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Heritage Month Features Historic Sites

The Rice-Upshaw House and the William Looney Tavern, restored log structures near Dalton, were highlighted at the recent Arkansas Heritage Month celebration funded by a grant from the Arkansas Department of Heritage. The two structures are among the state's oldest, dating to 1828 and 1833, respectively.

Both sites were open for tours on May 17-18. Visitors also were able to see demonstrations by historic interpreter Gerry Barker and his oxen, as well as log specialist Eric Sammons and Luke Roberts, blacksmith, both of the Mountain Home area. Also on hand to assist with the tours was historic interpreter Joan Gould of Preservation Matters. Both Gould and Sammons were members of the restoration team.

"We were pleased overall with the turnout," said Black River Technical College's VP for Development and REACH Coordinator Dr. Jan Ziegler. Rainy weather held down the numbers on Friday, but a good size crowd came out on Saturday for the event, she indicated. "We also appreciate the participation of BRTC faculty and staff in helping with the events, including transporting visitors between the two sites," she said.

The event also included evening events at the Randolph County Heritage Museum where guests interacted with Barker in the creation of quill pens and heard about the early frontier "subscription schools" of the type attended by Reuben Rice, early settler credited with constructing the Rice-Upshaw House.

In addition, a second evening presentation by Barker addressed the topic "Frontier Slavery," providing insight as to what life may have been like for enslaved African Americans owned by William Looney and other early settlers in the frontier era.

The two sites comprise Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Culture and Heritage). They were donated to BRTC for restoration and educational purposes in 2006 by descendants of Reuben Rice and William Looney. Making the donations were Jean Upshaw and family and Jack and Christina French.

Restoration of the structures, as well as additional outbuildings at the Rice-Upshaw site, have been funded through multiple grants awarded the college by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

In addition to being open for public visits from 9-12 every second Saturday, March through October, special group tours can be arranged by contacting Jessica McFadden at 870-248-4000, 4189, or jessica.mcfadden@blackrivertech.edu.

Additional information is available at the REACH website at <http://reach.blackrivertech.org>.



Pictured clockwise from bottom right: Descendants of Reuben Rice pose on the front porch of the Rice-Upshaw home; Luke Roberts demonstrates the works of a blacksmith; members of the Randolph County 4-H pose with Garry Barker, living history re-enactor, and "George"; Barker teaches a member of a Paragould youth group how to work the oxen; Eric Sammons talks about log crafting.

Important Dates

- June 8**
ACT
- June 10-13**
Kids' College
- June 19**
PTK Blood Drive
- June 27**
Final Exams for Summer I
- July 1**
Summer II Classes Begin
- July 4**
Independence Day - Campus Closed
- August 1**
Final Exams for Summer II
- August 19**
Fall Classes Begin

Two Positions Filled at BRTC

Zeb Blansett and Bridget Guess, both of Pocahontas, have filled two vacant positions in the Department of Student Services at Black River Technical College, according to Vice President Mike Sullens.

Blansett has been hired as Administrative Specialist. He is a graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School and earned an Associate of Arts degree from BRTC. He has worked at Trinity Behavioral Health for the past seven years as an Advisor and Team Leader. Prior to that he worked for two and a half years at Wal-Mart as cashier and in customer service.

Guess has filled the position of Academic Advisor. She began working at BRTC in 2007 as Administrative Specialist in the Department of Career Pathways. Prior to that she worked at First Community Bank in the area of Deposit Operations Support. She is a graduate of Hoxie High School and holds an Administrative Services Certificate, an Associate of Arts in Gen Ed degree and an Associate of Applied Science—Business Technology degree, all from BRTC, and a Bachelor of Applied Science degree from Arkansas State University.



Zeb Blansett



Bridget Guess

Flanery is Recipient of Shelia Dobyns Scholarship

Joshlyn Flanery, a May 2013 honor graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School, has been awarded the first Shelia K. (Adams) Dobyns Nursing Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

The scholarship is awarded to a Sloan-Hendrix graduating senior pursuing a degree in nursing from Black River Technical College, with preference to a resident of Ravenden Springs in the former Oak Ridge Central School District.

Dobyns is a nurse and business owner in the Houston, Texas area and a former resident of Ravenden Springs. She is a 1985 graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School. The scholarship was established this year in her honor by her husband, Robert Dobyns, who is a 1977 graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School.

Flanery is the daughter of Steve and Susie Flanery of Pocahontas. While at Sloan-Hendrix she was an active member of Student Council, Beta, and the Lady Greyhound softball team, and served as Senior Class President and President of HOSA. She plans to attend Black River Technical College and major in nursing.



Joshlyn Flanery

Academic Distinction Scholarships Awarded for Fall

Michelle Staggs of Corning, Robin Buckwalter of Imboden, Braden McKinney of Maynard, Kelsey Bruton and Laura Junkersfeld of Pocahontas, Elizabeth Blankenship of Smithville, and William Keeling of Walnut Ridge have each been awarded the Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend Black River Technical College. All seven recipients are May 2013 graduates of area high schools.

The Academic Distinction Scholarship provides full tuition renewable up to four semesters provided the recipient successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.00 for the first two semesters and 3.25 for the remaining two semesters.

Staggs is the daughter of Margaret and Danny Staggs and a graduate of Corning High School where she was involved in choir, Art Club, Spanish Club, Drama Club, band, flag line and FBLA. She plans to pursue an associate of arts degree BRTC.

Buckwalter (no photo available) is the daughter of Belinda and Scott Tippitt of Imboden, and Kevin and Amanda Buckwalter of Pocahontas. She is a graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School and plans to become an RN.



Michelle Staggs



Braden McKinney



Elizabeth Blankenship



Kelsey Bruton

McKinney is the son of Jennifer McKinney of Maynard and is a graduate of Maynard High School. He plans to pursue an education in the field of computer science, eventually earning a master's degree. He likes going to church and is a volunteer at Marilyn's Clogging Co.

Bruton is the daughter of Rose and Lavern Bruton of Pocahontas and is a graduate of Pocahontas High School. She plans to become a physical therapy assistant.

Junkersfeld (no photo available) is a graduate of Pocahontas High School where she was awarded Academic Student of Distinction. She is the daughter of Leah Evers of Biggers, Jeff Evers of St. Louis, and Jerry Junkersfeld of Pocahontas. She plans to earn an associate of arts degree at BRTC then transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree.

Blankenship is the daughter of Charles and Leslie Blankenship of Smithville. She graduated from Black Rock High School where she was a member of FFA (vice president), FCCLA (parliamentarian), FBLA, and the Birdell Saddle Club. She plans to become an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

Keeling (no photo available) is the son of Tina Adams and Charles Adams of Walnut Ridge. He is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School and plans to pursue a degree in engineering.

To qualify for the Academic Distinction Scholarship, applicants must be a graduate of an accredited Arkansas high school, must be first-time entering freshman and have an ACT composite score of at least 24 or be in the top 10% of their graduating class with a 3.00 GPA.

For more information, contact Natasha Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.

Several Scholarships Awarded through BRTC Foundation

Several scholarships have recently been awarded through the BRTC Foundation. Each Foundation scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for two consecutive semesters (Fall/Spring) provided the recipient maintains at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA for the two terms and is enrolled full time.

Kailey Martin of Biggers has been awarded the



Kailey Martin

Phillip Collins II and Beth-Collins Bagwell Memorial Scholarship and the BRTC President's Scholarship for General Education. She plans

to earn an Associate of Arts degree in General Education from BRTC, then study to become a dental hygienist.

Martin is a graduate of Corning High School where she was a member of National Honor Society, FCLA, FFA, Student Council. She is the daughter of Pam and Bryan Martin and attends Biggers Baptist Church.



Kaylan Hutsell

Kaylan Hutsell of Hoxie has been awarded the BRTC Foundation Scholarship for General Education. He is the son of Lanny and Tonya Hutsell and a May 2013 graduate of Hoxie High School. His current plan is to work on completing general education courses.

While in high school, Hutsell was a member of BETA Club, ATOD, FBLA, Library Club, Art Club and TLC. He received the Physical Education award, Perfect Attendance award, and awards for A and A-B Honor Roll.

Steven "Brock" Adams (no photo available) of Lake City has been awarded the BRTC Foundation Scholarship for General Education and the BRTC President's Scholarship for Business Education. He plans to major in Agri Business.

Adams is the son of Steve and Beth Adams and is a May honor graduate of Riverside High School where he was a member of Beta Club, FFA and Gifted and Talented. He also participated in baseball and basketball.

James Higgins (no photo available) of Maynard has been awarded the BRTC GED Foundation Scholarship for 2013-2014. He attended Maynard

High School, and he earned his GED last fall.

Higgins is the son of George and Pam Higgins. He plans to pursue an education in the field of political science, history, law or communication, with the goal of one day becoming a politician.



Jordan Whitted

Jordan Whitted of Maynard has been awarded the Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship and the BRTC President's Scholarship for Health Education.

Whitted is a May 2013 graduate of Maynard High School where she received math, science and athletic awards, and participated in basketball, softball, track, FCCLA, student council and CHAMPS. She plans to pursue a nursing degree and become a labor and delivery nurse.



Haley Howell

Haley Howell of Maynard has been awarded the BRTC Foundation Scholarship for Technical Education and the BRTC President's Scholarship for Technical Education.

Howell, a May 2013 graduate of Maynard High School, is the daughter of Sandy Howell of Maynard and the late Spencer Howell. She plans to become a registered nurse.

While in high school, Howell played basketball and was a member of FCCLA, Champs, Student Council and Art Club.



Courtney Rice

Courtney Rice of Hoxie has been awarded the BRTC President's Scholarship for Health Education. She plans to pursue an education in physical therapy.

Rice is the daughter of Shane and Missy Rice. She is a May 2013 graduate of Hoxie High School where she was active in basketball, FCCLA and Beta Club.

Treasa Ferguson (no photo available) of Hoxie has been awarded the BRTC Foundation Scholarship for Technical Education.

Ferguson attended Walnut Ridge High School

and earned a GED in 1979. She is seeking an associate of applied science business technology degree with a health information option.

Tyler Booth of Ravenden has been awarded the



Tyler Booth

BRTC Foundation Scholarship for General Education and the BRTC President's Scholarship for General Education.

Booth is the son of April Brown of Ravenden and Tim Booth of Frankfort, Kentucky. He is a May 2013 graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School and plans to pursue a degree in criminal justice.

Morgan Woodard of Hoxie has been awarded the BRTC President's Scholarship for Health Education and the BRTC Foundation Scholarship for General Education.



Morgan Woodard

Woodard is a May 2013 graduate of Hoxie High School where she was involved in Student Council (reporter), Gifted and Talented, Beta Club, cheerleading (captain), HOSA (treasurer), and Green Earth Club. She was named Miss Lawrence County 2012 and graduated top 10 in her class. She plans to earn a

bachelor of science degree in a medical field with special interest in anesthesiology.



Lisa Cook

Lisa Cook of Paragould has been awarded the BRTC Foundation Scholarship for Technical Education. She is pursuing the Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology – Health option degree from BRTC.

Future plans of Cook include completing the online program for Health Information Management through University of Arkansas for Medical Science.

Cook is a 1990 graduate of Ridgecrest High School and the daughter of Wendall Barnes and Lucy Barnes of Paragould.



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BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

From the President's Desk...



*Dr. Wayne Hatcher
President*

Sequestration, for most people in NEA, is something that does not appear to directly affect us. It does, but in ways many of us may not realize. Our highly successful Career Pathways program for parents continues to be drastically affected. This means approximately 600 families in our region will be negatively affected, and probably thousands more in the coming years due to sequestration and the gridlock that exists. Previously, I

have given other statistics proving that this is the most successful program in the state when it comes to changing lives and getting people meaningful jobs with good pay.

No other program or educational institution can claim a completion rate 25% higher than the state average and that 89% of their students that entered employment were still working a year later. (BRTC had the most completers and the most entering employment of all CP programs in Arkansas, as it continues its reputation of being among the best in Arkansas.) The kicker is that these are individuals who have been receiving government assistance—and who are now earning a living for their families and paying taxes.

Due to the initial budget deficit gridlock agreement last year, the CP program at BRTC received a budget reduction of approximately 15%. Now sequestration kicks in, resulting in a budget reduction of almost 32%. You can do the math...and total up the damage. The result is more individuals will be on government assistance and fewer will have meaningful employment. From Career Pathways, in one recent graduating class they produced 45% of our RN students, 28% of our LPN students

and 47% of our Respiratory Care students.

In addition to reducing staff, we have fewer funds to assist students to get their training/education to become solid taxpayers; therefore we are forced to help fewer students to achieve their dreams and provide for their families.

There is serious doubt that this program will exist two years from now, as we have been informed to expect more funding reductions for the most successful job placement program in Arkansas. Congress will decide.

The BRTC Foundation, based on recent figures, will set a fundraising record this year, as more donors are enjoying making a meaningful difference in people's lives. As you can see inside this issue, a large number of scholarships have already been awarded, with more expected. We need even more funding next year. The futures of many depend upon it.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Foundation Scholarship fund may contact Vickie French at 870-248-4070.