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Aiken Standard

LOCAL NEWS

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Gateway program wraps up with concerts this week

By ROB NOVIT
Senior writer

The kids are rising fourth-through sixth-graders, but they sure don't sing like it.

At the Gateway arts enrichment program, the children deftly fielded their way in rehearsal through some challenging classical, folk and popular selections selected by instructors Denise Barnhart, Connie Mitchum and Steve Cheek.

"It's fun to watch it all come together," said Andrea Tanksley, a former Redcliffe Elementary School student who will start sixth grade at Jackson Middle School this fall.

The three-week program of visual arts, creative writing, dance, drama and vocal and instrumental music will wrap up this week. A showcase for elementary students is scheduled at the South Aiken High School auditorium tonight at 7 p.m. Middle and high school students will perform Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The longtime co-directors of Gateway are retired Aiken

High School band director Joe Laorenza and Wagener-Salley High School art teacher Marcia Blizzard.

"We've had a good camp and have seen a lot of good work," said Laorenza. "It's great to watch kids go from one point to the next and increase what they've done. I've talked to several of the elementary kids, and they didn't know they would get to try so many different things. They want to try other art areas next year."

Barnhart, the Oakwood-Windsor Elementary School music teacher, said she and the other instructors are having fun with the kids even as they set the bar high for them.

"They auditioned and chose to come, demonstrating they have the ability to do greater things," said Barnhart. "Some kids couldn't play a guitar and now they can play a couple of chords."

Those students will perform an arrangement of "Ode to Joy" with Cheek, a North Augusta resident who teaches in Augusta. Mitchum, a Byrd



Elementary-age chorus students at the Gateway summer enrichment program practice for a showcase performance, scheduled at South Aiken High School tonight at 7 p.m.

Staff photo by Rob Novit

Elementary School teacher, will feature her students in an Orff xylophones performance.

At least half of the chorus students are also participating in other programs, such as

puppetry and drama. "I like acting and singing and also do a lot at school

and church," said Audrey Byrne, a rising fifth-grader at Aiken Elementary School.



Staff photos by April Bailey

Many attended a dedication service for the Veterans Prayer Wall at Charles Wesley United Methodist Church.

Church rededicates its prayer wall

By APRIL BAILEY
Staff writer

While at the County Connection restaurant in Langley, Stella Woodward met Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Conner and asked for his picture.

Woodward, who attends Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, wasn't taking the picture for herself; she planned to place it on the Veterans Prayer Wall, which sits outside the Trolley Line Road church.

"I told him I would love to have a picture of him so I could put it on the prayer wall and people could pray for him," said Woodward.

Charles Wesley held a service Sunday to rededicate the prayer wall, which the Rev. Jim Bennett said was first introduced at the church about three years ago. The wall is a part of the church's prayer ministry.

Bennett said the church invites those in the community to bring pictures of loved ones

serving in the Armed Forces to Charles Wesley so that it can be placed on the wall and members can pray for the soldier each week.

"This wall is for everybody in the community, not just the church," said Sara McGennis, who attends Charles Wesley.

Lt. Col. Mark Thompson, who serves as chaplain at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, delivered the sermon for the service, which focused on American servicemen and women.

Thompson entered the Air Force Chaplain Candidacy program in 1986 as a reserve chaplain in the Air Force Academy. He was selected for Army Chaplaincy in June 1993.

Thompson said it is important to realize that a very small population of people are working to protect the freedoms of an entire nation. He said the prayers and support that people give soldiers really help to boost their morale.



Chaplain (LTC) Mark Thompson, with the Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, stands with the Rev. Jim Bennett, pastor at Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, during a dedication service for a prayer wall for those serving in the Armed Forces.

"It's huge — the prayers, the goodie boxes. ... People think they need to do big things, but it's the little things that they look forward to," he said.

Bennett said it is important to be thankful for the service of men and women in the Armed

Forces, referring to a popular quote the church added to Sunday's bulletin that reads: "Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you ... Jesus Christ and the American soldier. One dies for your soul, the other for your freedom."

Aiken professionals take on Augusta for charity

By HALEY HUGHES
Staff writer

Aiken Young Professionals and Young Professionals of Augusta will hit one out of the park for two area charities July 11.

The groups will meet on the field at Lake Olmstead Stadium in Augusta to battle it out on the diamond, promoting commerce between the two while raising money to make a difference in the communities they represent.

"This is a no-brainer for us to do," said Sean Frantom, social chair of Young Professionals of Augusta.

The manager of GreenJackets Baseball, Augusta's minor league team, is a member of Young Professionals of Augusta and laid out the idea for the game, which was embraced by all.

Each group chose a charity, which proceeds from the game will benefit. Aiken Young Professionals chose Helping Hands, a 24-hour emergency

home for abused, abandoned and neglected children from birth to 21 years of age.

Young Professionals of Augusta chose the Kroc Center, which will be more than 85,000 square feet of arts, education and recreation programming space for area nonprofit organizations.

"We want to be involved in the community," said Josh Stewart, president of Aiken Young Professionals. "And people will get a lot of bang for their buck at the game."

Tickets are \$10 per person, and the ticket also gets the holder into the GreenJackets versus West Virginia "Thirsty Thursday" game on July 16 at Lake Olmstead Stadium. Kids under 12 get in free.

Gates for the July 11 game will open at 5 p.m. with the first pitch at 6 p.m. Lake Olmstead Stadium is located at 78 Milledge Road, Augusta.

Tickets will be available at the gate the day of the game. Monkey Joe's will have inflat-

Rosters

Aiken Young Professionals

- Brandon Beard — Professional Financial Services Corporation
- Bryson Boatwright — B&B Glass LLC
- Patrick Carlisle — Newberry Hall
- Brad Chavis — Sunshine Pressure Washing & Windows
- Brent Chavis — Sunshine Pressure Washing & Windows
- Veronica Chavis — Dr. William Durrett M.D.
- Dana Cook — Veracity Payment Solutions Inc.

Young Professionals of Augusta

- Jonathan English — Calibre
- Jay Weigle — Weigle Insurance
- Lindsay Thetford — The Augusta Chronicle
- Chris Walker — Chiropractor
- Jeremy Carnes — CSC
- Tiz Arnold — Performance/Mental coach
- Kat Walsh — Hilton Garden Inn
- Craig Johnson — Wachovia
- Kristy Beckum — AB Beverage
- Heather Jenkins — Pipeline Work Clothes
- Derek Dugan — The Salvation Army
- Cody Jones — First Command

- Whit Corley — City Billiards
- Branden Gary — Security Federal Bank
- Jackie Kane
- Matt Lycans — Newberry Hall
- Jason Rabun — Security Federal Bank
- Catie Sacks — Hammond's Ferry
- Cody Smith — Shaw Group
- Heath Taylor — Aiken Chamber of Commerce
- Chet Tyler — Aiken Motorcycle Sales & Service
- Arlo Walker — Graybar

- Richard Stubbs — Waddell & Reed
- Michael Ford — Rowland Funeral Home
- Josh Rhoden — SRP Federal Credit Union
- Bradley Akins — First Command
- Wesley Harper — McWaters Inc.
- Chris Coates — McWaters Inc.
- Monty Jones Jr. — Augusta Entertainment Complex/Global Spectrum
- Barry Middleton — Tisdale Law Firm
- Michael Deen — SRP Federal Credit Union

able rides for the children. For more information or for

tickets, call Amanda Taylor at 641-1111.

Summer Reading Program continues with events in July

By SUZANNE R. STONE
Staff writer

The Aiken County Public Library has a variety of activities coming up in July for the conclusion of the Summer Reading Program.

The program takes a week off in honor of Independence Day but resumes on Tuesday, July 7, with Family Craft Night.

Strawberry Shortcake of cartoon and children's book fame makes a guest appearance at the library at 2 and 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.

Teens in the Summer Reading Program are invited to turn literature into art at an Altered Books workshop at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 9.

There will be a Bollywood Dancing Demonstration at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, with information about Indian dance forms.

On Wednesday, July 15, Porkchop Productions brings its own twisted take on "Little Red Riding Hood" to the library at 2 and 3 p.m.

"Just Bead It" will be the teens' activity for the week at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 16.

The final week of the Summer Reading Program activity schedule will feature singer-songwriter

Cathy Benedetto at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 21; a puppet show of "Three Little Pigs" at 2 and 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 22; and Death By Chocolate for teens at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 23.

There will be no finale party for Summer Reading this year, according to children's librarian Jennie Beck.

The deadline to complete the Summer Reading Program requirements is July 31. Ages 5 and younger must read 20 books to complete the program, and ages 6 and older must read 10 books.

Completers will receive a certificate, a medal and a new book from a selection purchased with a grant to the library from the Target Corporation.

The Summer Reading Program is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Aiken Library, and volunteers from the Aiken Woman's Club will be on hand at each Summer Reading event to sign up new participants and check in reading logs from completers.

For more information about the Summer Reading Program and the event schedule, call the library at 642-2020.

Contact Suzanne Stone at sstone@aikenstandard.com.

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