**Not Just a Pickin’ Party**

**Bluegrass Underground Serves as Centerpiece for Live Music Movement in the UC**

Emmy-winning concert series wraps up fourth season with series of sold-out shows

**Jamestown pharmacy taking pro-life stance**

New business born from Plan B controversy

**Liz Engel Clark | UCBJ Editor**

JAMESTOWN – Philip Hall grew up in Jamestown. His parents did, too. And his parent’s parents. And a couple generations before that. So he’s quite familiar with the town’s historic, small-town charm. It’s a big reason why his new business, Hall Family Pharmacy, is catering specifically to traditional and conservative values.

You won’t find Plan B contraceptives, condoms or birth control on the shelves here. Hall Family Pharmacy, which opened April 1 near Jamestown Medical Center in Fentress County, is a bona-fide Christian, pro-life drug store, he says. He’s even expecting official certification to that effect from a pro-life pharmacy group, a stamp of approval that could be handed down as soon as this summer.

While Hall, a PharmD, isn’t exactly shouting that fact from the rooftops, it is a large part of his business model – and his business story. He left Walgreens, where he worked for six years, in 2013 after a public dispute over Plan B. Soon after, he decided to open his own shop. As he defines its mission, “things we don’t believe in, we don’t have to carry in our store.”

“We’ve not done things to try to build business off it, but if somebody comes in the store, we want them to know we’re a Christian pharmacy,” Hall said. “And we don’t have to tell them. They can tell by our actions. “We’re a family business,” he added. “I wanted to do something that my kids could be invested in, that they could be proud of.”

While the stance is likely to turn heads – the group Pharmacists for Life International, for example, approached him about the pro-life pharmacy certification, only the ninth such certification nationwide, according to its website – business seems to be booming on its own.

In addition to Hall, the pharmacy was initially staffed with three pharmacy technicians. It only took a few weeks to add a fourth tech –
Dale Hollow lake - Clay County Vacation Getaway Events!

May 16 & 17
Hwy 52 Yard Sale
June 10 - 14
CLAY COUNTY FAIR & PAGEANT
JULY 12
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
July 31st – August 2nd
HOMECOMING DAYS
Various Cruise Ins TBA

August 28th - 30th
MOONSHINE DAZE
September 6th
Volunteer Fireman’s Truck Pull
October 2nd – 4th
29th ANNUAL ROLLERCOASTER
Yard Sale
October 11th
FALL FEST & CHILI COOK-OFF

For more Information 931-243-3338 or www.dalehollowlake.org

Six Full Service Marinas
Cedar Hill Resort - Dale Hollow Marina - Holly Creek Marina - Horse Creek Marina - Mitchell Creek Marina - Willow Grove Marina

Turn your Radio on
WVFB 101.5 - CLAY COUNTY CORNER
Thursdays 9AM & 6 PM
Live Interviews with Local Folks
SPORTS - NEWS - COMMUNITY EVENTS

www.dalehollowlake.org
424 Brown Street • Celina, TN 38551 • (931) 243-3338 • claychamber@twlakes.net
found that festivalgoers spend on average $86 per day during Bonnaroo with $28 of that spent outside Coffee County and $35 outside festival grounds but within Coffee County, with gasoline and groceries representing the two largest spending categories.

But there’s never been a specific study commissioned to gauge the impact of regional events, like the Smithville Fiddler’s Jamboree and Crafts Festival. Considered the Upper Cumberland’s premier music event since 1971, the Jamboree is held annually on the Friday and Saturday nearest July 4.

“Since the beginning of the Smithville Fiddlers’ Jamboree & Crafts Festival, there is no easy way to measure the huge economic impact and amount of tourism growth for DeKalb County and the Upper Cumberland region,” said Suzanne Williams, executive director of the Smithville-DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce. “We do know that without the Jamboree, the story of Smithville would be very different today.”

For the past 16 years, the Jamboree has been selected as a Top 20 Tourist Favorite by the Southern Tourism Society. It is listed by the American Business Associates as one of the top 100 tourist events in North America.

In 1992, the Jamboree was rated fourth-best in the United States for a summer vacation destination by Vacation Magazine, which described the Jamboree as a family event that’s “among the top-rated bluegrass, folk and Appalachian music competitions in the nation drawing 140,000 visitors over two days from as far as Australia.”

“The Smithville Fiddlers’ Jamboree and Crafts Festival is forever grateful for every family, tourist, musician and crafter that visits us year after year,” said Jamboree President Jack Barton. “The Jamboree has always been my family’s favorite time of the year, and we are glad that thousands of others agree.”

Bluegrass music has also drawn thousands of campers and visitors to the Defeated Creek Bluegrass Festival over the years, according to Smith County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bill Woodard.

“Music is also an integral part of William Walton Days, Hometown Christmas and other festivals that take place in Smith County,” Woodard said. “Gospel music is a longtime staple here.”

In Byrdstown, the annual Sierra Hull Bluegrass Festival has been staged on the second Saturday of each October for the past 11 years. The event has grown to include a 5K walk/run with proceeds going to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, a cruise-in to raise funds for the “Homes for Our Troops” organization and a full lineup of musical artists culminating with a performance by Pickett County native Sierra Hull, a musical prodigy who has gained international acclaim.

In acknowledgement of music’s importance, Overton County adopted its tourism slogan as “Home of Americana Music,” due in part to the duo of Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s events held annually over Memorial Day weekend and the last full weekend in September. These celebrations of Americana feature bluegrass, blues and folk music on the rural Overton County farm of Jack “Hippie Jack” Stoddart. In addition to attracting a large crowd to the live event, more than 144 million viewers in 30 states can experience the performances through the public television series, Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s.

The Council of Americana Roots Music is partnering with local officials in Livingston to present a concert series in Livingston’s downtown square the second Friday of each October for Our Troops” organization and a full lineup of musical artists culminating with a performance by Pickett County native Sierra Hull, a musical prodigy who has gained international acclaim. In acknowledgement of music’s importance, Overton County adopted its tourism slogan as “Home of Americana Music,” due in part to the duo of Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s events held annually over Memorial Day weekend and the last full weekend in September. These celebrations of Americana feature bluegrass, blues and folk music on the rural Overton County farm of Jack “Hippie Jack” Stoddart. In addition to attracting a large crowd to the live event, more than 144 million viewers in 30 states can experience the performances through the public television series, Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s.

The Council of Americana Roots Music is partnering with local officials in Livingston to present a concert series in Livingston’s downtown square the second Friday of each October for Our Troops” organization and a full lineup of musical artists culminating with a performance by Pickett County native Sierra Hull, a musical prodigy who has gained international acclaim. In acknowledgement of music’s importance, Overton County adopted its tourism slogan as “Home of Americana Music,” due in part to the duo of Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s events held annually over Memorial Day weekend and the last full weekend in September. These celebrations of Americana feature bluegrass, blues and folk music on the rural Overton County farm of Jack “Hippie Jack” Stoddart. In addition to attracting a large crowd to the live event, more than 144 million viewers in 30 states can experience the performances through the public television series, Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s.

The Council of Americana Roots Music is partnering with local officials in Livingston to present a concert series in Livingston’s downtown square the second Friday of each October for Our Troops” organization and a full lineup of musical artists culminating with a performance by Pickett County native Sierra Hull, a musical prodigy who has gained international acclaim. In acknowledgement of music’s importance, Overton County adopted its tourism slogan as “Home of Americana Music,” due in part to the duo of Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s events held annually over Memorial Day weekend and the last full weekend in September. These celebrations of Americana feature bluegrass, blues and folk music on the rural Overton County farm of Jack “Hippie Jack” Stoddart. In addition to attracting a large crowd to the live event, more than 144 million viewers in 30 states can experience the performances through the public television series, Jammin’ at Hippie Jack’s.
SPECIAL FOCUS

MUSIC and the UPPER CUMBERLAND

Cookeville guitar maker builds passion for music

PG 10

UC offers variety of venues for music lovers

PG 11

Many UC musicians’ careers intertwine

PG 12

Music makers leave lasting legacy

PG 14

Doctor loan programs 100% up to $1.0M available on single family home and Fannie Mae Warranted Condo's

Loan Products: Fixed Rate 15 & 30 Year, 3/1 Libor, 5/1 Libor, 7/1 Libor

Eligible: medical resident, fellow, attending (MD), DMD, DDS, DPM, DO-Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Closing within 21 days of application

Out of State Lending: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina

Additional Special Financing: Attorney's and CPA's.

Apply online today
www.drhomeloans.com

“I found that she offered us the insightful advice of a personal friend, not just as a banker. We were unsure about the wisdom of a 30-year mortgage versus a 15-year, and she explained the differences, and the benefits for us. So we were able to make a very well-informed decision.”

DR. COREY SLOVIS, CHAIRMAN OF VANDERBILT EMERGENCY MEDICINE.

Carolyn Daniels  NMLS# 659283  |  VICE PRESIDENT  |  MORTGAGE CONSULTANT  
3770 HILLSBORO Pike NASHVILLE, TN 37215  |  D: 615.271.2127  |  C: 615.579.7657  |  CAROLYNDANIELS@BANKOFNASHVILLE.COM

1. Available only in TN, AL, GA, SC, FL. In Residences, Indiana, Illinois, Directors of University, DDG, DDS or licensed medical professionals that have completed their residences within the last 10 years. 2. Borrowers should note that 100% mortgage financing may result in an increased monthly payment and interest rate. 3. Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) products have interest rates that may increase after consummation. Equal Housing Lender. The Bank of Nashville Synovus Mortgage Corp, 3770 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215.
Pritchett named interim CEO at Jamestown hospital

JAMESTOWN – Jamestown Regional Medical Center (JRMC) recently announced that Lynette Pritchett has been appointed interim chief executive officer after the retirement of Larry Jeter on April 30. Pritchett has served as the chief financial officer at JRMC since the fall of 2011 and served as controller/director of the accounting department since March of 1999.

“I am excited and honored to be moving into the interim CEO position at Jamestown Regional Medical Center,” Pritchett said in a release. “I was born and raised in Fentress County and have deep roots here. My heart is in this community, this hospital and our employees. I want what’s best for them.

“Health care is certainly a challenge now more than it has ever been, but we have a strong, dedicated team at JRMC, as well as a great group of physicians and supportive board members,” she added. “I look forward to leading the team at JRMC.”

Pritchett graduated from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga in 1990 with a B.S. in business with a focus in accounting.

Crossville owes $24K on defunct downtown project

CROSSVILLE – It will cost the city of Crossville nearly $24,000 to close out contracts on a downtown revitalization project that, after years of debate, was scaled back in recent months.

According to the Crossville Chronicle, it will cost $9,500 to close out a contract with Community Development Partners, which served as a consultant on grants and funding for the work, and another $14,425.74 to settle with its engineers, EG&G Inc.

The city council voted in April to drastically pare down the downtown project. Instead of $7.7 million worth of work to underway major stormwater, sewer, sidewalk and aesthetic improvements, leaders gave the go-ahead on an almost $2 million version for water lines and sidewalks.

Batteries Plus Bulbs expands in Tennessee with first UC store

COOKEVILLE – Batteries Plus Bulbs, the nation’s fastest-growing franchise focusing on the light bulb replacement market, recently opened its newest Tennessee store at 560 S. Jefferson Ave., Cookeville. This marks the sixth location for Batteries Plus Bulbs franchise owner Todd Williams.

The store will provide access to more than 45,000 types of batteries, light bulbs and accessories. Williams, who opened his first store in 1998, also operates locations in Cleveland, Hixson, Chattanooga, Alcoa and Knoxville.

“Tennessee has been wonderful to my business over the years, and I couldn’t be happier with another opportunity to bring our breadth of products, services and helpful advice to the community that I call home,” Williams said. “Cookeville is

overton county TENNESSEE
HOME OF AMERICANA MUSIC

COME VISIT!

www.overtonco.com 1.800.876.7393
Important new health care delays and updates

There has been a long string of announcements by the Obama administration delaying implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The administration had previously delayed the application of the employer responsibility provisions (the employer mandate) from January 2014 to 2015. More recently, the administration gave employers with between 50-99 employees an additional year, until January 2016, to comply, subject to certain conditions. The administration also announced additional relief for large employers with 100 or more employees.

Regarding those employers with at least 50 but fewer than 100 full-time employees, the tax penalty for failing to comply with the employer mandate generally will not apply until 2016, if the employer provides an appropriate certification as described in the rules.

For those employers of 100 or more full-time employees, there is an additional break dealing with the permanent rule requiring that these employers must provide coverage for 95 percent of their employees. The transition rule for 2015 indicates that employers must only offer coverage to at least 70 percent of full-time employees as one of the conditions for avoiding the tax penalty, rather than 95 percent, which will begin now in 2016. Further, for 2015 only, the $2,000 penalty for each full-time employee will exempt the first 80 full-time employees instead of 30.

In addition to the above two forms of transition relief for 2015, a package of limited transition rules that applied to 2014 has now been extended to 2015 under the Final Regulations. Employers with plan years that do not start on Jan. 1 will be able to begin compliance at the start of their plan years in 2015 rather than on Jan. 1, 2015, and the conditions for this relief are expanded to include more plan sponsors. The requirement that employers offer coverage to their full-time employees’ dependents will not apply in 2015 to employers that are taking steps to arrange for such coverage to begin in 2016.

Note that the proposed regulations defined “dependents” for purposes of offering dependent coverage to eligible employees as children only, including natural, adopted, foster and step-children. In other words, spouses were excluded. The final regulations, issued in February, continue to exclude spouses, but revise the definition of dependent children to mean only natural and adopted children up to age 26. Thus, to be in compliance, a covered employer need not offer spousal coverage, or coverage for foster children, step-children or children who are not U.S. citizens or nationals, with limited exceptions. Of course, an employer may elect to offer such health insurance coverage.

One final important delay was announced by the administration in January. Under the health care law, an employer that has a fully-insured health plan that discriminates in favor of high-paid executives faces a potential penalty of as much as $100 per day for each individual affected negatively, similar to the non-discrimination rules that currently apply to self-insured plans. Tax officials have indicated that they would not enforce this provision during 2014 because they have yet to issue regulations for employers to follow.

Jeffrey G. Jones is a regional managing member for Wimberly Lawson Wright Daves & Jones PLLC. He can be reached at jjones@wimberlylawson.com.
COOKEVILLE – A decade ago, Cookeville’s Judah Akers couldn’t play a guitar, but these days he’s making a career in music – songwriting, recording and performing as lead vocalist and guitarist with the folk band, Judah and the Lion.

A self-described “jock,” Akers’ interest in music began when he was benched by an injury during his freshman year at Cookeville High School. His uncle, Paul Ramsey, pastor at Church on the Hill in Cookeville, suggested he take advantage of misfortune and learn to play guitar.

“I was really bad at first,” Akers said with a laugh. “Almost as soon as my uncle started teaching me the guitar, I started writing songs.”

Akers soon formed a youth worship band at his church, and before long the band was performing during the main service.

“You might as well jump in the deep end or not swim at all,” Akers said, crediting the support of his church and community with giving him confidence to pursue music as a career.

In 2013, Akers earned his degree in music business from Belmont University. That’s where he teamed up with mandolinist Brian Macdonald and banjo player Nate Zuercher, with whom he formed Judah and the Lion in 2011. Akers said he was looking for someone to play his songs on a banjo when an exploratory session was arranged with Zuercher, who brought Macdonald along.

“We met for lunch and started playing the songs,” Akers recalled. “After the second song we knew we had something special.”

A few months later, the newly formed trio won Belmont’s 2012 Christian Showcase competition, a Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business initiative designed to expose Belmont students to the operations of full-scale concert production. By June 2012, the trio had recorded their first EP, “First Fruits,” written by Akers but expressing the group’s spirituality. The band gained notoriety and experienced commercial success with the 2013 EP, “Sweet Tennessee,” which peaked at No. 25 on the iTunes charts and appeared briefly in the No. 1 spot on the singer-songwriter iTunes charts.

“A lot of doors opened, and we went fulltime this January,” Akers said. Their first national tour began in February playing with Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors. “We play a lot of college campuses or college town venues. Playing for big crowds is amazing.”

Like many young musical artists, Judah and the Lion is taking a non-traditional route into the music industry. The band has a manager but has not signed with a record label.

“We are independent…we believe we can organically spread the music through social media and self-promotion,” Akers said. “Our target demographic is high school age through early 30s, but we’ve found that we appeal to people of all ages. We think it’s the banjo and mandolin that gets their attention.”

At an April performance in Nashville, the older demographic was well represented by Akers’ Cookeville-area supporters and friends of his parents, Britt and Susannah Akers. The closest Judah and the Lion will be to the Upper Cumberland in upcoming months is the Moon River Music Festival in Memphis June 7, but fans can listen anytime at www.judahandthelion.com.

Akers noted that although the band’s music began exclusively as Christian, the group’s newer offerings are more Americana or folk but “out of that same heart.” All three band members are dedicated Christians, and Akers pointed out that the video for “Sweet Tennessee” illustrated their belief that people can have a good time in a simple, clean manner.

“Like with our shows,” he said. “We like for them to be a party, but that does not mean you have to get drunk to enjoy the music.”

Judah and the Lion have recorded 10 new, original songs for an album set for summer release.

“We want to keep [the fans] coming back,” Akers said. “New markets. New music. We want to make an impact.”

Judah Akers, center, is lead vocalist and guitarist for Judah and the Lion. For more information, visit www.judahandthelion.com.
performances for this fall’s episodes, including Grammy Award-winners Lucinda Williams and The Steep Canyon Rangers, singer-songwriter extraordinaire Jason Isbell, iconic mandolinist David Grisman and jam band royalty Widespread Panic.

Rising stars like Shovels & Rope, Hayes Carll and Davina and The Vagabonds will also be featured in the show’s 2014 season, airing in September.

“Bluegrass Underground has always been about diversity and quality, authentic music,” said the show’s creator and executive producer, Todd Mayo. “It incorporates two of the greatest things about Tennessee, which is natural beauty and musical culture, and those two things intersect down in the cave.”

In January, Bluegrass Underground was recognized with four MidSouth Regional Emmy Awards. Nominated in six overall categories this year, taking home honors in the Best Entertainment Program, Best Director—Program, Best Audio and Best Lighting categories. The show also won an Emmy for Best Lighting at last year’s awards.

For artists and audiences, the uniqueness of Cumberland Caverns is often enough by itself to warrant a trip to McMinnville. But few are prepared for the full experience of being 333 feet below ground in an acoustically pristine cavern known as The Volcano Room.

“Anytime you can get people out of the usual concert element, they kind of listen differently,” said Steep Canyon Rangers banjo/vocalist Graham Sharp. “The people that come down here to the cave are here for one thing, and that’s to enjoy the music. (The producers) make sure the show is diverse and high quality, and it’s in this beautiful, unbelievable space.”

“It’s a little bit overwhelming, but in a great way. The whole experience is really kind of surreal and otherworldly,” added Davina Sowers, whose jazz and blues-infused quintet Davina and The Vagabonds traveled all the way from Minneapolis, Minn., to play. “It’s definitely at the top of our list of experiences and a highlight of our career. Not a lot of musicians can say they’ve had an opportunity to do something like this.”

With help from Bluegrass Underground co-producer Todd Jarrell and WCTE President Becky Magura, Mayo shot a pilot episode of the program and later negotiated a deal in 2011 to start airing the show on the PBS network.

With the added reach of the television broadcasts, Mayo said he has seen visitors attend shows from as far away as Dubai, Thailand and Australia, plus nearly every state in the U.S.

The program currently airs in more than 150 television markets across the country and can be heard live each month on the radio on 650AM WSM.

Even for a Monday night performance, the Widespread Panic taping on March 10 sold out through the Bluegrass Underground website in less than a minute.

“We were getting 50,000 hits a minute on our site,” said Jarrell, whose background is in live television production. “(The Widespread Panic show) got international attention and huge buzz for us. We sold 600 tickets in less than 30 seconds.”

So with the success of Bluegrass Underground and nearby annual festivals like Manchester’s Bonnaroo and the Smithville Jamboree, is the Cumberland Plateau area quietly becoming a hotbed for live music in Tennessee and beyond? Mayo thinks so.

“Absolutely it is,” he said. “In a state that is known for iconic musical locations like Memphis and Nashville and Bristol, I think now you can add the Cumberland Plateau region in that same conversation.”

Episodes of Bluegrass Underground are televised on WCTE every Monday night at 7:30 and again on Thursdays at 9:30. Visit www.BluegrassUnderground.com for more information and a listing of Season 4 musical guests.
Cookeville – For Mario Cruz, working in a profession tied directly with athletics was an all but natural fit.

The Colombian native grew up playing soccer as a youth. He played collegiately at Brewton-Parker College in Georgia. And even today, years after graduation, he still finds time for the sport.

It’s also the biggest means for him to connect with his patients. Cruz is the newest athletic trainer and sports medicine specialist at Cookeville Regional Medical Center Sports Medicine at Tennessee Tech – at the clinic, he works day in and day out with student-athletes from both inside and outside the university’s walls.

“The biggest benefit is the psychological part… understanding what the athlete is going through. You can walk in a lot of different people’s shoes. You relate to them using the experiences that you’ve had.

“It brings a positive outcome, because athletes do have problems, they do get down (when injured), but you can encourage them,” he added. “I think they value that. It’s definitely helped me.”

It helps that Cruz is dually credentialed – part physical therapist and part athletic trainer. And his education background reflects that. He studied exercise physiology as an undergraduate at Brewton-Parker, where he also played soccer for the Barons. He later graduated from Georgia Southern University with a bachelor’s degree in sports medicine with emphasis on athletic training. He finished his doctorate in physical therapy in 2009 at the Medical University of Georgia, now known as Georgia Regents University.

Before joining the staff at CRMC, Cruz worked in private clinics and also spent a season working for the Atlanta Silverbacks, a professional soccer team.

“When I did my undergraduate in sports medicine, I knew the path I wanted to take was athletics,” he said. “My interest had always been sports medicine. I chose to get more training in physical medicine so I could be a little more rounded in rehabbing. I wanted to fill that gap a little bit more.”

“The jobs (I’ve worked since graduation) have taken me toward athletics,” he added. “That’s how I landed here at Tennessee Tech.”

It’s a unique position, too, he says. CRMC Sports Medicine at Tennessee Tech is a partnership between the hospital and university, a pairing that allows Cruz to focus largely on treating student-athletes at the school as well as youth and high school student-athletes from the community at large.

In addition to day-to-day rehabbing, Cruz assists the Tennessee Tech sports medicine department, working with staff to cover various athletic events, while also providing emergency management, injury evaluation and treatment.

Another part of his workload, at least recently, has been drafting injury prevention programs. A prevention program, for example, was most recently designed for golf. Cruz said he was in the process of coming up with another prevention program for track and field.

“It’s not just treatment,” Cruz said. “We try to do as much prevention as we can – finding different ways and different interventions that can help decrease the amount of injury. That’s what keeps me busy here.”

And it seems those prevention efforts are paying off, at least to the casual observer. While there hasn’t been an exact study to measure the impact the programs have had, Cruz said there’s been at least a noticeable drop in some of the most common injuries he’s seen since starting the job last spring.

“When I started, we had a really high volume of shoulder injuries. We (also) had a really high volume of hamstring strains or muscle injuries in general,” he said. “So we put in place some injury prevention and strengthening strategies. And throughout this year, we have seen less shoulder injuries and less muscle injuries.

“I cannot tell you for sure that’s because of what we did, because there are so many other factors at play,” Cruz added. “We want to believe it’s a combination of all the things we’ve done. We hope it will get even better as we have time to implement more things.”

Outside of work, Cruz is still active in sports – soccer and the occasional mud run, he says. Most of his free time is spent with his family, which includes his wife and two children.

He says he’s enjoying the fast pace of his work so far and is grateful for the position.

“Positions like this around the country are really rare,” he said. “This is a great job. It’s the best job I’ve had. It’s profitable for the hospital, it helps the school, it provides a community service. I think everybody wins.”

Mario F. Cruz, PT, DPT, SCS, ATC, is a doctor of physical therapy/certified athletic trainer and board certified sports medicine specialist at CRMC Sports Medicine at Tennessee Tech. For more information, call (931) 783-2463.

During a heart attack, every minute counts.

That’s because, according to the American College of Cardiology, if the heart is in distress for longer than 90 minutes, heart muscle and other organs can become damaged beyond repair. The Heart and Vascular Center of Cookeville Regional is consistently beating the 90-minute standard by more than half. CRMC’s average time for stopping a heart attack is 45 minutes! As a matter of fact, we have been recognized by HealthGrades® as being in the top 5% in the U.S. and #1 in Tennessee for coronary intervention (stopping heart attacks). And we’re the only health care facility in the region with interventional capabilities to stop a heart attack and perform surgery if necessary.

Don’t sit in traffic while your quality of life slips away — let the proven choice beat the clock for you.

931.783.2350 • www.crmchealth.org
CLAUDIA JOHNSON | Special to the UCBJ

Cookeville – Zebulon Turrentine is a luthier, a person who makes guitars, and those handcrafted by Turrentine in his small shop in Cookeville are coveted by collectors and musicians throughout the United States.

“When I was about 16, I started playing guitar,” Turrentine said, admitting, “I did it mostly to impress high school girls and probably would have quit had that remained my key motivation.”

A love for classical music that began in high school took him to the Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Va., where he earned a bachelor’s of music in guitar performance. During summer breaks, the Bedford County native worked at Gallagher Guitar Co. in Wartrace, the company that makes the guitar Doc Watson used for most of his career. It was there that Turrentine began to combine his love of classical guitar and his lifelong woodworking experience.

“When I was about 12 years old, my aunt and uncle gave me a book on making bows and arrows with the same method used by primitive cultures,” he said. “I became very passionate about this, and growing up on a farm gave me the resources I needed to bring this interest to life. I joke that my first bows were my first guitars, because a bow is actually the earliest known forerunner of most string instruments.”

Turrentine said that the guitar is a relatively simple structure in concept, but making a living as a guitar builder means continually striving to build an instrument in the upper 5 percent.

“The market is flooded with mediocre instruments,” Turrentine said. “If you are going to be successful you have to build guitars for the best players, and that means creating a guitar that comes alive with a light touch, gets louder and louder when a player digs in and with all this, remains very playable.”

The wood Turrentine uses in construction is from a variety of sources, but Cookeville’s Winell Lee has become a source for African mahogany, purple heart and tiger maple. He uses padauk, Indian rosewood and ebony and has even bought logs of western red cedar from which he creates the soundboard.

“Craftsmanship – tight fitting joints, clean cuts, structural alignment, etc. – is essential,” Turrentine said. “All that wood slowly compresses under tension until it eventually loses its elasticity. Thus, a traditional guitar is very human. It has a lifespan. Each luthier interprets the balance of strength and responsiveness differently.”

Turrentine is a classical guitarist himself who has played numerous private parties and special events since moving to the Upper Cumberland in 2009. Though his full-time business is Zebulon Turrentine, Luthier, he teaches guitar lessons one day each week.

“It’s easy to get stuck in your head while you are working alone in the shop all the time,” he said. “I notice that teaching brings me down to earth and keeps me working on connecting with others. It’s also great to spend time with kids.”

Connecting with others is the theme of Turrentine’s career. The 32-year-old served in the Peace Corps before his recruitment as executive director of the Alliance for the Cumberlands. When he decided to act upon his desire to be a luthier, he called on contacts made while performing at competitions and festivals in college.

“One day I was looking at some guitars that I had just made and thinking, ‘It’s now or never,’” he said. “So I quit everything else and took a road trip through North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky to meet some up-and-coming professional guitarists, and I have been busy with orders ever since.”

The cost of a Zebulon Turrentine, Luthier classical guitar is $4,500. Photos of his work are on display on his website, zebulonturrentine.com.

Among Turrentine’s notable clients are Stephen Mattingly, professor of guitar at University of Louisville; Tom Torrisi, upcoming doctoral student at Eastman Conservatory of Music in New York; Rafael Scarfullery, an award winning Dominican guitarist and composer living in Charlottesville, Va.; and Erica Cha, a 16-year-old virtuoso that has won many youth competitions in the eastern United States.

“The latest guitar was made from padauk and Englemann spruce and was sold to a collector that lives near Nashville,” Turrentine said. “Paul Palycarpou is president of Nashville Arts Magazine and is the first owner of one of my guitars who lives in Tennessee.”
Musical chairs: UC offers multitude of soundboard hot spots

CLAUDIA JOHNSON | Special to the UCBJ

UPPER CUMBERLAND – Venues in the Upper Cumberland where music can be experienced year round draw tourists and attract locals. They also contribute to the local economy through employment, construction projects, tax revenue and purchases of goods and services.

And from Warren County’s Cumberland Caverns (see “Not just a pickin’ party: Bluegrass Underground serves as centerpiece for live music movement in the UC,” Page 1) to Cookeville’s renowned Bryan Symphony Orchestra, these locales are also as different and unique as the performances they offer to audiences both big and small:

Though offerings at Crossville’s Cumberland County Playhouse (CCP) (tickets.ccplayhouse.com/public) include major elements of opera, dance and challenging dramatic works, musicals have been the cornerstone of the theater’s success. With an annual budget of more than $1.8 million, the Playhouse is among Tennessee’s most self-sufficient arts institutions. Since its opening in 1965, 78-85 percent of all revenues have been from earned income. CCP operates on 80 percent earned revenue from ticket sales compared to 52 percent for most theaters nationally.

The Playhouse operates on a balanced budget and has no accumulated deficit. It is the only non-profit professional performing arts organization in Tennessee that wholly owns and operates its own major performance facility. Construction of a 27,000-square-foot expansion to the original facility has made the Playhouse a four-theater complex featuring proscenium, black box and outdoor arena spaces.

Combining a resident professional company and a staff of 16 with more than 100 visiting professionals and a large volunteer corps, the Playhouse draws professionals from across the country and volunteers from a dozen Tennessee counties. More than 50 percent of all revenues are expended for professional artist compensation.

The award winning Arts Center of Cannon County (ACCC) (www.artscenterofcc.com/events-tickets.html) in Woodbury is a model for rural arts organizations. In addition to a regular theater season that includes several musicals, the ACCC hosts professional musical performances, musical training for and performances by children and youth, touring performances and holiday special musical events. Situated in an underserved rural area in a town of 2,000 and a county of 12,000, the Arts Center annually commands a worldwide audience of 40,000 through its facility and more than 100,000 through websites, publications and recording projects. Drawing on the blue-collar roots of its community, the organization focuses on self-sufficiency, fiscal responsibility and social entrepreneurship. Since its inception in 1980, the Arts Center has averaged more than 85 percent earned income and has never run an operating deficit.

Cookeville’s distinguished orchestra is a partnership between the Bryan Symphony Orchestra Association (www.bryansymphony.org/concerts/this-season) and the Tennessee Tech Department of Music. It is comprised of Tennessee Tech University professors, some of Tech’s finest students, professionals from the Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga symphonies and other professionals from Middle and East Tennessee.

“The Bryan Symphony Orchestra Association raises more than $150,000 annually in support of the orchestra, which benefits the community, the Tech music department and the audience,” said Dan Allcott, professor of music, Tennessee Tech University and Bryan Symphony Orchestra director.

Allcott said that the orchestra draws more...
Claudia Johnson | Special to the UCBJ

Upper Cumberland – Beloved by music lovers in Upper Cumberland and respected far beyond its borders are Frazier Moss, the Cluster Pluckers and the Ballinger Family Band, whose careers are as intertwined as the music and tradition of the bluegrass they play.

Moss, who died in 1998 at age 88, received his first fiddle – just a toy – for selling Ferry’s garden seeds when he was 8 years old. By age 12 he was playing a real fiddle and had won his first competition, receiving a $5 gold piece as the prize. In the 1930s, ’40s and ’50s he played dances, entered contests and made regular Saturday morning appearances on WHUB radio with his band, the Frazer Moss Band.

For nearly eight decades he played the fiddle, never making a fulltime living as a musician. Jackson County born but a longtime resident of Cookeville, he supported his seven children by working as a carpenter and augmenting his income from musical gigs and with meager prize money from winning competitions. Moss went to Detroit in the ’40s and played music to support his family when he could not earn enough money at home.

His talent garnered his first place awards at the National Fiddling Championship, the Southeast Fiddling Championship and the Tennessee Valley Old-Time Fiddlers’ Association championship. He won the Smithville Fiddlers’ Jamboree so many times he was banned from competing there.

“Everyone knew who he was,” said Kris Ballinger, who played with Moss for eight years as a member of the Frazier Moss String Band. “Roy Acuff would get him to go into the dressing room at the Grand Ole Opry and play.”

Moss didn’t just entertain stars in the dressing room. He played on the Opry stage and at many other prominent venues.

The Frazier Moss String Band, which included Ballinger and her husband, Dale, both of Cookeville, their friend Margaret Bailey and other musicians, began in 1980. One among many notable appearances together was at the Folklife Festival Exhibition during the 1982 World’s Fair in Knoxville.

Ballinger said that when Moss played at the Smithsonian’s 20th Festival of American Folklife, she and her husband were there.

“We just tagged along with Frazier to Washington, D.C.,” she said. “He had other musicians playing with him there, including Jack Sallee from Cookeville.”

In the late 1980s, Moss suffered a heart attack and was forced to wear a pacemaker.

“He was worried that the pacemaker would interfere with his fiddle playing, so they put it on the opposite side,” Ballinger said.

She pointed out that although he was born blind in one eye and deaf on that same side because he did not have an ear, Moss was not defeated by physical challenges.

“Frazier played right up to the last few weeks before he died,” said Ballinger, who maintained a lifelong friendship with Moss. “He never lost his desire to jam, even at the end of his life. He absolutely loved getting together with other musicians and playing.”

Meanwhile, the Ballingers and Bailey developed their musical career. In 1984, Kris and Dale performed with fiddler Junior

Frazier Moss, Cluster Pluckers and the Ballingers

Carrying on a UC legacy

Frazier Moss won his first fiddle competition at age 12.
Great Music and Great Food
Every Friday and Saturday Night at Local Restaurants in Byrdstown, Tennessee
www.dalehollow.com

Daughtery at Carnegie Hall as part of a special American Folk Roots Concert Series.

Kris Ballinger and Bailey sang on two of Vassar Clements’ Hillbilly Jazz Band’s albums, toured the country and performed on The Nashville Network television shows “Nashville Now” and “New Country.”

By 1988, the Cluster Pluckers had been formed and included Bailey, the Ballingers, Mark Howard, Brent Truitt, Blaine Sprouse and Richard Bailey. All experienced musicians, the Cluster Pluckers earned international exposure through appearances on several TNN shows, on “The Statler Brothers Easter Special,” “Rider’s Radio Theater” National Public Radio show with Riders in the Sky and “Reno’s Old Time Music Festival Television” show on the Americana Television Network.

Highlights have included playing on the PBS show “Austin City Limits” with Chet Atkins, performing for the PBS show “Songs of the Civil War” with Hoyt Axton, produced by Ken Burns and entertaining at an inauguration festivity for President Bill Clinton in Washington, at a fundraiser for Clinton in Nashville and at Tipper Gore’s birthday bash.

The Cluster Pluckers have pleased audiences across the country at bluegrass and folk festivals, city festivals, concerts in the parks, conventions, clubs and many other special occasions. They even toured Europe, playing in Holland and Norway, sold out a 10-day, eight-city tour of Japan and recorded five albums.

“We never really disbanded,” Ballinger said of the Cluster Pluckers. “We’ve continued to play, but we started slowing down around 2005 and only play a few gigs a year.”

The Ballingers, who now perform with their son, Ethan, and other musicians as the Ballinger Family Band, speak with pride about the musical accomplishments of their son who grew up accompanying his parents to performances and sessions.

“We bought Ethan a one-sixteenth size fiddle, and by the time he was 2 years old he had played with Roy Acuff, Grandpa Jones, John Hartford, Chet Atkins and others,” Kris Ballenger said.

Ethan Ballinger, who is now a professional musician, producer, composer, session player and sideman for nationally touring artists, plays acoustic and electric guitars, keyboard, drums, bouzouki, mandolin, bass and fiddle. When Ethan was 15 years old, his parents bought him his first recording machine, which he immediately put to use recording his own instrumental music. Garnering the attention of local television producers, Ethan went on to write, record and produce musical compositions for several nationally aired PBS programs and videos, including the Emmy Award winning “Crank: Darkness On The Edge Of Town.”


Ethan played with the Ballinger Family Band on a 2012 tour of Scotland where his parents had played there before and felt compelled to make the trip, especially wanting to play for the people in Sendai, who were left devastated by the disaster.

“After we played, a young girl came up and hugged me and said ‘this is the first time I have felt happy since the tsunami hit,’” Kris recalled.

To further confirm their intuition that the trip was on target, the band performed at seven places, one of which was on the eighth floor of a downtown Tokyo building. The club’s name? Rocky Top.

Above: The Ballingers perform in Japan. Top left: The Cluster Pluckers earned international exposure.
AREA ARTISTS LEAVE THEIR MARK ON THE UC

CLAUDIA JOHNSON | Special to the UCBJ

UPPER CUMBERLAND – It’s the land of falling water, winding rivers, regal forests, mountain foothills, moonshine and melodies. Music makers across two centuries have meandered from the Upper Cumberland’s luscious landscape, leaving a multi-genre mark on music history. Others have passed through and stayed, nesting comfortably along the trails of a region replete with tradition.

Some are revered – though never made rich by their craft. Some are wildly successful.

The popularity of Smith County native Uncle Jimmy Thompson’s first live radio performance in 1925 on the WSM Barn Dance convinced WSM Radio officials to later launch the Grand Ole Opry. Fellow Smith Countian DeFord Bailey became the first solo performer, first harmonica player and first African-American on the Grand Ole Opry. Benny Martin of White County was an Opry member, singer, songwriter and Bluegrass Hall of Fame fiddle player.

Lester Flatt, also of White County, was a pioneering bluegrass musician, guitarist and vocalist who was part of the famous Flatt and Scruggs duo that sang the iconic theme song for “The Beverly Hillbillies.” He was posthumously inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor.

Born in Warren County, Dottie West’s successful singing and songwriting career earned her numerous awards and honors, including a Grammy, two CMAs for her duos with Kenny Rogers, four BMI’s for songwriting and membership in the Grand Ole Opry.

Frazier Moss, born in Jackson County and a longtime resident of Cookeville, was an old-time fiddle player who performed on the Grand Ole Opry, won many national competitions, including first place awards at the National Fiddling Championship, the Southeast Fiddling Championship and the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers’ Association championship.

Lynyrd Skynyrd drummer Artimus Pyle, who survived the airplane crash that killed some of his bandmates, spent summers and holidays with family members around Pall Mall in Fentress County and occasionally plays venues in the UC with local musicians.

Bluegrass prodigy Sierra Hull of Byrdstown is an internationally acclaimed musician, singer, songwriter and recording artist. Hull began playing the mandolin at the age of 8 and at 15 recorded her first album. Boston’s Berklee College of Music gave her the school’s most prestigious award, the Presidential Scholarship, a first for a bluegrass musician.

Jamie Dailey from Gainesboro has sung back up with Dolly Parton, Ricky Skaggs and others as well as being lead singer and guitarist with Doyle Lawson and QuickSilver. His duo partnership with Darrin Vincent has earned the pair numerous International Bluegrass Music Awards and several Dove Awards as well as multiple Grammy nominations.

Crossville native Mandy Barnett held the titular role in the musical ”Always… Patsy Cline,” a musical based...
on the life of Patsy Cline. Her album, “I’ve Got a Right to Cry,” was a huge critical success, named by Rolling Stone magazine as 1999’s top country album. She appeared on David Letterman and The Tonight Show after raving reviews in People, Newsweek, Interview and other national publications.

Rodney Atkins, who attended Tennessee Tech and maintains property in Putnam County, has received six nominations from the Academy of Country Music and two from the Country Music Association, winning Top New Male Vocalist from the former in 2006. His album, “If You’re Going Through Hell,” produced four number one singles and was certified platinum, selling more than one million copies.

Others with UC connections who are making their careers performing are Cookeville’s Doug Derryberry, who plays with Bruce Hornsby; former Crossville/Cumberland County resident and Tennessee Tech alumnus Randy Threet performed with the Southern rock/country rock band the Outlaws and is now with country music group Blackhawk; Dweezil Zappa’s tribute act of his father Frank Zappa’s music Zappa Plays Zappa includes keyboardist Chris Norton of Cookeville; and folk/Christian band Judah and the Lion, whose lead vocalist and songwriter grew up in Cookeville.

Some musicians have made the UC their home while they continue to perform worldwide. Country singers Aaron and Thea Tippin and John Anderson relocated to DeKalb County, where each of them has invested in the community by opening businesses and participating in philanthropic efforts.

For several years singer Alan Jackson owned a home on Center Hill Lake. Award winning songwriter and multi-instrument performer Darrell Scott, who has written some of country’s best known hits and recently toured with Robert Plant and the Band of Joy, owns a home and farm in Overton County.

Music provides a direct economic component for some former and current Upper Cumberland individuals and businesses.

Roy Roberts is a blues musician who grew up in Livingston. In addition to performing on stage and recording, he owns Rock House Records, which has earned worldwide recognition for its award-winning music production and update of the STAX Records sound. Roberts has received Producer of the Year, Artist Most Deserving of Wider Recognition and Best Blues Album awards from Living Blues Magazine.

Livingston native Nathan Smith founded Mainframe Recording Studio in Nashville. Clients have included Little Big Town, Lorrie Morgan, Sara Evans, Kathy Mattea, Steve Wariner and many others.

Jim Grainger owns and operates Custom Fretted Instruments and Repair in Sparta, which has been building and repairing fretted instruments more than 40 years. Zebulon Turrentine (see Page 10) builds classical guitars operating out of a small shop in Cookeville. Collectors and performers alike buy his handcrafted guitars. Gene Horner is a noted maker of violins and mandolins who operates from his native Cumberland County. Horner’s fiddles and mandolins have long been sought out and played by celebrities’ top-tier professionals in bluegrass, country and symphony musicians.

GRADUATE SCHOOL?
ON-CAMPUS OR ONLINE, WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED.

At Tennessee Tech, your path to advancement continues with a graduate degree from a quality university you already know: TTU.

Tennessee Tech offers graduate degrees from the master’s to the doctoral level. You will find a variety of programs to help you move forward in your career field, as well as caring, professional faculty who want to see you succeed. Enjoy networking and building relationships with classmates and professors as you work toward achieving your goals.

Find a complete list of all Tennessee Tech graduate programs at tntech.edu/graduatestudies/degrees
than 450 season subscribers and other guests from across a seven-county area to five concert season performances. In addition, a free concert is held in Dogwood Park that attracts between 1,500-2,000 people each Labor Day weekend. “Each year the symphony partners with the Putnam County Schools to present an educational concert for more than 800 fourth graders,” Allcott added. “On two occasions, more than 400 fourth graders from Warren County have attended.” Throughout the academic year, the music department at Tennessee Tech (tttech.edu/music/events) draws guests to the region for faculty and student performances. Large ensembles include the concert, athletic and troubadours jazz bands, the choral ensemble and the Byron and University orchestras. “The large ensembles have the greatest economic impact,” said R. Winston Morris, professor of music and instructor of tuba and euphonium at TTU. “Many smaller groups, faculty ensembles and studio ensembles also contribute to the massive number of public performances the department presents each year.” Public chamber and specialty ensemble performances feature the Brass Arts Chamber Quartet, the Cumberland Quartet, Trombone Choir and Trumpet Ensemble and Tuba Ensemble. Studio programs showcase percussion, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, voice and tuba and euphonium. “For example, my (tuba) studio alone presented more than 60 performances this academic year from our eighth Carnegie Hall appearance to producing our 28th recording,” Morris said. On Saturday nights in Granville in Jackson County, the Sutton Ole Time Music Hour (granvilletn.com/granville-ole-time-music-hour) features bluegrass and traditional music, with different performers appearing each week in the restored T.B. Sutton General Store. The performances are taped for syndication and are now being featured on radio stations throughout the South. The Palace Theatre (palacetheatre-crosville.com) opened in November 1938 in Crossville as a movie house. In recent years through a dedicated community effort, the arts deco building was fully restored and is now a multi-use community auditorium, visitors’ center and venue for live entertainment in variety of musical styles, including jazz, blues, country, bluegrass and rock. The Good News Theater (dalehollow.com/events) hosts musical theater at its playhouse on Highway 111 in Byrdstown. “They are very inclusive of the children in the area and offer a lot of cultural opportunities that they would not otherwise get in this remote area,” said Lana Rossi, Byrdstown business owner and local chamber secretary/treasurer. Area eateries have recognized that offering music along with food is good for business. “Byrdstown and Pickett County are definitely the music center on Saturday nights,” said Janice Neal of the Byrdstown-Pickett County Chamber of Commerce. “Live music at the Dixie Café has been a big success, even during the winter months and the terrible economy. The Country Kitchen realized that live music is a good accompaniment to good food. Olds 88 plays regularly there. On Saturday nights this summer Pier 42 Restaurant at Sunset Marina will host the E. J. Rider Band.”

and a fifth was expected at time of publication. Hall says he’s also looking to hire another pharmacist soon. “Going on week number seven, we are at our projections set for like three years,” he said. “I’m just blown away. It’s been amazing. It’s a blessing.” Aiming to offer an old-time pharmacy feel, Hall’s shop sells deli sandwiches and plans to add a soda fountain this fall. Gourmet cupcakes are available. As is home delivery for patients countywide. For customers looking for 24-hour convenience, Hall offers on-call service after hours. He says he’ll soon be selling durable medical equipment, and quoting a 24-month projection, hopes to open a home infusion company to help treat those with acute and chronic health conditions. “We knew going in, you cannot own a business and not be willing to work. Nobody is going to outwork us,” he said. “As our pharmacy grows, we’re able to expand our services.” As for worries that independent pharmacies are on the decline, Hall says he’s not concerned. While there have been a number of mergers in the UC over the years – Walgreens bought out three local drug stores in Cookeville in 2011, and discounter Fred’s acquired two independent drug stores in Monterey a year later – Hall said there’s an upswing with local, small-town shops. “If you go out and survey people in a community, the majority want to deal with a hometown business. That applies to more things than just a pharmacy,” Hall said. “We’re starting to see more independent pharmacies open throughout the state. We’re starting to see a trend upward. People want to know who they are dealing with. They want to know their pharmacist. They want that relationship with you. They invest a lot of trust in their pharmacist.” And that’s not a responsibility he takes lightly, he said. The pharmacy is working hand-in-hand with the Fentress County Drug Coalition to battle prescription drug abuse. He wants even more community buy-in as the business grows. “We are completely starting at zero and building our way up. I’m really proud of that,” Hall said. “I think people admire that a little bit, too. We want public input. We want the public to feel vested. Because it’s a family business, and that’s what I want to stress.”

Center Hill SPORTS MARINE, INC.
931.761.3196

7392 Sparta Hwy. • Sparta, Tn
CenterHillSportsMarine.net

Progressive Savings Bank
Isaac Zuercher
President of Zurich Homes
on being named one of Professional Builder Magazine’s 2014 40 under 40
www.zurichhomesusa.com

Progressive Savings Bank

1080 Interstate Drive • Cookeville • 931-372-2265
psbgrouspan.com
Dentist announces new pediatric and orthodontic office in Cookeville

COOKEVILLE – Cumberland Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics recently announced the opening of its fourth pediatric dental office in Middle Tennessee, located at 510 S. Jefferson Ave., Cookeville.

Cumberland Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics provides pediatric dental and orthodontic care for patients from infancy to young adulthood and special needs individuals of all ages. The new office is equipped with the latest technology and equipment to ensure children have access to comprehensive and comfortable dental care.

“Our new location on Jefferson Avenue allows us to provide the very best in pediatric dental and orthodontic care to the children and families in Middle Tennessee,” said Dr. Peter Wojtkiewicz, founder of Cumberland Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics. “Our goal is to provide every patient with both the preventative and specialized care necessary for a healthy adult smile and this new location will enable us to provide our brand of pediatric dentistry and orthodontics conveniently to our current, and future patients, who live in the Cookeville area.”

Cumberland Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics has offices in Clarksville, Cookeville, Smyrna and White House. For more information, visit www.cumberlandpediatricdentistry.com or call (931) 854-1200.

Rock Island campground undergoes renovations

ROCK ISLAND – An Upper Cumberland state park recently unveiled a million-dollar-plus renovation that had closed its campground for a period of weeks.

Officials at Rock Island State Park recently held a grand re-opening for their renovated campground after a total of 48 sites were upgraded with electrical service, new water hydrants and Wi-Fi accessibility. The project, which had a total estimated cost of $1.27 million, according to state budget figures, also included leveling and lengthening of camp sites and restroom improvements.

Rock Island, an 883-acre park located on the headwaters of Center Hill Lake, has 60 campsites along with 10 cabins open year-round. There is also a 12-site tent camping area.

Family Dollar to close Sparta, Smithville stores

SPARTA — Family Dollar is closing more than 300 stores across the country, and it appears two Upper Cumberland locations are on the short list.

The chain’s Sparta location, 530 W. Bockman Way, and Smithville outfit, 608 S. Congress Boulevard, are among those set to close.

According to Sparta Expositor, a handwritten sign was taped to the door at the White County locale in recent weeks confirming the news. WJLE reported that the Smithville Family Dollar is expected to close by the last week in June.

Family Dollar will close 370 underperforming stores, the company announced, more than 4 percent of its total of 8,100 stores as of the second half of this fiscal year.

For Sparta, it’s at least the second retailer to close in recent weeks. Kroger shuttered its doors in March.
UC gets another good state sales tax report

UPPER CUMBERLAND – The Upper Cumberland followed a good state sales tax collection report in March with another strong showing in April.

The 14-county region saw a gain of 5.1 percent for the latest month, which topped the state’s gain of 4.0 percent. Three of the UC’s four largest collectors had some of the better showings, including Cumberland (5.7), Putnam (5.9) and White (8.0).

Increases were also reported in Cannon (11.3), Smith (10.1), Pickett (6.8), DeKalb (3.5), Fentress (3.4), Macon (3.2) and Clay (3.1). Two counties saw big spikes, including Jackson (39.3) and Van Buren (37.8). Just two counties showed losses, including Overton (-4.3) and Warren (-0.3).

The previous March report, in which collections were up 5.9 percent for the region, was the first time the UC had seen a 3.3 percentage point increase over the latest 12 months. The state sits at 3.4.

Collections, which are considered just one measure of economic activity, are based on state sales taxes; local option taxes are excluded. Sales data lags by one month; for example, April numbers reflect March activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>APRIL 2014</th>
<th>YEAR PRIOR</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannon</td>
<td>$343,554</td>
<td>$308,776</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>$197,502</td>
<td>$191,622</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>$3,759,006</td>
<td>$3,556,456</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>$869,323</td>
<td>$839,774</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentress</td>
<td>$678,140</td>
<td>$655,791</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>$215,316</td>
<td>$154,614</td>
<td>39.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>$963,675</td>
<td>$934,053</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overton</td>
<td>$758,000</td>
<td>$791,674</td>
<td>-4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickett</td>
<td>$142,834</td>
<td>$133,771</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>$7,751,213</td>
<td>$7,319,571</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>$812,617</td>
<td>$737,842</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Buren</td>
<td>$82,564</td>
<td>$59,937</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>$2,093,165</td>
<td>$2,099,799</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>$1,161,126</td>
<td>$1,074,916</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCDD</td>
<td>$19,828,035</td>
<td>$18,858,596</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TN</td>
<td>$638,403,000</td>
<td>$613,604,000</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by the Upper Cumberland Development District from data published by the Tennessee Department of Revenue.

Jerry Dwight Cantrell and Judy Dianne/TTU, demolition, 850 N. Willow Ave., $50
DSA Investment Group/Danny Roberts Construction, demolition, 416 Buffalo Valley Road, $50
John Short, commercial - structures/warehouses/shops/additions/ alterations, 1024 Shag Rag Road, $172,000
John Short, commercial - structures/warehouses/shops/additions/ alterations, 1024 Shag Rag Road, $172,000

CITY OF CROSSVILLE/ CUMBERLAND COUNTY
List includes: Contractor, permit type/description, square footage, address and valuation

Source: Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development

COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS
APRIL 2014

JUNE 2014 ucbjournal.com
18

YOU MOVE!
We recently changed our address. But one thing we will not change is how we deliver custom, creative solutions for our clients and their marketing objectives. So if you’re looking for world-class experience from a local expert, give us a ring. It will be one of the smartest marketing moves you’ll ever make.

THE SWALLOWS AGENCIES BUILDING 480 NEAL STREET, SUITE 201 COOKEVILLE, TN 38501
mmacreative www.mmacreative.com 931.528.8852

Visit the CBJ Online
UC news & business events www.ucbjournal.com
You’ll love the way we care

Accepting New Patients • Opening in June

Dr. Craig Saunders
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON
931.738.9333
www.HighlandsOrthopedicServices.com

Dr. Kevin Purgiel
GENERAL SURGEON
931.837.0837
www.HighlandsSurgicalAssociates.com

Dr. Kalyani Kumar
GYNECOLOGIST
931.738.9140
www.HighlandsWomensHealthcare.com

Highlands Specialty Clinic

120 WALNUT COMMONS LANE, SUITE C   Cookeville, TN