



MHMR

Directions Newsletter

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PUTTING ON THE RITZ

Folks are getting gussied up, sewing formals, buying dresses and putting on their dancing shoes.

The occasion is a banquet being hosted by the Nacogdoches County Halfway House and six group homes of Goodman-Wade Enterprises.

The banquet, organized in honor of the clients in these seven mental-retardation programs, will be held Sept. 20 in the Twilight Ballroom at Stephen F. Austin State University.

The banquet will be a semi-formal affair with dinner, dancing and a program in which clients and members of the staff are singled out for recognition.

Approximately 80 people are expected to attend the \$10-a-plate banquet, Nancy Jones, service director, said. Jones noted that the banquet is not a fund-raising event. The ticket price covers the cost of the catering, disc jockey and decorations.

"It's kind of like a debutante showing," she explained. "We put on a rather elite affair for them (the clients) because they don't have many opportunities to participate in this type of thing."

A similar banquet was held over a year ago for the Nacogdoches Halfway House. It went over so well, Jones said, that they decided to expand the idea to include other MRs in the area. If all goes well, Jones said, this could become an annual affair.

HERE COMES THE GOV.

Governor Mark White will be in Jasper on Saturday, Sept. 20 where he will serve as guest speaker at the ground breaking ceremonies for the Jasper County MHMR center.

Master of ceremonies for the 4:30 p.m. event is Judge Allen Sturrock of Tyler County, chairman of the Deep East Texas MHMR Board of Trustees.

In June, White announced a \$250,000 grant would be given to the Jasper County MHMR center. The funds, made available through the Texas Dept. of Community Affairs' community development program, were earmarked for construction of a new facility at the Jasper center, located on F.M. 777, northwest of Jasper.

One of three buildings comprising the center was gutted in an April 4 fire. The grant money will allow for the replacement of this building.

The new facility will house the center's workshop, business offices and therapy offices. Additional space will then be available in the older buildings to make room for a basic skills unit and an increase in the size of the psychiatric medical clinic.

The Lufkin firm, Goodwin-Lasiter, has projected a Nov. 30 deadline for completion of final plans. Construction should begin in February and it is estimated that the building will be completed in six months.

CRISIS LINE

In an emergency, call the MHMR Crisis line: 1-800-392-8343.

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NACOGDOCHES HALFWAY HOUSE PARTYS HEARTY

Residents of the Nacogdoches County Halfway House took a weekend trip to Six Flags and Wet & Wild on Sept. 6-7. Eight staff members accompanied 14 clients on the two-day bonanza of scary rides and slippery slides.

Money for the trip came from an annual donation made by Fastener Specialty Inc. of Arlington. This is the third year such a trip has been made possible by a Fastener's donation.

ANGELINA COUNTY GRANT TIED AT 4th AFTER REVIEW BY REGIONAL COMMITTEE

On August 19, Angelina County's application for a \$300,000 grant from the Texas Department of Community Affairs went before a regional review committee in Lufkin where it scored 541 of a possible 600 points to land in a 4th-place tie with Diboll, according to Raymond Vann, executive for Kindall Stone & Associates.

The grant, if approved, will allow Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services to build a new treatment center on South Medford.

There is just under \$1.8 million in grant funds to be distributed over a 12-county region with a maximum request of \$300,000 per grant. There are 26 applications under consideration.

The scoring was divided into several categories, Vann said. In the "resolution of problem" category, the Angelina County grant scored higher than all other applicants by landing 198 of a possible 200 points.

Points in this category are not based on set criteria. Vann described it as a "discretionary award made by members of the committee."

Vann believes such a high score in this category "is a reflection of overall community and regional support."

On Oct. 16-17, the grant goes before a state review committee in Austin.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETS SEPT. 23

The monthly meeting of The Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Board of Trustees is set for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday Sept. 23 in the Ward R. Burke Community Room, Central Administration Facility.

Board meetings are open to the public.

GETTING ORIENTED: THE NEW AND IMPROVED METHOD

An orientation process offering a week-long series of programs for new MHMR employees was initiated the first week of September.

Seventeen employees participated in the 5-day series, conducted Sept. 2-8. Responses to the orientation were positive, said Larry Heaton, director of personnel, training and development.

"It went quite well," Heaton said. "Based on the responses from employees who were there, everyone agreed that even though it took a long time, it was beneficial."

Future orientations will be held at the beginning of each month and will follow the same format used in Sept.

On day one, division directors explain the various programs and personnel information is completed by each trainee. Employees receive first aid training on day two; instruction in prevention and management of aggressive behavior (PMAB) and a medications overview on day three; and CPR instruction on day four.

The final day of orientation includes tours of several MHMR facilities in Lufkin and Nacogdoches. September's tour included the Nacogdoches MHMR center and halfway house as well as the Pineywoods Regional Treatment Center and the Angelina MHMR center.

In future orientations, the first aid, CPR and PMAB classes will be open to other employees who need an update or who are interested in becoming certified, Heaton said.

Evaluations of the orientation reflected employee satisfaction with the informative nature of the program.

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200 TURN OUT FOR DANCE HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF NAC. MHMR

Approximately 200 people participated in the August dance-and-breakfast party sponsored by the Friends of Nacogdoches County MHMR.

The dance, which was held at the Ramada Inn in Nacogdoches, featured the Houston band "PF and the Flyers." Light rock from the '50s and '60s had folks out on the floor all night, Judy Jenkins, treasurer of the Friends, said.

Winners of the drawing for a weekend trip for two in New Orleans were Mr. and Mrs. James Hurst of Nacogdoches. International Tours provided plane fare at cost to the Friends, and Ramada Inn donated hotel rooms for the trip.

Jones said the Friends broke even on the dance. She noted that while they had hoped to make a small profit, they were not discouraged since this was the event's first year.

All in all, the dance was a success, Jones said. "We're glad everybody who came had a good time. And if they didn't come, they at least are asking who we are," she said.

NAC. MHMR'S NEW VAN TEMPORARILY CURBED

As of Sept. 2, the MHMR Center in Nacogdoches has had a brand new, 15-passenger van valued at \$25,000 just waiting to hit the streets.

The van is equipped for the handicapped with an extended roof, wheelchair ramp and special doors. It was funded through a grant from the Mass Transit Authorities and through cash raised by the Nacogdoches County Friends of MHMR.

Unfortunately, it is curbed until the vendor receives payment from the Mass Transit Authority, Nancy Jones, service director, said. Jones estimates a six- to eight-week delay before the title is paid in full.

SHELBY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER SEEKING BOOK, TOY DONATIONS

If you have more children's books, toys or old clothes than you can use, there are better ways to unload them than throwing them away.

The staff at the Shelby Child Development Center is asking people to keep them in mind when rummaging through closets, garages and attics.

Gail Patterson, day care director at the center, said they are looking for several types of items: books, toys and clothing that can be used in playing "dress up."

The center is asking people to donate books for children between pre-school and 6 years old. Patterson emphasized that they do not have to be picture books, but could include books to be read to the students by their teacher.

Toys are needed for children from birth to 6 years old. Toys should be free of sharp edges which could cause injuries.

The center is also seeking old clothes such as shirts, aprons, jackets, vests and hats as well as accessory items such as handbags and wallets. In addition, costume jewelry without sharp edges, such as necklaces and bracelets, would be appreciated.

Patterson suggested that MHMR staff members who would like to donate items should bring them to the staff development meeting which is slated for Oct. 3 at Angelina College in Lufkin.

TOTS TODDLE DOWN GRADUATION AISLE

In August, the Infant Intervention programs in both Kirbyville and Houston County were playing "Pomp and Circumstance" for several graduating tots.

There were nine infant-graduates from the Kirbyville program and eight from Houston County. The graduates, who received tiny "diplomas" at the ceremonies, were welcomed into their respective school systems where several will enter early childhood programs.

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POLK-SAN JACINTO MHMR STAFF HIT FUND-RAISING TRAIL

A benefit dance in Livingston racked up \$92 for the Polk-San Jacinto MHMR Center. Wayne Johnson, a workshop volunteer, provided musical entertainment for the 20-some-odd guests at the dance.

Bessie Sanders, a member of the San Jacinto Advisory Council, made a substantial donation to the dance; and Peggy Smith, workshop trainer, worked as a weight-guesser at the event. Smith would guess a participant's weight and five cents would be donated for each pound her guess was off from the participant's correct weight.

And the fundraising doesn't stop there.

Betty Griffin, workshop trainer, intends to increase these earnings during the Macedonia Baptist Church baseball tournament in mid-September.

The tournament is being held at the Dunbar campus right behind the center, and Griffin is getting up a group to help her hawk hot-dogs, soft drinks and ice cream.

The money raised will be used for a variety of projects around the center including painting the work trailers and decorating the conference room and lounge, Griffin said.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

The following staff members are celebrating September birthdays:

Rose Barton, Mary Bostwick, Thelma Boyett, Vernell Brinson, Nita Carl, Alice Castle, Harold Childress, George Clark.

Lynn Crawford, Sherri Delk, Cassy Drake, Billy Ener, Nancy Jones, Winnie Jones, Clem Lathan, Ginger Lymbery, Richard Mik.

Hazel Milwee, Marjorie Mueller, Linda Naff, Gail Patterson, Joyce Sowell, Ruthie Thompson, Pamela Walker, Connie Williams & Tana Roy.

KEEPING TABS ON ROVING STAFFERS

September has seen a lot of movement among the staff at MHMR. So here's a run down on who can be found where:

- * After 15 years as service director at the Jasper-Newton County MHMR, Marty Walker will be assuming a new position as director at the new alcohol and drug abuse treatment center and working farm that will be located in Lufkin. The new center will not be completed for at least a year, and in the mean time, Marty will be working out of Central Administration in Lufkin.
- * John Wilson, service director of the Polk County MHMR in Livingston, will assume Walker's old position in Jasper. Until Wilson's post in Polk is filled, however, both he and Walker will be spending some time at their previous posts.
- * As of mid-September, Nancy Jones will be acting as temporary service director at the Newton and Kirbyville group homes. Jones will maintain her position as service director in Nacogdoches County. A job search is underway to fill the Kirbyville-Newton position with a full-time director.
- * The D&E team has completed its move from Central Administration to the Family Support Services Center on Old Mill Road in Lufkin. Darlene Bacon, Jan Lamar, Diana Moore and Service Director Marsha Brown-Ford can be reached at 639-1479. Also located at Mill Road are Shirley Stubblefield and Sam Dibrell.
- * Sharon Yarbrough and the San Jacinto County Infant Intervention and Counseling Center have relocated in Coldspring. The new address is Highway 150 East, Coldspring. The phone number has not changed.

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SAN JACINTO COUNTY MHMR EYES BLUE RIBBON AT COUNTY PARADE

Though Sharon Yarbrough has just finished moving the San Jacinto County MHMR programs to a new location in Coldspring, she isn't letting the uproar of the move interfere with her traditional participation in the San Jacinto County Fair and Rodeo.

Yarbrough said she and her son intend to whip up an MHMR entry for the parade which kicks off at 10 a.m. on Thur., Sept. 25.

In past competition, Yarbrough has landed several blue ribbons, and she has high hopes for this year, too.

Grand marshalls at the fair will be Doug Johnson and Ron Stone of Channel 2 News in Houston.

GLAD TO HAVE YOU

New employees for September are: Melvin Simon, Delores Keeland, Sheila Yarbrough, Sheryl Taylor, June Jenkins, Isiah Sells and Cindy Linney.

CLIENT RIGHTS

Any client, relative of a client, or representative of a client who has a complaint, comment or suggestion regarding the health, safety, welfare or legal and human rights of a patient or client of this center is invited and urged to submit them in writing to:

Chairperson
Public Responsibility Committee
P.O. Box 935
Lufkin, Texas 75901

The Public Responsibility Committee is an independent, impartial body. None of its members are employees of this center.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

Departing from MHMR during the month of August were: Marilyn Faris, Travis Hamilton, Nelda White, Brenda Gilchriest, Jim Lane, Bruce Cooper, Karen Jensen and Loyce Fowler.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap or age in admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs and activities.

Sanford Skelton, rights protection officer, has been designated to coordinate efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap.

APOLOGIES AND EXCUSES FOR A LATE ISSUE OF "DIRECTIONS"

Typically the Directions Newsletter is off the press by the beginning of each month. However, a change in personnel is responsible for the delay in this month's issue.

We won't do it again -- promise.

The deadline for submitting material to be published in October's issue is Sept. 22. Contact Sheryl Taylor at Central Administration.