

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2016
EVENT DATE: AUGUST 11-14, 2016
Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

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For Detailed Up-to-Date Festival Information, Visit www.DanEmmettFestival.org

History Alive with Chautauqua at Dan Emmett

MOUNT VERNON – What do Julia Child, Charley Parkhurst, and Bob Dylan and George Harrison all have in common? They will all be featured at the 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival Chautauqua series on Thursday, August 11th to help celebrate Knox County's strong performing arts legacy! Julia Child will be portrayed by Chautauqua veteran Susan Karhl. Charley Parkhurst will be portrayed by up-and-coming youngster Jordyn Laslo. Bob Dylan and special guest George Harrison will be portrayed by Mike Petee and Desmond Wall.

As an attempt to incorporate history into America's social life, the Chautauqua was introduced in the 19th century and became popular in communities throughout the U.S. Although a rise in other home entertainment such as radio and television caused a dwindling in the popularity of Chautauqua performances, there has been a movement in the past decade to bring that part of history back into our culture. Mike Petee has been an essential part of bringing this piece of history back to Mount Vernon.

Performances are scheduled to appear at ThePlace@TheWoodward at 6:00 p.m on Thursday, August 11 at its **NEW location - 101 South Main Street**. The portrayals include the following: **Julia Child** was an American chef, author, and television personality recognized for brining French cuisine to the American public with her debut cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Her subsequent television programs, the most notable of which was *The French Chef*, premiered in 1963. **Charley Parkhurst**, also known as One-Eyed Charley and Six-Horse Charley, was born Charlotte Darkey in 1812. She was an American stagecoach driver, farmer, and ranger in California. She ran away as a youth, living as a male named Charley. In 1868, Charley may have been the first female (passing as man) to vote in a presidential election in California.

Highlights of this year's Festival will include performances by BJ Thomas, Phil Dirt & The Dozers, a wide variety of local musicians and performers (such as Kokosing River Surf Club, Safire Sun, and Caffiends, King Darwin), the Knox Idol competition, fiddle, banjo, and flat-pick guitar contests, a cheer competition, a flower show, a quilt show, arts, crafts, homemades, a motorcycle show, and the annual antique & classic car show, all with a wide variety of delicious foods.

The 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 11th-14th in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. This year's Festival is made possible through the contributions of Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, and Time Warner Cable. For additional information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378) or email at director@DanEmmettFestival.org

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