

The South Missourian News

It's New!



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Salem, Arkansas • 75¢

Hall of Fame inductees gather for award show

Richard Irby
Staff Writer

For a small organization in the Ozarks run by volunteers, the George D. Hay Music Foundation has earned a lot of respect in the country music industry.

When the Foundation held its 14th Annual Awards Show, Sunday, Sept. 19, Hall of Fame inductees traveled from all over the U.S. to participate in the show and receive their awards.

George D. Hay is the man credited with starting the Grand Ole Opry. Hay's inspiration for the Saturday night musical was a 1919 trip to Mammoth Spring, where he was taken to a county "hoedown." Hay was inspired by the artistry of simple country folk making music and dancing the night

away.

"George D. Hay is a well known name in country music," said Cathie Bair, one of the organizers of this year's awards show. "Those we choose for the Hall of Fame are truly honored to be connected with the creator of the Grand Ole Opry."

This year's inductees included the legendary Ernest Tubb and one of the steel guitar players in Tubb's Texas Troubadours, Lynn Owsley.

"Lynn Owsley has been out on the road with Merle Haggard and wasn't going to get to come," Bair said. "But, when Merle had to cancel a few shows because of illness, Lynn flew from Maryland to Memphis and rented a car to get here."

Another inductee, Arkansas native Craig Morris, Loretta Lynn's longtime piano

player, had a similar story. He left the east coast, where Lynn is on her 50th anniversary tour, and flew to Memphis, where his family met him and rushed to get him to Mammoth Spring in time for the awards show.

Bea Rhodes-Hitt only had to travel from her home in northwest Arkansas to get her Hall of Fame Medallion. But Bea is 91-years-old. The trip certainly did not slow her down. She had enough energy to play a few fiddle tunes for the large, appreciative crowd.

One of the early pioneers of country music and the first Grand Ole Opry star, Uncle Dave Macon, also entered the Hall of Fame and his family, which traveled from Nashville, was on the front row as Macon was honored.

Macon's great grandson, John Doubler, joined Macon's great-great-grandson, Robyn Young on stage to perform one of Macon's songs.

Also in the crowd was Robert Macon, Uncle Dave's grandson.

"Robert works at the County Music Hall of Fame," said Bob Ross, the founder and president of the George D. Hay Foundation. "He certainly knows the importance of Hay to county music and was tickled to death that his grandfather was being honored."

Texas singer Dottie Jack joined Lynn Owsley for a musical tribute to Ernest Tubb. She happened to be performing in Missouri and agreed to make a detour to join in the festivities at the George D. Hay Music Hall

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Hospital Board committed to new clinic's future

Niki de Soto
Staff Writer

The Fulton County Hospital Board of Governors met in regular session on Monday, Sept. 27 with the new clinic being the immediate topic of discussion.

Bill Couch and John Ed Welch from Hughes, Welch and Milligan were on hand to present the financial report and were addressed by board member Danny Perryman regarding comments made around town about the new clinic.

"I would like to hear ya'll expound on whatever you told the Quorum Court and the Judge that caused us trouble with the bank, with a loan; this stuff about the clinic over there," said Perryman. "Tell me, because you haven't described the situation adequately in your reports."

"I was asked a couple of questions," said Couch. "One of which was about the clinic and its operation. The operation of the clinic, my concern is the only benefit the hospital receives from that clinic is when a patient requires a further test and they would come over here to get that lab work done. This way, the hospital would bill that as their outpatient at that point, as the service was beyond the services of the clinic. That would be a benefit to the hospital and would qualify for cost reimbursement."

"We're burning cash over there at the clinic right now, and it won't be reimbursed by Medicare," said Welch. "The only way it's going to work is when the clinic is up and running to its full potential, which means getting more patients and hopefully getting more patients admitted to the hospital from the clinic. It's costing you \$55,000 a month right now to operate the clinic, and the gross revenues through August are only \$18,000."

CEO Joe Hammond pointed out that the clinic has only been in operation since July 19, meaning the numbers reflect only six weeks of operation at the newly opened clinic. Board members then asked Welch what costs from the clinic can be applied to cost reimbursements for the hospital.

"The hours that the doctors from the clinic work in the ER are billed through the ER department and that makes them reimburseable costs," said Welch. "Anything that you can bring from that clinic over to the hospital, that can be reimbursed."

Perryman then asked what could be changed in regards to the operation of the clinic to make the costs incurred there more reimburseable, and Couch responded that making the clinic a Rural Health Clinic would make costs there reimburseable.

"You have to get a survey, and you can't bill until you get a survey, and right now they're about a year

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HOMECOMING CANDIDATES



Photo by Steven W. Looney

The Thayer High School Homecoming queen candidates for 2010 are: Seated, Seniors Lacey Hawkins, Macey Smith and Angela Mustion. Second row, 9th grade candidate Molly King; 10th grade candidate Lillie Shipp; and 11th grade candidate Nicole Lundry. Back row, Freshman escort Levi Hargrove; Sophomore escort Ridge Burke; Junior escort Derek Krieg; and Senior escorts Dylan Harralston, Hunter Coffel, Brandon Martin, Cody Ollar, Bryan Tate and Cameron Carey. The 2010 Thayer Homecoming parade is slated for 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8. The student council will assist with the parade line-up at 1:30 p.m. at the top of the hill on Chestnut Street, next to the old grade school. If you would like to enter a float or group in the parade, contact the high school at 264-7261 before Thursday, Oct. 7.

Thieves make off with historic cabinets

Niki de Soto
Staff Writer

They once graced a home belonging to the Duke of Westminster in England. As of Sept. 5, some of them have gone missing.

Two of the five units of cabinets with the blue-blooded pedigree were stolen from the old Fulton County Nursing Home building where they were being stored sometime between May and Sept. 5. That's when their owner, Holly Cooper Hancock of Holly's Distinctive Home Furnishings and Gifts in Melbourne, discovered the theft.

The large bookshelves, which are numbered, were used in World War II for storage and eventually made their way to a golf course in England before being bought at auction by Hancock. They are valued at \$10,000 a piece and Hancock wants them returned.

"We aren't interested in bringing charges of theft; we just want the cabinets returned as quickly as possible."

Anyone with information about the cabinets can contact the Salem Police Department at 870-895-3478 or 870-895-2601.



Two of these historic cabinets were stolen from the old Fulton County Nursing Home where they were being stored. The owners are requesting their return, no questions asked.



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