



Poet Angelou, Who Spent Childhood In Arkansas, Dies At 86

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Reader Tips Keep Campsites Comfortable

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\$1.00

ROGERS MORNING NEWS

WISHES GRANTED



STAFF PHOTOS FLIP PUTTHOFF

Students at Kirksey Middle School on Wednesday gather around science teacher Don Mallow after Mallow was named teacher of the year in Rogers. Teachers at several Rogers schools received awards and grants Wednesday.

Teachers Receive Money

ROGERS PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION GIFTS \$122,000

By Amy Buckley

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Teacher grants awarded this year by the Rogers Public Education Foundation were three times the amount last year.

Board members spent Tuesday and Wednesday visiting classrooms and awarding grants.

Last year board members doled out \$40,000. This year they raised more money and gave out \$122,000.

Some of the money was raised through the Rogers Public Education Foundation Wall of Distinction annual banquet.

Students raised a lot of the money that went to their teachers this year by selling saver cards, said Laurel Jackson, foundation board member. Children were given incentives for selling the cards, and the 16 participating schools got \$1,000 per school for participating.

The cards provide discounts at participating merchants.

The most requested item last year was an iPad. Requests this year were more varied.



Deana Gabbert, left, social studies teacher at Kirksey Middle School, receives grant money Wednesday as well as applause from Mel Ahart, principal, second from left, and students in Rogers.

Technology grants included iPads, but also software and a computer for a broadcasting class, a charging cart, laptop computers, Chromebooks and calculators.

Teachers received headphones for students, and there was a voice amplifier for a classroom. There was a software program to learn Spanish, money for Quiz Bowl

projects, an archery program and a girls' fitness program, a kiln and two outdoor classroom projects.

Teachers at Joe Mathias Elementary School have been working toward getting an outdoors amphitheater seating classroom for the last year.

SEE AWARDS PAGE 2A

Aldermen OK Money To End Suit

\$62,000 MORE WOULD SETTLE HUDLOW TERMINATION CASE

By John Gore

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ROGERS — Aldermen approved \$62,000 Wednesday to settle the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by Jerry Hudlow, treasurer and former city finance director.

City officials met with Hudlow and his attorney Stephen Wood most of Wednesday to reach the settlement. The settlement will add \$62,000 to the nearly \$500,000 in damages, legal fees and other costs associated with the trial and the money aldermen approved for Hudlow's salary and benefits for one year.

Aldermen met in a special session Wednesday to approve \$62,000 from general

fund reserve to add to the money held by the court as the settlement. The appropriation was unanimously approved.



Hudlow

Mark Hayes, director of legal service for the Arkansas Municipal League, represented the city during the mediation and told aldermen it appears the case may be over.

"I think we have worked out an agreement that's fair and agreeable to both parties involved," he said.

"It was a long process

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Motorcycle Rally Campsite Planned

By Tom Sissom

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BENTONVILLE — Benton County planners were told Wednesday the Osage Creek Events Center location may be open as a campground this fall in conjunction with Bikes, Blues & BBQ.

Greg Smith, owner, told the county's Development Review Committee the outdoor entertainment project, which has been in the development process since 2004, is still under construction, but he's been contacted about having space available

for the annual motorcycle rally.

"We have been approached for that," Smith said. "They are maxed out on space in Northwest Arkansas."

A campground would be on land just south of the center. If the county approves the request for a permit, the area could accommodate several hundred visitors this year and have room to grow, Smith said.

"There's only about two months to advertise," he said. "We won't be full this year,

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TODAY'S WEATHER



80/65

BEAVER LAKE

1,120.8 FEET

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Area's Unemployment, Labor Force Drop

By Christie Swanson

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Northwest Arkansas' April employment figures send a mixed message — unemployment was down and the labor force contracted.

The area's unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent in April, down from 5.3 percent in April 2013, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Northwest Arkansas is part of the metropolitan statistical area that includes Washington, Benton and Madison counties in Arkansas and McDonald County, Mo.

BY THE NUMBERS

APRIL 2014 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

The following unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

- ▶ Northwest Arkansas: 4.5 percent
- ▶ Little Rock: 5.5 percent
- ▶ Jonesboro: 5.6 percent
- ▶ Fort Smith: 5.9 percent
- ▶ Hot Springs: 6.1 percent
- ▶ Pine Bluff: 8.4 percent
- ▶ State: 6.1 percent
- ▶ Nation: 5.9 percent



SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

The labor force shrunk to 233,100 from 234,800 over the same time period and by 2,000 between March and April. Labor force includes people employed and look-

ing for work.

Kathy Deck, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas, called the number perplex-

ing and said it's something to watch going forward.

"We've been seeing consistent labor force growth, and I want to know why we fell," she said. "I don't have the answer."

She said the area hasn't seen unemployment this low since it was 4.2 percent in November 2008.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics does not provide seasonally adjusted unemployment numbers for Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Comparing numbers from the same months in different years removes seasonal employment swings.

Deck said the labor force drop is new in Northwest

Arkansas, but it is following a national and statewide trend.

Earlier this month the Bureau of Labor Statistics released state numbers that showed unemployment dropped from 7.1 percent in April 2013 to 6.1 percent this April as the labor force dropped by about 20,400 people in the same time frame. The labor force decreased by 14,500 between March and April.

"The decline in the labor force could be a one-month aberration," said Michael Pakko, chief economist at the Institute for Economic Advancement at the

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