

► **BE PREPARED:** Parents' tips for camping with kids, D4 ► **SHAPEWEAR SMACKDOWN:** Dare to compare what you wear under there, D4

Fashion *firework* Young designer debuts her collection at the Hunter

BY HOLLY LEBER
STAFF WRITER
It's that time: The pride-filled moment at the end of a fashion show when the designer emerges to soak up the appreciation of the crowd.

White folding chairs fill the atrium of the Hunter Museum of American Art. A hot-pink runway carpet zigzags through a row of seats and down the middle of the room. Girls and women, from ages 7 to 51, stand in front of the crowd, dressed in colorful cocktail dresses and eveningwear. Eyes turn expectantly toward the staircase leading down to the first floor. A young teenage boy, dressed in a tuxedo, waits on the landing.

Katy Perry's "Firework" plays over the museum's sound system. "You just gotta ignite the light and let it shine, just own the night like the Fourth of July..." And here she comes. Blond hair done in waves, dressed in a black dress with a fabric cut to look like petals. The graduated hemline shows hot-pink lining, matching the evening's color scheme. She takes the boy's arm, and he escorts her down the steps.

This is the star of the evening, designer Madison Waldrop.

She is 14 years old.

Flashback: An hour earlier. Madison, dressed in another one of her creations, works the crowd with her public-relations director, Lynne Kings, by her side. She greets guests, happily thanking them for coming.

The night, after all, is a big deal. It is the debut runway show for Madison and her line, Designs By Malysse. She has already been featured in a February 2011 New York Times story about tween designers, but this is her true coming-out party.

Madison, a ninth-grader at Girls Preparatory School,

See FASHION, Page D6



Madison Waldrop, 14, wears a dress of her own design during the first half of the evening of her fashion show. The rosette on the shoulder incorporates fabric from each dress in the collection.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TAEK DANIELS

Hunter Museum events coordinator John Post, right, escorts Brooke Waddell, the 2009 Miss Tennessee runner-up, down the steps during the Designs by Malysse fashion show. Waddell is wearing the "Picasso" gown, part of the bridal collection Madison will debut this fall in New York.

“I'm hoping to show that yes, you can follow your dreams at an early age.”

— Madison Waldrop, fashion designer

THRIFTY FINDS



My passion for family photos has me routinely shopping for frames, and the more unusual the frame the better. I found this rustic wooden one at Sophie's on North Market Street for \$8.

— By Karen Nazor Hill

GET OFF THE COUCH

Railfest, Track 29 gear up this week

LISA DENTON: Barry, have you ever been run out of town on a rail? Once upon a time, that was a punishment. This coming weekend, you might consider a variation of that more of a privilege.

The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is celebrating its 50th anniversary over Labor Day weekend with several excursions, as well as Civil War demonstrations, a hobnob camp and concerts headlined by newgrass mandolin master Sam Bush.

It all kicks off Thursday at the Chattanooga Choo Choo at a banquet featuring Railroad Age magazine's Railroader of the Year, Wick Moorman, chairman, president and CEO of Norfolk Southern.

BARRY COURTER: The Choo Choo will be the place to be then this weekend. On Thursday, Track 29, the new music venue inside the old skating rink at the back of the Choo Choo property, makes its debut with country singer/songwriter Jamey Johnson. On Friday, they will host a local music showcase and then

See COUCH, Page D4

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BACK IN BLACK

McKamey Animal Care and Adoption Center, 4500 N. Access Road, is holding a Back in Black adoption drive. Through Sept. 17, adoption fees for any black dog or cat will be half price. Call 905-6500 to schedule an appointment to view available animals.

HELP CATS AND DOGS LEARN TO LIVE IN PEACE

By CASEY PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITER

Experts say there is no reason cats and dogs can't live together peacefully.

Katie Bunch, a manager at the Petsmart store on Gunbarrel Road, rescued a 5-month-old dog named Scout about a month ago. While his boundless enthusiasm occasionally rubs her cat, Lucy, the wrong way, the two reached an uneasy truce after about three weeks.

"If he does something

she doesn't like, she puts him in his place," Bunch said. "It's one of those things where you've got to give it time. She's slowly but surely getting used to him being there."

To ease their introduction, Bunch began by holding Lucy when Scout was around. Other times she placed them in separate rooms to sniff each other beneath a closed door. By supervising their interactions, Bunch said she could quickly control any signs of aggression.

In "Complete Cat Care," a book about all things feline, author and veterinarian Bruce Fogle offers five tips for keeping the peace between existing pets and newcomers.

1. Stroke the cat (or dog) by hand or, Fogle says, using a soft cotton cloth. Stroke your original pet then your new animal to help passively mix their scents and encourage a new, family scent.

2. After the new pet has been living in your home for a few days, swap



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its bedding with a resident pet's.

3. Avoid allowing cats to run from dogs, which may trigger the canine chase instinct.

4. Don't correct a cat for swiping a dog's nose if it does something the cat dislikes. This is a quick way for dogs to learn behaviors to avoid.

5. Don't force introductions. Put new cats in a crate on a surface above eye level, to avoid forced eye contact, and allow your old pets to approach when they feel comfortable.

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