



**Yi-pi-yi -o!**

*Aaron Crosson, Troy Crosson and Dan Stitt of Hatcreek Church put their own unique spin on the song "Woodie's Round-Up" by Riders in the Sky at the Second Annual Lip Sync Battle, August 19 at the Oxford Civic Center. More photos on pages four and five.*

## Meeting, Awards and Models November 16

It's time once again for one of The Arc's most popular events.

This annual meeting is an event that allows The Arc staff and board members an opportunity to recognize community partners, consumers and friends who have made a significant contribution in the area of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This year's banquet will be held November 16 at the City of Oxford's Civic Center located at 401 McCullars Lane in Oxford.

A General Membership Meeting, at which The Arc's officers and incoming board mem-

*See **ANNUAL BANQUET** (Continued on page 7)*

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## Health Nutrition and Work Readiness Program Returns

The Arc's Health, Nutrition and Work Readiness program returned for a second installment on September 13.

The program, which is open to adults and high school students interested into transitioning to job skills or independent living meets each Wednesday at the First Christian Church in Anniston on Leighton Avenue.

Led by the Arc's Family Advocate, Debra Harvey, the program features dif-

ferent agency programs and individuals who come and speak to our consumers on the importance of good nutrition, good health and work readiness skills.

Coordinators are planning a field trip at the end of the program.

"We will be doing hands on activities to give them an opportunity to become more independent in their everyday lives." said Harvey.

*See **LIFE SKILLS** (Continued on page 3)*

## Fundraisers Aid in the Continuation of The Arc's Work

Members of the local community have recently helped The Arc's staff and board members continue to fund programs for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in Calhoun and Cleburne Counties by hosting and/or participating in a number of recent fundraisers on our behalf.

Staff of The Arc's summer camps for

children sponsored a bake sale to help raise funds for next year's summer camps. *(See photo page six)*

In August, several volunteers from The Arc volunteered to work with The Anniston Runners Club's Woodstock 5K Run. The Arc's volunteers helped to raise

*See **FUNDRAISERS** (Continued on page 3)*

### **You Should know....**

The 2017 Annual Awards Banquet and Fashion Show will include a vote by The Arc's general membership on proposed changes to the agency by-laws.

To see a copy of the proposed changes, please go to The Arc's website at [calhouncleburnerearc.org](http://calhouncleburnerearc.org) or request a copy by calling the office at 256-236-2857.

Copies are also available at the office at 401 Noble Street, Anniston.

## The Kudos Corner — A look at people of The Arc who deserve a special pat on the back

\* **Melissa Akles** won the Skyler Brady, Heart of a Champion Award at the Anniston Runner's Club's Woodstock 5K on August 5, 2017. The Anniston Runner's Club presents the award to individuals in the community who have overcome challenging odds to achieve personal success. Akles is an accomplished Special Olympian, having won awards on both the state and regional level in a variety of sports. She also takes part in the City of Anniston's Therapeutic Recreation Program and several programs of The Arc such as The Arc Art and the Health, Nutrition and Work Readiness Program.

\* **Self-Advocates Kimberly Rudolph, Paulette Bynum and Joshua Traywick**, have been selected to be part of Team Alabama at the Special Olympics USA Games June 30—July 7, 2018. Rudolph will be part of the bowling team, while Bynum and Traywick will be on the state's bocce team. Self-Advocate **Raymond Ervin**, has been asked to be a join the bocce coaching team. They are all part of the Anniston Starz, the Special Olympics program coached by **Bernadette Burroughs and Doris Cooley** as part of the City of Anniston's Therapeutic Recreation Program.

\* **Ashton Cox, Hayden Heitt, Erin Paulson and Serena Marable** will be the first paddle boarding team to represent Special Olympics Alabama in the national games in Seattle Washington. June 30 through July 7. The team, composed of three students from the Oxford City School System and one student from AIDB, is being trained for the games by Coaches **Tim Cooper and Laura Hurst**.



Melissa Akles



*Congratulations to the recipients of the Greater Calhoun County Area Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities 2017 Awards. From left, back row, Briana Bell, Student of the Year; Gloria Crider, Advocate of the Year; Kevin Lockridge, Collaboration Award; Lucas Wysner, Employee of the Year—Small Business; Dennis Dunn, representing The Anniston Star, Large Employer of the Year; Front row, Zainab Sabree, Employee of the Year—Large Business; Robin Leonard, representing Dorsey's Supermarket, Small Employer of the Year, and Kim Wagner, Outstanding Educator of the Year. Not photographed, Eric Lovvorn and Christy Fordham, Collaboration Award winners.*

## Mark Your Calendar — call 256-236-2857 for more information

- \* **Fit Friends**, an exercise and nutrition program for adult self-advocates, the first Tuesday of each month at Oxford Civic Center, 6.p.m. No charge.
- \* **People First**, an advocacy program for adults with I/DD, the third Friday of each month at 4 p.m. at First Christian Church of Anniston. No charge.

### The Advocate

is published by  
**The Arc**  
of Calhoun and Cleburne  
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in the interest of  
people with intellectual and  
other disabilities.

For comments or questions,  
please contact us at

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Anniston AL 36202  
256-236-2857

TheArc@cableone.net  
calhouncleburnearc.org



### People at The Arc

**Executive Director**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Outreach Coordinator**  
**Family Advocate**  
**Recreation Aide**

Tammy Moreno  
Betty Kelley  
Pati Tiller  
Debra Harvey  
Doris Cooley

**Volunteer Art Instructor**  
**Housekeeping**

Randy Mitchell  
Kathy Gaines

**Board President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Board Members**

Rebecca Fearon  
Lynetta Owens  
Sharon Davis  
Alison Hollingsworth  
Bernadette Burroughs  
Desiree Davis  
Mark Dugans  
Charlanda Ingram  
Hunter Gentry  
Jonathan Gorman  
Isaac Lemons  
Jerry York

## The Arc's Art Program Continues to Flourish

The Arc Art class is continuing to grow by leaps and bounds.

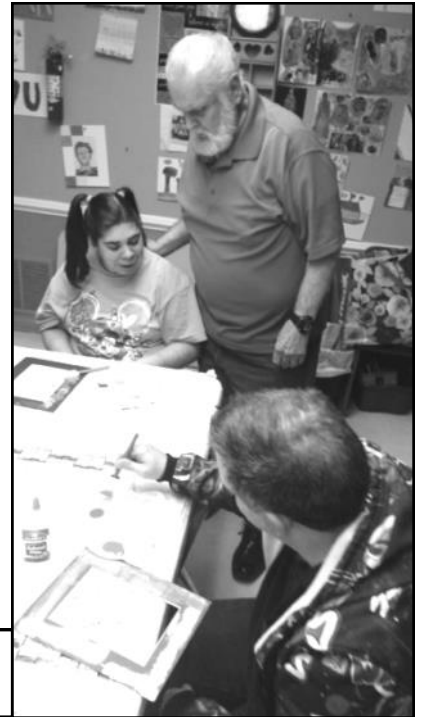
Consumers from Action Industries have joined self-advocates from the community along with residences of some of the local group homes at the weekly classes.

Randy Mitchell has been regularly volunteering to lead the free two hour classes, which meet each Wednesday at 12:30.

Participants draw, paint, make jewelry, work on ceramics and other crafts. These participants can take their projects home for family and friends to admire or leave them at The Arc for display or future public craft shows.

Donations to the art class in the form of paint materials, ceramics, old jewelry pieces or scraps of fabric and wood for pallets would be greatly appreciated. Artists are also invited to come share their knowledge with the class.

Call 256-236-2857 for more information.



*Art volunteer Randy Mitchell, standing, right, instructs Nicole Jones and John Burkhalter as they begin a new art project.*



*Wellborn students Sallie Hall, left and Ashley Morton, right, look over material from the Health, Nutrition and Job Readiness program above. Below, Benji Jennings, with Highland Health Systems, shows off the fruit kabob he made at class.*



### **LIFE SKILLS** (Continued from page 1)

The program will run from September 13, 2017 until February 18, 2018.

Participation in the program has grown from the 22 enrolled in the Spring. For more information, please contact Debra Harvey at 256-236-2857.

### **FUNDRAISERS** (Continued from page 1)

and take down the race course, worked in the registration booth, manned roadblocks and assisted with food preparation for the race. The funds help our ongoing Special Olympics programs.

Also in August, The Arc hosted the Second Annual Lip Sync Battle, which included a myriad of sponsors and participants. (See related story, pages four and five)

In October, local high school students, civic club members, and other individuals donned familiar yellow aprons at local stores to collect funds during the Knights of Columbus Drive to Benefit People with Intellectual Disabilities, an effort better known as the KoC Tootsie Roll Drive.

The drive, sponsored annually by the Knights of Columbus' Joseph J. Burn Council #3227 of Anniston and the St. Charles Borromeo Jacksonville State University Council #13513 of Jacksonville, helped raise money for 2018 summer day camps.

We appreciate the support of all of these individuals and organizations, as we know their assistance makes it possible for our programs to continue.

To find out ways in which you or your organization can raise funds or donate goods to a program of The Arc, please see the back page of this newsletter, or contact Tammy Moreno at 256-236-2857.

# The Lip Sync Battle Gets an Encore

A good performance deserves an encore! So does a good night of entertainment.

After raising more than \$5,000 last year for The Arc, The Lip Sync Battle returned to take another bow this summer to raise more funds for The Arc's programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Volunteers from the community, host Jon Garlick, judges Chris O'Rear, Doris Cooley and Mike Carter, DJ/Sound engineer Lee Baughn, light engineer, Randy Mitchell, and spotlight operator David Montgomery, a host of volunteers made up of The Arc's consumers, board members and parent guardians and, of course, a great responsive audience all came together on August 19 to make The Arc's Lip Sync Battle a fun and successful evening.

Michael Jackson impersonator Sarah Allen won both the "Judges' Choice" and the "Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is (fundraiser)" awards by dancing and lip syncing routines to "Billie Jean" and "Man in the Mirror". She edged out the "Visions Salon" group of Melissa Williams, Debbie Calhoun, Tammy Mitchell, Miranda Magouyrk Shanda Petroff and Shake in both categories. But not to be shutout, Visions Salon took home the "Audience Favorite Award" for their performances to "Close Your Eyes" by Meghan Trainor and "Do Life Big" by Jamie Grace.

Additional acts by Hatcreek Church's Troy Crosson and Aaron Crosson, Dan Stitt, Grace Stitt and Haley Stitt (3rd Place "Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is" Award,) CAST in "Stein"- Dylan Hurst, Hannah Culpepper and Josh Weaver, (2nd Place, "Audience Favorite," Third Place, "Judge's Choice") individuals Steven Ferrell, Claire Hendrickson and Stephanie Obelna, Elton Farris, Annslynn Pilkington and Sterling Jenkins and the self-advocate group People First and the People Firstettes (Third Place, "Audience Favorite") rounded out the evening's lip-syncing entertainment. Guest singer Cheslee Duke ended the evening singing "The Lamest Place in the World" from the movie 13 and "She Used to be Mine" by Sarah Bareilles.

Overall, the night raised just under \$9,000 for The Arc's programs, with additional funds coming in later. Funding for the event was raised through audience participation and through the generous donations of these sponsors:

## **Producer Level (\$1,000)**

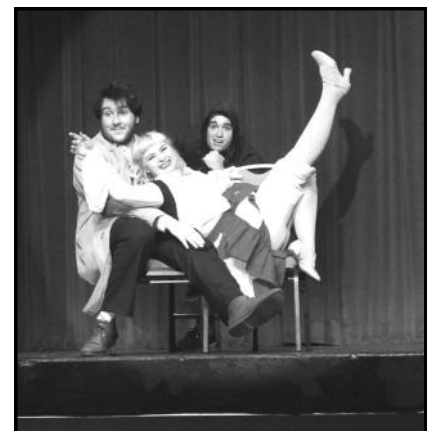
Rice Pest Control  
RMC

## **Director Level (\$500)**

Ackers Electric Company, Inc.  
Center for Domestic Preparedness Employee Association  
Sunny King Automotive Group  
John and Becky Fearon  
Honda Manufacturing

## **Performer Level (\$250)**

BBB's Aviation  
Steve and Gina Vinyard  
Dr. and Mrs. Vance Moore  
Jason King, CPA  
AOD Credit Union  
Whorton Engineering, Inc.  
William and Betsy Smith  
Mike Lipscomb Auto Sales



Photos courtesy of Melonie Jones

See **LIP SYNC** (Continued on page 5)



**LIP SYNC** (Continued from page 4)

**Stage Manager Level (\$100)**

Bodenheimer Psychological and Counseling Center, LLC  
Webb Concrete and Building Materials, Inc.  
Anthony Humphries  
Dr. Daniel McClellan/ McClellan Family Chiropractic  
Anniston Bowling Center  
MDA Professional Group, P.C.  
Cableone, Inc.  
The Loyal Order of the Moose, Lodge 1669  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Pitts  
Gene and Mary Rhodes  
Phillip Dunn  
Southern Star Motor Company, Inc.  
Wilhoite Physical Therapy (Anniston/Oxford)  
Nunnally's Noble Frame and Gallery



**Stage Hand Level (\$50)**

Advantage Tire and Alignment  
Dr. Keel and Associates  
Food Outlet  
Alabama Teachers Credit Union  
Deborah Fulton



**Patron Level (\$25)**

Anniston Galleries Antiques and Gifts  
Monday's Pest Control  
Elizabeth Yarbrough  
Visions Salon  
Ronnie and Patricia Clayton  
Donald and Trisha Turner  
Robert Jones  
Teresa Noell  
Buyer's Edge Realty  
Infigos Media LLC  
Southeastern Grocers (Winn Dixie)  
Roy and Leslie Smith  
Trey Crosson  
Steven Ferrell  
Debra Harvey  
People First of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties



## Camps Combine Learning With Fun at The Arc



Summer means camp at The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties.... and that means fun and learning experiences combined for people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

Forty-five students were enrolled in both sessions of the annual camps for school-aged students, which were held at the Bynum Community Center and led by Camp Director Theresa Bowen.

The June camp, composed of the Knights/United Camp, for campers from ages 5-21 with developmental disabilities, and Camp Spectra, for campers, ages 13-21, with Autism Spectrum Disorder, met June 12-22.

Session II of the summer camps, which took place July 10-20, was composed of a joint venture of Camp Spectra for school-aged children under the age of 13 and a Speech and Language Camp for school-aged children 6 through 12 years of age.



Music therapist Lauran Key, and performer Joe McCary made popular returns to camp this year. Swimming at the City of Anniston pools and bowling at Anniston Bowling Center were favorite moments on the camp

schedule. Other activities included art and crafts, games, field trips such as a visit to the Oxford Fire Station, and in-house presentations such as a visit from Sarrell Dental Clinic staff.

The student camps were made possible due to the generosity of sponsors such as The City of Oxford, the Knights of Columbus Councils of Sacred Heart and St. Charles Catholic churches, Mamre Baptist Church, Foothills Community Partnership, the Calhoun County Commission, Kiwanis Club of Anniston and the United Way of East Central Alabama.



*The Arc's Student Camps found a good amount of support from the community this summer. At left, employees of Kohl's Department Store of Oxford pose after serving pizza at the last day of Session I. Far right, camp staff hold a bake sale to raise additional funds to camp field trips.*



See ADULT CAMP (on page 7)

### **ADULT CAMP** *(Continued from page 6)*

Twenty-four adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities participated in The Arc/Anniston PARD Therapeutic Adult Camp July 24–28.

This year's camp, which The Arc holds in partnership with The City of Anniston's Therapeutic Recreation Program, was planned around the theme of "Heroes".

These campers saw great examples of real life heroes while visiting the Rosa Parks Museum, the Tuskegee Airman Museum, the Oxford Fire Department, the Anniston Police Station and ATAP, Inc in Talladega to see Army vehicles repaired. They also made their own superhero masks during craft time.

Many "Thank you's" to all who hosted us!



Photos courtesy of Doris Cooley



### **ANNUAL BANQUET** *(Continued from page 1)*

bers will be elected, will begin at 5:30 p.m. All members of The Arc are encouraged to attend and vote on the slate of nominees and the new agency by-laws

The banquet portion of the meeting will begin with meal catered by the Peerless Grill, followed by the much anticipated fashion show. The Dress Barn of Oxford and Dillard's Department Store at the Quintard Mall will supply the model's clothing,

For more information about the event or to pick up a copy of the proposed changes to the by-laws, call 256-236-2857 or come by the office at 401 Noble Street, Anniston.

## **Parents and Caregivers Welcomed at The Arc's Support Group**

Individuals who provide guidance and/or assistance to people of all ages with intellectual disabilities are welcomed to join The Arc's active Parents and Caregivers Support Group.

Regular meetings are held every other month at The Arc's offices at 401 Noble, Anniston. However, the group was met both in July, when they hosted a guest speaker to discuss guardianship and the power of attorney, and in August, where they heard from the self-advocate group People First of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties.

Some group members have also begin volunteering at functions of The Arc, including the Lip Sync Battle Fundraiser and the upcoming Fashion Show and Awards Banquet.

For more information, or to be notified about the next meeting, please contact Debra Harvey at 256-236-2857

## Join The Arc



Be an advocate  
for people with intellectual and  
other developmental disabilities!

Your annual dues entitle you to membership in the  
local, state and national chapter of

The Arc.

Individual

Family

☐ \$20.00

☐ \$30.00

Name

Address

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Email

Please clip and send to  
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at the address above left

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The Arc of Alabama  
A United Way Agency*

## Make a Difference This 2017 Holiday Season

As you begin preparing for the holidays we would like to  
ask you to include The Arc on your list.

In the next few weeks we will be hosting Christmas parties  
for students with intellectual disabilities from school  
systems throughout Calhoun and Cleburne counties.

We will be providing Christmas assistance for several  
self-advocates and families with members who have

I/DD.

If you would like to donate toys for the parties or items  
on a Christmas wish list, please contact us at  
256-236-2857.

Tax deductible, monetary contributions for these, or  
other agency programs, made payable to The Arc, may  
be sent to:

The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties  
P.O. Box 1848  
Anniston, Alabama, 36202

Thank you!

## Cast Your Vote for Alabama's Next U.S. Senator

Remember to vote  
on Tuesday, December  
12 and make your voice  
heard during the special  
election to fill the U.S.  
Senate seat vacated by  
Jeff Sessions.



Sessions, who was  
elected in 2014, vacated the seat to become head  
of the U.S. Department of Justice earlier this  
year.

Voters will pick either Doug Jones (Democrat)  
and Roy Moore (Republican) to serve the remain-  
der of the term.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on  
December 12.

All registered voters, regardless of political  
party, are eligible to vote in this election. The last  
day to register to vote prior to this election is  
Monday, November 27.

If you need assistance in registering or getting  
to the polls, please call The Arc at 256-236-2857.