

INSIDE: 'Toy Story 5' rakes in biggest box-office debut of the year, 6b



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The Wings and Blues Festival is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday at Front Street Festival Plaza in downtown Texarkana, Ark. (Metro Newspaper Service)

Weekend blues festival a tribute to local guitarist

Organizer: Travis Matthews performed with B.B. King, Ike and Tina Turner, more

STEVEON GAMBLE
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Ark. — The first Wings & Blues Festival on Saturday will be a tribute to a Texarkana native with a long and storied career in music.

The free festival is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Front Street Festival Plaza and the Loading Dock Stage. It is the last major summer event for downtown, according to organizer Tameka Grady.

"I wanted to bring that old blues feel back to our community. What is blues without wings," said Grady, whose Winners Circle 4 company manages the plaza for the city.

Grady and her company are funding the festival, which she is using to honor local Travis Matthews.

A guitarist, Matthews has performed with likes of B.B. King and Ike and Tina Turner.

"It is time to honor him in our community," Grady said.

Matthews is on the festival playbill, along with B.B. King and Stevie Ray Vaughan tribute performances.

The musical lineup will give other artists a chance to perform through a guitar

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Negotiations come to an end for U.S., Iran

Technical talks will continue after Trump shakes talks with threats

AAMER MADHANI, SEUNG MIN KIM
AND JAMEY KEATEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBBERGER, Switzerland — High-level negotiations in Switzerland seeking a permanent end to the Iran war ended early Monday, with lower-level talks planned for the rest of the week as Iran and the United States agreed to create a "de-confliction cell" to address the fighting in Lebanon.

A statement from mediators Pakistan and Qatar said the cell would include the Lebanese government and would "ensure the adherence of the termination of military operations in Lebanon." But it remains unclear whether that will be enough to stop fighting between the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah and Israel, which occupies Lebanon and insists it must maintain a free hand to attack militants who are launching attacks into northern Israel.

The U.S. offered no immediate comment, while Iran praised the mediators' work.

The talks marked the start of a 60-day diplomatic process that seeks to reach a permanent deal to end the Iran war. But the fighting in Lebanon remains one of the key sticking points.

Meanwhile, Iran insisted it had again shut the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf crucial to energy shipments, while the U.S. said traffic continued.

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Proposed manufactured home rule raises concerns

MARY LYLE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A federal rule proposed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development could allow for multistory manufactured homes to be produced cheaper, but questions about safety and affordability haven't been answered yet.

The proposed rule would change the definition of a multistory manufactured home, allowing upper-floor sections to be transported and con-



structed without a permanent chassis, a HUD news release said. The chassis on a manufactured home, by definition, is the steel undercarriage that

A sign for the Department of Housing and Urban Development stands outside the agency's headquarters Jan. 16 in Washington. (AP file photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

works as a foundational frame for the house and allows for easier transport. Current HUD codes require each floor of a manufactured house to be constructed and transported on a permanent chassis.

"This proposed rule is an at-

tempt to do away with outdated building codes," Lesli Gooch, CEO of Manufactured Housing Institute, said. The first HUD codes were established June 15, 1975.

Multistory manufactured houses have a chassis on both the bottom and upper floor. This rule wouldn't change the requirement for a permanent chassis on the bottom floor. J.D. Harper, executive director of the Arkansas Manufactured

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"There is so much mental and emotional toll that goes with incarceration that having those moments of reminders will leave long lasting marks on their hearts."

— AARON PEILA, LOVED ONES COALITION DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Sixteen residents of FCI Texarkana pose on the prison steps for a group photo June 12-13, during a reunification event facilitated by the Loved Ones Coalition. The weekend event gave the incarcerated men a chance to strengthen their relationship with their children, according to Associate Warden Deris Rice. (Photo courtesy of Loved Ones Coalition)

FCI residents 'dress to the nines' during time with family

STEVEON GAMBLE
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Texas — Sixteen men had the chance to look past prison bars after a recent family-centered event at FCI Texarkana.

The Family Reunification and Engagement Weekend, held June 12-13, was organized by FCI's staff and special populations coordinator and sponsored by God Behind Bars, Loved Ones Coalition and Families Against Mandatory Minimums. Community businesses and others provided financial support, Associate Warden Deris Rice said.

"The reunification event was important for the healing of a population of men and their children who at times forget what the presence of their fathers in a setting like that can mean," said Loved Ones Coalition deputy director Aaron Peila, a former federal inmate.

The incarcerated men and their families convened in the prison's visitation room to enjoy food and games on the first day of the event. On the second day, the men dressed in tuxedos and their children wore formal attire for a dance.

"The most memorable part was watching the kids run and jump into the arms of the men while dressed to the nines. Everyone in that room had tears running down their faces, and it will

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Celebrating Juneteenth



Arya Keel smiles at the reveal of a bee sticker on her face at the Citywide Juneteenth Festival on Saturday at Four States Fairgrounds Arena in Texarkana, Ark. Milaha Walton applied the sticker. The annual celebration organized by The Scholars youth entrepreneurial program attracted vendors and several hundred festivalgoers for food, music and fun. It was held inside the arena because of sporadic rain showers throughout the day. See related photos online at texarkanagazette.com. (Staff photo by Stevon Gamble)

State sees alpha-gal cases rise over years

Awareness focus of groups' efforts

NATHAN ANSELL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

State Rep. Julie Mayberry, R-Hensley, first discovered something was wrong in 2013 when she developed a rash after a barbecue pork dinner. When her throat felt swollen, Google searches pointed to a possible anaphylactic reaction.

Despite an emergency room doctor's suggestion that her condition was an anomaly and likely wouldn't reoccur, the same symptoms returned days later.

Then an allergist suggested it could be alpha-gal syndrome — an allergy to mammalian meats and products, including beef, pork and dairy, caused by tick bites.

Descriptions on the state Department of Health's website note that normally, the sugar molecule known as galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose (or "alpha-gal" for short) poses no problem to humans when found in red meat. However, it can sometimes cause a person's immune system to produce antibodies when a tick species such as the lone star tick bites the person and introduces alpha-gal into the bloodstream.

The next time the bitten person consumes a

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