

Drug Court Softball Rivalry

Submitted by Conway & Morrilton Drug Court Staff

In June of this year, Morrilton Drug Court Counselor Courtney Byers contacted the Conway Drug Court treatment staff to coordinate a softball team rivalry. The participants and graduates of the Morrilton Drug Court and Conway Drug Court that were interested began practicing within a week. Team members and supporting staff of each team met for practice at least once a week.

Morrilton hosted the first game at the Morrilton City Park Saturday, June 19th at 4:30 p.m. Conway Drug Court participants, graduates and family members showed up to take on the challenge issued from Morrilton Drug Court. As the UCA intern to the Drug Court program stated "It was played on the surface of the sun!" The temperature was over 95 degrees with the sun shining directly on the players and fans. One client's family was cheering from the backfield where trees provided the only shade. A trophy was purchased and displayed for the victorious team declaring them Drug Court Champions with a spot for the signed game ball to be displayed. Morrilton won the hard fought game with 6-5 victory. Morrilton then hosted the cookout under a pavilion in the park where Conway and Morrilton participants and staff along with their families could socialize.

Immediately talk of a re-match began between teams. Conway Drug Court hosted the second game and cookout on Saturday, July 24th at 9:00 a.m. at the 5th Avenue City Park. 2nd Chance Enterprises coordinated by Mike Willbanks volunteered to sponsor the Conway Drug Court team shirts and provide the cookout after the game.



Conway Drug Court Champions pictured above. Morrilton Drug Court Champions below.



This time, Conway Drug Court team members brought it back to a victory of 8-4. After the game, participants, family members, and staff retired to the pavilion for grilled hot dogs and drinks. 2nd Chance Enterprises and volunteers grilled hot dogs for those in attendance. As soon as the participants had eaten, talk of "the best 2 out of 3" games began. Future plans include this last match in "neutral" territory to finish the season and maybe a state-wide competition instigated among Drug Courts next year.

Bicycle Ride Supports First DWI Program

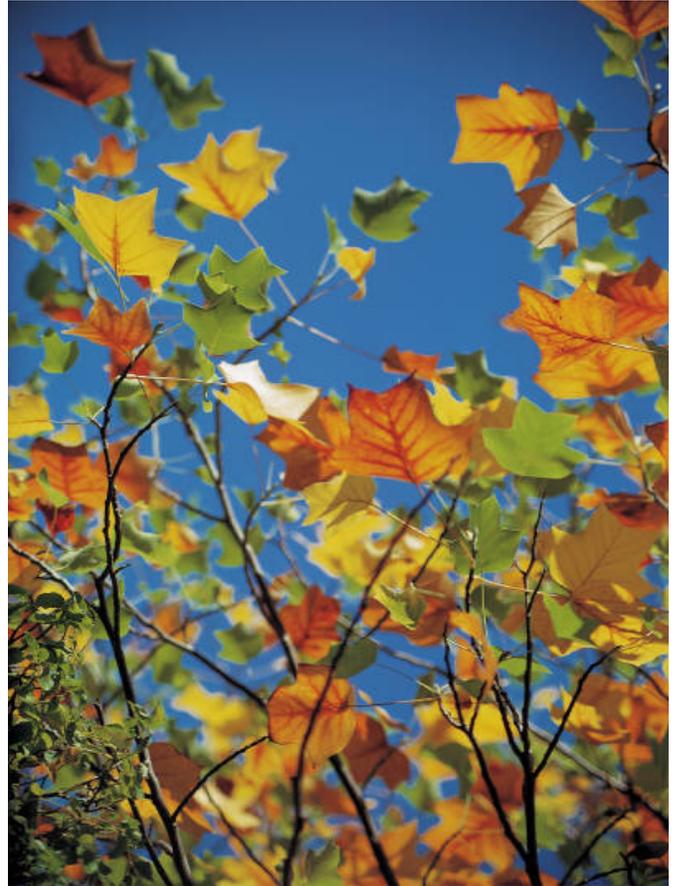
Judge Chaney Taylor, District Court Judge in Batesville, turned his passion for cycling into an opportunity to raise awareness and support for his other passion, the Independence County DWI Court, by organizing a 100 mile bike ride in his community. Joined by several of his DWI Court team members who volunteered to man rest stops, drive the "sag wagon," hand out refreshments and take photos, the first of what will become annual bike rides proved to be a success. Twenty-one riders registered for the ride with twenty riders showing for the event. The route was considered a "moderate" course that included a few rolling hills. Five participants were successful in completing the full 100 miles. Others log distances of 20 to 62 miles.

The White River Medical Center Cycling club agreed to be the main sponsor of the event. Several local sponsors came forward to help defray costs for drinks and refreshments for the ride. In addition, local media outlets helped spread the word about the ride. After payment of all expenses, a final tally of \$800 was raised to assist the DWI Court program.

Judge Taylor, who has been cycling since his college days, has already set the date for next year's ride. Mark May 11, 2011, on your calendars and get your bike and your body in shape to participate. Plan on arriving in Batesville the night before since the ride starts early on Saturday morning. The team hopes to include a pre-ride spaghetti dinner, a post-ride burger lunch, music, activities for kids and prizes for the riders.

AOC Awarded 2 BJA Grants

The Administrative Office of the Courts, Drug Court Division, was awarded two grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the upcoming year. (cont. on page 3, column 2)



The Scientist and the Lab Rat

(Editor's note: The essay below was written by **Kayla Osborne**, at age 15, to her mother, four years ago. On Monday, October 25, 2010, her mother successfully graduated from the Pope County Drug Court. The essay was read during the graduation ceremony as the mother officially closed that chapter in her life.)

Imagine a ferocious, crazed, fatuous lab rat. It stands back ready to pounce. It charges into the glass over and over again. The scientist keeps looking into those mad red eyes. Those pleading eyes. She wants to help this creature so badly. It's already injected. It's already too late. It bares it's rotting teeth at her. She wonders what petulant thought this poor artificial creature is thinking. Maybe it wants to love her. Maybe it's mad at itself that it can't. Maybe it just wants to kill her. She wonders what her hand would look like if she reached in to console it. She knows it would maul her. She wants to think that she (cont. on page 3)

could help it. She wants to think that she could make something good of this infestation. In reality she knows that nothing could help what she had done.

You are the lab rat. I am the scientist. The only difference in our relationship is that I didn't do this to you. I never injected you with foreign venoms to make you crazed. I never locked you in a cage and made you the creature you are. I never abused you. I never performed any experiments on you to see if you could tough it out. I never put you through any kind of malicious scenario. I never plotted to hurt you.

All I ever did was love you. You did this to yourself.

The scientist can not reach in to help her experiment. She can not do anything because the rat is so mad, it wouldn't understand. It wouldn't give her the opportunity to explain. It wouldn't let her tell it that she's sorry. It would never pause for a moment to understand that it is just as bad as she is now. It doesn't understand that it can cause much more damage than she can now. It doesn't understand it's strengths or powers anymore. Everything happened so quick. Nothing the scientist does will help it to understand. So now, the lab rat and the scientist stand facing each other, still separated. Always separated. The scientist knows that she can not involve herself with this crazed rat any longer. It would kill her.

I can't reach out to you. You would never hear me out. You don't understand how bad you are. You have infected yourself beyond the point of being sane. You can't let yourself think about the heartache you cause. You may let yourself feel somewhat guilty. Or self conscious. We couldn't have that now, could we? Everything happened so melodramatically. You think I don't know who you are. You think I don't understand. But you should know. I know all.

(AWARDS--cont. from page 2) One award will provide an opportunity for the State Drug Court Advisory Committee to development and implement a pilot "Re-entry Court" in Union County. This twelve-month grant was under the Second Chance Act. The first six months will be spent developing the process and proceeds and putting the necessary agreements in place for the court to be part of the Union County Drug Court Program. It will be for returning inmates who agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the court. The amount of the award is \$121,546.

The second award is from the Drug Court Discretionary Fund and is a statewide drug court enhancement award. This grant will be for a 24-month period. Under the award, money will be available to support sending drug court teams to training or the NADCP meeting next summer.

In addition, money will be used to develop a drug court module of the automated court management system underway in the AOC ACAP division. The drug court module will be modeled after the one recently developed for the Juvenile Drug Court Program. It will collect information and provide documentation to court personnel for staffings and on-line access to performance data. In addition, the AOC will partner with the Clinton School of Public Service to provide technical assistance for courts interested in developing a set of performance measures. Dr. Al Bavon, who was a featured speaker at the drug court conference in 2008, will continue the work began in the Saline County drug court program. Stipends for two Clinton School students to assist in the project are included in the grant.

The grant also provides for "mini-grants" for each of the Adult Drug Court programs. These grants are to be used to support the local court program with outreach and incentives. The application process for these grants is now in development by the Drug Court Division. Information will be provided soon. In order to utilize these funds, each court will have to have a drug court fund established in the county treasury and have an appropriation amount that includes the \$500 awards.



In Memorium: Judge Carol Crafton Anthony

Circuit Judge Carol Anthony lost her battle with leukemia on July 18, 2010, and Arkansas lost one of its premiere drug court judges. A celebration of her life was held in the sanctuary of El Dorado First United Methodist church on July 22, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Aubra Anthony, Jr. and her four children: Audra Hayes Anthony III, James Hunter Anthony, Clayton Harris Anthony, and Jordan Hollis Anthony.

Judge Anthony described the Union County Drug Court as the extra-curricular effort of which she was most proud. Since 2000, over 342 people have graduated from the tough-love program. Paul Meason, Union County Drug Court Coordinator, served as an honorary pallbearer. Judge Anthony was 56 years old.

*Save the Date: April 6-8, 2011
ADCPA Statewide Conference
Holiday Inn, Fort Smith, AR*

Registration and information will be posted after Jan 1, 2011, on web-site.

State Awarded Access to Recovery Grant for 12-County Area

The State Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Services Division, has received a SAMHSA grant of \$13.2 million over a four-year period of time to support treatment and access to recovery support services for substance abuse patients who are also parents of children who have cases with DYS and DCFS, returning veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars or multiple DWI offenders. The program, due to begin in February 2011, will provide vouchers for participants to choose from at least two providers for an array of recovery support services in addition to providing treatment for substance abuse. Eligibility will initially be limited to the following counties: Benton, Washington, Crawford, Sebastian, Craighead, Faulkner, White, Lonoke, Pulaski, Saline, Garland, and Jefferson. The AOC will be working closely with the grant team to coordinate utilization of the program in the courts in the targeted counties.



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