

Upcoming Events

Blood drives set for July 31

Blood Assurance announces two organizations will host public blood drives at the end of July. Coffee County Administrative Plaza, 1329 McArthur Street, Manchester, will host a blood drive Tuesday, July 31 from 8 to 11 a.m., and later that day Life Care Center of Tullahoma, 1715 North Jackson Street, Tullahoma, will host a blood drive from 1 to 4 p.m.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh more than 110 pounds and feel healthy. Donors are encouraged to eat a well-balanced meal before donating and to bring a valid identification. All donors will receive a free T-shirt and can register to win a \$35 Wal-Mart gift card in honor of Blood Assurance's 35th anniversary.

Each week during the 35th anniversary promotion Blood Assurance will select 18 winners, one from each of its centers and bloodmobiles.

For more information about Blood Assurance, call the Tullahoma Blood Assurance center at (931) 461-5773 or visit www.bloodassurance.org.

Class of 1987 reunion slated

The Tullahoma High School class of 1987 will hold its 20th reunion Aug. 31 through Sept. 1.

Many activities are scheduled including a golf game on Friday, a Tullahoma High School football game Friday and a meet and greet at Daddy Billy's following the game. Friends of the class of 1987 are invited to join the group at Daddy Billy's.

The activities will continue Saturday with a family picnic at the park and then the reunion party Saturday night.

Help is needed contacting Bobby Abbott, Deanna Hunt Barrett, Michael Bice, Brian Bush, Dwyne Ellis Abbott, Sharon Horn Butler, Tim Carney, Monty Coble, Joe Couch, Stephen Dale, John C. Daniel, Craig Davis, Keith Defoe, Lori Dodd, John Elliott, Tracey Flatt, Bryon Fugate, Kelly Vincent Gann, Michelle Ferrell Garner, Kay Jacobs Hill, Richard HineLine, Thomas Hood, Michael Hunt, Phillip Hyslip, Jay Johnson, Michael Johnson, Paul Clay Johnson, Michael B. Jones, Melanie Ketcherside, Linnie Klamt, Marc Klein, Beverly Lodholtz, Lisa Long, Adrian Lott, Renee Luna, David Magnaghi, Charles Martin, Catalina Mendoza, Kelly Lynn McCain, Charles McHugh, Billy Morris, Doug Mowbray, Kevin Murphy, Travis Murphy, Angie Noon, Russell Painter, Bill Patton, Stacie Frazine Putman, Kevin Roper, Marie Russell, Shaunna Shaw, Janet Sheffield, Jimmy Sistrunk, Kelly Maywald Sigler, Jerry Smallwood, Andy Smith, Michelle Goodwin Spence, Jack Stout, David Tomlinson, Leanne Tully, Steve VanZale and Melissa Wooten.

For more information about the event, visit the Web site at www.ths-1987.com or call Angela Worsham Lawson at 455-3788 or Joe Barstad at Sports Plus at 393-2550.

Park concert set for Aug. 25

The Moore County Band Boosters will host its first "Concert in the Park" Aug. 25.

Designed for families, this event will consist of a variety of musical acts, including rock, country, bluegrass, gospel, blues, jazz and even big band.

The Band Boosters are hoping performers will volunteer a set in return for publicity and exposure.

Funds generated by and for the Band Boosters will be used to support the music programs a Moore County Middle and High School. This includes refurbishing old instruments, purchasing a few new ones, maintaining uniforms, covering competition fees and other expenses.

Interested acts and vendors may contact Band Booster Vice-President Diane Crowell at crowesnest9702@yahoo.com, www.myspace.com/crowesnest97 or (931) 759-9127.

Pickin' & Grinnin'



—Staff Photos by Tamara Belinc

Playing A Little Music

Ten-year-old Grant Rigney of Tullahoma was recently named as Best Overall Instrumental Entertainer at the Smithville Fiddler Championship. He also placed first in mandolin and dobro, the instrument above. It is played flat on the lap with a slide.

Rigney receives top award

By TAMARA BELINC
Lifestyles Editor

Ten-year-old Grant Rigney of Tullahoma was recently named "Best Overall Instrumental Entertainer" at the Smithville Fiddler Championship.

Soon to be a fifth grader at Robert E. Lee Elementary School, he is the son of Melissa and Mike Rigney.

Grant started to play because his father and his brother, Andrew, did.

"My dad used to have a banjo," he said, "and he sold it to buy my mom's wedding ring. Later on, she got him another one for Christmas."

His brother started taking lessons on the guitar.

"They talked me into playing," Grant said.

Grant has been playing the mandolin for three years. He also plays the dobro, guitar and fiddle, taking his lessons from Jim Wood of the Flat Creek Community.

His favorite instrument is the dobro.

"It's a resonator guitar," he said. "The strings are higher than on a guitar. You play it on your lap and use a slide."

Grant has one lesson a week, and he

chooses what he wants to play that week.

"I just take the different instruments with me," he said.

With Grant, Andrew and Michael playing an instrument, the family thought Melissa should get involved, too. She now plays the bass.

The family travels to many different contests during the summer months. Andrew and

Melissa often

accompany

Grant while

he plays.

"I

can't

give a

specific

number

of

contests

we go to,"

Grant said.

"We've got one

in Jamestown in about

two weeks. In the winter, there aren't as many contests."

"There's a lot of talented kids in this area," Melissa said. "Andrew has to compete in the adult contests now."

"I want to win a big championship," Grant said, "but that's just a dream."

The competitions often award money,

and Grant has used his winnings to purchase a bird and a hamster. He has also paid for part of his instruments.

"He does a good job caring for them," Melissa said.

Grant says he has to be careful when going through doors to hold the instruments a certain way to avoid damage.

"You have to change the strings," he said, "and rosin the bows and wipe down the instruments after you finish playing it."

Grant and Andrew will be performing for the second time in South Jackson Goes Country Aug. 17-19 at the civic center.

Grant's favorite song for each of the instruments he plays. He says he likes "Amazing Grace" on the dobro, "Red Haired Boy" on the guitar, "Orange Blossom Special" on the fiddle and "Rawhide" on the mandolin.

He isn't sure if he wants to be a professional musician or not.

"I don't want to be Ricky Skaggs or anything," he said. "I just want to play. It's hard to become a professional musician. The future holds different things."

Besides music, he likes to play sports, including football, basketball and participating on the swim team.

"I really want to thank my family," he said. "My brother backs me up, and my mom and dad encourage me."



July 13th • Pool Open from 6:30pm-9:30pm

Dive-In Movies

Admission

\$1.00 per Child • \$2.00 per Adult

*No Rainchecks

D.W. Wilson
Community
Center

455-1121