

Andrew Johnson Highway on Saturday afternoon.

A report filed by Deputy Sheriff Adam Arrington at 3:42 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, said a "very dark-skinned" man wearing a white T-shirt, blue jeans and an orange baseball cap with a blue bill had approached the pharmacy counter between 3:25 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Aug. 5 and had handed a note demanding "all the OxyContin" to a pharmacy technician.

The Sheriff's Department

ful synthetic pain-killer OxyContin. The missing medication was valued at about \$500, according to the report.

Sheriff's Detective Capt. John Huffine said OxyContin tablets have a "street value" of \$10 per milligram when sold illegally.

The detective captain said officers suspect that the robber who took the OxyContin tablets from the pharmacy likely is a local resident.

bers of Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church gathered here on Saturday morning for dedication ceremonies for the new Cedar Creek Presbyterian Center.

Housed in the former Cedar Creek School building; the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Center is being used to host a variety of church outreach programs, according to Harrell Cobb, pastor of the nearby Cedar



Sun Photo by Bill J

Greene County Board of Education member Kathy Austin, right, snips a ribbon on Saturday morning during dedication ceremonies for the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Center at former Cedar Creek School. At left is Harrell Cobb, pastor of the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church, which has leased the former school building for 20 years from the County Board of Education.

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Local '8th Of August Celebration' Attracts Hundreds

Many Come Back Here To Share Their Memories

By **BILL JONES**
Staff Writer

The "Eighth of August Emancipation Celebration" drew hundreds of African-American residents and visitors to Greeneville's Wesley Heights community on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Named for the date on which President Andrew Johnson freed his personal slaves during the Civil War, the celebration was revived about four years ago after a hiatus of several years, according to LeRoy Ripley, president of the co-sponsoring George Clem Multicultural Association.

The eighth of August has held special significance for



Sun Photo by Bill Jones

A young participant in Saturday afternoon's "Eighth of August Emancipation Celebration" on the grounds of the former George Clem School tosses a baseball at a dunking booth target as other youngsters wait their turn. In the background is the former George Clem School, which now is the administrative headquarters of the Greeneville City School System.

Please see CELEBRATION, Page A-9



Sun Photo by Bill Jones

Louise Brookings Outlaw, 89, of Severn, Md., was honored as the oldest graduate of George Clem School to attend Saturday afternoon's "Eighth of August Emancipation Celebration."

Weather

Greeneville and Vicinity:

Today — Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 90. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph or less.

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening — a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 60s. Winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the morning — Then a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Winds 10 mph or less. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening.

Obituaries

MARVIN U. CUTSHAW
LANI BRYNN HINKLE
ROBERT F. TALIAFERRO
ROBERT E. WALLACE
Obituaries on Page A-10

Celebration

Starts on Page A-1

African-Americans in Tennessee since shortly after the Civil War and was once celebrated on whatever day of the week Aug. 8 fell on, Ripley said during a Saturday interview.

Now, he said, the event is celebrated on the weekend before Aug. 8.

He recalled that during his childhood here in the 1950s and 1960s, the day often was marked with a parade down Main Street and drew hundreds of visitors from other communities around the state and nation.

"I remember one year an entire busload of members of one family came here from other parts of the state for a family reunion on Aug. 8," Ripley recalled.

Ripley also said that when he was a youngster, the Eighth of August Celebration marked the time of year that African-American children here received new clothing.

"Everyone got new outfits," he said. "And we couldn't wait to get old enough to go to the (Aug. 8 Celebration) dance."

During his childhood, Ripley recalled, the Eighth of August Celebration in Greeneville drew participants from across Tennessee and from other states.

"Greeneville was the place to be," he said.

The tradition of returning to, or visiting, Greeneville for the Eighth of August Celebration continues, to some degree.

"We have one young lady who is here this year from Ontario, Canada," Ripley said.

Other organizers said some visitors from Massachusetts also were present on Saturday.

Began Friday Night

Ripley noted that the festivities began with a Friday evening street dance on Davis Street outside the Negro Women's Civic Club, which co-sponsors the celebration.

The street was closed to vehicle traffic.

The Friday evening dance gave Wesley Heights community members a chance to welcome and visit with relatives and friends who had returned "home" from other parts of the country.

The dance, Ripley said, also featured a disc jockey who played a variety of music.

Visitors Comment

Among the out-of-town visitors who returned home for this year were a number of

men who said they had grown up in Greeneville, but had moved to other parts of the country.

Several of the men are direct descendants of African-American leaders who in 1886 chartered what is now known as Wesley Cemetery in the Wesley Heights Community as a burial ground for African-Americans.

Crystal Montgomery, a Greeneville resident who is spearheading efforts to restore the Wesley Cemetery off Floral Street and to learn the identities of those buried in unmarked graves there, said on Saturday that researchers had only recently learned the identities of those who chartered what was then known as Pleasant Hill Cemetery. **Please see accompanying article.**

The Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association's original members, she said, were Rufus Vance, James Arter, Newton Cannon, Miles Morris, Ransom Montgomery, Thompson Clem and Lee Cannon.

On Saturday, Crystal Montgomery noted that a sign donated by Signs Plus of Greeneville and bearing the names of the men who were charter members of the cemetery association has been installed at the Wesley Cemetery.

Montgomery also introduced a *Greeneville Sun* reporter to several men who are descendants of two of the seven charter members of the cemetery association.

Brothers Tony and Brent Hall, of Greeneville, are descendants of charter member Rufus Vance. Kevin Shipe, John Arnett and Ricky Smith of the Washington, D.C., area, are descendants of cemetery association charter member Ransom Montgomery.

Also present was Larry Montgomery, another descendant of Ransom Montgomery.

All six men said they never miss an opportunity to take part in the Eighth of August Celebration.

"Everyone who was born here appreciates The Eighth of August," said John Arnett, who was born in Greeneville, but has lived in Washington, D.C., for many years.

He described Greeneville as "the friendliest town in the U.S.A."

He said he had been away from Greeneville for 21 years.

"We always come back home for the celebration," he said.

Larry Montgomery, who was born in Greeneville but now resides in Trenton, N. J., said he considers the Eighth of August to be "a celebration

of independence" for African-Americans and a chance to reconnect with old friends.

"We come back (to Greeneville), fellowship with each other and enjoy each other's company," he said of the trek "home" to Greeneville each August. "Basically, you come back to your roots."

Tony and Brent Hall, who continue to live in Greeneville, said they enjoyed seeing old friends return home each year for the Eighth of August Celebration.

"We've been here forever," Tony Hall said, noting that he and his brother love to see their childhood friends who return home each August.

Kevin Shipe said he left Greeneville 24 years ago to live with his older brother in Frederick, Md., but has always striven to return home for the Eighth of August Celebration.

"We're all family because we grew up together," Brent Hall said. "We know what it's like to struggle and make it. We come to (the celebration) to say 'hello' and thank God that we've made it."

Crystal Montgomery said that Heritage Gardens and Irene's Flower Shoppe of Greeneville had donated flowers and plants for the cemetery.

As has been the case for the past several years, the celebration continued from noon until 6 p.m. Saturday on the



Photo Special to the Sun

Airman Andrew Hamm Honored

Airman 1st Class Andrew Hamm, a 2003 graduate of Greeneville High School, recently won "Airman of the Month" honors at his base. Hamm is a medical technician serving at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. He is the son of Ron and Linda Hamm of Mosheim.

grounds of the former George Clem School on Floral Street.

The building, which now houses the administrative offices of the Greeneville School System, is named for pioneering African-American educator George Clem, who is buried in the Wesley Heights cemetery a short distance from the building.

Ripley, who was master of ceremonies for the Saturday afternoon portion of the celebration at the former George Clem School, used a public address system to announce trivia questions related to the Eighth of August, introducing entertainment acts and handing out door-prizes.

Assisted By Donation

During an interview near the end of the event, Ripley said he wished to thank the estate of Margaret Patterson Bartlett for a financial contribution that helped pay the expenses associated with this year's celebration.

The late Margaret Patterson Bartlett was a granddaughter of President Andrew Johnson.

Specifically, he said, some of the funds from the \$1,000 contribution paid for the inflat-

able rides dunking tank that children enjoyed during the hot Saturday afternoon and a "train" that carried youngsters around the school grounds.

The Saturday afternoon portion of the celebration also featured games, contests, information booths and food vendors.

Among the information booths was one operated by the Wesley Cemetery Association and staffed, in part, by volunteers from the African-American History Roundtable.

Randi Knott, one of the volunteers, said volunteers had spoken to the many members of extended African-American families who had returned "home" from other parts of the nation. By about 3 p.m. Saturday, Knott said, volunteers had learned the names of 37 more people who are buried in the Wesley Cemetery.

Knott said volunteers also worked to gather oral history from celebration visitors about Greeneville's African-American community during the early 20th century.

In addition, she said, volunteers asked visitors to complete genealogy forms that volunteers hope to use to develop

a better understanding of the origins of Greeneville's African-American community.

She noted that one bit of oral history gathered on Saturday indicated that the Manuels, a prominent local African-American family, traces its roots, at least in part, to free black masons and brick manufacturers who lived in Greeneville prior to the Civil War.

Ripley said the George Clem Multicultural Association hopes to attract corporate sponsors in coming years to enable the Eighth of August Celebration to grow.

"I hope we can have a parade again some day," he said.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME...AGAIN!

School is fast approaching! Want a really neat keepsake of your child's 1st day of school? **THE GREENEVILLE SUN** is having a **1st Day of School Page** for all kids going to kindergarten or pre-school. All you have to do is take a photo of your child on his or her 1st day of school, submit it to **THE GREENEVILLE SUN** by August 25th, and on September 2nd, your picture will appear in our paper. This is a fun way to remember your child on their first day of school. Give you and your child something to cherish.

1st Day of School Entry Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
 Day Time Phone _____
 Home Phone _____
 Child's Name _____
 Parent's Name _____
 Grandparent's Name (optional) _____
 Age _____
 Message (up to 35 words) _____

Deadline August 25th, 2006



Leticia Celeste McGovern
 Parents: John & Caroline McGovern
 Grandparents: J.D. & Maude McGovern; Billy & June Mays
 Age: 5