

# Slain LR man a familiar face on rock scene

## Music devotee, 43, shot dead

SCOTT CARROLL  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

At the smoky, crowded bars that host Little Rock's hardest-rocking musicians, the company was good, the beer flowed and the music was loud — just the way Terry "TC" Edwards liked it.

But for the past week, something's been missing. Him.

Little Rock police on Thursday identified a man who was found shot to death over the weekend as Edwards, a staple of the local music scene who attended thousands of shows over the years and befriended the performers he so enthusiastically followed. An autistic man with dreadlocks and earrings who dressed all in black, Edwards always yelled the loudest and smiled the widest, his friends said.

"There's few people that I've met in my whole life that the moment you see them, your mood lightens up," said Jeff Zapika, a Little Rock guitarist who tours with the band Green Day and knew Edwards since 1991. "Or to feel somebody walk up from behind and squeeze your arm and know immediately who it is and smile. He was just an amazing figure to have around."

Edwards was 43. Police found his body in the driveway of a home at 2221 Howard St. after responding to an alarm at the residence shortly before 4 a.m. Sunday. Edwards' friend and caretaker, Little Rock filmmaker Mike Poe, said that "TC" had called a roommate shortly before and said he was walking home.

Police spokesman Lt. Sidney Allen said Thursday that little evidence had been recovered from the scene, north of the State Fairgrounds, and that witnesses have been hard to find.

Edwards was more than a fan to the musicians and bar denizens who shared his passion for rock 'n' roll. He was family.

Pizza D'Action general manager Vince Zakrzewski said that he and others would drive Edwards home, feed him, party with him and play in an annual "Punkers vs. Rockers" flag football game. Almost every night about midnight, Edwards would walk into Pizza D's, the rock 'n' roll joint closest to his home, after getting off from his job as a dishwasher.

"He'd come up here and he'd stay right there," Zakrzewski said, pointing to a jukebox, "and turn on a good old rock 'n' roll song. And he'd start yelling to it, really. You could understand every couple words from him."

Edwards also frequented Midtown Billiards and Vino's.

Poe, 42, had been Edwards' caretaker for about the past decade. He said the two met in junior high school and reunited in their 20s. After Poe learned that Edwards had become homeless and had no family, he took him in. Poe would later find Edwards a place of his own, enroll him in Social Security and help him find jobs.

With the help of the local music community, Poe also fulfilled one of Edwards' life-long dreams — he made him a rock star.

"The community adopted him. He said he wanted to be a rock star, so we made him

a rock star. ... Everywhere he went, he got free food, free drinks. People treated him like a celebrity. Everybody wanted to get to know him, and once he got over his autism and got comfortable with it and had a few drinks, he would open up," he said.

Edwards eventually became the frontman in three eponymous metal bands: TC and The Eddies, TC and The Ponies, and TC and The Piranhas. His last show, with The Eddies, was two months ago at Pizza D's. Zakrzewski said it was a typical performance from Edwards with lots of air guitar and indiscernible lyrics screamed at the top of his lungs.

In other words, an epic show.

"Everybody loved it," Zakrzewski said. "He was just up there having a blast."

Edwards' friends said he couldn't play like his idols in AC/DC, Judas Priest or Motley Crue, but he had just as much passion for rock. Jeremy Partin, former Little Rock resident and bass guitarist, saw it the first time he met Edwards in 1991 at a downtown music shop.

"I saw this scruffy-looking black guy walk up to me and say, 'Hey, do you like Ozzy [Osborne]?' I said yeah. He said, 'You like metal, don't you?' And he grabbed a guitar off the wall and proceeded to play 'Crazy Train' for the next 20 minutes.

"And, understand, he butchered it. But it was very endearing," Partin said. "That began a conversation about metal with TC that lasted 20 years."

Pizza D's had become a memorial to Edwards on Thursday. On the bar top, just inside the entrance, was a plaque bearing his name. It was flanked by poinsettia flowers and cigarettes. There was also a World Wrestling Entertainment championship belt that Edwards, a professional wrestling fan, was known to carry. Below it was a sign reading "TC's Scream Zone."

Outside, the marquee read, "TC IS METAL."

The pizza and music joint had collected more than \$5,000 to cover Edwards' funeral expenses Thursday and is hosting a show tonight to raise more, according to Zakrzewski. Midtown Billiards is hosting a fundraising concert Sunday, and Edwards' former bandmates in TC and The Eddies will perform Dec. 28 at Vino's to collect money.

Poe had been filming Edwards for a documentary about their lives called *TC and Me ... A Little Rockumentary*. Over the past 10 years, he recorded their trips across the country together. Most memorable was a visit to Los Angeles, where Edwards attended the Academy Awards and saw the ocean for the first time.

He also attended a performance by his favorite band, '80s metal tribute group Steel Panther. The band invited him on stage for a screaming contest, Poe said.

Poe said the documentary has become his life's work and that he intends to finish it. But Edwards' death has changed its tone.

Police said Thursday that they had no suspect in the slaying. An investigation is ongoing.

"He was really just a lover of music," Poe said. "And a rock star."

# Killer appeals life sentence

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The oldest of two brothers sentenced to life in prison in the 2012 murder of a co-worker at a Mexican restaurant has submitted his appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Kiywuan Perry, 26, who began the appeal of his June sentences for capital murder and aggravated robbery, should be set free, according to his attorney, who argues that Perry was convicted without substantive physical evidence and with testimony from accomplices who received lesser charges.

Perry, and his brother, Zackeya Perry, 21, were convicted in 2013 in the killing of Jesus Herrera at

the now-shuttered El Chico restaurant on Rodney Parham Road in Little Rock.

A getaway driver, Quantez Dobbins, as well as the mother of Kiywuan Perry's child, Kenya Smith, also were charged in the crime but received shorter sentences.

Attorneys for Perry argued that the testimony of others involved in the crime was not credible and also argued that Perry's defense should have been allowed to present the jury with "interrogatory verdict forms," which would let the jury rule on whether the other witnesses were accomplices.

Both Perry brothers remain in prison.

# Grand Champion celebration



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN

Christian Roberts (left), Bradley Diffie (center), Dillon Cullins and other Star City High School band members play a game during a reception Thursday celebrating the band's Grand Champion award last month at the state High School Marching Band Championship and being invited to play at next year's Chick-Fil-A Bowl in Georgia.

# State's departing Sen. Pryor engaged to wed NLR woman

SARAH D. WIRE  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — Despite having little time left in the U.S. Senate, Mark Pryor smiled widely Thursday when he told reporters he is engaged to Joi Whitfield of North Little Rock.

The Democrat from Little Rock lost his re-election bid in November and is leaving the Senate after two terms. U.S. Sen. John Boozman spoke Thursday on the Senate floor about Pryor's service, moments after Pryor, 51, spoke with reporters.

Whitfield, 52, was in the Senate gallery during Pryor's farewell speech on the Senate floor Monday.

"God has also brought an old sweetheart back into my life — Joi — with whom I attended the sixth and seventh grades. So, when I say God has brought me joy, I mean it. Literally," the senator said in his speech.

Pryor and Whitfield both attended Pulaski Heights Middle School. He said they reconnected 1½ years ago, when they both were going through divorce.

"I saw her at a groundbreaking in North Little Rock. ... I hadn't seen her in 10 years and we started talking," Pryor said.

On Monday, Pryor and Whitfield had planned to attend the premiere of a movie directed by Angelina Jolie titled *Unbroken* at The Newseum, a Washington museum dedicated to news, but it was very busy, he said, so instead they went to dinner at Ted's Bulletin, a Washington-area chain specializing in American comfort food and pastries. Pryor said he proposed after they ate.

"It was great. It was fun," he said, sporting a broad grin



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RACHEL CHANEY

U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor and Joi Whitfield (pictured at a North Little Rock event earlier this year) are engaged to be married. The Democratic lawmaker, who lost his bid for re-election, proposed Monday at a Washington, D.C., restaurant.

as he walked down a Senate hallway Thursday. "We're really happy."

He said they are planning on a February wedding but still have to work out the details.

Whitfield leads Big Dog Homes LLC, a real-estate company based in North Little Rock, and served on the Central Arkansas Transit Authority board. Pryor has said he is not sure of his plans after he leaves the Senate, beyond that he wants to live in Arkansas.

Pryor has two adult children from his first marriage.

Also Monday, Boozman, a Republican from Rogers, spoke on the Senate floor about how well Arkansas' two senators worked together.

"While we don't always agree on policy, we always agree that we need to do what is best for our nation," Boozman

said. "He's always ready to extend a hand to the other side of the aisle to get support. He always has Arkansas on his mind."

Boozman missed Pryor's speech Monday, when several other senators spoke about Pryor and gave him a standing ovation.

Boozman said he and Pryor tried to follow the long-standing tradition in the Arkansas delegation of working together regardless of party. When Boozman was first elected, he was the only Republican member of the delegation. Pryor is currently the only Democrat; he lost to Republican U.S. Rep. Tom Cotton.

"I value his friendship and thank him for his service and appreciate all he's done for the people of Arkansas and wish him well in the next chapter of his life," Boozman said.

# Paragould officer involved in gunfire

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

PARAGOULD — Arkansas State Police are investigating an officer-involved shooting in Paragould, spokesman Bill Sadler said Wednesday.

According to a news release from the Paragould Police Department, officers responded Wednesday morning to a disturbance call on Rector Road.

"An officer-involved shoot-

ing occurred as a result of that disturbance," the news release states. "One person has been transported for medical treatment and is in stable condition."

The officer is on administrative leave pending the outcome of the state police investigation.

The Paragould Police Department has 46 officers, according to its website.

# Today's radar speed checks

Little Rock and North Little Rock police and the Pulaski County sheriff's office will use radar to detect speeding at these locations. Police and sheriff's deputies may conduct radar checks in other locations as well.

**Little Rock:** John Barrow Road  
**North Little Rock:** Main Street  
**Pulaski County:** Kanis Road

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25812	SRX	\$46,095	\$7,179		25820	ATS	\$42,145	\$7,238	\$9,238
25527	ESV	\$75,315	\$14,000		25842	ATS	\$44,360	\$7,450	\$9,450
25436	ESC	\$76,000	\$13,000		25537	XTS	\$45,875	\$8,144	\$10,144
25395	ESC	\$84,065	\$13,000		25773	ATS	\$45,965	\$7,631	\$9,631
					25685	XTS	\$52,240	\$8,919	\$10,919
					25583	CTS	\$59,320	\$10,903	\$14,903
					25693	CTS	\$59,445	\$11,028	\$15,028
					25618	CTS	\$60,120	\$11,123	\$15,123
					25707	XTS	\$63,510	\$10,273	\$12,273
					25695	XTS	\$63,510	\$10,273	\$12,273
					25515	CTS	\$63,610	\$11,398	\$15,398
					25699	XTS	\$65,955	\$10,640	\$12,640

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