



July 22, 2009

Branson Chamber Chatter

A New Reason To Go To LedgeStone

Ronna's LedgeStone Grille is on the lower level of the Clubhouse at LedgeStone Golf Course in the gated community near Silver Dollar City. The restaurant and the Clubhouse are open to the public. Tell the gatekeeper you're headed for Ronna's. It's operated by Ronna Steinert and longtime Branson benefactor and foodie Steve Weyher.

The Grille is open daily, with breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. It's a casual atmosphere with a magnificent view of the surrounding golf course and waterfalls on the bluffs. She says the steak and fried shrimp are delicious. The Clubhouse is available for special events and private parties. Call 417-239-0445.

Fiddle Festival Coming Up

The 21st Annual Downtown Fiddle Festival and Mid-American Fiddlers Championship is Aug. 28-30 in downtown Branson and Branson Landing. It kicks off Friday with a concert by "Big Smith." Preliminary rounds are Saturday. Sunday morning is a gospel music celebration hosted by Bob Hubbard, founding member of the Foggy River Boys. Finals are Sunday afternoon.

New this year is the Ozark Music and Culture tent in downtown Branson where fiddlers will hold seminars. The new Mid-American championship is expected to make this one of the premier national fiddling events in the nation, says producer Bill Lennon. "There's no reason why people shouldn't think of `Ozark and fiddling' like they think of `New Orleans and jazz,'" Lennon said. To become a sponsor, call the Downtown Branson Main Street Association at 417-334-1548 or Lennon at 417-337-7468.

Play Golf To Help in Disasters

The 2009 State Farm/Red Cross Disaster Services Open is Saturday, Aug. 1, at Murder Rock Golf and Country Club. Tee times are 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. It will be a shotgun start, three-person scramble with mulligans allowed. Prizes total more than \$12,000 with a free pair of Adidas Golf Shoes for each player.

Win \$500 in a golf ball drop by helicopter for \$10 a ball. And you may still sign on for a team sponsorship of \$750. There also will be a raffle for a one-week stay in Fort Myers, Fla., at Golf Harbor Golf Course. Call Joann Moore at 866-206-0256, ex. 107, or visit www.redcross-ozarks.org.

Better Grades And More

The staff at Boys & Girls Club of the Ozarks conducted a survey over three years of report cards from nearly 250 club members. A third showed an improvement of a full letter grade over that time.

Board President David Arney said he knows the positive impact the Club has on children, but this makes it clear. Other benefits are relationships with caring adults, free meals and character-development activities. Cost for the after-school program is \$25 per youth per year. Enrollment begins in early August for Branson, Forsyth and Reeds Spring locations. The Club welcomes volunteers who are screened and trained. People who can give an hour a week can make a huge difference, said Operations Director Billy Rader.

Last year, the Club served more than 1,200 school-aged youth. This year, the Club is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Call Executive Director Autumn Page at 417-335-2089, ex. 225.

Scholarships For The Arts

The Branson Arts Council recently gave \$500 in scholarships to three College of the Ozarks students: Lauren Crawford, a senior studio art major from Reeds Spring. Lydia Davis from Carthage, who received her Bachelor of Arts degree in theater. And Stephanie Fitzgerald, a junior music education major from Troy.

The Arts Council also sponsors three sessions of Summer Art Camp for students ages six to 11, said director Bonnie Herrmann. The kids worked in a variety of media including oil pastels, water color, chalk, beans on matte board, photos on tiles, Shrinky Dinks, playdough, stencils and stamps. The Branson Arts Council is funded by City of Branson and The Missouri Arts Council.

The Branson Arts Council Cookbook is on sale at their offices in the Branson Community Center, Touch of Class and Eureka Trading Company. It features recipes from local celebrities and Branson restaurants. Call Herrmann at 336-4255 or visit www.bransonartscouncil.com.

Kathryn Buckstaff is membership public relations manager for the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. Send your news, happenings and upcoming events for Branson Chamber Chatter to kbuckstaff@bransoncvb.com. Check öChatterö archives at www.bransonchamber.com in Chamber Infoö News.