

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hattiesburg, MS - A benefit concert and silent auction to benefit 39 year old Hattiesburg resident Star Osborn will be held on Thursday, September 11 at Hattiesburg Cycles from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Star Osborn was involved in a near-fatal motorcycle accident on July 15th. She suffered a major head injury that has left her in a coma. Her husband, John, has been by her side since the accident, along with their two teenage daughters, Angel and Kim.

Due to some very unfortunate circumstances, the Osborn's did not have medical insurance at the time of Star's accident. As a result, John has been managing the rapidly growing medical bills from the hospital, physicians, ambulance and labs and now faces indefinite home healthcare nursing obligations without the aid of insurance, state or federal assistance agencies. Although still in a coma, Star could be released to home care early this week, so the family welcomes prayers and support. A special fund to benefit the family has been set up by Father Tommy at St. Thomas Catholic Church.

The benefit concert is being coordinated by David Graves, a longtime friend of the Osborns, and will follow a silent auction as an effort to help the Osborn family and friends raise money to pay for medical bills and to raise awareness for this important cause. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online or at the event.

South City Records artist 'Sypher' will perform at the event along with Elise and Green Co. The event will also feature the reunion of King Konga.

Elise and Green Company is headlined by acoustic artist Elise Thornton. She has performed around Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama for the past five years, starting with a band in Bogalusa, LA called "So I Thought". Later, while attending USM in Hattiesburg, she began performing with Karen Waldrop, another local singer/songwriter, as "Shades of Green". The duo performed over 250 gigs and sold over 1000 cds that year. Of late, Thornton is currently performing with Eric Rodgers, lead singer and guitarist for "Southland" and also Sam Donald, lead guitarist and backup vocalist for "Waiting for Brantley".

Sypher, a rock band based in Hattiesburg, was last year's winner of Rock War Challenge. The band features Koren Taylor ('the Throat') on lead vocals, Mark Cheatham and Jeff Gischel on guitar, Randall Jacobs on bass and Jayce Green on drums and vocals. The band is working on their first album, scheduled for Fall release by South City Records, a student-run record label based at The University of Southern Mississippi that they signed with in June.

King Konga is coming together for its first and final reunion since they performed during their career as students at The University of Southern Miss during the mid 1990's to help the Osborn family. The band includes Dan Hannon, Steve Cook, Tony Lymon, Skeeto Valdez and Jeff Mills. Some of the members of King Konga belonged to Phi Kappa Tau as well as The Pride Marching Band at USM.

"We all need to show our support and love for this family," said Tony Lymon, who plays malletkat, percussion and sings vocals for King Konga. "John was there for us when we were building our following, so now it's time for us to be there for him and Star. King Konga drummer Jeff Mills said this is an opportunity to put his music to good use. "The Osborns are very dear friends to me and I'm glad I have the opportunity to use the talents and resources I've been blessed with to help a friend in a time of need."

Numerous items have been donated for the Silent Auction, which will take place inside Hattiesburg Cycles, including an autographed guitar from the band Sypher; an autographed Motorcycle helmet from Hattiesburg Cycles; a 42" Hitachi Plasma TV from Audio Video Specialists; Glasses from Heritage Vision; Gift Certificates from the Keg and Barrell, Red Lobster, O'Charleys, Brownstones, Walmart and many, many more. A current list of auction items is available on the event website listed below. If you

would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact David Graves at starosbornbenefit@live.com. The Silent Auction will begin at 4:30 p.m. when the gates open and will end at 7:35 p.m. Items will be available for pickup prior to the close of the event.

T-Shirts will also be available to commemorate the event. The conceptual design came from Jenn Walters and the graphic layout and logo work was designed by Heidi Pitre. The theme is 'Wishing on a STAR' and 'Praying for a MIRACLE'. The shirts are available in black or purple.

"I think the true definition of hope, faith, friendship and love surrounds us every day and we just forget to remember how important those words are to our simple human spirit," Graves said. "John has been a good friend of mine for a long time and I am truly blessed to be a part of his and Star's life. I am reminded of how fragile our spirit is in a time of need and how incredibly strong families like the Osborns truly are. We all need to pull together and help during this trying time."

If you would like to help as a volunteer, please visit the website for more information. Donations to the family can be made online or by check. Checks should be made payable to Saint Thomas Catholic Church for the Benefit of Star Osborn and mailed to Players Audio Video, Attn: David Graves *STAR*, 201 East Layfair Drive, Suite 205; Flowood, MS 39232 or they will be accepted at the event at the Donations table in the Silent Auction area.

Hattiesburg Cycles is a premier motorcycle and powersports dealer and is located at 6412 U. S. Highway 49 South between 7th Street and the Highway 42 Bypass. They have graciously offered to host the benefit at their store for this worthy cause.

To make donations and learn more about the Star Osborn Benefit Concert, visit their Web site at <http://www.starosbornbenefit.com> or contact David Graves at starosbornbenefit@live.com.

Links:

King Konga: www.myspace.com/kingkonga

Sypher: www.myspace.com/sypherband

Elise and Green Co: www.myspace.com/elisethornton

South City Records: www.southcityrecords.com - www.myspace.com/southcityrec

Hattiesburg Cycles: www.hattiesburgcycles.com/

Attached photos:

Star and John Osborn

King Konga

Elise and Green Company

Sypher

Event t-shirt (Front and Back)

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