



Owl bet you didn't see that coming – A Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) was recently captured and banded at Ozark Natural Science Center in Huntsville. This small species is silent during winter and migratory patterns are unknown, as the birds of prey fly under the radar. A study by ONSC and the Univ. of Arkansas hopes to track their migration. Story p. 19. **PHOTO BY MITCHELL PRUITT**

Mayor's Task Force forges ahead

NICKY BOYETTE

The Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development gathered in the lobby of the Auditorium for its first meeting of the year, and almost 30 people showed up. In addition to task force members were citizens wanting to make sure their industries were included in the conversation.

Moderator Dee Purkeypile said the idea for the task force sprang from the need to enhance the revenue stream for the city, and now that they have had the first few productive brainstorming sessions, the time had come for "action items."

He said the task force would be comprised of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the City Advertising and Promotion Commission (CAPC), the Carroll County Cooperative (C3), the Planning Commission, Eureka Springs City Council, plus four subcommittee seats for retailers, galleries, healing and other arts, attractions, and lodging and dining industries.

Purkeypile said the subcommittees would set up their own meetings for generating growth in tourism and attracting new light industry, thereby increasing full-time jobs, then report back to the core group.

Chamber Director Mike Bishop said they are working on bringing together materials for attracting new businesses to town. Sandy Martin displayed a "not-ready-for-prime-time" booklet she called a toolkit, containing everything a prospective businessperson would need to know. She said they have identified what businesses would fit well here, and intend to prepare a multi-

media presentation to complement the toolkit.

Bishop added the Chamber has also been working on a list of vacant properties and properties for sale to facilitate a move to the area by prospective businesses.

As for the role of city government in attracting new businesses to town, Mayor Butch Berry stated, "We're here to encourage people to come here. There aren't any problems we can't solve."

Local assets speak up

Lorna Trigg explained there is much more to the local arts community than just the galleries uptown. She cited a list of healing arts far beyond just massage and acupuncture available here, and added that the town boasts visual artists, performing artists, jewelers and even farmers who have made an art out of growing vegetables. "We are contributing to the financial well-being of the city," she said. "We create events with these modalities and we bring visitors to town."

Carol Brown followed by commenting, "Eureka Springs is the main event." She called Eureka Springs a jewel, with the artists as diamonds enhancing the main event. She claimed people come here to have memorable experiences, and everyone can find something they want. "We should advertise we already have what they want," adding that the farmers' market is an extraordinary event in town that deserves to be promoted.

Sally Overby spoke for the Gallery

TASK FORCE continued on page 17

This Week's INDEPENDENT Thinker

Masha, who lives in Obninsk, Russia, spent her time walking from house to business to depot to park, looking for food. She seemed to prefer independence to being cooped up by the fireplace with someone who reads books.

One night last week, a baby boy was abandoned, left in a box in a stairwell with just a knit hat and a few nappies. Talk about a cold war – the baby boy was bound to lose his life to freezing weather that night – until Masha heard him cry and climbed in the box with him. She kept the baby alive until passersby found them.

Paramedics called Masha "a really rational creature."



PHOTO FROM TWITTER

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They say your memory is the first thing to... something.

CAPC sets event, project support amounts

NICKY BOYETTE

Six local applicants had asked for marketing support from the Eureka Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission (CAPC), and following a thoughtful discussion at the Jan. 14 meeting, commissioners agreed to allocate \$14,083 for them. Requests were from the Eureka Springs Independent Film Festival, Books in Bloom, the Village Arts & Crafts Fair, Springtime in the Ozarks, the Veteran's Day Parade and accompanying activities, and the Parks Commission for its trails brochure.

Executive Director Mike Maloney presented requests and said he had used the rating system developed by commissioner Damon Henke to "get a feel for the possible return [in tax dollars]."

First on the list was the Eureka Springs Independent Film Festival. Sandy Martin represented the request, asking for \$5000 for printed materials and banners. Christopher Crane, director of the Arkansas Film Commission, had committed a \$1500 sponsorship to the event, which they intend to earmark for bringing in "star power."

When asked her opinion of the initial festival last year, Martin replied, "We beat Hot Springs in our first year... I was blown away." She mentioned the event would be in April this year, and a new category will be movies made with mobile phones. There will also be workshops, such as moviemaking for kids.

Henke commented film festivals are popular now, and they bring in a younger generation. He supported granting the full request. Commissioner Dustin Duling called it a progressive event with a great upside. "Put as much into it as we can," he said.

Vote was unanimous to allocate \$5000 to the film festival.

Duling commented Books in Bloom is a one-day event on a Sunday, so it would not bring in many visitors, "but it is a good event and we should do what we can."

Commissioners agreed on \$1833.

The commission allotted \$600 each for the two Village Arts & Crafts events, Springtime in the Ozarks received \$2800, Parks got \$2400 for printing its brochure, and the Veteran's Day events garnered \$850.

Court ruling

Chair Charles Ragsdell announced that a Pulaski County Circuit Court judge ordered the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock to stop payments to their respective Chambers of Commerce because the arrangements violated the state constitution's ban on cities providing funds to private businesses without getting something in return.

He speculated the decision might eventually become a statewide ruling, and it affirmed his reading of the enabling CAPC statute that the commission can contract for services

only for tourism events or conventions, but cannot support the Chamber.

"Regardless of good intent, it is unconstitutional," he said.

Director's report

• Maloney announced they are accepting résumés for an assistant events manager, a 20-hour per week position. He said the job description is available at capc.biz.

• "Eyes are looking at us," Maloney said regarding the Facebook site, which continues to draw more viewers each month as well as garnering 33,000 likes.

• Maloney said because he placed a full-page ad in *Arkansas Bride*, they now have access to more than 1300 potential customers for the local wedding industry.

• He mentioned a new musical variety act has shown interest in moving into the Pine Mountain Theater.

Other business

Commissioner Terry McClung suggested the commission put \$70,000 from reserves into an interest-bearing account. Finance Director Rick Bright said that now would be a good time to do it, and after a brief discussion the idea was approved by a 4-0 vote. Bright will explore their options and report back.

Next workshop will be Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 4 p.m., at the CAPC office. Next regular meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m.

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JPs defund airport staff

NICKY BOYETTE

"Who is going to operate the airport?" Al Iller asked the Carroll County Airport Commission at the Jan. 16 meeting. "And what about the assurances and compliances?"

Chair Morris Pate announced he and airport staff recently learned that, according to Justice of the Peace Jack Deaton, there are no staff positions at the airport now. The 2015 budget passed by the Carroll County Quorum Court included no staff positions at the airport, so they do not exist. Pate said no one from the county had told airport manager Dana Serrano and bookkeeper Lanna Fletcher, so they continued to work into January.

Pate said he had answered the phone the previous day.

"This will be a predicament for meeting obligations," Pate observed. The 2015 budget passed by the Carroll County Quorum Court included \$4000 each month to run the airport. Pate said County Clerk Jamie Correia had told him Quorum Court instructions were for the commission to submit a financial report showing non-tax income that she would attach to an invoice, then send on to the accounts payable clerk who would issue the check for \$4000.

Pate said the commission has not received a check yet, but showed commissioners a stack of bills. He observed the bills are due and other bills would arrive, and being overdue on payments would make the debt even larger.

Pate acknowledged the court had not been satisfied with previous airport financial

reports, but said it would not take much amending to meet their demands. He also mentioned the commission would set up a separate account for the monthly allotment in preparation for a legislative audit.

Treasurer Lonnie Clark maintained he has submitted reports to the county clerk, but he did not know if JPs received copies. He also pointed out the county had not paid Serrano accrued vacation or sick leave or discussed COBRA options with her.

Commissioner Sandy Martin pointed out the county paid for Serrano's insurance, so that would indicate employment by the county, and rules of county procedure also indicate it would be the county clerk's responsibility to tell Serrano and Fletcher of the change in their status.

Former manager Sheila Evans said, "And if the electricity is cut off, this gentleman (pointing toward Harper Goodwin, pilot and tenant) can't get into his hangar. And how are you going to pay those bills?"

Commissioner Perry Evans commented, "And there are assurances with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) we must comply with. It's going to get stinky... they're messing with things they know nothing about."

Martin said the court had asked for a business plan, so she would produce one for them. Her sense was to prepare everything the court asked for, send it to them along with the bills and see what happens.

Perry Evans, showing frustration, reminded everyone of a medical plane which

had landed at the airport, and ambulances were bringing patients to CCA for dialysis. "They don't understand," he said, referring to the JPs. And Evans named a long list of local businesses that fly in and out of CCA.

"And there is no one here to answer the phone!" Sheila remarked. "It took us years to get to this point, and people will forget about us quickly."

Clark said he would go to Ft. Worth to meet with FAA administrators to see what help they can provide. He said he wanted to plan for a self-sustaining airport so the commission does not depend of the quorum court to pay its bills.

Competition

Perry Evans stated the FAA made it very clear that airports should not have tenants who are in direct competition with them. Evans sees that Tri-State Airmotive, tenant on the airport property which also rents out hangar space, is in direct competition with CCA.

"So I'm supposed to stop leasing?" Larkin Floyd, owner of Tri-State, asked.

"Yes, according to the FAA," Pate replied.

Floyd pointed out the many years he has been operating at the airport, and Iller answered, "Lots of things have been done out of compliance. That doesn't mean you shouldn't start complying."

Clark added the FAA had said hangars were to be used for aviation purposes only. Even building an airplane would not comply.

Floyd said he would call the FAA.

Next meeting will be Friday, Feb. 20, at noon.

Allegiance counting the cost on new hospital

NICKY BOYETTE

Chris Bariola, CEO of Eureka Springs Hospital, told the Hospital Commission Monday afternoon, "The good news is I have no bad news." He was referring to progress toward the possibility of a new hospital being built on the western outskirts of Eureka Springs by Allegiance, the company that leases operation of ESH.

Bariola announced Allegiance had officially retained Morrison Architecture of Holiday Island as architects for the project, and said he would be meeting Tuesday with a cost estimator they anticipate will help determine what Allegiance can afford.

Bariola said he and his team had put what they envisioned they would need at the new facility into words, and were told their

words equaled a 60,000 sq. ft. facility, which Bariola said is far larger than Allegiance can afford to build.

The consultant, he said, would help determine what they can afford yet still improve services. Bariola admitted it might be spring before he gets a report back from the consultant, but once Allegiance has a threshold for its budget, the project can move forward. He said they envision some of the services, such as a CT scan, possibly being housed in temporary accommodations during the transition.

Mayor Butch Berry said the city has already heard from a bond underwriter that it can acquire bonds necessary to pay for extending the city sewer to the proposed hospital site, but the city is also

looking into other funding sources.

Ozark EMS leaving

Bariola also announced he had received 30-day notice from Ozark EMS, the company which has provided non-emergency medical transports since Spring 2014. The company said there has been insufficient business for them to make it profitable.

Bariola said, "This area is more isolated than most critical care hospitals." He said working with Ozark EMS has been a success, but he sees that the service can be provided locally.

Officers and meeting times

The commission voted to maintain the same officers and meeting time. Next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 16, at 1 p.m., at ECHO clinic.





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April showers will cost more *Carroll-Boone to increase water rates*

NICKY BOYETTE

The Carroll-Boone Water District (CBWD) voted at its Jan. 15 meeting to increase the cost of water it provides for Eureka Springs, Berryville, Green Forest and Harrison from \$1.25/1000 gallons to \$1.50/1000 gallons.

Attorney Dan Bowers said the increase could begin April 1.

Engineer and consultant Brad Hammond of McGoodwin, Williams and Yates (MWY) explained the increase was necessary to pay the debt service, and the first task would be to work with the underwriters.

"Even with the increase, Carroll-Boone is less expensive than nearby districts," Hammond commented.

Disturbance along the line

Kevin Thompson told the board he owns property along the proposed parallel transmission line project, and expressed concerns about the proximity of the

proposed easement to his house. "It goes right through my wife's bathroom," he said. He also said the person he had spoken with offered him no negotiating rights and mentioned that eminent domain could be invoked. He said he was worried about damage to his property, and no one yet had answered all his questions.

Chris Hall, also an engineer and consultant of MWY, clarified with Thompson the project would not go through his home. He admitted stakes might have been improperly placed at the site, but MWY has environmental standards they must uphold. He stated the engineer would put everything back like it was.

Bowers asked for Thompson's phone number. "I promise you will get a call," he said.

"It is not our intent to ignore your concerns," Hammond observed.

Beaver Watershed Alliance

John Pennington of the Beaver

Watershed Alliance explained several issues he works on, such as education about erosion prevention and resources available for reclamation. He said data indicates Beaver Lake is close to being impaired in certain spots. New developments near the lake often do not have sewer systems, so the number of septic systems near the water is increasing.

Pennington said there are 2700 homeowners in the watershed, and his task is to find out what resources are needed to protect the water quality of the lake.

As it did last year, the board voted to donate \$5000 to BWA.

Other items

- The board voted to accept the 2014 financial audit.

- Hammond told the board the telemetry project, an upgrade of the communication system that allows the plant to monitor flow along the line, should cost less than expected.

- He also said the fluoride feed project has been delayed because of a delay in

getting the fluoride feed equipment.

- Also, Hammond announced trenching has begun on the project to move 3300 ft. of the transmission line near Green Forest because of the US 62 widening project. He said they keep an inspector on site whenever pipe is laid, and the project should be finished in April or May.

- Hammond announced they have acquired 21 easements for the parallel line project. He said at least one landowner moved away and has proved difficult to find. He said they want to finish the clearing of easements by March 15 because that is the beginning of the breeding season for Indiana bats. Hall said all trees along the easement three inches in diameter or larger must be down by then. Hammond said they would look for someone local to do the work.

- The board asked Hammond to try again to obtain bids for installing a line to their new above-ground tank.

Next meeting will be at 10 a.m., April 16, at the Freeman-Raney Water Treatment Plant.

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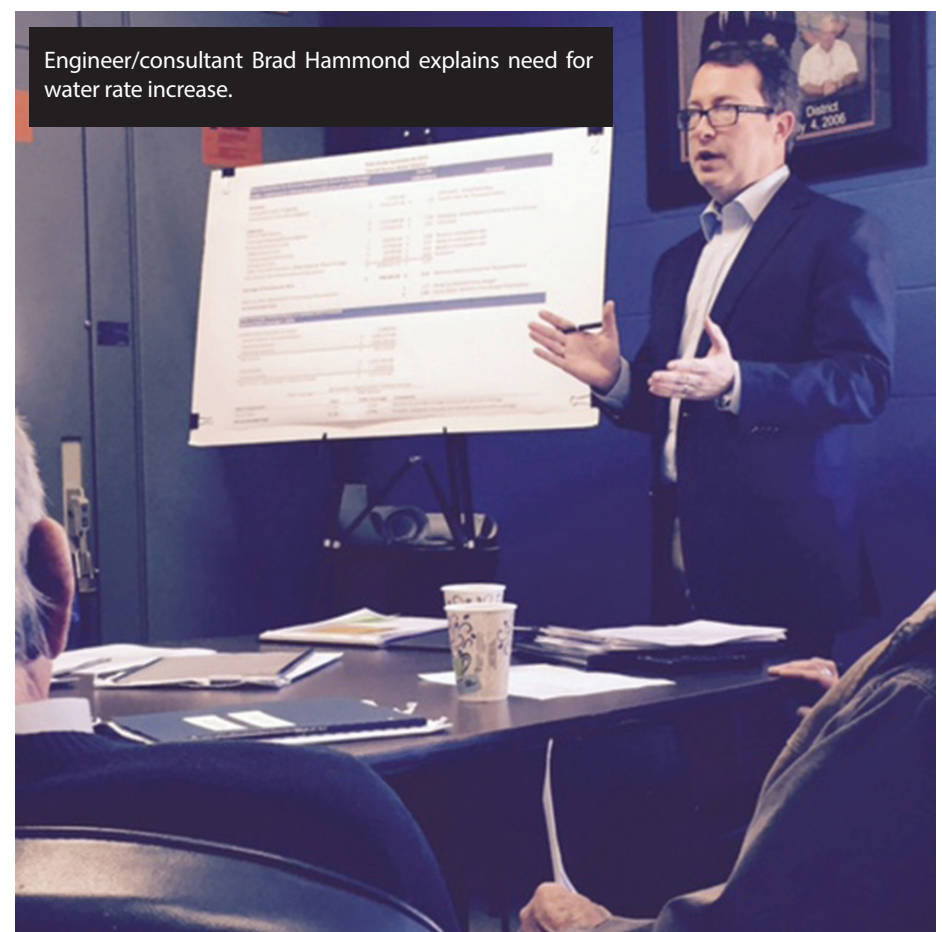


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Property owners fired up about gas line

BECKY GILLETTE

Some Carroll County property owners are facing the threat of property damage from replacement of a six-in. high pressure natural gas transmission line owned by Source Gas on US 62 between Berryville and Eureka Springs.

Homeowners received no written correspondence notifying them of the project, and Source Gas said it already has an easement for the line. However, some property owners say the easement is only 25 ft., not 50 ft. as is claimed by Source Gas representatives who put down yellow stripes to indicate the path of the pipe replacement.

Homeowner Joy Bennett, who lives near Ozark Southern Stone (formerly Johnson's Landscaping), has been told that Source Gas will cut down five large trees near her home. Bennett said her deed states there is an easement for the gas line on their property, but doesn't indicate the size of the easement. She is concerned removal of the trees would drastically harm property values.

"In addition to their beauty, these trees provide shade for our home, shelter from the wind, and a visual screen from the highway," Bennett, who has

owned the home she shares with her partner, Bob Willmeth, said. "What is it going to cost me to cool my home without those trees there?"

Source Gas has not offered to pay anything for damages, stating the company already owns a 50-ft. easement on the property. Bennett points to the Source Gas easements on either side of her that are only being maintained with mowing for about 25 feet. She said she is perplexed that they have said they will cut down an oak tree that straddles the 25-ft. mark, but aren't going to take down an electric pole that is even closer to the line.

Jim Blackwell, division manager for the Harrison division of Source Gas, said the gas line near Bennett's home is experiencing leakage and has to be replaced. It is the larger, six-in. transmission steel pipeline as opposed to smaller lines that distribute gas off the main line in Eureka Springs.

Blackwell said Source Gas owns a 50-ft. right-of-way for the line on US 62, and the bigger right-of-way is needed to dig a four-ft. deep trench, have room for the equipment to place the pipe, and access to weld the pipe after placement. He said the six-in. pipes are 40 feet long and not flexible like

plastic lines, so can't be bent around trees or other obstructions.

"We also have to maintain the right-of-way to survey for leaks and do maintenance on them," Blackwell said. "We were granted right-of-way for this gas line back in the 1950s."

Blackwell said each year the company surveys the lines and leaks are repaired, but they can only repair so long before they must replace the pipes.

"That is just our annual maintenance," Blackwell said. "We are required by the federal government to replace old lines. We just replaced a big transmission line through Berryville."

Joe McAllister, of Cherokee Mountain Gallery and Log Cabins, said the gas line easement is only for 25 feet, and was concerned he hadn't heard anything about the project.

"The pipeline runs down the northern side of our property," McAllister said. "They come out once or twice a year and clear it. It is probably not 25 feet wide. If they had that much of a clearance [50 feet], they would have been clearing it. It would be a major problem if they start clearing trees next to our

GAS LINE continued on page 19

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BECKY GILLETTE

Charges are expected to be filed by the Eureka Springs Police Department (ESPD) regarding a woman walking on Alexander Street Jan. 15 who was attacked by two unleashed dogs that she said knocked her down and bit her on the arm.

"We should be able to walk in town and not be attacked," said the woman who asked to not be identified. "The public needs to be aware there is a leash law. You can't have dogs running free and wild."

Jimmy Evans, animal control officer for ESPD, said the two dogs were taken

off the leash by their owner in order to play with another dog at a friend's house in the area.

"I have made my decision," Evans said. "There will definitely be major citations written. There will be citations for canine at large and vicious animal."

The dogs are being confined in a backyard with a tight, high fence, Evans said, and the owner has promised not to allow them off the leash again.

"She took them off leash and allowed them to play with another dog," Evans said. "That is against the law. You can't do that. If the owner had had them on a leash, none of this would have

happened."

The dogs were up to date on all their shots, including rabies shots. But Evans said he would continue to observe them for the 10-day waiting period instituted when a dog without rabies shots bites someone.

Evans encouraged anyone who has trouble with dogs threatening them to call the police.

"I remind people there is a leash law," he said. "Our animal ordinance is the town's best kept secret. There is an \$80 fine for no leash, and an \$80 fine for no city dog license. Nobody knows they need a city dog license. I write tickets

for this. The license is \$10 if the dog is sprayed or neutered and \$30, if not. You must provide proof of vaccinations. I try not to write tickets. We are all friends and neighbors. We try to get along. But repeat offenders end up getting the ticket."

There are some people who say there are more dogs than people in Eureka Springs, and yet there are currently only 19 dogs in town that have been licensed. Cats are also supposed to be licensed. Licenses are good for three years. Evans said one advantage of getting a license is that it allows him to contact the owner if the animal gets loose and is picked up.

Special audit of Circuit Clerk's office ballparks at \$25K

MIKE ELLIS

The state's Legislative Joint Auditing Committee may not take any further action on an expensive special audit of the Carroll County Circuit Clerk's office.

The committee will not meet again until the legislative session ends, in late April or early May. State Sen. Bryan King, who ordered the audit, served as chairman of that committee. King will not serve on that committee in the coming year, and said in a December interview he does not know if the committee will pursue it, adding that the committee may not even file a report.

King said he could not compare Carroll County to other counties because he has not seen an audit like this. He said he planned to ask for similar audits in other counties, but until then, could not interpret the results of this special audit.

Deputy Legislative Auditor June Barron, with the Division of Legislative Audit, said she had not seen a similar case for comparison. "This is a unique situation," she said. In a Jan. 6 telephone interview, Barron said she could not compare the auditors' findings to other counties, or assess the merits of the findings. She also said this audit may not receive any further attention.

Barron said the DLA does not itemize its accounting on a case-by-case basis, so she could not give an exact cost for this special audit. However, after reviewing it she suggested a "ballpark" figure of \$25,800.

For three weeks in November, one full-time and one part-time auditor looked

through records related to collection of fines, costs, and restitution at the circuit clerk's offices in Eureka Springs and Berryville. Circuit Clerk Ramona Wilson received the findings of that audit Dec. 11 and was given one day to respond in writing. She had only two business days' notice of an appearance before the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee in Little Rock. Only six of 39 committee members attended that session.

Barron said the short notice for the hearing was unusual, although she had seen other items handled on a rushed schedule.

Findings of the special audit, and Wilson's written responses, appeared in the Dec. 16 edition of a statewide newspaper. The special audit found some errors in procedures, but noted that money was properly collected and disbursed.

The DLA also performs regular annual audits on government offices. In 15 years, the only negative finding on Wilson's annual audits came when the bank first began sending pictures of cancelled checks and format of the bank document did not meet government specifications.

The initial newspaper stories included King's allegations of problems with collections in Carroll County, but within days, follow-up stories indicated that every county in the state struggles with collecting money — many people have died, disappeared, or remain in prison.

King denies political motives in this audit. He said he could have scheduled this audit earlier, before the November

elections. He admitted, however, that he has not seen an audit of this type during his two years on the committee. During his two years as chair, King has heard repeated accusations of using his position for partisan purposes. In the July 24, 2014 edition of the *Arkansas Times*, Editor Max Brantley wrote of King, "He's used his co-chairmanship of the Joint Auditing Committee to hound political enemies."

In an email, King told Wilson he had called the audit because "The record keeping and payments has been a issue in Carroll County for some time." In a telephone interview Dec. 18, King was asked who raised those issues, and he cited Circuit Court Judge Kent Crow, Carroll County Sheriff Bob Grudek, and Justice of the Peace Ron Flake. At the suggestion that those three, who all lost reelection bids, might have political motives, King bristled and ended the interview.

In March 2010, Crow issued a ruling saying the county could no longer act as two judicial districts, as it had for more than 100 years. Wilson would have less than three months to bring the records from Eureka Springs to an already cramped office in the Berryville courthouse. Wilson filed suit, arguing that Crow had overstepped his authority.

A clerk had never successfully sued a sitting judge in Arkansas, but the Arkansas Supreme Court ruled there was "a plain, manifest, clear, and gross abuse of discretion" on Crow's part. Before the ASC ruling came down, Flake brought up the matter of collections and raised the

issue again in the months leading up to the elections of 2012 and 2014, campaigning for Wilson's opponent from the quorum court table.

In the months leading up to the 2014 election, Flake tried to have responsibility for collections transferred to the sheriff's office. His efforts failed when the quorum court learned the sheriff would also have to take over extensive reporting and disbursements.

The circuit clerk's office collected \$145,000 in 2014, and disbursed that money among crime victims and five separate government entities. Some uncollected fines date back more than 30 years.

In June, the quorum court heard from Kevin Caveniss, a staff attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts at the Arkansas Supreme Court. Caveniss said it did not matter who the county named as its collection agent. He also said every county has a similar problem with circuit court collections, and the state needs more tools to aid in those collections.

In the December telephone interview, King said the state legislature needs to take major steps to make any meaningful changes. "The problem is statewide," he said. "With so many entities involved, this really has to be done at the state level." He expanded on that in a follow-up email interview, saying, "There needs to be better communication between circuit clerks, judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, prisons, probation and parole officers."

Elementary choir sings for the school board

NICKY BOYETTE

Family members packed the room at the Jan. 15 Eureka Springs School Board meeting as the board was serenaded by members of the elementary school choir. Music teacher Jerri Burks and librarian Kathy McCurry, each on guitar, led singers through a series of folk songs about Arkansas. Supt. David Kellogg said he hoped there would be more student participation at future board meetings.

Principals' report

- High school principal Kathy Lavender reported high school student

Wade Carter is a finalist for a scholarship worth up to \$50,000.

- Lavender also announced ESHS has been ranked as the #10 high school in the state based on test scores and is number 1242 out of all high schools in the country.

- She also said eight engineering students will be competing in the Power of Engineering competition Feb. 24 at the University of Arkansas - Little Rock during National Engineers Week.

- Lavender mentioned Jack Moyer of the Crescent and Basin Park Hotels

would take four students to Little Rock on Feb. 4 to serve as pages for legislators.

Other items

- The board approved a four-page addendum to the Student Policy Handbook.

- Kellogg announced board members Jason Morris and Gayla Wolfenbarger will

be receiving Outstanding Board Member awards from the Arkansas School Board Association for completing at least 20 hours of training.

- The board voted to extend Kellogg's contract by one year.

Next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 19, at 5:30 p.m.

Marketplace consumers to receive new 2014 tax forms

Arkansas Insurance Commissioner Jay Bradford advised Arkansans with Health Insurance Marketplace policies to be on the lookout for new tax forms they must use to file their 2014 income taxes. The federal Health Insurance Marketplace will mail Form 1095-A to Marketplace consumers by Jan. 31.

Taxpayers will take the information provided on Form 1095-A and enter that information onto Form 8962 to compute their proper premium tax credit allowed for the year 2014.

Open enrollment for Qualified Health Plans end Feb. 25. For more information, consumers may contact the Arkansas Health Connector Resource Center at the Insurance Department at (855) 283-3483 or Aid.info.AHCD@arkansas.gov. The federal call center is all available at (800) 318-2596.

Sunday at EUUF

All are welcome at the Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 Elk St., Sundays at 11 a.m. for a program followed by refreshments.

On Jan. 25 Marie Howard will speak on "Language Matters." Marie taught for 45 years, starting in Montana in the proverbial one-room schoolhouse.

Later in her teaching career, she was named the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year. She taught the Gifted and Talented Program in Waupaca, Wis., the Hmong literacy program and the University of Wisconsin's Advanced English Program.

Childcare is provided. Extra parking at Ermilio's Restaurant, 26 White Street.



Tea for Tigers – Representatives of the Ladies of St. James Episcopal Church presented Turpentine Creek President Tanya Smith with a check for \$2,245 on New Year's Eve. TCWR was the recipient of the 48th Silver Tea held annually at the Crescent Hotel. From left are TCWR Volunteer Coordinator, Ivy Cooper; Silver Tea Chair, Peggy Pot; TCWR President, Tanya Smith; St. James Episcopal Churchwomen Treasurer, Suzanne Tourtelot; and Silver Tea Co-Chair, Jane Acord.

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Reduce, Reuse, **RECYCLE**

Grab your cape, eat some cod

Looking for an early fall adventure? Cape Cod with Martha's Vineyard is a wonderful place to visit during autumn. Hop on board for a trip Sept. 18 – 29 including 11 days and 10 nights on a luxury motor coach leaving from the Holiday

Island Recreation Center. A deposit of \$75 will hold your seat for this exciting trip. For a flyer or more information, contact Janice Murphy at the Rec. Center (479) 253-9890 or at (479) 244-7669.

GUESTatorial

Steps for Survival

We are playing those mind games together ...

It is all about money. When you buy electrons sold at 10 cents per kWh, utilities cover the cost using federal subsidies, and we pay the price of poor health and global climate change. We should have listened to John Lennon, just *Imagine!*

The Grid is the problem, not the solution

"The utility industry is for the most part heavily regulated, fragmented and obsolescent in structure and performance. Reliant largely on fossil-fueled steam generation from mammoth plants and a patchwork of wiring called the grid, the system – if it can even be called that – is inefficient, expensive, stubbornly resistant to modernization and almost always on the brink of overload and failure. Consumers demand low rates; utility companies, protected usually by public service commissions, fight investments and change; and politicians cater to electoral forces," said Wesley K. Clark, retired US Army General and NATO's Former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

No Burning

Burning coal or natural gas is a deadly solution. Yes, we will have a warm house, but we will perish from

global climate change. This is a deadly, dumb, and immoral strategy. Like killing the "goose that laid the golden egg," the coal industry is making sure no one survives. Knowingly causing harm is morally wrong – for 30 pieces of silver.

No Wheeling

Wheeling is the name used by utilities to sell low-cost electrons in high price markets. Using subsidized coal from Wyoming flowing on railcars non-stop like a coal river, a 35 year-old coal-fired plant, with scrubbers in 2016, American Electric Power sells low-cost electrons far, far away. Like UPS, AEP gets paid to transport electrons, and makes a profit at the destination point. We pay for the transmission lines. In 2013, Southwest Power Pool said there was a need for new transmission lines. Now we know AEP, SWEPCO, Entergy, AECC, and Carroll Electric Cooperative wanted the line to wheel power to Southern Missouri. SPP owes everyone in the Ozarks an apology. SWEPCO needs to pay for the damage done.

Clean Coal is an Illusion

At the May 2014 ECO:NOMICS *Wall Street Journal* conference, Nick Akins, electrical engineer, Chairman, President, and CEO of American Electric Power made a surprising statement: "There has to be a solution to carbon capture and storage, because we have so

much coal." Nick has a brilliant idea to solve global climate change: drill holes in the ground to store carbon dioxide. Like fracking, it does not work. Nick's logic is scary, something a "C" high school student would say. World hunger, Ebola, deadly flu, and all known diseases would go away using Nick's logic.

EPA Clean Power Plan can't be delayed

Last week EPA gave six more months to the coal cartel to plan a way to meet the 30 percent carbon dioxide reduction. Unfortunately, Arctic meltdown won't wait. We need to act. The Carbon Fee and Dividend program along with the EPA Building Blocks are our best hope to survive.

Bottom Up Solutions

People have the power. Yes, we do. With more than 300 million souls in the US, we have the power of the purse and power to choose people in Congress. We have to use the power wisely and take action. The true cost of coal by wire is not 10 cents per kWh; it is more than 1000 times what you see on your electric bill. Captive ratepayers give up the power to choose the best technology, and give utilities the power to take your land. Yes, SWEPCO will be back, unless we all go local and community solar.

Dr. Luis Contreras



WEEK'S TopTweets

@KevinFarzad: A potato don't look like much but w/ the proper preparation, it can be great in so many ways. Now go out there and be your best potato.

@DamienFahey: On my deathbed, I hope to be surrounded by family and friends while I take a few last second glances at Twitter on my iPhone.

@AngelaEhh: Nothing makes you feel more insignificant than still having 85% battery at noon.

@RealJeremiahAce: I've decided I'm not going to have kids. I love babies, but I'm just not ready for the commitment of uploading that many photos to Facebook.

@charliepantzz: Oh nothing, just editing this agreement.

And by editing, I mean writing "ool J" after every mention of an LLC.

@clarkekant: A word is worth 1/1000th of a picture.

@badbanana: Need to get up early tomorrow so I've set my neighbor's leaf blower for 6 a.m.

@__MICHAELJORDAN: I don't see why I should have to brush my teeth. You don't brush the rest of your bones, do you? It's ridiculous.

@eddiepepitone: Twitter gives me this paranoid feeling that I am being followed.

@iNusku: Christmas is my favorite four months of the year.

@MsMishe: I don't want to brag or make anybody jealous, but I can still fit into the earrings I wore in high school.

Let's keep the lead out!

The lead in our drinking water.

Eureka Springs City Council is considering a proposal by alderman Joyce Zeller to send a letter to the Arkansas Department of Health asking the state to enforce a state law prohibiting adding lead to drinking water.

Lead is a well-recognized neurotoxin particularly damaging to the unborn, babies and young children. It can cause severe mental and physical problems. It makes no sense to deliberately add lead to drinking water.

While the fluoridation countdown clock is ticking, it should be a high priority for elected officials in Eureka Springs to protect residents from fluoridation chemicals that can contain lead and other toxins. The type of fluoridation chemical chosen by Carroll-Boone Water district (CBWD) is sodium fluorosilicate sold by the Belgian company, Prayon. A Prayon specification data sheet for sodium fluorosilicate states that the product contains an average of 10 ppm and up to 50 ppm of lead.

A study published in the *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health* in April 2014 said the fluoridation products studied contained arsenic or arsenic in addition to lead, barium and “a surprising amount of aluminum.” The study concluded that such contaminant content “creates a regulatory blind spot that jeopardizes any safe use of fluoride additives.”

Pro-fluoridationists might say that the resulting lead content of the drinking water meets EPA limits. But since each batch of chemicals can vary considerably in the amount of toxic contaminants – and manufacturers are not doing batch testing – there is no way to know that.

There is a second problem: Fluoridation chemicals can leach lead out of plumbing systems, which is of particular concern in Eureka Springs with its old pipe distribution system. An article published in *Neurotoxicology* in 2007 is titled, “Confirmation of and explanations for elevated blood lead and other disorders in children exposed to water disinfection and fluoridation chemicals.”

“Living in communities with silicofluoride treated water is associated with two neurotoxic effects: (1) Prevalence of children with elevated blood lead is about double that in non-fluoridated communities,” the article states. “SiFW is associated with serious corrosion of lead-bearing brass plumbing, producing elevated water lead at the faucet.”

The study discusses how the chemical exposure could result in dental fluorosis. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed that 41 percent of U.S. youths had dental fluorosis. Pro fluoridations say this is no big deal; this is just a “minor cosmetic effect.”

However, the article published in *Neurotoxicology* states dental fluorosis is not merely cosmetic, but a “canary in the mine” foretelling other adverse health and behavioral effects.

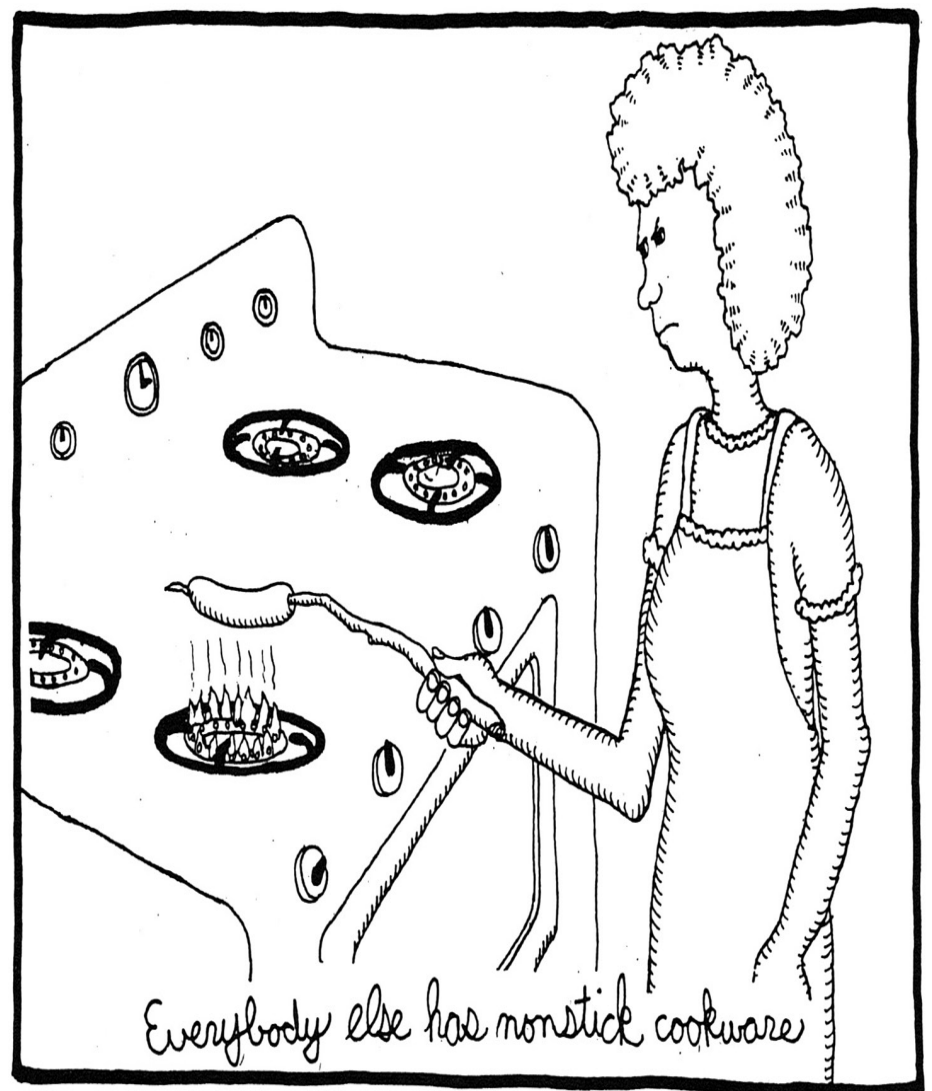
A recent study in the peer-reviewed medical journal *Lancet* confirmed earlier studies that linked fluoride in water to decreased IQ levels in children. And there is no doubt that lead can decrease IQ levels.

Researchers found that when silicofluoride is mixed with disinfectants such as chlorine or chloramines, it leaches even more lead from plumbing system. Thousands of children in Washington, D.C., got lead poisoning after chloramines and fluoridation chemicals were mixed. Because water is tested leaving the treatment plant – and not at the tap – this wasn't discovered for a long time.

The Environmental Working Group states that fluorosilicates have a unique affinity for lead. “Lead fluorosilicate is one of the most water-soluble forms of lead,” EWG said. “In fact, fluorosilicic acid has been used as a solvent for lead and other heavy metals in metallurgy. What happens when fluorosilicates in water pass through lead-containing pipes and metal fixtures? Not surprisingly, the fluorosilicates extract high levels of soluble lead from leaded-brass metal parts.

“Where does this lead go? Into our drinking water and right on into our bodies, where they wreak havoc by poisoning our heart, kidneys and blood, causing irreversible neurological damage and impairing reproductive function.”

Becky Gillette



The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS


by Dan Krotz

I frequently speculate about where a holier than thou acquaintance will spend eternity. I'm pretty sure he'll fry, if frying is on the menu. And take my word for it: the judgmental old villain is categorically guilty of the sort of spirit-exsanguinating meanness that, by itself, qualifies him for a hot time.

Such speculation is, as you may have deduced, a bit of a feel good moment. I get to imagine that So And So is going to hell yet, since God does the dirty work, am free of the responsibility for sending him there. This is perfectly logical – come on, get on the bus! – because western religion presents both collective and individual human life as a linear plot moving towards an *end*, followed by timelessness: death, judgment, hell and heaven. Here in the west, our present life is merely preparation for eternal life – which alone gives the present life meaning.

Metaphysical doodling along these lines is a source of embarrassment for nearly every 20th-century theologian. Bultman, Barth, Bonhoeffer, and even the Jesuit Karl Rahner, all dismissed traditional notions of personal survival after death. They also realized that dismissal puts believers into a classic double blind: on the one hand the idea of a personal God responsible for creating a world with evil and suffering requires an afterlife in which things are rectified and compensated for; on the other hand, traditional ideas of an afterlife seem more and more like Santa's good and naughty lists and no longer command confidence.

Personally, I'd regret a nonexistent hell more than a mythical heaven. I want and expect religious nutcases with guns to go to hell. I especially want and expect whiny political bagmen serving in legislatures to go to hell. It is possible that Ayn Rand fans will escape toasting – but I remain skeptical. And I'd like the man who explicitly defined Christianity in Matthew 25: 31-46 to actually separate the sheep from the goats, and decide who sits left and who sits right. Incidentally and completely absent of irony, I'm optimistic that I'll get a pass for being the judgmental old villain that I am.



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A little help from our friends:

- **24-hour Crisis Line for Women** – NWA Women's Shelter serving Carroll County – "Empowering families to live free of violence." (800) 775-9011 www.nwaws.org
 - **Cup of Love free soup lunches** – Hearty soup lunch Fridays from 9:30 a.m. 2 p.m. in front of Wildflower thrift shop (yellow building next to chapel) on US 62E. Cup of Love also provides soup lunches at Flint Street Fellowship Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (479) 363-4529
 - **Flint Street Fellowship food pantry, lunch, free clothing** – Pantry open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Free lunch Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free clothes/shoes closet, books and household items. (479) 253-9491 or 253-4945. Leave donations in barrel at entrance if facility is closed.
 - **Free Sunday Night Suppers** at St. James Episcopal Church, 28 Prospect, 5 – 6:30 p.m., are once again available to the community, especially those who are out of work during the winter. Suppers will continue Sunday nights through March 29.
 - **Wildflower food pantry, furniture bank and clothing** – Wildflower Chapel (US 62E) free food pantry 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Fridays. Thrift store and used furniture bank (now in big blue barn only) Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday 1 – 6 p.m. Drop off donations Thursday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 - **Celebrate Recovery** – Soul Purpose Ministries, 801 S. Springfield, Green Forest, 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Potluck meal followed by 12-step Christ-centered meetings for those suffering from addiction, habit, hang-up or hurt.
 - **No high school diploma?** Take free GED classes in the Carnegie Library Annex every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. - noon with study and tutoring for the GED test. Open to ages 18 and up. GED classes also in Berryville at Carroll County Center. Some open to ages 16 and 17 per educational requirements. For info: Nancy Wood (479) 981-0482, Carnegie Library (479) 253-8754, Carroll County Center (870) 423-4455. Offered by North Arkansas College with Carnegie Library support.
 - **Coffee Break Al-Anon Family Group Women** – Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m., Faith Christian Family Church, Hwy. 23S, (479) 363- 9495.
- Meetings at Coffee Pot Club behind Land O' Nod Inn:**
- **Alateen** – Sundays, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Email alateen1st@gmx.com or phone (479) 981-9977
 - **Overeaters Anonymous** – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Barbara (479) 244-0070
 - **Narcotics Anonymous** – Fridays, 5:30 p.m. (903) 278-5568
 - **Al-Anon Family Group (AFG)** – Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays 7 p.m.
 - **Eureka Springs Coffee Pot AA Groups** Monday – Saturday 12:30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.; Sunday – Thursday, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m. (479) 253-7956
 - **Al-Anon** Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. All other meetings: See www.nwarkaa.org

INDEPENDENT ConstablesOnPatrol

JANUARY 12

- 2:34 p.m. – Central dispatch passed along the request for assistance because an irate female was causing a disturbance at a business. Constable on patrol spoke with her and was able to calm her down, and EMS also checked her out. She left without further incident.
- 4:06 p.m. – A businessman said an individual he had problems with last week was now suspiciously driving back and forth in front of the business. Constables watched for but did not encounter the vehicle.
- 11:21 p.m. – Worker accidentally triggered an alarm as he was leaving.

JANUARY 13

- 10:42 a.m. – ESPD received a request from the high school to assist with a student, but the situation was resolved without incident.
- 12:38 p.m. – A Jack Russell terrier with no collar wandered into a business on US 62 just west of downtown. Caller told ESPD she would bring it to the kennel unless the owner claimed it, and soon enough the owner came by looking for it.
- 3:16 p.m. – Constable took a report of the theft of a wallet at an RV park.
- 3:45 p.m. – Constable went to assist at the scene of a tractor-trailer blocking Main Street, but the problem was solved before he got there.

JANUARY 14

- 8:41 a.m. – Concerned caller thought a barking dog in the nearby ravine might be in distress. Animal Control responded but did not see or hear any dogs in the vicinity.
- 10:02 a.m. – Constable responded to a neighborhood where a vehicle blocked traffic and asked the owner to clear the roadway.
- 10:12 a.m. – Motorist informed ESPD she had hit a gas can which had fallen off a truck and onto US 62.
- 12:44 p.m. – A woman spoke with ESPD about harassing communications she had received from her sister's neighbor. Constable spoke with all parties and resolved the complaint.
- 3:37 p.m. – Constable was alerted by an alarm company to a business, but staff at the business told him they did not have a problem or even know they were still using that alarm company.
- 4:36 p.m. – Constable on patrol investigated suspicious sounds coming from a supposedly vacant house and found two teens there tearing things apart. They also possessed drugs, so they were taken to the station where their parents reclaimed them.
- 6:35 p.m. – This time the constable responded to a domestic disturbance between a mother and daughter. The daughter had departed but was later picked up by sheriff's deputies and returned to the home. A male at the residence had an outstanding warrant, so the constable took him into custody.

JANUARY 15

- 10:01 a.m. – Central dispatch transferred what they thought was a welfare concern at an address just west of downtown. Constables arrived to find the caller did not live there any longer, and, when contacted, she said she had been asking about parenting classes.
- 10:28 a.m. – Guest at a tourist lodging claimed someone had broken into her vehicle during the night. Constable went to the scene and learned from someone there that the caller had backed into a tree that knocked out the back window of her vehicle. Caller eventually admitted to the witness' story.
- 10:52 a.m. – Resident who lives just west of downtown asked for extra patrols because he said someone had gotten into his vehicle during the night and had stolen a bag of money. He did not file a report since no damage was done to the vehicle.
- 4:04 p.m. – Constable searched for an alleged erratic driver in town but never saw the vehicle.

CONSTABLES continued on page 22

Just being from Eureka Springs constitutes probable cause?

BECKY GILLETTE

Eureka Springs is a liberal enclave in a largely conservative rural area. In 2006, Eureka Springs voters passed a resolution asking police enforcement to make marijuana possession enforcement a low priority. But does the reputation of Eureka Springs give police probable cause to search a car that has been stopped because the owner is from Eureka Springs?

Evidently, a Benton County Circuit Judge thinks so. Judge Robin Green listed being from Eureka Springs as an acceptable factor for probable cause when denying a motion to suppress evidence Nov. 13, 2014, in a case involving Christopher McKean of Eureka Springs.

Judges can consider a number of generally accepted triggers for having probable cause to search a vehicle. Those can include being nervous, where the suspect says he or she is going or has been, the time of day or night, and a background criminal check that indicates prior drug offenses. The police officer said McKean appeared nervous. McKean said he was nervous because he had never been pulled over without getting a ticket.

McKean's problems started with what he believes was an unjustified stop by the police officer. McKean

said he wasn't doing anything illegal when he was pulled over. He was going the speed limit, 55 mph, in the left lane near Avoca on a portion of US 62 that has four lanes. A Benton County Sheriff's vehicle was behind him when a truck – clearly speeding because it was going faster than McKean – passed him on the right.

Instead of pulling the speeding truck over, the sheriff's deputy turned his emergency lights on and pulled McKean over. He told McKean his offense was "impeding speeding." McKean isn't sure why that is against the law or even if it is against the law.

The motion to suppress evidence filed by McKean's attorney, Chris Flanagan, said McKean was made to wait outside of his vehicle for more than 15 minutes – the general limit for detaining someone without probable cause – while the police officer called for a drug-sniffing dog.

"The Defendant asserts there was no basis for detaining him over 15 minutes for the purpose of waiting on a K-9 unit while there was no reasonable suspicion for an arrest or further detention," the motion to suppress states.

After the 15 minutes had expired, the patrolman received a criminal history check that indicated

McKean had a previous drug conviction. Under questioning McKean admitted he might have a few marijuana roaches in the ashtray. That gave the officer probable cause to search the vehicle, and McKean ended up being arrested and charged with possession of slightly more than one-half pound of marijuana and possession of a small number of prescription pills. Cash in the amount of \$1,593 was found and confiscated.

Judge Green denied the motion to suppress the evidence based on issues such as McKean acting nervous, and then said in court, "There is also probable cause because Eureka Springs is known for its drug activity."

McKean said the judge is promoting profiling of not just McKean, but anyone from Eureka Springs.

"This is discrimination against not just me, but my entire community," McKean said. "This needs to be addressed. If a tag is run and they see someone is from Eureka Springs, I think there are people out there, including law enforcement, who might be more suspicious of drug activity because of that."

McKean is facing trial Feb. 2 in Benton County. Despite the fact that recreational marijuana is now legal in four states, and medicinal marijuana is legal in 23 states, Arkansas still has some of the harshest penalties for marijuana in the country, according to the Marijuana Policy Project. About 750,000 people are arrested every year for marijuana offenses in the U.S.

"This is discrimination against not just me, but my entire community."

– Christopher McKean
Eureka Springs



Horsepower to the people – Chairman Michael Merry and the Eureka Springs Hospital Commission donated an ambulance to the people of Eureka Springs on Jan. 20. Mayor Butch Berry accepted on behalf of the town's citizens and said there will be a special notation on the vehicle acknowledging the commission. From left are Bob Walling; Mary Jean Sell (hidden); Berry; Jack Pritchard; Pam Crockett; Merry; Anna Ahlman; Chris Bariola, Allegiance/hospital CEO; Billy Summers, interim ESFD Chief; and Capt. Nick Samac.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECEK

Tax-Aide available in Carroll County

Under the auspices of AARP Foundation and IRS, the Tax-Aide program will be available in Carroll County. This is a nationwide free tax preparation, free electronic filing and answers to tax questions. Businesses and rental property owners are not eligible for this program. This program is intended to assist low and middle income taxpayers of all ages with special attention over age 60. IRS provided software is used for all tax returns. All counselors are certified, having passed IRS testing.

Tax-Aide is scheduled at the Holiday

Island Community Church at 188 Stateline Drive on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. from Feb. 4 – April 6. Help is also available in Berryville at the Freeman Heights Baptist Church at 522 W. Freeman Avenue on the same days.

No appointments are necessary and AARP membership is not required. Taxpayers are required to bring their prior tax return and any current documents needed to prepare the 2014 tax return. For more information contact Local Coordinator Anne Dray at (479) 253-7611.

Auxiliary luncheon Jan. 27

Holiday Island Fire Department Auxiliary's luncheon will be held in the ballroom of the HI clubhouse Tuesday, Jan. 27 at noon with doors opening at 11:30 for social time. Cost is \$8 and reservations need to be made no later than Friday, Jan. 23 with Peggy Arnhart (479) 363-6235. Membership dues for 2015 are only \$12 and may be paid at this meeting.



Art connoisseurs – Artists Mariellen Griffith and Raven Derge enjoy the well-attended Resolutions Show at the Space last week, organized by Derge and John Rankine.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

Should auld acquaintance ...

– Dick Titus, left, chats with friends Nancy Kemp and hubby, Ron, of Rust Communications during Zeek Taylor's book signing at Crystal Bridges.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

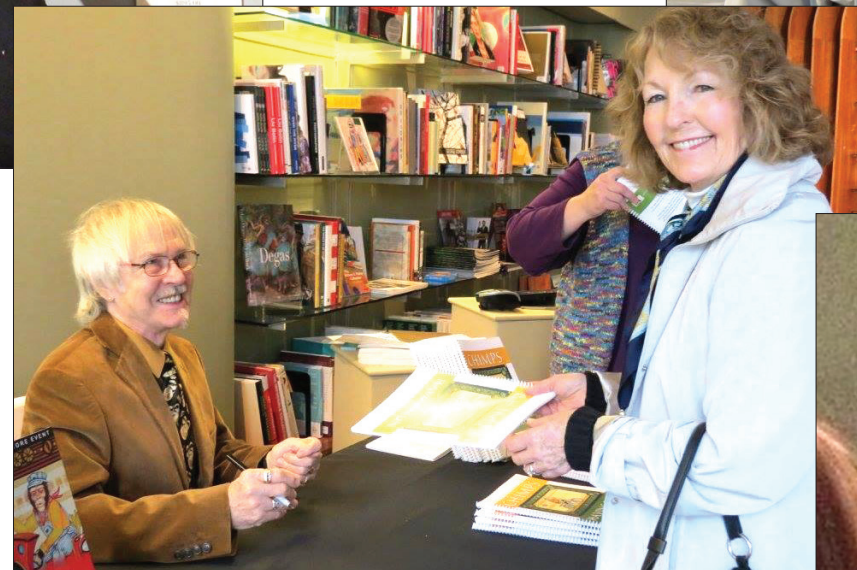


Inspired by art – Faith Shah does her best troll doll impersonation by Denise Ryan's piece, "I've No Regrets," at the Resolution artists' show at the Space.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

Hot cuppa – Farmers' Market manager, Frankie Rebieto, pairs up with a cup of hot something on a cold Thursday morning at the market. You have to admire those local farmers who come out despite the cold weather to provide us with fresh produce all winter.

PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE



Stalwart sellers – Andrew Schwerin is one provider, among others, you'll see no matter how cold it gets. As long as the roads are passable, you'll find fresh goods for your table every Thursday beginning at 9 a.m. at the Farmers' Market at Pine Mountain Village.

PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE

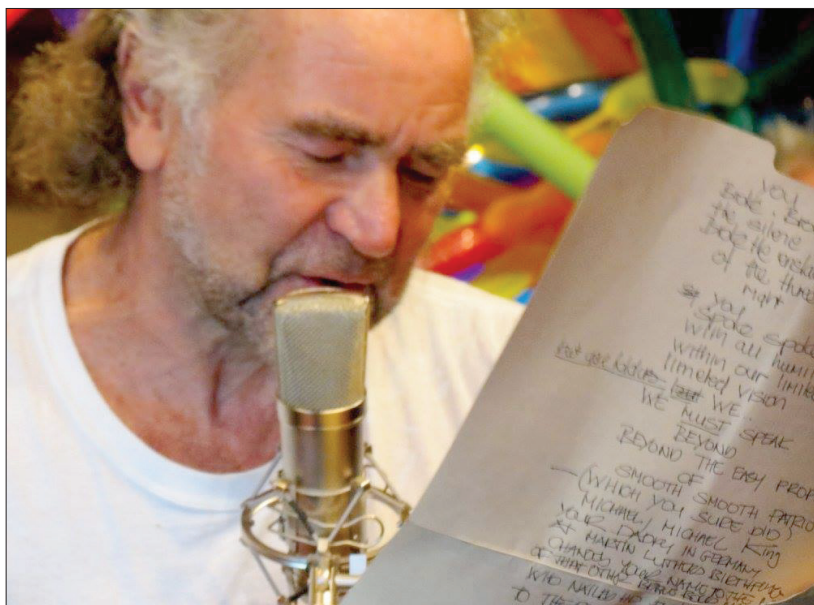
Mutual admiration – Artist Zeek Taylor signs his book for mosaic artist Fran Carlin at his Crystal Bridges book signing event.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

Mic night – Kate Lucariello's poetry is a hit during Brews' first open mic night.

PHOTO BY KENZIE DOSS





Word power – Adrian Frost read a moving original poem. Also shown are Laura Terrill, Mark Wetzel and Shakeenah Kedem.



Becky Heath

MLK Day – The community came together on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day with music, words, shrines and memorabilia to celebrate MLK; his life, death and dreams. Musicians, readers and singers rotated to the stage from 12 – 6 p.m. for an avid ever-changing audience. Poems by King were read by Shakeenah Kadem and her mother, Adrian Frost read his passionate poetry in honor of King, and the day culminated in a community group sing. A particularly relevant quote written by Adrian Frost: "A real prophet risks his life every time he opens his soul."

PHOTOS BY JAY VRECEK



Martin Johnson and Huey Logsdon



Tribute shrine – Ralph Shrine and John Rankine look over the pop-up shrine in the Carnegie library annex honoring Dr. King on MLK Day.



Moving words – Shakeenah Kedem reads poetry by Dr. Martin Luther King at the MLK Day celebration at the Library Annex Jan. 19.



Music reaches the soul – David Blankenship, Jim Dudley, Shakeenah Kedem, Mark Wetzel, Michael Dimitri and Becky Reeves Heath were among the performers.

Registration open for storytelling retreat

Actress, teacher and writer, Elaine Blanchard, will lead the three-day retreat, "Going for the Gold: A Weekend of Storytelling" at the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow March 6 – 8. This is an opportunity to look through your memories, discover your truth and tell your own story with authenticity and passion.

Join Elaine as she inspires you to connect with your best story. Participants will dig into their memories, use their imaginations and put together stories that gleam like gold! Weekend workshops will end in a Sunday afternoon performance.

Elaine is adjunct faculty at Memphis College of Art where she teaches The

Art of Storytelling, and at Memphis Theological Seminary where she teaches The Preacher as Storyteller. She has written and performed two one-woman shows about her life story. Memphis Women of Achievement named Elaine the 2014 Woman of Vision for her creative storytelling work with women in the Shelby County Jail. To learn more about Elaine, visit www.ElaineBlanchard.Com.

Registration Fee: \$150 (A few scholarships are available for local writers.) Register with Linda Caldwell at the Writers' Colony (479) 253-7444 or director@writerscolony.org.

Registration deadline is Feb. 28 at 10 p.m.



Original 2005 cast
PHOTO BY JOHN RANKINE

Cast announced for *Vagina Monologues*

Janet Alexander returns on March 21 to direct a 10th anniversary production of *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler. The one-night-only event at The Aud is a fundraiser for the Red Tent Sisters of Eureka Springs and a benefit to assist women, children and families dealing with domestic abuse in Northwest Arkansas.

A number of original performers from the 2005 production have jumped back on board. Since directing its first, and only, theatrical production in Eureka Springs, Alexander had many people ask if they would do it again.

"I'm so very excited ... for many reasons; the cause is great, the script is fitting and the unblinking support of many of the original players and the community at large is very encouraging. We are going to have such fun while raising awareness for a vital new organization, The Red Tent

Sisters," Alexander said.

Returning performers include Robin Milam Weinmann, Becca Martin Brown, Rae Hahn, Rebecca Hahn and Lauren Levine. New cast members include: Amber Brown, Dorothy Crookshank, Kodi Price, Maureen Alexander, Patti Corcelli, Phyllis Moraga, Jillian Guthrie and Kate Lucariello.

Lorna Trigg, co-founder of the Red Tent Sisters, will produce the event in association with Mothership Productions. Maureen Dailey is Stage Manager and Janie Pritchett-Clark is House Manager.

The award-winning play, translated into 48 languages and performed in theaters in 140 countries, will be presented at the auditorium March 21 at 7 p.m. Ticket pre-sales are being offered by Red Tent Sisters and online at www.tinyurl.com/VM2015Eureka.



Phyllis Moraga, Kate Lucariello and Jessie Graybill Rex enjoy the show
PHOTO AND REPORT BY KENZIE DOSS

"Tap Talks" a true treat

Brews coffee shop and bar held its first open mic night Wednesday, Jan. 14, and a lively crowd of poets, writers, musicians, and performers attended to do what they do best. With locals drifting in and out to enjoy the night, the event was highlighted by a few writers and the ever-lively ladies of the upcoming Vagina Monologues.

Brews' open mic night, now to be held on the first Wednesday of every month, welcomes all types of creativity. If you can say it, sing it, or perform it, they want it. The free event is geared to to promote creative dialogue and a safe space for wordsmiths to demonstrate their work.

The inaugural mic night debut included the gorgeous poetry of Kate

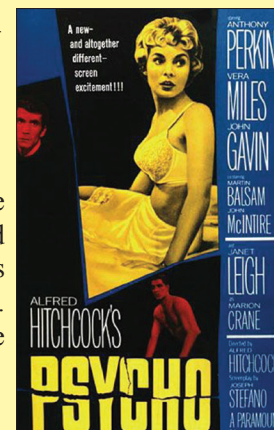
Lucariello, resonant tunes of Maureen Stanton-Alexander, and delightfully encouraging words of Jessie Graybill Rex, to name a few of many who made the night a pleasure.

Along with a great selection of brews on tap, Brews can now boast being the home of the best hot mint chocolate in town, according to the Vagina Monologue ladies.

Brews' owners would like to rotate mic nights between Brews and their sister site, The Taproom on Van Buren. Lovingly referred to as "Tap Talks," Brews' Wednesday mic night will rotate with the Taproom's mic night on the last Friday. This new journey for both taprooms is a labor of love many hope will become a regular staple of Eureka nightlife.

Psycho loose in auditorium Sunday

The Directors of Eureka Classic Movies will be showing the classic film *Psycho*, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Anthony Perkins, Vera Miles and Janet Leigh on Sunday, Jan 25 at 7 p.m. at the Aud. Tickets are \$5 per adult and children 16 and under are free.



El Shaddai hosts Nomie Mills Jan. 24

Nomie Mills, Doctor of Theology and Co-Founder of Antioch Global Ministries will be the special speaker at El Shaddai Chapel, 4501 Quail Court in Harrison (3 miles down Bellefonte Road), Saturday, Jan. 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Mills is Vice Chancellor of Antioch College and University and has ministered with her husband, Craig, in churches they've started together since 1989. They've been in full-time missionary work around the world with a base in Sweden and in Branson,

Mo. Mills is an anointed singer and has an apostolic/prophetic gift blend.

The meeting is open to the public free of charge with love accepted. For more info call Jim or Charlene Phillips (870) 365-0004 or (479) 981-6388.

Metafizzies meet Jan. 26

Monday, Jan. 26, the Eureka Springs Metaphysical Society meeting will feature an audiotape of Sylvia Browne at 7 p.m. followed by group discussion in the reading room of the Christian Science Church, 68 Mountain. All are welcome.

Sycamore[©] – Chapter 13, cont.

Sycamore, written by Constance Wagner and published in 1950 by Alfred A. Knopf, is the story of a sophisticated New York girl who marries a boy from Arkansas. The Wagners and their daughter lived in Eureka Springs while the novel was written. In addition to five novels, Constance Wagner wrote numerous articles and stories published in *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *Collier's*.

“Oh, all right. If you're just determined to be a dutiful wife. *You'll* learn!” Tracy spoke with decisive wisdom, her eight years of marriage and two pregnancies representing the only plane on which she could feel herself superior to her idol. “Maybe I'll drop by later in the day,” she said.

Of course she would. Not a day went by without Tracy. Jane said: “That will be fine. Bye,” and hung up. Tracy had an irritating fondness for telephone chatter. “Why should we swap small talk on the phone when we see each other every day?” she asked herself crossly.

As she went through the house, cleaning up, she would pause with the dustcloth in her hand to enjoy some favorite aspect or other: the vista of the living-room seen from the kitchen door, with pale shafts of sunshine striking through the leaded panes. Or her hand would falter, in the wiping of a sill, while she stood gazing out at the rust-red hills and the sky beyond, unbelievably blue, washed clean by yesterday's rain. How

happy I could be here, she thought, if only *people* wouldn't crowd me so. Here, all relations were intimate, intensely personal. It was as if everyone insisted on cuddling up to you, touching you, forcing you to abandon your defenses, one by one. “Love sells the proud heart's citadel to fate —” Nice, rather. No doubt all schoolgirls adored Rupert Brooke, being brave and ironic over his shattered dreams. Seemed the very height of urbane romanticism, when she was sixteen, and a boy from Trinity had kissed her behind some potted palms, at a stuffy school dance at the Plaza. How far away that all was!

She picked up her mother's letter, which had come the day before, and shoved it into the Unanswered cubbyhole in her bedroom desk. I won't read it again, she told herself, till I sit down to answer it. Why did Mother behave as if having a baby were a major calamity? “*I fairly shudder*,” Mrs. Telemon had written, *to think of my Little Girl facing that Terrible Experience! You do not realize what it is until you have been through it... At least, you poor Child, I hope you are planning*

to come to New York in good time for your Baby to arrive in Safe and Civilized Surroundings. I'm sure everything must be very Primitive, down there... Then there was the postscript: *You will be grieved to learn that Billy Gordon passed away on the first — All Saints' Day, by a sad Coincidence. Or perhaps it was not a Coincidence — who can say? I feel especially stricken about it, because I had promised poor Billy to go up to Saranac to see him, but something happened to prevent it, each time I had planned to go! Of course, it would have been very Depressing...*

Jane closed the desk with a feeling of melancholy. Sleep sound, Bill Gordon!

With all her mother's trivialities, she marveled, looking back, at how they had lived so long together without intruding on each other's privacy. Was it because there was no real love, and certainly no understanding between them? Or was it because her mother's artificiality was so securely welded by time that she herself believed it a part of her, and did not dream that Jane or anyone else might ever break

it open and find the dried-up kernel of a woman inside? (“Love,” Jane's mind parroted, “is a breach in the walls, a broken gate —” I ought to outgrow Rupert Brooke —)

She realized with disgust that the radio was turned on and that a quartet from Springfield was pouring a gospel hymn into her house. She rushed furiously to the living-room and switched it off. Next thing I'll have taken up record albums, pulled out the *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, and stacked them on the spindle of the player. *That* ought to take the taste of salvation out of my mouth, she thought with satisfaction, and she curled herself up in Walter's big chair and lit a cigarette, feeling soothed and aglow with *Gemütlichkeit*, while the music rose and fell brightly in the room. “*O die Frauen!*” she sang along with them, and then found that she didn't know any more of the words.



CONSTANCE WAGNER

NOTES from the HOLLOW

by Steve Weems

A quiet and shy girl, Betty Southerland was born on the last day of 1914 in the remote Mason Bend of Kings River located between Eureka Springs and Rockhouse. Her education started at the tiny Cedar Grove School located on her father's farm just a short walk from the log house in which she was born. The school was comprised of Betty and her siblings and the children of a couple other farm families.

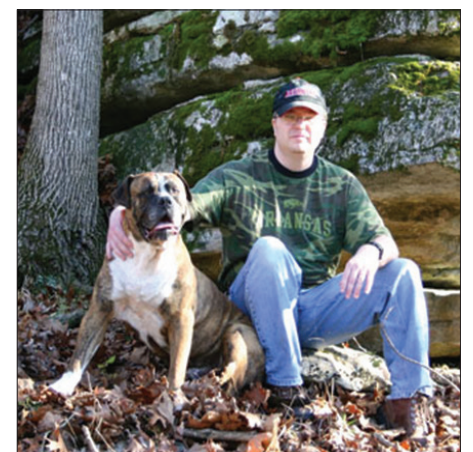
Betty's isolated existence was expanded when the decision was made to consolidate her school with the larger West Concord School District closer to Eureka Springs. A nervous wreck at

the thought of the change, Betty now travelled six miles every morning to attend the unfamiliar school. Little did she know that it was at Concord that she would become dear friends with schoolmate, Dorothy Wolfenbarger.

The Concord School was located on Rockhouse Road near Keels Creek where the Concord Fire Station now stands. Behind it loomed a bald knob that is now being covered by cedars. My understanding is that the view from the top is borderline spectacular, but that isn't why Betty and Dorothy would climb the steep trail. No, they climbed that steep mountain because the acoustics were so good. As was the

rage at the time, both girls yodeled, and they would make the rugged trek to the top to do so. They'd yodel together or take turns and then listen as their voices bounced around and echoed back. They'd shout or sing songs and listen.

Betty was my Granny, my mother's mother, and I used to badger her for stories. Several times she told me about her school closing, but she would then recall Dorothy with as much affection as anyone I ever heard her talk about. When Granny would recount this story, it was with a fondness and wistfulness I rarely saw her display when she recollected the events of her physically hard life.



The power of childhood friendships came to mind recently with the news that Dorothy had passed away at the age of 98. (Incidentally, Dorothy was the sister of my paternal grandmother, Lola Weems.)

Mercury Retrograde in Aquarius

The magical time of Mercury's retrograde cycle is here once again (till Feb. 11, and then some). Mercury retro cycle actually lasts 8 weeks when we consider its retrograde shadow, giving us 6 months a year for review.

We know the rules of Mercury retro. Careful with everything. Cars, driving, money, resources, friends, friendships, groups, interactions, thinking, talking, communications. No big purchases, no important meetings, nothing important repaired. Mercury retrograde times are for review, reassessment and

rest. Our minds are overloaded from the last Mercury retro. Our minds need to assess what we've done since October, eliminating what is not needed, keeping what's important, preparing for new information in the next three months (till mid-May).

Mercury in Aquarius retrograde... we re-invent ourselves, seek the unusual, we don't hide, we're just careful. We live in two worlds, outer appearances, inner reckonings, both sides of our brain activated. Yet, like the light of the Gemini twins, one light waxes (inner world), the other (outer realities) wanes. Like Virgo,

we see what's been overlooked, assessing, ordering and organizing information. It's an entirely inner process. When speaking we may utter only half of the sentence. We're in the underworld, closer to Spirit, eyes unseeing, senses alerted, re-doing things over and over till we sometimes collapse. Because we're in other realms, we're wobbly, make mistakes, and don't really know what we want. It's not a time for decisions. Not yet. It's a time of review and completing things. Mercury retro – integration, slowing down, resolution, rapprochement.

ARIES: You long to be free to pursue your usual pleasures and enjoyments. However, ambition and success call and that requires discipline and completion of all tasks, something unusual and difficult for you. Where's Taurus, you ask, the one who completes everything? Things silent, quiet and hidden increase around you. Imaginative ideas fill your mind. So much changing within. It's good.

TAURUS: You're called to be in the spotlight, to lead and organize. Perhaps you're co-chairing a group, calling them to envision a future different than the past. This takes you into a new life-

direction, defines you more completely, and highlights previously set goals. You're ready to accomplish those objectives. The community you're seeking to create? Very big, round, stable, warm, grows everything and comes with a natural swimming pool.

GEMINI: Many new ideas have occurred, stimulating you to make changes concerning beliefs, friendships and long held ideals. Communication may become difficult, relationships could feel limiting. Or a marriage could happen! Great things are in store for you in the coming months. Do take the time to listen quietly to your mind and heart, follow what inspires you and aim as high as you can. The fog on your Capricorn mountain clears.

CANCER: You will experience many expansive yet internal changes this month in terms of how and what you think, your resources, ideals and goals, your knowledge of the world. You will seek these changes through travel, new books, new people. Make sure you're as sensitive as you can be with others. Sensitive in this case means, "always acting from the heart." It's also time for gardening thoughts. Moonflowers planted.

LEO: Many obligations will be met this month and it might feel like too much work. However you're ethical and will accomplish what is expected. Your creativity expands your self-worth. Something comes to a crisis in coming months. Something in terms of how you've cared for (or didn't) and loved (or didn't) people, how you were in relationships, how you valued them and had (or didn't) loving understanding. We all learn in each relationship.

VIRGO: It's good to revise any monetary situation becoming too difficult to handle. Assess finances on all levels. New ideas about finances quietly enter your world.

The creativity you bring forth in daily life needs to be recognized. It creates your self-identity. For some Virgos, becoming pregnant will be a new identity with Pluto in the house of creation. Virgo always gestates a new reality. What is your hidden reality?

LIBRA: Things, people, events, ideas, even your profession may feel stalled or dissolving or there's a feeling that nothing's happening. The reality is everything's disappearing into deeper layers of review and reflection.

All outer structures move slowly now. Is something occurring in the home? A deepening of a marriage or relationship? Some profound depth and change is occurring there. Perhaps with your sense of commitment to home, family and communication. Foundations built.

SCORPIO: Professional situations edge sideways giving you opportunity and inclination to assess how much time you're out in the world, what you're able to give the world, and what's expected of you. A new depth of thinking begins. Slowly, quietly new life paths appear. So many times this year you've wanted to hide. A new level of gladness appears, new goals, too. Amidst challenges that you overcome.

SAGITTARIUS: Your values, what you value, you as valuable – these continue to shift and deepen. Careful if traveling. Everything is in a process of being underground and re-seeding in your life. You'll need patience for this. Are financial things unclear? Something's growing and expanding at the base of your life. Perhaps a new home, redecoration or a feeling that a new foundation is needed. Everything increases in value. Including you. Think, gather, find, be surprised.

CAPRICORN: Things were going along smoothly (somewhat) and then your planet, Saturn, changed signs, from Scorpio

to Sagittarius. This is good. It allows Capricorns to assess their aspirations, how and where they see themselves and their next creative journey. A transformation of self, along with values, will slowly unfold in the next six months. New learnings come forth. Understandings about your childhood, too. Whenever conflicts arise seek to apply the idea that "love underlies all events in your world."

AQUARIUS: It's important to have time alone, in solitude and quiet for lengths of time so you can relax and rejuvenate. Simultaneously it's important to recognize the needs of others. Then your entire world shifts. Perhaps you're reviewing past relationships and what part you played. Know that beginning now and for the next year or so, your money, finances, resources, values and all that you possess will shift and change. Therefore, use resources and money wisely.

PISCES: A whole new world begins for Pisces. Mars in Pisces will create a greater life force, expanded energy, optimism. It also creates inflammation, so daily doses of turmeric is needed, fewer to no grains and no sugar at all. For long you've wanted to bring forth something in form and matter. Jupiter will assist in this creation. Jupiter provides abundance, blessing, beauty, strength of will, spiritual purpose and a love that graces the lives of others. Ask. Keep asking.

Risa – writer, founder & director, Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute, a contemporary Wisdom School studying the Ageless Wisdom teachings. The foundations of the Teachings are the study & application of Astrology & the Seven Rays. Email: risagoodwill@gmail.com. Web journal: www.nightlightnews.com. Facebook: Risa's Esoteric Astrology for daily messages. Astrological, esoteric, religious, news, history, geography, art, literature & cultural journalism.



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- Thai House
- The Coffee Stop

TASK FORCE continued from page 1

Association. She agreed that Eureka Springs was a "memorable and authentic town," and pointed out the 34 galleries in town contribute much to the appeal. She said the galleries could be a valuable resource for the task force because they interface so extensively with tourists.

Others offered observations about promoting the town. Linda Caldwell said the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow adds to the literary and artistic ambience in Eureka Springs, and attracts visitors from all over, some of whom stay awhile.

Randall Christy of the Great Passion Play suggested the town would be successful promoting itself as a family vacation destination, and families would add to mid-week business during the summer.

Other items

- Bishop said the ad hoc committee considering the future of the old high school property is developing drawings of possible outcomes for the site and deciding where to go next.

- Martin said she would produce a short newsletter on Facebook to keep the community informed about progress of the task force. She said she envisioned a brief progress report but with links available to background information.

The following subcommittees and representatives were established:

- Attractions – Kent Butler



- Retail and galleries – Jim Nelson
- Healing and other arts – Lorna Trigg
- Lodging and dining – Randy Wolfenbarger

Bishop announced the Chamber will host a legislative luncheon Feb. 3. He said several representatives of the city will go to Little Rock and "Put on a nice spread... we want to remind them we're still up here." He commented the event is an opportunity to maintain a connection with

legislators and other government officials, and Eureka Springs usually has a strong contingent, all in red shirts, at these events. Berry said the luncheon is an opportunity to present a positive image of Eureka Springs.

- The group decided it would hold its meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 10 a.m.

Ozark Mountain Music Festival at Basin Park Hotel all weekend, plus a Benefit for Dreamin' Eagle at Chelsea's on Saturday

The Second Annual Ozark Mountain Music Festival brings multiple bands to the Basin Park Hotel Thursday through Sunday, featuring local favorites Mountain Sprout on Thursday, Foley's Van from Fayetteville on Friday, Shawn James and the Shapeshifters Saturday late night, and a bluesy Sunday afternoon show by Brody Buster.

Thursday, Jan. 22

BASIN PARK HOTEL – *Mountain Sprout*, Bluegrass, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Septembers End*, Americana, 9:30 p.m.

GRAND TAVERNE – *Jerry Yester*, Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

LEGEND'S SALOON – *StarSeed*, Rock 'n Roll, 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23

ALE HOUSE – *Elby Bergman*, Singer/Songwriter, 6 – 9 p.m.

BASIN PARK HOTEL – *Dusty Pearls*, Singers/Songwriters, 7 p.m., *Foley's Van*, Americana, 9 p.m., *Hosty Duo*, Guitar Virtuoso, 11 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Sweet Water Gypsies*, Americana, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Dirt River Ramblers*, Americana, 9:30 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *DJ and Dancing*, 9 p.m.

GRAND TAVERNE – *Arkansas Red*, Amplified Acoustic Guitar Dinner Music, 6:30- 9:30 p.m.

LEGENDS SALOON – *DJ and Karaoke with Kara*, 8 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER – *Karaoke with Tiny*, 7 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Terri and Brett*, Classic Rock, 8 p.m.

THE STONE HOUSE – *Jerry Yester*, Artist's Choices

Saturday, Jan. 24

BASIN PARK HOTEL – *Spring Street Band*, Americana, 1 p.m., *Dusty Pearls*, Singers/Songwriters, 3 p.m., *Dime Trip*,

Saturday at Chelsea's the Blackout Boys play for Dreamin' Eagle's Benefit. Eagle used to operate a bicycle shop, Rainbow Rider, in the 1980s providing double-wheeled fun for many Eureka Springs riders.

There's no shortage of good times for a good cause this uncharacteristically sunny weekend.

Rock N' Roll, 5 p.m., *Chucky Waggs*, Americana, 7 p.m., *Hooten Hallers*, Americana, 9 p.m., *Shawn James and the Shapeshifters*, Rock 'n Roll, 11 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Aisle 24*, Singer/Songwriter, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Benefit for Dreamin' Eagle featuring Blackout Boys*, 2 – 6 p.m., *Brody Buster Band*, Blues, 9:30 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *A Taste of What's to Come: Drag Event*, 9 p.m.

GRAND TAVERNE – *Jerry Yester*, Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30- 9:30 p.m.

LEGENDS SALOON – *Jeff Horton Band*, Rockin' Blues, 8 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER – *Terri and the Executives*, Blues, 7 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Terri and Brett*, Classic Rock, 12 – 4 p.m., *Vince Turner*, Classic Rock, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25

BASIN PARK HOTEL – *Brody Buster*, Blues, 12 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Brian Martin*, Singer/Songwriter, 7:30 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE – *DJ, Dancing, and Karaoke*, 7- 11 p.m.

OZARK MOUNTAIN TAPROOM – *Service Industry Sunday*, 2- 9 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Terri and Brett*, Classic Rock, 12 – 4 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 26

CHELSEA'S – *Sprungbilly*, Bluegrass, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

CHELSEA'S – *Open Mic*

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Hosty Duo perform at Basin Park Hotel for Ozark Mountain Music Festival on Friday, Jan 23.

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Tiny owl is a big deal for Arkansas

They perch at eye level but you may never see them

Northern Saw-whet owls, whose habitat is typically the Northern United States and along the Appalachians, have recently popped up on the property at Ozark Natural Science Center in Huntsville. Dr. Kimberly Smith, professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas and a Master Bird Bander, approached Mitchell Pruitt, an accomplished birder and Honors College student, in the fall of 2014, to study the owl species for a thesis. Pruitt is a junior in the university's environmental soil and water sciences program.

The Northern Saw-whet is a small, secretive species of owl whose winter distribution is poorly known, as the birds are usually silent during the winter and thus difficult to locate. Recent successes of banding stations in Missouri and Alabama led Smith to suspect they might also occur in Arkansas although only 12 sightings of the rare bird had been recorded in the state before 2014. None had been captured and banded. That changed in late November when Smith and Pruitt set up mist nets on the trails at Ozark Natural Science Center in Huntsville.

Mist netting is a technique utilizing a fine gauge, black nylon net to ensnare birds. Researchers previously tried the method at other locations in Northwest Arkansas, including Devil's Den State Park and Ninestone Land Trust in Carroll Co. On a visit to ONSC, Smith and Pruitt set up nets along one of the trails and played a recording of the Northern Saw-whet owl's call.

Pruitt and ONSC teacher naturalist, Alyssa DeRubeis, heard what sounded



Owl in the game – UA Professor Kimberly Smith and student Mitchell Pruitt band a Northern Saw-whet owl they netted at Ozark Natural Science Center in Huntsville. After banding the birds are set free. The university's study is also reported to Project Owl Watch, a national owl-tracking project. *PHOTO BY J. NEAL*

like the distinctive live call of the Northern Saw-whet owl and went to investigate. By 11:30 p.m. the team had the first ever Northern Saw-whet owl in a mist net. They checked the bird over, took its picture, banded it and set it free. The hope is that by tracking the migration patterns of Northern Saw-whet owls, the birding community can find out where

the birds spend the winter.

In early December the duo returned to ONSC and immediately heard a Saw-whet owl reply when they turned on the recording. The following night they were able to catch their second Saw-whet at ONSC. Like the first, this bird was banded, measured and released. Based on the wing lengths and body weights, both

birds were adult females.

Northern Saw-whet owls seem to prefer low, brushy areas, especially cedar forests. Their main predators are other species of owls – Barred owls and Great Horned owls. Northern Saw-whet owls generally eat mice and spend their days silently perched at eye level in trees.

Trapping or possessing migratory birds is illegal in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In order to become a Master Bird Bander, Smith had to become licensed by the federal government. He also has a Game & Fish Commission permit, an Arkansas Natural Heritage permit, and permits from the National Park Service and Arkansas State Parks. Pruitt is training to become a sub-permit holder.

"The interesting thing about Saw-whets is that some birds migrate south every year, even when food up north is abundant," Pruitt said. "This year food must be abundant because capture rates have been way down across the country, but birds have still trickled through. For a location in the south, the norm is more like 15 birds per season and way down might be around seven. Of course, this is just speculation based on little data."

"One of the classes selected by almost all of our school groups is Night Walk," executive director Matthew Miller said. "While out on the night walk trail it's not unusual to hear owls calling. It's exciting to have a study about the Northern Saw-whet owl conducted at ONSC."

For more information phone (479) 202-8340, email jena@onsc.us, or visit www.onsc.us.

GAS LINE continued from page 5

rental cabins. If they want 50 feet, that would go up to edge of the cabins. Shouldn't they be contacting us and sending us letters?"

He also said the ground is solid rock, which should make digging a trench "interesting."

Another property owner said she hadn't been contacted about the project that runs in front of her home where she parks her vehicle. Judy Carney has several trees, a stone patio and a retaining wall within 25 ft. of the gas line.

"I'm concerned about how it might impact the retaining wall," Carney said.

In 2014, Source Gas replaced a line on Pivot Rock Rd. with a two-in. plastic line. Trenching equipment disturbed little vegetation, trees were not removed, and some road repair finished the project off. Blackwell said the smaller line carries only 35 pounds per square inch as opposed to the six-in. line that can carry 300-400 psi. Source Gas had no private right-of-way on Pivot Rock Road, and so was using the highway right-of-way, he said.

"There is not a comparison between the type of line used on Pivot Rock Road and the line used on Highway 62," Blackwell said. "The plastic line can bend around trees and curves in the road."

Blackwell said plastic pipes are very durable, and should last for a long time.

"Our biggest issue with plastic pipes is sunshine," he said. "If an area gets eroded and exposes the pipe, it decays when sunlight hits it. That and backhoes are the biggest issues. Once plastic pipe is buried, it should be there for life unless a backhoe tears it up."

Bennett said Source Gas representatives told her the six-in. line would eventually be replaced all the way into and through Eureka Springs.

"If they cut everything down for 25 feet on each side of the gas line in Eureka Springs, people are going to be really upset," Bennett said.

Hike at Hobbs

Join the Holiday Island Hikers Monday, Jan. 26, in the Hart's parking lot at 9 a.m. for a hike on Bayshore Loop at Hobbs State Park. This will be a three-mile moderate hike. Lunch at War Eagle Mill. For information and a full schedule of hikes, email dandtkees@cox.net.

CBCO upcoming blood drive

The Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) has issued a code yellow alert for A-Negative blood type. The blood drive will be at the Eureka Springs Inn of the Ozarks on Hwy. 62 West on Jan. 28 1 – 6 p.m. There is currently less than a two-day supply of A-Negative blood type on hospital shelves and donations are needed immediately.

Each donation will be awarded LifePoints as a part of CBCO's donor rewards program. LifePoints may be redeemed online for a variety of gift cards or may be assigned to other meaningful causes or charities.

To be eligible to give blood you must weigh at least 110 pound, be in good health and present a valid photo ID. For more information on sharing your good health with others or on LifePoints donor rewards program go to www.cbco.org or call toll-free (800) 280-5337.

Men's fellowship breakfast Feb. 2

The Holiday Island Community Church will be holding a men's fellowship breakfast on Monday, Feb. 2 in the Church Fellowship Hall at 188 Stateline Dr. Coffee is served at 7:30 and breakfast at 8 a.m. for only \$5. At 8:30 guest speaker, Gharles E. "Ernie" Wattam, retired U.S. Navy Commander, will present his experience on eight Western Pacific deployments.

A survey of the New Testament begins February 3

Christview Ministries announces *A Survey of the New Testament*, taught by John J. Turner, author of *Living the Full Bible*. The New Testament will be covered in approximately 24 sessions with one each month. Each session will be offered twice on the first Tuesday or the following Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. – noon. There will be an optional bring your own bag lunch with free-flowing discussion following each session. There is a suggested voluntary donation of \$15 per session.

The course with *The Earliest Gospel: Mark, Part 1*, on Tuesday, Feb. 3 or Saturday, Feb. 7. Make reservations as soon as possible to assure that there will be ample copies of study notes available. Christview Ministries Center is located on 992 County Road 309. To make reservations call (479) 253-5865 or email john@christviewmin.org. Leave your contact information so that you may be notified of any necessary adjustments in the schedule.

Are you Made to Crave?

"Made to Crave," a new ladies' Bible Study, will begin Thursday, Feb. 5, at 1 p.m. at the Holiday Island Community Church Library, 188 Stateline Drive. "Made to Crave – Satisfying Your Deepest Desire with God not Food" is a six-week video study by best selling author and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries, Lysa TerKeurst. Classes are two hours.

Not a diet plan, this video study series will help you conquer whatever you turn to in times of stress, boredom or crisis, instead of turning to God first. Study guide is \$8. For more information, contact Debbie Cosens (479) 253-8200.

Rotary dials up support – Rita Trickel, right, Holiday Island Rotary Club scholarship committee chairman, and Robert Schmidbauer, are shown presenting one of three \$1,000 2014 scholarships to Kellie Crawford. Other winners were Langley Wolfinbarger, Hunter Dickleman, and Haley Comstock. Holiday Island Rotary has contributed more than \$100,000 to local and Rotary Foundation projects, including \$52,600 in scholarships to Eureka Springs High School seniors for continuing education; ECHO, Flint Street Food Bank, Salvation Army, Holiday Island Veterans Park, Holiday Island outdoor fitness center, Clear Spring student scholarships, bus stop student shelters, dictionaries for third grade students in area schools and flags at the Holiday Island entrance. Funding was generated by the club's Memorial Day Party In The Park and flag programs. For more information, contact Rick Ragan, club president, or Randall Cavanaugh, vice president.



Trees with benefits

– Three Eureka Springs High School groups worked well with ESDN Main Street this past holiday season. First, ESDN channeled money raised by area businesses that hosted Santa directly into fulfilling Angel Tree requests by the students. Then, Future Business Leaders of America's annual holiday cupcake sale raised \$500 for the 2015 and 2016 classes. Lastly, ESDN needed



a Christmas tree in Basin Park and the Building Skills class delivered a beautiful tree! Pictured with Rachal Hyatt, left, are members of FBLA, Building Skills and ESDN Main Street. **PHOTO SUBMITTED**



Students of the Quarter – Juan Luis Palacios and Sarah Weems are the Elks' Students of the Quarter. Both are hard working, high achieving students at Eureka Springs High School. Sarah, shown receiving her award from principal Kathy Lavender, is active in National Honors Society and is also musically gifted. Dr. Ken Brown of the Elks awards Juan Luis, who has not only been successful academically, but is one of the top art students. **PHOTO SUBMITTED**



Way to go! – Hunter Dickelman, son of Bryan and Jamie Dickelman of Eureka Springs, has been named to the dean's list at NorthArk Community College for the first semester with a 4.0 GPA. He is a freshman pursuing a degree in graphic design. Hunter submitted a holiday greeting card design in NACC's annual contest and his was one of the two chosen and used by the college. **PHOTO SUBMITTED**



DROPPINGA Line

by Robert Johnson

This week’s picture is of Janet Brand with what we call a stick fish. To cook a stick fish you have to make sure to filet all the bark off. Soak in liquid smoke and salt and pepper for taste. Mix with charcoal. Light, then throw a couple ribeyes on grill above.

Well, water temp on Beaver is down to 42° with a lot of bait and fish between Prairie Creek and Monte Ne, down 30 – 40 feet. Holiday Island is a little warmer, running about 45° and 52° up river near Houseman.

Walleye and trout are being caught off the bottom in 18 to 30 ft. of water. Fishing is a little slow for our warm water fish, all we caught on our outing was a stick, but trout and walleye like it cold.

All will change in about 4 – 6 weeks when water gets closer to spawning temps and spring brings some rain. So get your tackle ready or if you need to fish, go after trout or walleye from Holiday Island and

up the Beaver tail waters. Good luck and stay warm and don’t eat any stick fish.

Robert Johnson, JOHNSON GUIDE SERVICE. www.fishofexcellence.com (479) 253-2258.



INDEPENDENT Crossword

by Bill Westerman

Solution on page 22

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12							13				
14							15				
16				17		18				19	
20			21		22				23		
	24				25			26			
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35					36			37			38
39				40				41		42	
43			44				45		46		
47							48				
49							50				

ACROSS

- Clamor
- Swindle
- Revolt
- Turn pale
- Merchant
- Corporate _____
- Pro’s opponent
- Deep fear
- JFK info
- Pawn
- Anger
- Speaker’s platform
- Old German coin
- Olympic symbol
- Not good
- Moroccan hat
- Scour
- Squirrel or rabbit
- Command to a dog
- That girl

- Tidy’s companion
- Uncooked
- Military student
- Fireplace residue
- Rectangle, for one
- “My kingdom for _____
- Water nymph
- Make amends
- Sandy ridge
- Interfere

DOWN

- Tame rabbit abode
- Dislocate
- Arm
- Auction offer
- Not new
- Covered with small fruit
- Clothed
- Possessed
- Cause to be loved

- Like vinegar
- Harvest wheat
- Bilberry, to Robert burns
- Be incorrect
- Afghanistan capital
- 13, to a baker
- Testing facility
- Spread hay
- Upper limb
- Sacred structure
- Quits
- Do over
- Crimson
- Drew close to
- Mortarboard dangler
- Ranch worker
- Essay topic
- Coconut fiber
- Biblical you
- Command to a horse
- Unusual

Frog listening may become a new hobby

The emergence of ranaviruses has been linked to population declines of the common frog in the UK and some populations of amphibians in the US and Canada. Citizen scientists are being recruited to help identify what species of frogs and toads remain.

Tom Krohn, Arkansas Regional Coordinator for Frog Watch USA, will be conducting frog listening workshops to train volunteer citizen scientists in this research project on Friday, Jan. 30 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 – 11:30 a.m. at the Hobbs State Park visitor center located on Hwy. 12. The classroom workshop will teach you to identify frogs and toads in our area by their call, and students of all ages will follow a PowerPoint presentation and learn to mimic the frog calls. Handouts with visual memory aids will be provided and students will learn why these amphibians are important, why they are in trouble and what can be done to help them.

The first workshop session is a pre-requisite for the second session, which includes an introduction to wetlands and frog monitor training for the Frog Watch USA national network administered by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Citizen scientists around the country will listen to frogs and toads from February through August at a site of their choice and submit their findings to a national database.

To register for the workshops call Hobbs State Park at (479) 789-5000 and for more information on Frog Watch USA go to www.arkansasfrogsandtoads.org.

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DEPARTURES

Margaret (Maggie) Helen Duran

June 2, 1923 – Jan. 15, 2015

Margaret (Maggie) Helen Duran, a resident of Berryville, Ark., since 1977, was born on June 2, 1923 in Ringwood Manor, NJ. She was a daughter of John and Gloria (de Palacin) McGee. Margaret passed away Jan. 15, at age 91.

Maggie was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church in Berryville. She worked as the manager of the St. Vincent De Paul thrift shop for many years. She was co-founder of the St. Anne Conference for the St. Vincent De Paul Society, and was manager of the Martha Mary House for abused women. She received a Humanitarian Award from the Berryville Chamber of Commerce and a Community Service Award from the Eureka Springs and Berryville Masonic Lodges. She enjoyed sewing and painting in her spare time.

She is survived by one son, Stephen and wife, Marja Duran, of Green Forest,

Ark.; grandchildren, Joy Gloria Duran of Lahti, Finland; Timothy Aarre Duran of Berryville; several other family members and numerous friends.

On January 1, 1960 Margaret was united in marriage with Stephen Duran who preceded her in death. She was also preceded by her parents; son, John Duran; three sisters, Gloria McGee, Anita McGee Fischer, Mary McGee Williams; and one brother,

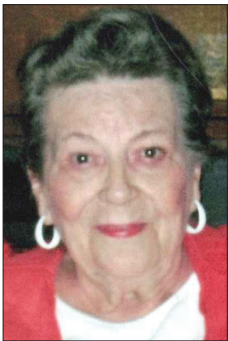
John McGee.

Funeral service will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements were made with Nelson Funeral Service. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Shop, 1844 Hwy 62 W., Berryville, AR 72616 or St. Anne Catholic Church, 614 S. Main, Berryville, AR 72616. Online condolences may be sent to the family at nelsonfuneral.com. © Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. 2015



Ruth L. Havens Aug. 9, 1932 – Jan. 21, 2015

Ruth L. Havens, a resident of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, was born on August 9, 1932 in Chicago, Illinois. She was a daughter of John W. and Ethel L. (LeBaron) Auberg. She passed away Wednesday, January 21, at age of 82. Ruth is survived by two sons: Dan & wife Ann Collins; Tim & wife Jill Collins; grandchildren, Tony Collins, Candy Collins, Jason Collins, Tiffany Collins, Sean Collins, Cherrie LaFarr and 13 great grandchildren, and a host of other



family and friends. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents: John and Ethel Auberg, brothers, Dick Auberg, Donald Auberg, first husband, John Collins, second husband, Bruce Havens, sons, David Collins, Steve Collins, and Tom Collins.

There will be no services at this time. Cremation arrangements were made with Nelson Funeral Service. Online condolences may be sent to the family at nelsonfuneral.com. © Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. 2014

CONSTABLES continued from page 10

5:33 p.m. – Constable responded to report of a dog bite. He spoke with the victim and the owner of the animal. Animal Control will conduct an investigation.

JANUARY 16

1:46 a.m. – Passerby reported a vehicle on its side just off US 62 in the commercial area east of downtown. Constable responded and found blood on the vehicle but no one nearby. Soon he found the driver walking away. He had suffered several gashes to his head, so EMS transported him to ESH. He was cited for DWI.

6:40 p.m. – Constables responded to a basement to check on possible noises down there, but they found everything okay.

8:01 p.m. – Constables went to the scene of a disturbance near downtown.

9:51 p.m. – Constable initiated a traffic stop for no headlight but discovered the driver was intoxicated, so the constable arrested him for DWI.

11:00 p.m. – Another traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for DWI and driving left of center.

11:45 p.m. – Owner of a tourist lodging reported an intoxicated male screaming in the parking lot. Constable checked it out and arrested the individual for public intoxication.

JANUARY 17

3:05 p.m. – Constable assessed the welfare of a dog in a pen and found everything okay.

3:55 p.m. – Same constable was called to check on a fox at a motel. Animal appeared to be okay since it scampered across the road.

10:57 p.m. – A bar downtown reported an intoxicated patron who was taunting

an employee plus he would not pay his tab. The patron left before constables arrived, but they found him at another establishment nearby, and he paid his tab. 11:36 p.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for DWI, open container, possession of drug paraphernalia, expired driver's license and no insurance.

JANUARY 18

12:56 a.m. – Worker at a convenience store was concerned about people in a vehicle in the parking lot. They had purchased sandwiches and returned to the vehicle, but never left. A customer had told her the passengers had their seats reclined. The constable arrived and spoke with them. They said they were driving through town and had decided to rest a bit. The constable advised to keep moving.

JANUARY 19

6:38 a.m. – Motorist on his way to town from the east reported a vehicle had passed him and another vehicle over double yellow lines just east of city limits. Constable on patrol kept watch but never saw the vehicle.

CROSSWORDSolution

H	U	B	B	U	B		C	H	E	A	T
U	P	R	I	S	E		B	L	A	N	C
T	R	A	D	E	R		L	A	D	D	E
C	O	N		D	R	E	A	D		E	T
H	O	C	K		I	R	E		D	A	I
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			B	A	D		F	E	Z		
S	C	R	U	B		R	O	D	E	N	T
H	E	E	L		H	E	R		N	E	A
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E	S	K	E	R			M	E	D	D	L

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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EUREKA SPRINGS FARMERS' MARKET Every Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon. Vegetables and fruits, cheese, meat, eggs, honey and so much more. Come for the food, music and to be with your friends. Catch us on Facebook.

BREAD ~ LOCAL ~ ORGANIC~ SOURDOUGH – Ivan's Art Bread @ the Farmers' Market – Thursday: Whole Grain Rye, Whole Wheat Sourdough rustic style and long breads plus specials like Cinnamon Rolls made with organic maple syrup, Fruit Griddle Muffins and more. Request line (479) 244 7112 – Ivan@loveeureka.com

PRIVATE PARTIES!!! Ozark Mountain Taproom on Hwy. 62 is available for private parties. Bachelor/ette, receptions, etc. Call (479) 253-7453 for details.

ANTIQUES

WONDERLAND ANTIQUES buys/sells antiques, primitives, unique vintage items. Open 10-5. Closed Tuesday & Wednesday. Hwy 62 east of Eureka 3 miles. (479) 253-6900

HELP WANTED

CASA COLINA hiring wait and kitchen staff for 2015 season. Please call Joe, (479) 304-8998.

HELP WANTED

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN – ECHO Clinic seeks an organized, self-motivated volunteer with computer skills to manage the in-house pharmacy to maintain inventory, set schedules, etc. Requires some week days and two evenings per month. Call ECHO at (479) 253-5547.

PART-TIME LIBRARY ASSISTANT – The Eureka Springs Carnegie Public Library is taking applications for part-time employment. Applicants should enjoy working with children and the public, possess good computer and communication skills, have customer service experience, and be able to work some evenings or weekends. Deadline to return completed applications is Friday, February 6 at 5 p.m. To obtain an application, email, call or come by the library: info@eurekalibrary.org, (479) 253-8754, 194 Spring Street.

EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER needed for Tall Pines Inn. Part-Time. Must work weekends. (479) 253-8096.

The Eureka Springs City Advertising and Promotion Commission is accepting resumes for a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT EVENTS MANAGER**. The position involves dealing with the public in planning and staging special events, festivals and assistance with activities at the City Auditorium. For a complete job description, go to www.CAPC.biz under employment opportunities. Resumes should be sent to: CAPC, Box 522, Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632 or delivered to 121 E. Van Buren, Suite 3 B. The City of Eureka Springs is an EOE.

The Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce has a **FULL TIME, YEAR AROUND OPENING** for the Visitor's Center. We promoted our previous Welcome Desk person and we need to replace her with a high energy, friendly person who can greet our visitors, give directions to the local members and sell tickets to our attractions all at the same time! Basic computer skills, knowledge of Word and Excel, professional dress and appearance important. Using a POS system helpful but not required. If you meet these basic requirements come apply for the best job at the Chamber! Apply at the Chamber office at The Village at Pine Mountain or e-mail toni@eurekaspringschamber.com.

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RETAIL – OFFICE SPACE. Holiday Island Shopping Center. Tom Dees (479) 981-2203

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SPRINGS

ALL
INDOORS

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8 p.m. – Mountain Sprout, Eureka Springs

***10 p.m.-Midnight – Group Jam!**

All Bands are welcome or Anyone with an instrument.

**Bring an instrument, Get in FREE! – Thursday only.*

Friday, Jan. 23

7 p.m. – Dusty Pearls, Tulsa, OK

9 p.m. – Hosty Duo, Tulsa, OK

11 p.m. – Foley's Van, Fayetteville, AR

1 a.m. – Group Jam! All bands welcome.

Saturday, Jan. 24

1 p.m. – Spring Street Band, Muskogee, OK

3 p.m. – Dusty Pearls, Tulsa, OK

5 p.m. – DimeTrip, Eureka Springs, AR

7 p.m. – Chucky Waggs, Eureka Springs, AR

9 p.m. – Hooten Hallers, Columbia, MO

11 p.m. – Shawn James & the Shape Shifters, Fayetteville, AR

1 a.m. – Group Jam! All bands welcome.

Sunday, Jan. 25

Noon – Bloody Mary Show with Brody Buster Band, Lawrence, KS

Tickets available thru ReserveEureka.com