



Lori & Col. Mark Smith



Harry & Carri Gunsallus, Mary & Corky Turner



Glenn & Dee Thorniley, Linda & Doug Scalf

Touch of Red Gala

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Chris Jensen

Moving testimonials from the mother of a U.S. soldier serving in Afghanistan, a disaster survivor, and a cardiac arrest victim saved by a defibrillator provided by the Madison/Marshall County Chapters of the American Red Cross were the highlights of the 7th Annual Touch of Red Gala held Friday, June 11 at the VBC North Hall. Presented by Intergraph Corporation, the Touch of Red Gala is a joint effort between the Madison and Marshall County chapters and is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Red Cross in North Alabama.

The black-tie event was open to the public and attracted more than 300 attendees. The evening began with cocktails, a silent auction, and a performance by the Valley Conservatory Chamber Players. This was followed by a live auction, presided over by Dr. Kendall Black, and a formal sit-down dinner.

The auction, sponsored by Redstone Federal Credit Union, saw more than 75 items up for bid including concert tickets, a limo ride to Lake Guntersville for a wine tasting, and vacation getaways to the Ritz Carlton in Atlanta and Condado Beach in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Landers McLarty family of dealers sponsored the entertainment for the evening featuring the band Juice. FOX 54, the Huntsville Times, and Lite 96.5 were media sponsors with Lite's favorite midday radio personality, Abby Kay, acting as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The American Red Cross has served North Alabama for 93 years. The essential humanitarian services they provide include disaster relief, service to the armed forces, volunteer development, lifesaving training, and preparedness education. The American Red Cross also provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply. ■

Preserving Huntsville History

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Formed in 1972 to preserve the destruction of historic homes throughout Madison County, the Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association (THPDA) held their 3rd annual Garden Party at one of the very homes they once sought to save. More than 150 people gathered at the two-story antebellum home of Jana and Dane Block on Thursday, June 17.

Fully catered by Mary Lynn Carlton, guests spilled out from the house into the beautifully decorated garden where luscious bouquets of summer flowers and turquoise blue tablecloths graced the tables. Built as a private home in 1853, it was converted into Smith Academy, a boy's school, in 1874. In 1938, the school was restored back to a private residence preserving as much of the original structure as possible, including the hand-made glass windowpanes, old mortised mantels, and the original staircase.

According to Gay Money, current board member and past president of the THPDA,

Photos by Gary Patterson

the Smith Academy House is a testimonial to the organization's success through the years. When the space industry landed in Huntsville, the city, desperate for housing, divided many of the big, old houses into smaller apartments and rentals. Then, as Huntsville burst with industrial growth, many old homes were torn down to build public buildings. "It was heartbreaking to see homes built before the Civil War, many of them formerly occupied by Union and Confederate officers, completely demolished without even making an attempt to preserve the architecture and history," Money says.

The THPDA focuses on saving homes exclusively in the Twickenham District, and maintains the garden entrance to the district at the corner of White and California Streets. The event raised \$14,000 for the associations' main liability - the maintenance of the historic Weeden House Museum. ■



Let the Magic Begin

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Mayor Tommy Battle and Huntsville's most successful Hollywood star, Ned Vaughn, joined an all-star cast featuring Captain Hook, Snow White, the evil Queen, and a pair of medieval court jesters, in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater on Saturday, August 14. Held in the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors Community Room, more than 700 season ticket holders, patrons and contributors to Huntsville's performing arts, members of

Photos by Chris Jensen

the Board of Directors, and business owners were invited to the festive fundraising event, catered by Cyn Shea's.

Following an endorsement proclamation by Mayor Battle; a short discourse by current Fantasy Playhouse president, Tom Morris; and an inspiring speech from Ned Vaughn guests enjoyed a little night music by the local band, Silver Streak. Guests also had their chance to bid on a guitar signed by country music

star, Sara Evans, which was sold during the live auction.

Much loved for its age-appropriate casting of children aged 6 to 15 years old, Fantasy Playhouse provides acting opportunities for children who would not normally have a chance to tread the boards at such an early age. Holding three family-friendly, children-oriented shows per year, Fantasy Playhouse has a long tradition of its annual production of

A Christmas Carol during the holiday season.

Ned Vaughn, who got his start in Fantasy Playhouse productions, has a long list of TV credits for Star Trek - the Next Generation, Desperate Housewives, Bones, and Boston Legal to name just a few. He now joins the ranks of Huntsville acting legend, Tallulah Bankhead, who started her career on the Huntsville stage. ■





A Downtown Huntsville Icon Moves to Bridge Street

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Chris Jensen

More than 250 club members and local business leaders gathered on Wednesday, May 19 at Bridge Street Town Centre to ready the shovel and break new ground for Huntsville's oldest and most prestigious private dinner club. Located in downtown Huntsville for more than 25 years, the Heritage Club feels their new location will not only enhance the quality of life their members have come to expect over the years, but will help build more relationships and drive more traffic to Bridge Street.

"There is a lot of synergy between the Heritage Club and the Westin," says Heritage Club's general manager, Richard Salazar. "Our new location will allow us to work hand-in-hand with our board of governors and member committee to provide the best quality of life possible for our members. This move will make accessible the Westin's world-class spa, provide significantly more valet parking, and offer many more options for delicious food and entertainment. I think the Heritage Club fits in well with the overall luxury experience that is Bridge Street." Bridge Street will also open up additional club opportunities for regular Heritage Club group meetings like the book club, the wine society, and the shakers martini club.

Slated for opening sometime during the 2010 holiday season, Salazar expects to be in their new building in December. The Heritage Club is a private membership club consisting



Georgia Richardson, Cameron Handyside



Regina & Jason Burnett

A Summer in Space at Sci-Quest

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Chris Jensen

More than 250 space enthusiasts and community supporters had the opportunity to play the part of Rocket Man on Saturday, June 19, at the special unveiling of Sci-Quest Hands-on Science Center's newest traveling exhibit, *Space: A Journey to Our Future*. Saturday night's invitees enjoyed a reception and special sneak preview of the exhibit, which is the largest touring space exploration exhibit ever produced. NASA representatives, the National Science Teachers Association, Lockheed Martin, and national partner, General Motors, all served on an educational committee to ensure the relevance and accuracy of the exhibit's educational message, which was produced by Evergreen Exhibitions.

Of the exhibit's many highlights, visitors can look into the future by designing their own trip to Mars using hands-on interactive displays and modules; take a spin on a centrifuge space bicycle; and walk through a full-size Lunar Base Camp habitat and work pod. It also offers a historical perspective of our space program through current projects like space telescopes, satellites, the International Space Station, and deep space probes.

"With the focus in Huntsville and throughout the Tennessee Valley on the space industry, this exhibit will delight adults and inspire our youth to learn more about the impact of the space program and help them appreciate how far we have come," said Cyndy Morgan, Sci-Quest Executive Director. ■

Beach Baby, Beach Baby, There on the Sand!



Jasmine, Ashish, & Ashton Rajbhamdari

Written by Kimberly Ballard Photo by Gary Patterson

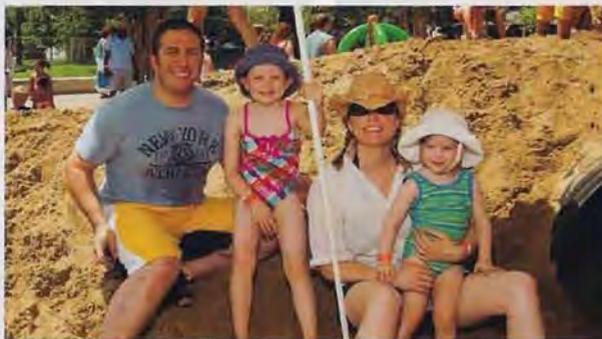
Armed with sunscreen, beach towels, sand buckets, and floppy beach hats, hundreds of families from all over North Alabama braved the searing summer heat to attend the 1st Annual Rocket City Beach Bash. Held on Saturday and Sunday, July 31 and August 1 in downtown Huntsville, more than 400 tons of sand was trucked in to replicate a beach-like landscape on the 200-yard section of Fountain Circle behind the Early Works Children's Museum.

As temperatures reached a feels-like temperature of 105 degrees both days, the younger kids built sand castles and trounced in the inflatable bounce houses, while teens played volleyball and splashed about the wading pool. People of all ages enjoyed the interactive water fountain and lounged underneath colorful beach umbrellas while Radio Bungalow deejays, Dana and Gracie Schroyer, piped in favorite Caribbean and summertime beach tunes. When

the heat became too unbearable, guests retired to the air-conditioned beach clubhouse where they sipped ice-cold lemonade and snacked on trays of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"The Beach Bash has been a brainchild of our executive director, Bart Williams, for a couple of years," explains special events manager, Ashley Carr. "With the disaster on the Gulf Coast, this was the perfect opportunity to combine our annual Early Works fundraiser with a chance to help Alabama beaches recover from the oil spill."

The Early Works Museum Complex includes the Historic Huntsville Railroad Museum and Alabama Constitution Village, all of which provide history-related educational programs and entertainment for its visitors. The City of Huntsville pitched in afterward to help clean up, reusing the sand at locations throughout Madison County. ■



Josh, Bianca, Pam & Greta Russo



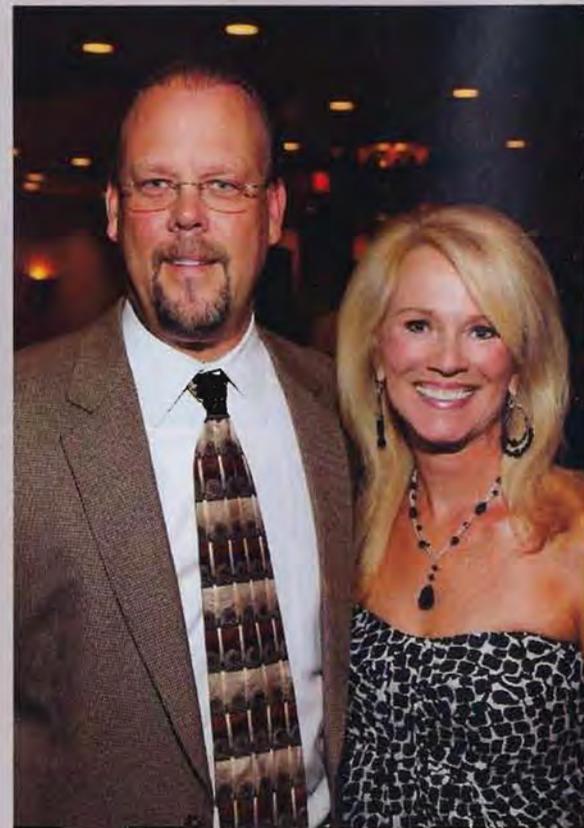
Jason & Stefania McCormick, Renee & John Carney



Maria Crissone Farnell & Patrick Farnell



Emily & Travis Jackson



Russell & Linda Crumbley

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

by Kimberly Ballard Photos by Chris Jensen

Important federal, state, and county-level judges joined local, retired judges as honorees at the 3rd Annual Judge's Appreciation Party held at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Friday, July 30. The event is sponsored every year by the Huntsville/Madison County Young Lawyers (HYL) section of the Madison County Bar Association. Invitations go out to all judges in Madison County, including retired judges. As attendees entered, they were greeted by a scrumptious spread of heavy hors d'oeuvres prepared by Ruth's Chris Steak House as judges and attorneys enjoyed cocktails during the social hour.

"Judges plow through thousands of lawsuits and court cases every year," says John Brinkley, outgoing president of the HYL. "It is often a thankless job. This event is an opportunity for us to recognize their hard work." Brinkley says the early years of a young attorney are spent working behind the scenes pulling a case together and, in reality, they rarely go to court. The Judge's Appreciation Party provides a social atmosphere for young attorneys to meet the judges they will eventually face in court and offers an opportunity to increase the membership of the Volunteer Lawyer's Program (VLP).

The VLP offers pro bono legal services to low-income Alabama residents who find themselves involved primarily in civil matters. All attorneys, age 40 and below, who have practiced law for five years or less are automatically HYL members. ■

There Was Something Fishy Cooking Down at the Roundhouse

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Chris Jensen

Was that fresh seafood wafting from the Historic Huntsville Depot Roundhouse on Friday, March 12? Indeed, it was The Arts Council's (TAC) 18th Annual Seafare fundraiser to support TAC's arts education and community outreach programs. This year's theme was "Blue Water" and you could practically sense the nets drop on the delicious underwater treats catered by Roussos Seafood from Mobile, AL. After dining on fresh stuffed crabs, fried catfish filets, shrimp, fried crab claws, Jambalaya and corn fritters guests had their choice of desserts provided by Peggy Ann Bakery and Gigi's Cupcakes.

The atmosphere was beachcomber casual and the attire was slapdash blue as guests bid on a number of items at the silent auction. The prizes included artwork by local artists, tickets to dinner-and-a-show, a variety of gift baskets, a one-night getaway to the Westin at Bridge Street Town Centre, and free use of a new BMW for the weekend. Following dinner, the dance floor was abuzz with the rocking music of CityBeatz.

Some of the events supported by proceeds of Seafare include "Art Ventures," "Arts Day Camp," and the "Meet the Artist" distance-learning program on Educational Television. The funds raised support several arts programs and also fund the many events presented at Panoply, the community cornucopia of the arts. Free summer Concerts in the Park at Big Spring Park, several Community Information Services, and a variety of membership services are also included in the money raised every year at Seafare. ■



Chris & Cathy Robinson





Terry & Rebekah Bynum



Rick & Michelle DeFalco



Vickie & Chris Kowalchick



Elizabeth & Terrence Clay

UCP Finds a Pot of Gold



Written by Kimberly Ballard Photos by Chris Jensen

Three potential pots of gold awaited guests at the 12th annual "An Irish Evening" held in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. Sponsored by Redstone Federal Credit Union to raise money for the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley, guests bought keys with the hope of having the luck of the Irish and unlocking one of three magnificent prizes. Even for those who didn't win the gold, they were still able to participate in numerous exciting games and drawings with chances to win a slew of other wonderful prizes throughout the evening.

The hall was decked in green for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day and featured an extensive silent auction with aisles of vacation packages, fine dining, entertainment, jewelry, unique home décor, and much more for the people's bidding enjoyment. A delicious buffet of Celtic cuisine was laid for the guests while Celtic music by Tuscaloosa's Henri's Notions filled the air. The Fitness Arts Center's Irish Step Dancers warmed up the audience who later switched to traditional after-dinner dancing to the tunes of the band America's Party Pros.

All proceeds went towards the UCP, a nonprofit organization operating 2 regional centers in Huntsville for individuals with cerebral palsy. The UCP serves clients from



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T-Minus 2 Years & Counting

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Chris Jensen

UAHuntsville's Mechanical Aerospace & Engineering (MAE) students were the guests of honor at the T-Minus 2 Years & Counting Annual Dinner at the Sci-Quest Hands-on Science Center. Sponsored by Americans in Orbit 50 Years (AIO-50) in support of their International Space Science Education Program, students displayed several components of their one-third scale model of a newly equipped Gemini Improved Reusable (IR) space capsule and its accompanying Space Science Module. A portion of the ticket proceeds went towards a continuing science, technology, engineering, and math program to help students put a payload that includes 10,000 pounds of student experiments and equipment onboard the first privately funded orbital space launch in history – America's Launch - dedicated to education.

MAE professor, Dr. Christina Carmen, and two of her student team leaders described the challenges they faced in taking on this unprecedented real-life project before an audience of over 150 veterans of Huntsville's space industry and NASA representatives. Every new semester of MAE students will continue their work testing the recovery systems on the Gemini IR, culminating in several drop tests on Redstone Arsenal in the near future.

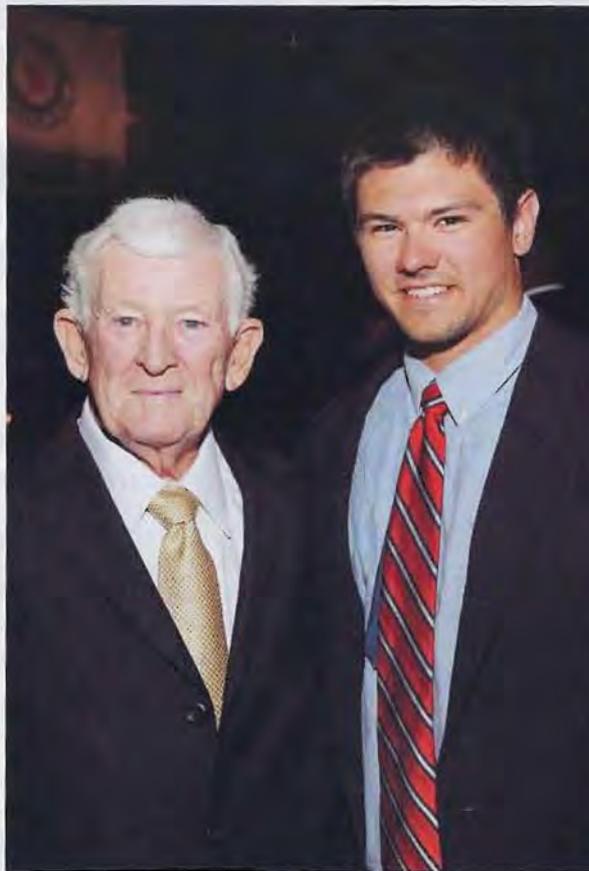
Also on hand were mission Commander Howard Chipman and pilot Veronique Balsa-Koken, who have been selected to train for the mission, tentatively scheduled for February 2012, in commemoration of John Glenn's legendary 1962 orbital mission. AIO-50 is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring future generations of space explorers with a commitment to education. ■



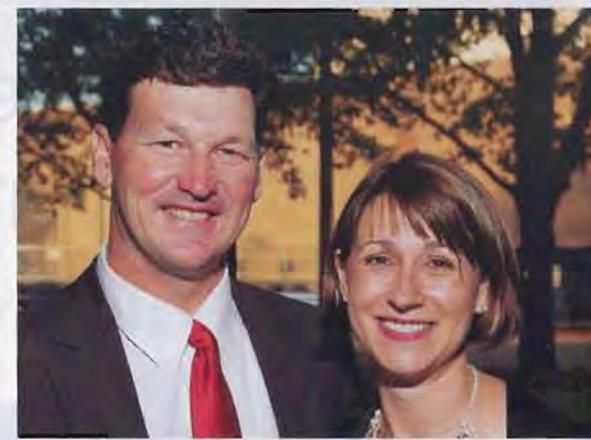
Stanley Stafford, Benny Nelson, Jack Kelly



Tonya Dean, Jeremy Tuck



Joseph Murphy Walters, Andrew Walters



Robert & Shannon Walters



Terri King, Beth Parris

The 18th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame

Written by Kimberly Ballard Photos by Chris Jensen

Madison County's athletic history was at the center of the prestigious 18th Annual Induction Ceremony of the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame (HMCAHF) held at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Nominated by the Board of Directors of the HMCAHF, twelve men and women, age 40 or above, were recognized for outstanding athletic achievement in Madison County. A Special Achievement Award was also given to the former undefeated Council High School football team of 1965.

The Board scrutinizes statistics, old record books, scrapbooks, newspaper and magazine stories, and past interviews in order to make the final decision for induction. This year's inductees included stars from baseball, golf, football, track and field, and basketball. The inductees were Scott Crutcher, Billy Estep, Derrick Gragg, Joseph Henderson, Buck Johnson, Mark Noble, and Allen Wayne Paseur.

Also honored was Sparkman High School's girls' basketball coach June Seals; former Auburn football

player and offensive line coach, Tim Stowers; Madison optometrist, Dr. John Walters who has contributed to many Madison County school athletic programs; and Southern Mississippi's defensive back, Patrick Wynn. The late Troy Hinton, a well-known Madison school's sports official and coach was given an honorary induction after passing away early this year at age 90. After the awards ceremony the inductees closed the evening by signing autographs.

It's All About Having A Good Time!



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Yoana Baraschi
Tracy Reese
Rebecca Taylor
Shoshanna

Claude Brown
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Shopaholics Unite at Girl's Night Out

Written by Kimberly Ballard Photos by Chris Jensen

For the fourth straight year, the Junior League of Huntsville has given new meaning to the adage 'Shop 'til You Drop' as Spring Market 2010 ushered in the spring season at the Von Braun Center South Hall. Three full days of retail sales; dance shows; storytelling; fashion shows; chef, gardening, and artistic demonstrations; door prizes, and contests came together into the quintessential 'Girls' Night Out' Saturday celebration. This very special night was designed for shopaholics of all ages.

Local retailers, as well as merchants from across the country, displayed their exhibits and merchandise which included home décor, fashion, food items, children's goods, and crafts. The event has grown in popularity every year with a staged activity scheduled every hour. 'Girl's Night Out' began at 7:00 p.m. with a fashion show at 7:45. At 8:00, hunky mixologist Ryan Magarian of Holland America Cruise Lines shared tips for organizing a formal dinner party and mixed some of his exotic creations. Several attendees seemed to be very much enjoying his famous recipe for a Hot Voodoo Love!

For more than 70 years, the Junior League of Huntsville has been exclusively committed to education and charity. The proceeds fund a wide variety of community projects sponsored by the Junior League, such as the Butterfly Project, the Huntsville Public Library, Girls Inc., Mother/Daughter Connection, and CAMP. By promoting healthy, educated families through volunteerism, effective action, and leadership, The Junior League of Huntsville empowers women and helps improve our community. ■



Victorian Cotillion Celebrates Southern Sense of Style & Civility

*Written by Kimberly Ballard
Photos by Chris Jensen
Group photo by Mark Jaeger*

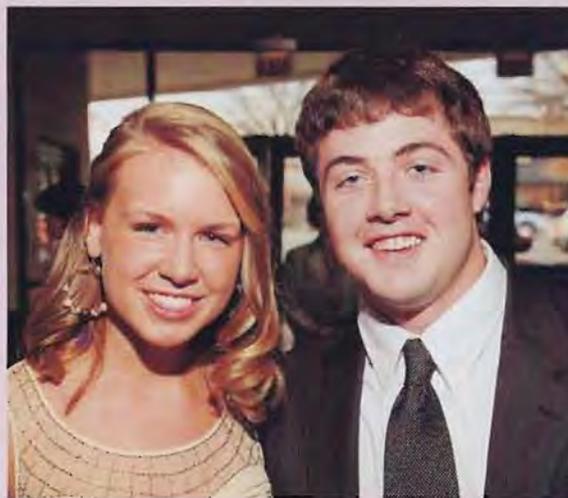
Dressed in tea-length, pastel dresses and carrying a French lace Victorian fan, which is the symbol of the Gothic Guild, the 2010 invitees to the Victoria Cotillion were escorted into the North Hall of the VBC on the arms of their fathers where they were formally introduced. They then turned and curtsied in true courtly Victorian style and accepted the first waltz of the evening with their fathers. A reception was held for guests with Joseph Howard Newberry, president and CEO of Redstone Federal Credit Union, serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

The event was the culmination of six formal training sessions on ceremonial etiquette, graciousness, and manners adopted by Southern society, but derived from the courtly social graces prevalent during Queen Victoria's reign. The Victorian Era embodied industrial, cultural, political, scientific, and military progress. "There is a special sense of civility that never went out of style in many circles, especially in the Deep South," says Sybil Wilkinson, long-time supporter of the Gothic Guild.

A committee selects girls who are 16 years of age, or sophomores in high school, as charter members of the Victorian Cotillion Club. They must maintain high academic marks and show leadership skills through participation in church, school, and social and civic involvement. Their families must also be community supporters and contributors. The Gothic Guild supports the cultural, educational, and historical preservation of Huntsville and Madison County. The Victorian Cotillion Club was established in 1985 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the landmark Steamboat Gothic House by Captain John Van Valkenburgh. ■



Peggy Stevens, Pam Huggins



Jenna Le Heard, Spencer Pendley



Bob & Joann Hazelrigs



George & Marcia Paramithas, Cynthia & Rey Almodovar

2010 Art 4 Heart Society Ball *is* Picture Perfect

Written by Kimberly Ballard Photos by Chris Jensen

The mood was festive and the atmosphere lively as more than 250 philanthropists and financial supporters of the American Heart Association (AHA), all dressed to the nines, converged at the Westin on Saturday, April 10 for the 2010 Art 4 Heart Society Ball. The unified efforts of the Greater Southeast Chapter (GSA) of the American Heart Association's Heart Ball Society, Huntsville Hospital, and The Heart Center raised more than \$123,000 dollars. The funds raised support lifesaving research as well as advocacy and community education programs for the AHA and its sister division, the American Stroke Association.

Huntsville Hospital CEO, David Spillers, and Heart Association Board member, Sandra Steele, hosted the plush evening of sumptuous dining and entertainment. The call for artists to donate artwork for the auctions went out in February, and both live and silent auctions consisted of artwork from artists throughout the region. Party music by Junctional Rhythm kept people dancing late into the evening.

"Sandra Steele and David Spillers were the driving forces behind the success of the 2010 Art 4 Heart Society Ball," says Kim Jimmerson, Senior Regional Director of the GSA. The AHA is the oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart disease, which is America's number 1 killer. The American Stroke Association, created as a division of the AHA in 1997, funds cutting-edge research and advocacy programs to stop the country's number 3 killer. ■

4th Annual Riley Center Gala for Autism

Teaching Children How To Learn

Written by Kimberly Ballard

The Riley Behavioral & Educational Center hosted the 4th Annual Gala and Auction against Autism on Friday, April 16 at the Jackson Center. The Spring Gala, which raised more than \$30,000, is one of two major fundraisers held each year to support full progression intervention programs for children aged 18 months to 12 years old.

The Riley Center provides therapy for children diagnosed with autism, pervasive developmental delay (PDD), Asperger's syndrome and other related developmental disorders. "These programs are expensive for families because of the intense one-on-one therapy involved," says Dr. Heather French. "The Riley Center does all we can to make it cost effective and, in fact, our services are less than a third of the cost of programs based on the national average."

The Riley Center is one of Huntsville's youngest organizations and is associated

Photos by Gary Patterson

with the Autism Society of Alabama. Executive Director, Melody Crane, founded the Riley Center four years ago when her son, Patton Riley Crane, was diagnosed with autism. The Cranes found it difficult to find treatment options in the area. This encouraged Crane to use the knowledge she gained when working with Patton and her extensive special education experience to establish the Riley Center.

Autism is a spectrum disorder, and often goes undiagnosed because it affects people differently. "There is no curc, but by emphasizing early diagnosis and implementing early childhood learning programs, we have great success helping pre-school and kindergarten-aged children integrate into mainstream schools by the time they reach the primary grades," says Dr. French. ■

Sweet Ending to a Delicious Event

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Gary Patterson

Culminating in a single night of decadent desserts at the Davidson Center on Saturday, May 15, supporters of the AIDS Action Coalition (AAC) of North Alabama joined forces to raise \$125,000 with the 12th Annual Dining with Friends event. Dining with Friends is a month-long series of dinner parties ranging from backyard barbeques and cocktail buffets to formal, eight-course sit-down dinners.

Volunteers choose their venues, select their menus, and invite guests to their soirees. The guests who participate donate money to the AAC and the volunteers donate all the food. In addition to the dinner, guests also receive a ticket to attend the dessert finale, which includes a multiplicity of luscious desserts. The featured dessert was prepared live by Chef Jonathan Wickersham of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. He served his own special recipe for Mambo Gris Gris, a bread pudding stuffed with sweet cheese, crowned with fresh berries and raspberry coulis and cream anglaise sauces, which he prepared onstage in front of approximately 575 guests.

It was a casual closing to the affair, as guests began freely wandering through the silent gift and art auctions at 9:00 p.m. "Most of the proceeds were raised through the individual dinner parties," said AIDS Coalition Executive Director, Mary Elizabeth Marr. "But the auction Saturday night raised between \$15,000 and \$18,000." The AAC seeks to end the suffering of those living with HIV/AIDS through education, prevention, and direct services. ■

Paws In Need *is a* Needy Cause Indeed!

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Chris Jensen

Ginger “the pomeranian” Williams was one of many pets who came out with their owners to show their support for the first Paws in Need event at European Boutique on Saturday, April 17. Ginger, and the other 4-legged guests, took advantage of the cat and dog treats available, while the 2-legged guests helped raise money for the Stephen Charles Saseen Memorial Fund, a fund that provides emergency veterinary assistance to pet owners who cannot afford treatment for injuries or medical services for sick and aging pets.

“Presented with this financial burden, many people abandon their pets or turn them in to the Humane Society for adoption,” says European Boutique employee, Cindy Saseen. In 2003, Cindy lost her son, Stephen Charles Saseen, in a car accident. He was a passionate animal lover and his devotion

prompted Cindy to start the memorial fund in association with the Greater Huntsville Humane Society (GHHS.)

The GHHS was on hand to educate the public about responsible pet ownership. There was a smorgasbord of delicious finger-food and hand-prepared hors d’oeuvres, door prizes, a custom jewelry vendor and a display of Cindy’s handmade pet cards, which are always available at European Boutique. “People make a donation by buying a card and 100% of the proceeds go to Paws in Need,” Cindy explains. Wanda Przekwas, the owner of European Boutique, donated a portion of all retail sales that day to the memorial fund helping raise \$650 for the Stephen Charles Saseen Memorial Fund. ■



Donnamarie Schomrock, Wanda Przekwas

Huntsville Board of Realtors 2010 Installation Banquet

Written by Kimberly Ballard

Photos by Chris Jensen

Many distinguished guests, including Congressman Parker Griffith and Mayor Tommy Battle, attended the Huntsville Board of Realtors' 2010 Installation Banquet at the Westin Hotel ballroom. The president-elect of the Alabama Association of Realtors, Robert Scott, also attended this year's event. The event is held annually to celebrate the official installation of the Executive Officers and Directors for the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors (HAAR.) The program commenced with a cocktail hour where guests were able to socialize prior to the installation program. The guest dined on a lavish buffet dinner and enjoyed music by The Voltage Brothers of Atlanta.

John Morley of the Morley Real Estate Group, received the National Recognition for 30 Under 30 in the real estate category - an honor bestowed on young realtors who have made a significant mark on the industry. Amanda Rogers, HAAR's staff liaison to the Officers and Directors states this year's banquet attracted more young professionals than ever before. "Of the 2,000 North Alabama HAAR members more than 400 of them are under the age of forty and that is very exciting for the real estate market here in Madison County."

The 2009 HAAR president, David Allen, handed over the reins to Sid Pugh of The Pugh Group, a RE/MAX agent since 1990. Pugh, a retired Army veteran, has served as both an officer and as a member of the HAAR Board of Directors. He is also a member of the National Association of Realtors and has served on the Board for the Huntsville / Madison County Builders Association. Additional new officers were RE/MAX broker Valerie Miles as president-elect, Bill Ward as Multiple Listing Service (MLS) president, and Julie Lockwood of Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Properties as Secretary/Treasurer. ■





Caroline Lightfoot, Stephanie Timberlake, Leslie Cobb, Melissa Slaten, Linda Powell



Karla Montgomery, Carrie Coan, Carol Malone

Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler

*Written by Kimberly Ballard
Photos by Chris Jensen*

Cold February temperatures did not hinder a sold out audience at the 3rd Annual Bourbon Street Bash at the Huntsville Country Club. The sixty members of the Carillon Club have grown their annual party into a fund raising event centered around the glittering eye masks and purple plumes of Mardi Gras. The celebration raised nearly \$7,000 for Girl's Inc., a non-profit association intended to inspire young girls ages 5-18 from all social and economic backgrounds.

The local band, Juice, provided entertainment while guests enjoyed Cajun hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and New Orleans desserts. Many including jewelry, vacations, and gift baskets, were sold in a silent auction and proceeds

help provide books, after school programs, summer camp, and tutors for girls all across Madison County. The proceeds also help provide scholarships for over 64% of the organization's girls. "We are appreciative and honored the ladies of the Carillon Club provide this service to us every year," says Girl's Inc. executive director, Stephanie Malone. "Their organization has worked wonders for our program over the years."

Established in 1966, the Carillon Club is a ladies' social club that never intended on growing to a large membership, but instead focuses on large accomplishments. According to publicity chair, Leslie Cobb, "Our main purpose is to advance the civic, social, and moral welfare of the Huntsville community. We were looking for a cause where a small organization like ours would make the largest impact. By providing

financial support for Huntsville's chapter of Girl's Inc., we meet those goals." This year the Carillon Club really showed what it meant to "laissez les

bon temps rouler" attendance certainly times roll! ■



Bruce Summerville, Chris Horgan, Kenny Cole



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Angela Giles-Moullon, Jennifer Deermier, Margie Evans, Amanda Lyle

Waiting Area Takes Off

Written by Kimberly Ballard Photos by Sandy Ashley

More than 700 guests from across North Alabama gathered at Huntsville International Airport's new public waiting area for a ribbon cutting ceremony. Fifteen regional Chambers of Commerce involved in the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative sponsored the expansion of the \$13.5 million waiting area that took 2 years to complete. The innovative project gives Huntsville International Airport the distinction of being the first airport to have a 7-foot by 3-foot curved Clarity Matrix Video Wall System (jumbotron) among high-definition plasma screen displays throughout the waiting area.

According to Bill Johnston, Jr., Chairman of the Airport's Board of Directors, the expansion was necessary in order to meet the needs of the growing community. The construction quadruples the size of the former bridge connecting the terminal to the concourse and it allows inbound and outbound passengers to be routed through 2 separate wings. "The wing to the west is home to security checkpoint, with the east wing serving as public waiting," Johnston explains.

A collage of historic photographs highlighting the past 200 years of Huntsville's history spans the entire north wall. Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle states that the wall "provides a perfect canvas to showcase our community's history in a venue that serves as the first impression of Huntsville for thousands of passengers each year." ■



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