Petit Jean Country

Headlight

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Initiative to enter phase two

A press conference announcing a major fund-raising matching opportunity for the Conway County School Counts! Initiative will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Fine Arts Auditorium at the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton.

The press conference was scheduled by representatives from the local secondary schools in Conway County, UACCM and local business community members. The press conference will also be used as a kickoff of the School Counts! second phase of the capital campaign to fund the School Counts! scholarship endowment.

The first phase resulted in direct investments and pledges in excess of \$300,000 toward the initiative's one million dollar goal. The goal is to provide up to \$1,000 per semester for four semes-

ters to Conway County graduates to attain an associate's degree at UACCM.

Patty Shipp, a School Counts! Steering Committee member, said, "Because job skill requirements are changing, Conway County is providing support through the School Counts! Initiative to prepare students for future work force needs.'

Paranormal activity checked at Rialto

By STEWART NELSON Special to Headlight

If you think that you have heard bumps in the night there is someone to call. Larry Flaxman, president of ARPAST (Arkansas Paranormal and Anomalous Studies Team), was setting up equipment Saturday night to do an evaluation of the old Rialto and Massey Hardware Store/ Gallery in anticipation of something extra being in the buildings.

ARPAST is affiliated with TAPS, The Atlantic Paranormal Society, which produces "Ghost

Hunters" seen on SciFi Channel 55 on Suddenlink in Morrilton.



THIS GROUP of ARPAST members sets up equipment for monitoring activity at the Rialto.

Tax approved, voters few

The voter turnout was low at Menifee last week 56 of 240 registered voters, or 23.75 percent but the result was a 38-18 approval for a one-cent sales

The funds generated by the tax will be used to refurbish and re-roof the city's community building. The Conway County Election Commission met Thursday afternoon and certified the returns.

Flaxman was quick to point out that what you see on TV is not what was going to happen at the Rialto and is not what normally is found in buildings in real life. He also was quick to point out that what they were doing was strictly "scientific investigation" and that they would make no "definitive statements and say there are ghosts," only that they found some unusual results in the buildings. results in the buildings.

The tests, which are rather extensive from zero light TV cameras, to x-rays, dust, humidity, ions and a number of other environmental conditions, were conducted over Saturday evening.

Included in their equipment was a 30,000 thermal imaging device and cases of other equipment. The test results will be evaluated over the next few weeks to see if there were any unusual events that occurred during the study.

In all their evaluations they are looking for "verifiable evidence" of an unusual event. Unlike the TV show, they did not expect to wander around the building and see ghosts hiding in the theater, Flaxman said.

On the local level, when it was learned that the ghost-hunting group was coming to check the old theater and look for unusual events, some of the volunteers, who on occasion work in the building at night, said that they had heard strange sounds, have had the alarms go off unexpectedly, and have wondered what was going on. Others have suggested that they check the balcony, for sure.

Those making the statements asked not to be identified.

"I have been doing this for 13 years," Flaxman said, and speaking of the group, "We have all had personal experiences, absolutely, but (See **PARANORMAL**, Page 10)



PROGRESS is rapid on the \$4.7 billion, 167-mile pipeline project that started near Center Ridge. The natural gas will be transported from the Fayetteville Shale to several states in the Northeast, Southeast and Upper Midwest.

<u>Paranormal</u>

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most of the excitement is in reviewing the evidence." He added that the group of volunteers he had with him was small because that usually has better

After reviewing the history and layout of the Rialto, they requested to be allowed to make

At the time the old St. Anthony's Hospital was being remodeled they had done a study there and had found nothing. Results of this study should be available in a month.



