

# New Orleans man gives art to KDMC

By JUSTIN VICORY

DAILY LEADER Staff Writer

Apparently knowing the connection between fine art and the art of therapy and healing, New Orleans attorney Doug Gitter donated more than 30 pieces of original artwork to King's Daughters Medical Center Friday afternoon.

Now, the hospital has the option to display the paintings throughout its premises and intends to do just that, said David Culpepper, KDMC director of marketing.

"We are going to put these wonderful paintings on every floor of the hospital, from admitting to discharge," Culpepper said.

During his presentation to KDMC

## BROOKHAVEN

officials in the lobby of the hospital Friday, Gitter's passion for the artwork he is donating, or more specifically, the artists he has come to know, is evident.

All of the pieces of art were created by artists outside the public eye, many of whom live in smaller cities and towns all over Mississippi, Alabama and much of the South. KDMC, categorized as a smaller hospital by healthcare standards, provides an appropriate venue to display the artwork, according to Gitter.

"I have made a close personal relationship with many of these artists. It pleases me to get their name

out there, and at the same time help the hospital," Gitter said. A self-proclaimed "designer" over an artist, Gitter has a knack for uncovering art that is beyond the public radar, and then donating it to hospitals across the country.

Jimmy Lee Sudduth is one of the artists Gitter talks about during his presentation. According to information Gitter provided at the presentation, Sudduth is a self-taught artist who has developed his own hand-made paint over the years from a variety of common substances such as sugar, honey, coffee grounds, sand, soot and even Dr. Pepper. Sudduth did this, Gitter explains,

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Photo By JUSTIN VICORY  
King's Daughters Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Alvan Hoover (from left) looks on as Doug Gitter discusses his art presentation Friday afternoon at the hospital. Gitter donated 30 pieces of art, created largely by southern artists, to KDMC.

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**WEATHER**  
**HIGH 83**  
**LOW 60**



Today... High in the lower 80s. Chance of rain 70 percent. Tonight... Mostly cloudy with chance of showers in the evening. Then partly cloudy with slight chance of showers after midnight. Lows around 60.  
Complete two-day forecast, Page 3A

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## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

**NAME:** Herbert Moore  
**AGE:** 85  
**HOMETOWN:** Brookhaven  
**OCCUPATION:** Retired  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW OR MOVIE:** Sports  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Fish  
**FARTHEST YOU'VE BEEN FROM BROOKHAVEN:** China (Navy) and Canada  
**FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM:** Atlanta Braves  
**WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$1 MILLION:** Share  
**FAVORITE SONG:** How Great Thou Art  
**HOBBIES:** Watching TV, sports  
**FAVORITE ACTOR OR ACTRESS:** John Wayne  
**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:** Mountains



MOORE

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Boy with leukemia becomes 'Batkid'**  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A 5-year-old Northern California boy who has battled leukemia for years became a darling of social media and attracted thousands of fans at home and around the country - including the president - as he took on the persona of his favorite superhero.

Dressed in Batman's signature cape and mask, Miles Scott faced foe after foe around San Francisco on Friday, drawing huge crowds and fulfilling his greatest wish in the process.

The White House sent out a tweet encouraging Batkid to "Go get 'em!" and in a video recording, President Barack Obama said, "Way to go, Miles! Way to save Gotham!"

Batkid was called into service by Police Chief Greg Suhr and spent the day zooming from one "crime scene" to the next. Accompanied by an adult Batman impersonator, Batkid rescued a damsel in distress from cable car tracks, captured the Riddler as he robbed a bank, and saved the San Francisco Giants mascot - Lou Seal - from the Penguin's clutches.

Miles was able to fulfill his wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the city and volunteers who stepped forward to help.

Batkid had a police escort worthy of a dignitary as he sped around the city in a black Lamborghini with Batman decals, with officers blocking traffic.

"I think it might be the first time a Lamborghini had a booster seat," said Patricia Wilson, the executive director for Make-A-Wish in the Greater Bay Area.

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

**Paper: Sorry for panning speech**  
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) - It took 150 years, but a Pennsylvania newspaper said Thursday it should have recognized the greatness of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address at the time it was delivered.

The Patriot-News of Harrisburg, about 35 miles northeast of Gettysburg, retracted a dismissive editorial

## AROUND THE STATE

### City to get new apartments

MCCOMB (AP) - A new apartment complex will open by 2015, a developer told city officials this week.

McComb selectmen voted to approve a special-use permit to allow RBR Developments of McComb to build a multi-family apartment complex known simply as McComb Apartments on Parklane Road.

Heath Rushing of RBR Developments and Rushing Realty said he plans to build seven to eight buildings with 24 units each on an 18-acre tract.

The Enterprise-Journal reported the board's approval was his last major obstacle before the planned March 2014 groundbreaking. Site preparations for construction could begin later this month.

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### Taxis may have to keep logs

VICKSBURG (AP) - Taxi drivers could soon be required to keep logs chronicling their activities.

The Vicksburg Post reported a meeting has been set for Dec. 9 involving the city's Public Transportation Board and cab company owners.

The board set the meeting Tuesday after member Stan Collins suggested the logs as a way to ensure drivers are getting sufficient rest between shifts.

Collins also said log-keeping could be of help to police - a passing driver may have seen something at a crime scene.

### Sentencing set in threat case

JACKSON (AP) - A man who pleaded guilty to threatening to kill a Mississippi National Guard office has been scheduled for sentencing on Nov. 27.

Documents filed in U.S. District Court in Jackson say that Howard Eugene Touchstone Jr. was angry about not being given a two-year employment extension in the Guard.

A criminal complaint in the case said that Touchstone told officials at the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson in late 2012 that he wanted to kill the officer at Touchstone's retirement party.

### Children die in house fire

VARDAMAN (AP) - Authorities say three children have died in a house fire in Vardaman.

Authorities tell WTVA-TV that the children are 9-year-old Oscar Vardaman Razzo, 7-year-old Isabel Alejandra Razo and 7-year-old Yobani Cecilio Razo.

The children's mother and her two other daughters survived. Firefighters were called to the home Saturday about 3 a.m.

Police say the fire was caused by a space heater.

Grief counselors will be on hand Monday at Vardaman Elementary School Monday where the three children were students.

Vardaman is a town of about 1,300 people in Calhoun County.

## ROADBLOCKS

Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and the Southwest Mississippi Narcotics Unit, also netted a number of misdemeanor charges and numerous traffic citations according to Brookhaven police Lt. David Johnson.

Law enforcement officials moved throughout the city in three 10-member teams from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday night, Johnson said.

Saturday night, an eight-man team began vehicle inspections at the corner of

North Street and Brignal Road. Bell was among the law enforcement officials at the scene of the roadblock.

"Occasionally, these roadblocks can be effective ways of catching offenders unknowingly," Bell said.

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While law enforcement vehicles were well hidden, some drivers could be seen trying to make a U-turn before the roadblock, but attempts to elude were to elude the roadblock were unsuccessful.

## KDMC

out of economic necessity. The amazingly detailed work, and the creativity of the artwork, which depicts images and icons from rural America, is something that many of the patients at the hospital can appreciate and identify with, said KDMC CEO Alvin Hoover.

"In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I believe that it is better to give than to receive," Gitter told Hoover, Culpepper and other hospital officials in the lobby of the hospital, where all 30 paintings were on display.

Hoover emphasized the connection between healthcare and art at his hospital. "We have sought to integrate art into the hospital. It can have a very soothing effect

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on not just the patients, but our staff as well."

Last month at the hospital, KDMC put on a "performance improvement" contest that had all departments submit a joint, artistic collage in the theme of "Cirque du Soleil," that addressed potential improvements the staff could implement at the hospital.

Additionally, third-floor nursing department manager Jaymie Heard, recently been out all other hospitals at a National Association for Healthcare Quality contest in early October. Heard was awarded first place for an abstract that was presented in poster form at the competition.

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