memory of Ethan & Bettye Busby,  
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By: Richard Brummett

Greene County's Senior B.E.E.S. decked out the back lobby of their Paragould center in full baseball mode to pay tribute to their state champion Bean bag Baseball team.

Taking last year's second place finish one step further this time, the B.E.E.S. traveled to Jacksonville in May and defeated teams from Van Buren, Searcy, Lepanto and Conway to reach the championship game against one of their biggest rivals -- Jonesboro -- and this time came out holding the championship trophy.

"I am super proud of them," said B.E.E.S. Executive Director Carol Fleszar. "They are so dedicated. Every Tuesday and Friday they come up here to practice and some of them have even made boards so they can practice at home. Absolutely, they deserve all the attention they can get."

Fleszar said the bean bag games are "the best activity we have going right now at the center. There are about 40 people who play ... anyone is welcome ... and it gets them up and walking around and throwing the bags, and they are building even stronger friendships. When I first got here, I had to play because we didn't have enough who were interested. I think we had nine total. Now it has really caught on and when they walk in the door you can hear them talking and looking forward to playing."

Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill congratulated the team at the mealtime ceremony recognizing the winners. The place settings at each table included baseball designs while vendors canvassed the room handing out peanuts and Cracker Jack, and there were bags of popcorn and even baseball cookies to coincide with the ballpark theme.

"Did I say how proud I am of them?" Fleszar asked. "They have made some great memories this year."





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# THE IMPACT OF ALZHEIMER'S

By: Richard Brummett

For most of Mel Hudspeth's adult life he had his wife Imogene, known as "Jean" to family and friends, right by his side. He met her when she was a teenager, talked her into becoming his bride shortly thereafter and shared life and love with her for more than 70 years.

"Seventy-one years, five months and two days," Mel said, to be exact. "The first time I ever saw her I was walking toward Shady Grove and I met her. I had never seen her before. She was a pretty girl. She was 16, I was 18. Come to find out, her grandpa lived right behind our house. She would walk down there and one day I finally said, 'You say you're going to see your grandpa, but I think you're trying to see me.' That's how we got started."

Now 92 and a Greene County resident, Mel recalls how that love never wavered -- in fact, strengthened -- as the two spent the final years of Jean's life battling the complications of Alzheimer's Disease, the most common type of dementia. Dementia is a term used to describe the general neurodegeneration of the brain and Alzheimer's generally begins with very mild changes before graduating to severe decline in procedural memory. Jean struggled with it for about three-and-a-half years before finally passing away in May of 2018.

Mel says in retrospect he can detect instances where the illness was probably taking hold although he and others in the family were not aware of it at the time. Uncharacteristic changes in everyday behavior began to surface without explanation. "I look back when it first started and she was working for Judge Pearson at Jonesboro and she woke me up one morning about three a.m. and said, 'Well, somebody told

me I need to quit work.' I said, 'You mean like in a dream or a vision?' and she just said, 'I'm not going to go anymore; I'm not driving to Jonesboro ever again.' I told she had to call and tell them and she got up the next morning and called and said, 'I quit.' That was one of the first things that was different with her."

He told her if she intended to stay at home she could go to the field with him in the daytime and drive the truck in case he had to change fields on their farm -- something she was accustomed to -- but she said, "I don't know."

"There was a fear of something she had in her mind," Mel recalled. "I said she could drive and take a book and sit in the shade and watch us, so she did, but then one day she up and said, 'I've had enough of that. I'm not going back.' I got the big tractor out and it's air conditioned and I baled hay and had her sit right beside me so she could stay cool. One night I could have baled a lot more but she said, 'I'm ready to go the house,' so I said we'll go. And there was no more getting in the tractor, and from there she got to where I couldn't let her out of my sight. I had to be by her side all the time for the last good two years. "She could dress herself but then she began to get a little worse and a little worse. A preacher down the road came by and said his mother had the same thing and said he wasn't trying to scare me, but said if I didn't watch her she could get up and leave the house. And before long she started getting photos of the kids and wanting to go somewhere, in her nightgown even. I'd put her in the golf cart and drive up and down the road. Then she got to where she could open the door and get out; one morning I watched her and she had two or three pictures under her jacket."

When Mel asked her where she was going she said, "Nowhere" but in just a few minutes she had made her way out of the house and was walking down the road toward their son Steve's home. Mel said he headed her off in the cart and she motioned for him to go back home and said, "Go on," but he explained to her how dangerous the



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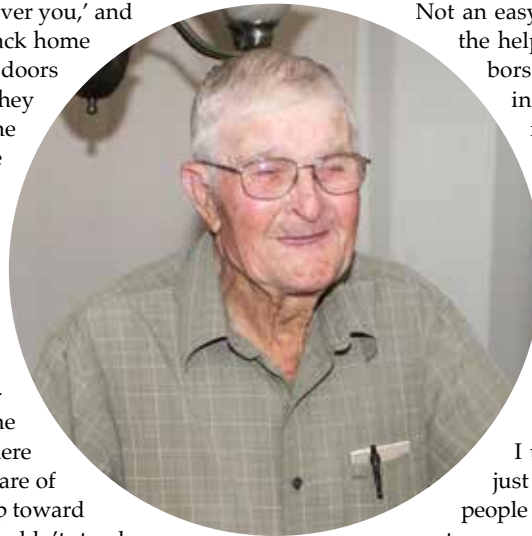
  
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situation was. "I said, 'Babe, a car can run over you,' and so I took her to Steve's and brought her back home and then I got bolts and put on top of the doors to keep her inside and safe. One evening they were fastened for the night and there was the awfulest racket you ever heard, and I came in here and she had pulled the door casing off and fell back in the floor. I said, 'You've done tore the door up,' and from then on, I had to keep her in the house."

For a while Jean was able to walk and dress and feed herself, but before long she took a couple of hard falls and her ability to accomplish simple tasks started to fade. "She slept a lot but in the meantime she got where she couldn't dress or bathe herself. I took care of that. She could walk good so it was easy. Up toward the latter part she got up one morning and couldn't stand up. I helped her but from then on had to put her in a wheelchair. And feed her breakfast. Finally she wouldn't eat good. The doctor said her mind was telling her she was not hungry. At the last she would do little things that were kind of funny, just like a little one. She would come stand in front of the mirror and stand there for hours at a time because she thought her reflection was someone else. She would talk to 'that woman.' She could remember what her momma taught her as a little girl but couldn't remember yesterday. You've heard the saying, 'Once an adult, twice a child.' On April 19th I took her to Hospice at Jonesboro and she stayed there until the second day of May, when she passed."



Not an easy thing to endure, Mel will tell you. He had the help of compassionate family members, neighbors and fellow church-goers, but coming to the inevitable conclusion that a man of his age is not designed physically to take care of someone in need of around-the-clock care was a difficult one.

"My family made sure everything was all right," Mel said. "They stayed for hours at a time. Steve is right next door, and he understood what was going on. He's one who said, 'You've got to get more care.' He knew if she'd fall, I'd have a time getting her up. I was pretty wore out and not young like I used to be. Once she wasn't walking it was just from the wheelchair to the bed. The Hospice people came and helped out and said as quick as they got a room open they would okay her to go to Jonesboro. Steve called one morning and said they had an opening and said, 'All you've got to do is say 'yes' and I said we didn't have a choice. I told Steve, 'I'm at the row's end. We've got to have some help. Hard as it is, we've got to do something.'"



Imogene's portrait on a pillow.

Now, Mel hopes his story helps others dealing with similar issues to look at some of the lessons he learned in giving his all to the love of his life. "First of all, you can't do it alone," he said. "You have to realize, you can't do it alone. You've got to get help, because it can last for a long, long time and it'll wear you out, wear you down. And the other thing is something Jean said to me after we lost our oldest son. She said, 'There ain't no stopping place. We've got to keep moving on.' And you do. You've got to keep moving on, no matter what. That's all a person can do."

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# Andrea & Brady

“Our story started with both of us saying, ‘No!’ when my best friend was determined to play matchmaker,” said Andrea JoLyn Williams of her introduction to Brady Heath Higgins. “We finally agreed to meet several months later after we saw each other on campus of Arkansas State University. We were in completely different degree fields but in the same building one day. Brady finally sent me his number and I waited exactly 24 long hours to reply back with a text.

“Our first date was to Andy’s Frozen Custard. I was over at my best friend’s house one afternoon when Brady came over and asked if I wanted to go to Andy’s. Little did he know, Andy’s was the key to my heart. He called my double dip of chocolate in a cup ‘basic.’ His order was a chocolate shake. We have been inseparable ever since that night and every year on our 1st Date Anniversary (April 30th) we take a trip to Andy’s to get the same ‘basic’ order.

“Before Brady and I were officially dating, we were waiting to go out to eat with some friends and Brady had a toothpick in this mouth that he was pestering me with. I was trying to take it out of his mouth when the toothpick as well as something else fell to the floor. Brady immediately grabbed his mouth, bent down in the floor and picked up part of his tooth. We both started laughing, but we were both freaking out. I remember him saying, ‘My sister,’ who is a dental hygienist, ‘is going to get you.’ I think I was scared for the longest time to meet his sister because she knew I knocked his tooth out.

“Our first Christmas together Brady kept mentioning my present and about how excited he was for me to open it. I thought he was so excited because it was the beginning of December and he already had my gift bought and wrapped. We ended up opening gifts on December 15th. Brady gave me a beautiful promise ring to symbolize our love and a promise to always be there for each other. After two years of dating and both of us finishing college, Brady proposed on May 24, 2018. He came over to my house with a ‘project’ that he and his sister had been working on. He handed me a photo book with our picture on the front cover. As I turned the pages there were pictures on every page with our ‘firsts’ together; our first date, our first Christmas, our first trips, and our graduations. As I turned to the last page it read, ‘Andrea JoLyn, Will you marry me?’ I looked over at him and he was down on one knee with the most beautiful and perfect ring.

“March 16, 2019, was without a doubt the most gorgeous and perfect day. After our engagement, our families spent ten months dreaming and helping us plan every detail of this day. We were married at

Hillcrest Church of Christ and chose a vintage theme with the colors of parfait, spa, navy and gold. This theme was built around my dress which was champagne in color with ivory lace. The flowers for the wedding and the reception were designed by our friend Katie Cude, using pink shades of garden roses and hydrangeas. The wedding vows presented by Michael Meredith, minister for Center Hill Church of Christ, were exchanged in the chapel under an arbor custom built by my uncle Brent Sullins and accented with garden roses, hydrangeas and a white chandelier from The Vintage Rental Depot. Brady wanted the guys to wear blue jeans and cowboy hats, and I agreed to the blue jeans and cowboy boots. The small details were so important to us. We chose to have our guests sign and hold a rock during our ceremony to symbolize what their love and support meant to us. Family members who could not be present were honored with a collage of old windows, flowers, an empty chair and their pictures. Our parents also set up an area with each of our newborn outfits, my doll, my little red shoes, and Brady’s little letterman’s jacket and his little red tractor. The area was accented with prints by Memphis artist Paula Vaughn. The names of the prints were, ‘Her Little Red Shoes’ and ‘Flowers for Momma.’ At the reception, the three tier wedding cake designed by Mandi Elliot with Cakes by Mandi was presented on an antique table scarfed with a lace table cloth that belonged to my great-great-grandmother. Mandi also designed an Alabama groom’s cake that was presented on a vintage style dresser and Alabama memorabilia. Vintage doors from The Vintage Rental Depot also accented the reception area. The reception and rehearsal dinner were both catered by family friend, Susan Cable. Guests were seated at ivory covered tables from Elegant Party Rentals accented with flowers, pictures, candles and gold table runners.

“Our wedding ended with our guests releasing 100 wedding color balloons. We left the church in a 1948 black Mercury convertible that belonged to Brady’s grandfather and restored by his family. After a week in Maui, we returned home to Senath, Missouri.

“Last, but certainly not least, a special thank you to our fabulous photographer and videographer, Kam and Carla Ashabranner with Ashabranner Arts Photo & Video for capturing the special moments of this perfect day. We are forever grateful for our wedding guests and the many friends and family that helped to make our dreams come true on 3.16.19. We feel very blessed by the generosity and love from our family and friends who helped make this day so perfect.”

She is the daughter of Al and Lana Williams of Paragould. His parents are Derrick and Dana Higgins of Arbyrd.



Photography By Kam & Carla Ashabranner (Ashabranner Arts Photo & Video)

By: Gayle Brock

If you are ever looking for a place for art, music, food, crafts and fun all in one area at one time, then you will love attending the annual Paragould Downtown Art and Stroll. This year's event kicked off on April 27. The Art & Stroll was sure to please anyone who attended, and the afternoon "liquid sunshine" didn't keep folks from attending the yearly event.

This year's event began with the Paragould Farmer's Market at 8 a.m. and the Greene County Master Gardener's plant sale.

The downtown area was scattered with several local vendors with plenty of food and crafts. There were several local artists and musicians for any age group. There was something for everyone, and every vendor had something for someone.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend this wonderful event, make it a point to. The event is worthy enough to place on your calendar year after year. The destination is not that far of a drive, whether you are located in Northeast Arkansas or across the river in Missouri.

The Art & Stroll is a once a year event that keeps getting bigger and better each year. It is brought to guests by Main Street Paragould, which is a non-profit organization that works toward strengthening the downtown Paragould area.

Downtown Paragould has a website [www.downtownparagould.com](http://www.downtownparagould.com) and a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/oneandonlydowntown/>

# MAIN STREET PARAGOULD Art & Stroll



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# BIRTHS

## *Ryleigh Jay Gilbert*

Proud parents Riley and Jessica Gilbert of Paragould welcomed their newborn, Ryleigh Jay Gilbert, into the world on March 26, 2019.

Ryleigh was delivered at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital, weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

She is welcomed by grandparents John and Sheryl Ridge, Allen and Ashley Brogdon, John and Crystal Gilbert, and Kimberly Ford. Great-grandparents are Kay Greenway, Sue Gilbert, Janie Brogdon, Morris and Annetta Ridge, and Joyce Quattlebaum.

Photo by Sara Long Photography



## *Carter Kyle Whitaker*

Carter Kyle Whitaker was born on April 27, 2019, to parents Joshua and Amber Whitaker of Paragould. He was born at NEA Baptist weighing 7 pounds and 9 ounces, and reaching 20 1/2 inches long.

Photo by Amy Reeves Photography

# ENGAGEMENTS

## *Brittney Dawson & Jacob Caraway*

Brittney Dawson of Lapeer and Jacob Caraway of Kennett, Missouri, have announced their engagement and plans to be married on June 19, 2021.

The bride's parents are Kristi and Josh Newell. The groom's parents are Kelley Fincher and Michael Caraway.

Photography by Allyson Fowler



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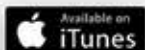
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# GREENE COUNTY 4-H Fashion Show

By: Caitlin LaFarlette



May 3 marked the second annual Greene County 4-H Spring Fashion Show with several local vendors featuring everything from clothing to jewelry.

The fashion show got its start last year when 4-H leader Mindy Tritch searched for a way for members to get involved in the community.

"I was looking for a way for kids to give back to local businesses by promoting their businesses for them," she said. "This show would also give the 4-H kids one more opportunity to get up in front of an audience."

Tritch explained 4-H members perform in a competition, Fashion Review, where they are judged on their knowledge of clothing, and the fashion show helps prepare them for that. Any 4-H member is allowed to participate in the fashion show and Tritch said this year 46 of them walked the runway. The event is a perfect night out for the public, as it is always free.

"It is just our thank you to all Paragould businesses for all they do for 4-H," Tritch said.

Between last year and this year, the 4-H club has partnered with a long list of local businesses that include Factory Connections, Cutie Patootie, Ignited Gifts, Paisley Pineapple, Southern Roots, 22 Lou and Born to Blaze, as well as many others. Tritch said the 4-H members enjoy working with the businesses to put on the show.

"They love going to the stores and getting outfits picked out for them," she said. "And then getting to walk the runway is always a shining moment."

Aside from the youth showing off their fashion sense down the runway, the participating businesses also set up booths at The Crossing for the public to browse through products and services.

Contact the Greene County Extension Office at (870) 236-6921 to get involved with Greene County 4-H/

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# HAPPENINGS

## LOCAL RETIREES HONORED

First Community Bank had a teacher retirement reception on Tuesday, May 21. Teachers from local area schools were honored - Jonesboro, Valley View, Nettleton, Westside, Brookland, Bay, and Lepanto. They received a bell with their names and years of service engraved upon it.



## FOOD BANK OF NEA RECEIVES GRANT FROM GREENE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas announced that a \$980 grant it received from the Greene County Community Foundation will be used to benefit agency capacity building in Greene County. The grant made possible through the Greene County 21st Century Women's Charitable Endowment will enable the Food Bank to purchase an upright freezer for Mission Outreach. Mission Outreach, a partner agency of the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, is located in Paragould and operates a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. The granted equipment will allow Mission Outreach to receive and store more frozen food to distribute to individuals at risk of hunger.



## SHORT FICTION CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Alan Berry of North Arkansas College has been selected as the winner of the sixth annual Short Fiction Contest by the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center (HPMEC). Berry's story is titled "Brother, Sister," a powerful series of vignettes, and the psychic abilities of Brother add a delightful strangeness to a familiar domestic scene.



## BRTC NURSING GRADUATES

Congratulations to the BRTC Practical Nursing students who graduated May 12, 2019. Front row, left to right: Brittany Reeder, Ariana Gibson, Jordan Holland, Sunnie Cunningham, Courtney Rigdon, Bobbie Anderson. Second row, left to right: Katlyn Noles, Madison Foster, Samantha Weir, Anne Bruetsch, Katie Adams, Brandi Wade. Back row, left to right: Joshua Pickett, Rebecca Ferguson, Alexandria Davis, Penny McCluskey, Sarah Cullum, Jacob Duncan.



## STEP STUDENTS GRADUATE

The STEP (Student Tools for Emergency Preparedness) graduation was held on May 17. All are 4th and 6th graders from CRA in Paragould. Sophomore Wyatt Reed of CRA, who is co-chair of the Greene County and Arkansas Youth Preparedness Councils as well as the National Youth Preparedness Council, hosted the graduation. Also in attendance were Greene County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Erik Wright, Homeland Security Program Coordinator with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Gary Ragen and Cpl. Chris Gray of the Paragould Police Department.



## PBOR SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Jessica Griffin (left) and McKinley Crossno (right) have been chosen as recipients of the Paragould Board of Realtors scholarship for \$500. The PBOR gives these scholarships yearly to help further education.



# June

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 1

**What:** The Wall That Heals

**When:** Saturday, June 1st all day

**Where:** Greene County Fairgrounds (1108 Highway 49B) in Paragould

**Info:** The Wall That Heals exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

### 1

**What:** National Trail Day

**When:** Saturday, June 1st at 9:00 a.m.

**Where:** Dancing Rabbit Trail at Crowley's Ridge State Park

**Info:** The Northeast Arkansas Master Naturalists and Crowley's Ridge State Park will serve as hosts for National Trail Day. A guided hike on Dancing Rabbit Trail will begin at 9:00. Other activities will be held at the CCC Pavilion and will include a guided history hike at Lake Ponder, Hiking Yoga, "Leave No Trace" training, and "Hiking 101." For more information, contact the park at 870-573-6751 or by email at [crowleysridge@arkansas.com](mailto:crowleysridge@arkansas.com).

### 2

**What:** NEA Baptist Recognizes Cancer Survivors

**When:** Sunday, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Valley View Church of Christ (4500 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro)

**Info:** Survivors and their families will enjoy a fun afternoon including a complimentary BBQ lunch, door prizes, and fellowship as they meet other families and survivors who have also dealt with cancer in their lives. All survivors are encouraged to attend regardless of where they received their medical care – no RSVP's are required. Call 936-7005 if you have any questions or need more information.

### 2

**What:** St. Bernards to Host National Cancer Survivors Day Event

**When:** Sunday, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Valley View Multipurpose Building

**Info:** National Cancer Survivors Day is held every year on the first Sunday in June to celebrate the strength and life of cancer survivors across the United States. The luncheon hosted by St. Bernards is free and open to all cancer survivors. The program will feature three cancer survivors sharing their stories, a fun photos booth and several door prizes, including one grand prize. All survivors in attendance will receive a free t-shirt. For more information, please visit [stbernards.info](http://stbernards.info) or call 870.207.7300.

### 3-6

**What:** Paragould First United Methodist Church hosts a Vacation Bible School

**When:** Monday, June 3rd-Saturday June 6th at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Paragould First United Methodist Church  
**Info:** Kids will become voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. For Preschool to 5th grade. Sign up online at [www.fumcparagould.org/little-ones/tweens](http://www.fumcparagould.org/little-ones/tweens). For questions, call 870-239-8541.

### 8

**What:** Davidsonville Discovery Day

**When:** Saturday, June 8th at 9 a.m.

**Where:** Education Center at Davidsonville Historic State Park

**Info:** Cost: \$10 per person. For more information or to sign up, contact the park at 870-892-4708 or by email at [davidsonville@arkansas.gov](mailto:davidsonville@arkansas.gov)

### 8

**What:** Lake Charles State Park Annual Youth Fishing Derby

**When:** Saturday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Lake Charles State Park

**Info:** Lake Charles State Park will be hosting its annual youth fishing derby on Saturday, June 8th. Join us at the park for a chance to bring home the big fish. The event is free to kids ages 15 and under. Prizes will be given out to top anglers, as well as door prizes given out throughout the event. For more information, contact: Frank Walker, Park Interpreter, Lake Charles State Park, 3705 Hwy. 25 Powhatan, AR 72458; phone: 870-878-6595; e-mail: [frank.walker@arkansas.gov](mailto:frank.walker@arkansas.gov).

### 8

**What:** American Cancer Society Relay For Life

**When:** Saturday, June 8th at 6 p.m.

**Where:** Harmon Park in Paragould

**Info:** This is a family event, and will include food, fun and games. Participants celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change. Funds raised help the American Cancer Society attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer.

### 8

**What:** Wings of Honor Poker Chip Flight

**When:** Saturday, June 8th

**Where:** Paragould's Kirk Field

**Info:** The Greene County Amateur Radio Club members will serve as hosts for the check-in point at Paragould's Kirk Field. The event is a fundraiser for the Wings of Honor at Walnut Ridge. For additional information, contact Keith Boles at [oldtvguy@gmail.com](mailto:oldtvguy@gmail.com).

### 14-15

**What:** Local Festival

**When:** Friday, June 14th & Saturday, June 15th

**Where:** Gamble Home Shop Local Park

**Info:** Local Fest is a music and cultural arts festival that will feature local artists, musicians, and businesses! EVERYTHING LOCAL! Come see what NEA has to offer! Shop Local/ Buy Local!

### 20

**What:** Alive After Five

**When:** Thursday, June 20th at 5 p.m.

**Where:** Rotary of Jonesboro Centennial Plaza in Downtown Jonesboro

**Info:** Alive After Five is Downtown Jonesboro's award-winning street market. Guests will be able to browse through artisan products such as homemade soaps, textiles, local artwork and much more. The NEA Artist Collective will also be hosting an art walk during the event.

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

[graphics@mormediainc.com](mailto:graphics@mormediainc.com)

# Stay Tuned

What's in store next month?  
Celebrating  
Independence Day



Coverage of local 4th of July events.

## Recognizing Veterans



Those who served our country are recognized.

## Paragould Premiere Awards



See who was voted Best of Paragould!

On The Cover: Erik Wright  
Photo By: Amy Reeves Photography

# Ajax Floor Center

A photograph of a person jumping into a lake with their arms raised in the air.

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A photograph of a woman wearing a large straw hat, sunglasses, and a gold bracelet, looking upwards.

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