

Hopes high for Highlander Center

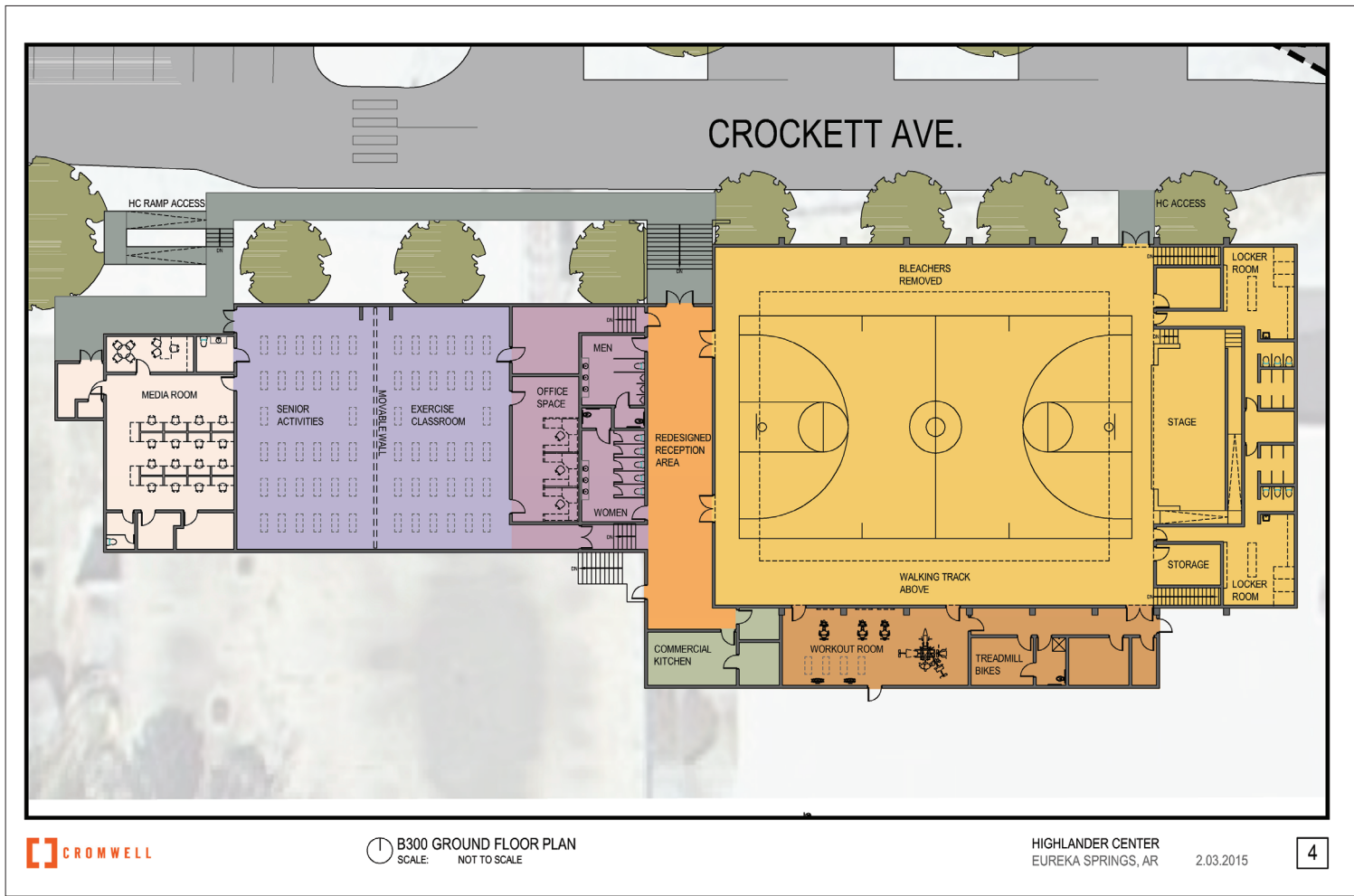
With approval, long-sought community center could become reality

C.D. WHITE

It takes a lot of careful planning to turn the dream of a diverse community into a viable reality. Crystal Bridges was discussed for years before one spade of earth was turned, and it was five years ago on Feb. 9, following much discussion and research, when Eureka Springs citizens passed a tax millage to help fund the new high school.

“Now we’re on the cusp of having a whole new life for the old school,” Diane Murphy, chair of the Vacant School Facilities Ad Hoc Committee, said. And there’s no tax involved.

That new life for the old school takes the form of a community enhancement/economic development double whammy – a multi-function community center that would also provide a self-sustaining revenue stream or two; by far the most supported idea among many proposed over time by community members.



HIGHLANDER continued on page 19

This Week's INDEPENDENT Thinker

The Russian economy is reeling from trade sanctions imposed as a result of its incursion into Ukraine, and the government has called on farmers to step up production. It also hiked interest rates to uncomfortable levels.

Siberian farmer, Alexander Bakshayev, took exception to the banking system in general which had raised his debt to 34 times the average monthly salary for Russians.

So Bakshayev dutifully paid his bank loan of 40,000 rubles (\$610) with exactly \$610 worth of animal manure deposited on the front steps of the bank.

Though bank officials called his stunt “hooliganism,” neither security guards at the bank nor local police intervened in the hour it took him to leave his deposit.

He even paused for photographs and adorned the pile with posters stating “Down with credit slavery.”




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Production company wants 146 nights at Aud

NICKY BOYETTE

At the Feb. 11 meeting of the City Advertising and Promotion Commission (CAPC), Chair Charles Ragsdell announced a production company had asked to book 146 nights at the Auditorium beginning in April for musical variety shows Tuesday through Saturday nights until the end of the year. Ragsdell said the company wanted a three-year agreement, but the commission cannot book beyond 2015 because of the management agreement for the Auditorium.

Executive Director Mike Maloney said the 37 events already on the calendar for this year would remain.

Ragsdell told commissioners the production company had offered \$2500 per month and wanted 35 percent of the concessions. The CAPC typically charges \$250 per night and keeps all the concessions.

Commissioner James DeVito observed, "If they're packing the house, we should get a bigger cut."

Maloney replied, "If the show does what they would like it to, which is bring in 125-150 people to town per show, that's putting a lot of bodies in our community." He said restaurants and lodgings would all see a boost and results would be an increase in tax collections. He saw the move as a way to replace some of the venues that have "eroded away," and this new attraction would definitely contribute toward the goal of bringing more visitors to town.

Commissioner Damon Henke suggested the CAPC should get more in return if attendance surpasses a certain threshold, and DeVito insisted the commission should not sell itself short. He suggested a one-year agreement and then renegotiate. Henke followed that he would not accept the offer by the production company as it stood. He wanted a structure "where if they're doing better and better, then we'll do better and better, too."

Commissioner Robert Schmid pointed out this arrangement would prevent the possibility of having shows like B.B. King at the Auditorium, "but if our costs are covered, we should be happy."

DeVito stated the Auditorium is dark at least 75 percent of nights, and just the fact that something is going on there would encourage visitors to stay an extra night which would boost the local economy to everyone's benefit. He suggested asking for \$3500 per month but no one seconded his motion.

Henke then moved to accept the existing offer but ask for \$3 per ticket on ticket sales of more than 100 on a given night. DeVito seconded the motion, and the vote to approve his motion was unanimous.

Financial report

Finance Director Rick Bright announced that December 2014 collections showed every category ahead of

collections from the same period in 2013. Motels were up 100.4 percent and total collections reflected a 24.3 percent increase. Ragsdell said he hoped those numbers bode well for 2015 collections.

Director's report

- Maloney announced they had hired Kim Stryker as the new Assistant Events Manager. He said she would put together festivals and help solicit corporate support for events.

- He also announced Governor Asa Hutchinson had appointed Randy Wolfenbarger of the Inn of the Ozarks to the Parks and Tourism Commission. Maloney said this move would ensure Eureka Springs and Northwest Arkansas would have a voice on the commission.

- He said Sales Director Karen Pryor had given away 5000 Eureka Springs brochures at the Cleveland Sports Show, attended a trade show in Nashville, and next would be heading to Chicago.

- Maloney said he was creating a white paper called Vision 2018 in which he would explore the evolving world of media and where it is headed. He said he expects major changes in how developing media will impact marketing in the future, and plans to stay up-to-date.

Next workshop will be Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m., at the CAPC office. Next regular meeting will Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m.

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Economic Development subcommittees float ideas

NICKY BOYETTE

The Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development met again Feb. 11, the eighth gathering of city leaders and business people who have set a goal of increasing visitors to Eureka Springs and bringing new businesses to town to revitalize the economy.

Sandy Martin chaired the discussion, and for the first time, representatives of subcommittees provided reports to the core group.

Dining and lodging

Randy Wolfinbarger, owner of Inn of the Ozarks, spoke for the lodging and dining subcommittee, and suggested dining should be separated from lodging. He also wondered what local restaurants could contribute to economic revitalization.

Martin mentioned dining could be included in packages offered as incentives to stimulate economic activity. Jacqueline Wolven, director of the Downtown Network, followed that dining destinations are popular for travelers, and the excellent restaurants here contribute to the overall promotion of the town.

Wolfinbarger pointed out it would be a challenge to represent both fine dining and fast food establishments, but Kent Butler, representing the Great Passion Play (GPP), observed both are good promoters of the town and belong in the overall conversation.

Mike Bishop, director of the Chamber of Commerce, also pointed out their efforts to promote the town would benefit from additional statistics about who visits Eureka Springs and what motivated visitors to come here. All dining establishments could help collect this data from their patrons.

Martin said the Task Force could produce a small, easy survey for gathering the information they want.

Attractions

Butler emphasized group tours are interested in everything in town, not just the GPP or any particular attraction. "The tide raises all ships," he remarked, "and working together pays off."

He suggested the city is missing

"The tide raises all ships, and working together pays off."

— Kent Butler

out by not pursuing group travel more aggressively. He said he goes to trade shows to represent the GPP, and is convinced the local economy would benefit if other sectors of the community attended these shows in an effort to lure group tours.

Charles Ragsdell, chair of the City Advertising and Promotion Commission, offered to bring a list of trade shows to the next meeting. He said CAPC Sales Director Karen Pryor has begun to attend some of these shows only every other year. So, Ragsdell proposed, maybe there could be some coordination between different components in town to maintain or expand the local presence at various shows.

CAPC Commissioner Damon Henke commented there are folks in town who might attend on behalf of the city if the schedule were available.

There was also discussion of coordinating with the City of Branson on creating packages to benefit both cities.

Arts and culture

Lorna Trigg reported her group had been attempting to include artists of all kinds, many who already promote their work on social media. However, the new effort was to create an interrelated marketing plan, including using the *Independent Fun Guide*.

She announced the Arkansas Native Plant Society would be coming here in October, but was not sure what to do next about accommodating everyone because she wants to draw people from all over the state.

Bruce Levine, director of the Parks Department, said native plants are a popular focus for enthusiasts, and considered our local natives to be an attraction.

Jack Moyer, general manager of the Crescent and Basin Park Hotels,

said Trigg's dilemma should be easy to resolve. He said she should be able to go the city's sales director who would coordinate everything, but the procedure in the city "is flawed, broken, and it needs to be fixed. If you want to see a spike, fix group travel. You need a neutral party, but there are no procedures in place."

Retail

Martin reported for the retail subcommittee. She said the committee had discussed updating to a creative economy by recruiting, for example, glassblowers or potters in action so passing customers could observe from the sidewalk.

Another focus of their discussion was creating a database of vacant commercial properties to make it easier for potential businesses to know what is available in town.

Other items

- Martin mentioned a representative of the Winrock International Foundation would meet Feb. 19 with members of the Carroll County Collaborative to discuss economic development possibilities for Carroll County.

- Mayor Butch Berry announced the group that owns The Rockin' Pig is moving forward in its effort to purchase Pine Mountain Village. He said if this succeeds, the city will indeed see a boost of new visitors to town, many of whom would ride in on motorcycles, and wondered what those present felt about that possibility.

Moyer clarified this purchase would be an expansion and relocation of an existing business.

Bishop, whose office is in Pine Mountain Village, said it is not clear what the new group intends to do, but current businesses would continue their leases and all events, such as the Farmers' Market and art shows.

Wolven stated, "It would not behoove us as a group to discourage them."

"For once, we need to get behind something," observed Glenn Crenshaw of All Seasons Realty.

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

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HI women have close call with carbon monoxide

"I was downstairs watching the evening news when my daughter called from upstairs bathroom telling me she was vomiting," 83 year-old Holiday Island resident Lee Guthrie said. "I got up to her and was getting her a glass of water and I simply passed out suddenly, with no warning."

Mrs. Lee said her daughter managed to crawl into the upstairs bedroom and press the button for ADT, a home security company to which she and her daughter, Terri Lynn, subscribe.

"I had no idea what had happened until emergency people got here and gave me oxygen," she said.

As she watched television, Mrs. Lee said she had turned on her ventless fireplace to take off the chill. The fireplace was evidently the source of odorless carbon monoxide. She said she has two fire alarms on her ceilings and one carbon monoxide alarm on the wall one foot off the floor. "There was no smell, no beep, no alarm. My

grandsons change batteries in my alarms every six months, and they changed them in November. Those instruments are *not* life insurance! I can't say enough about my daughter and ADT getting help. I should have been dead!"

When emergency personnel revived her, they asked her name, the president's name, the day, date and year, and she didn't know the answers to any of them. "I kept worrying if I would get my thoughts back. I'm not able to drive right now, but I can play bridge. I find

that I still grasp for words, but they are coming back."

According to Mrs. Lee, her carbon monoxide monitor registered 24, and she had been told a 5 could be fatal.

"I'm getting electric logs. No more gas for me," she said.

ONF Ozark continues support for Apple Seeds

The Board of Directors at Ozark Natural Foods will continue financial support of local non-profit Apple Seeds in 2015.

Saturday, Feb. 21, at Apple Seeds Teaching Farm, the Board will present Apple Seeds with a check for \$20,000 at 9 a.m. In addition to monetary support, Ozark Natural Foods helps promote the farm and provide education support and shared programming.

The Teaching Farm, a community farm and regional school garden resource, grows produce for Apple Seeds' school garden markets and hosts educational programs for students.

Ozark Natural Foods, 1554 N. College Ave. in Fayetteville, is a consumer cooperative dedicated to healthful

living and sustainability by providing the Northwest Arkansas community with natural and organic products and related services. For more info call (479) 521-7558.

Ladies of Faith meet Feb. 24

Joann Turner, and husband, Acra, have pastored Rock Springs Baptist Church for the past eight years. At the age of 15 Joann ran away to Mexico; you can hear the rest of her exciting story this month at the Ladies of Faith brunch and meeting on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. in the Gazebo Restaurant at the Eureka Inn. Beth Severe will minister in music.

Cost is \$10.50 and all are welcome. Everyone is welcome come and be blessed. Contact Margo Pryor (870) 480-3161.

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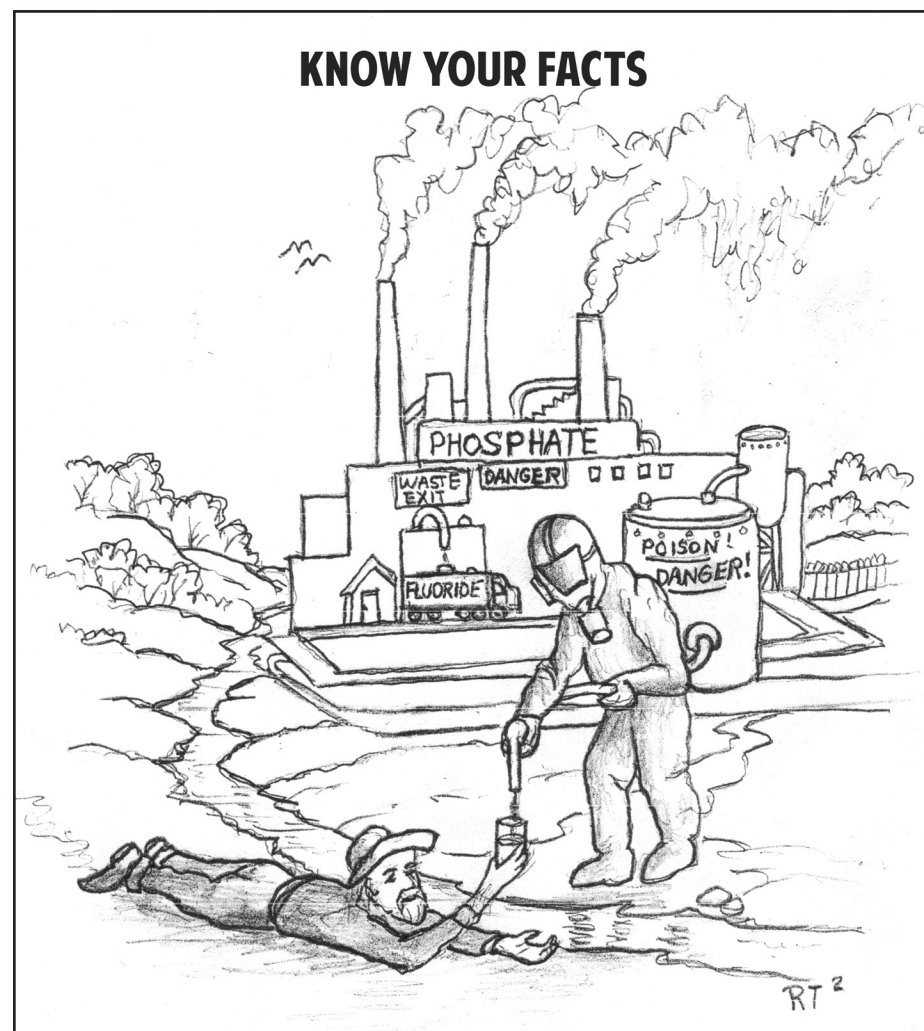
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Planning looks into 'sensible' housing

NICKY BOYETTE

The Planning Commission quickly identified two zoning issues at its brief Feb. 10 meeting. Only four commissioners were present, and Chair James Morris mentioned the commission still has a vacant seat.

Morris brought up the ongoing effort of city leaders to recruit new businesses to town that would create the accompanying need for more sensible housing. He said Planning should identify possible areas for a light

industrial zone and for more sensible housing. He said the city might even need to annex land in the process.

Commissioner Pat Lujan suggested they consider green spaces already in city limits first so the city would not need to go through the annexation process.

The commission agreed to keep the item on their agenda.

Commissioners also agreed to research further the concept of minimum size standards for residences in all zones but first consider residential spaces in

commercial zones. Lujan said one point of focus should be safety and another should be the impact on neighborhoods, such as the effect on nearby property values of very small residences intermingled with other homes. He said they must look for what is fair for everyone.

Morris maintained the city needs standards although people have a right to use their properties.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m.

Local clubs burglarized

C.D. White

Two apparently early-morning robberies netted a burglar the hard earned cash from the safes at the Pied Piper on Tuesday, Feb. 10, and Chelsea's on Wednesday, Feb. 11. An individual is being sought in connection with the robberies, but at press time the investigation was still ongoing.

According to the police report, Latigo Treuer told Det. Paul Sebby someone had come into the Pied Piper via forced entry early in the morning on Feb. 10, and ripped a safe containing \$300 from the wall in the upstairs office.

The suspect had used some tool to pry the trim off the downstairs back door, but failed to enter the business through that entrance. The suspect then went upstairs on the back deck and either pulled the door with force, or used a tool until the suspect could forcefully pull the door open.

After making the report, Treuer searched through surveillance video tape and found the suspect breaking in around 6 a.m. through the back porch outside the office. The suspect appears to have a

lighter colored overcoat with a hood, and had a pry bar in hand, with a side bag on his shoulder.

The next morning, Feb. 11, Sgt. Brian Young investigated a call from Vicki Brown, co-owner at Chelsea's, in reference to a commercial burglary. Brown told Sgt. Young she came around 8 a.m. and discovered the bin of cigarettes they kept for retail sale in the bar was empty. She then noticed the cash register had been forced open and then went downstairs to her office and saw the door had been forced open, the safe forced open, and money bags emptied.

Brown reported approximately 50 packs of cigarettes were kept in the bin and the cash register would have had approximately \$60 in coins left in it. The total of cash taken from the emptied moneybags with the value of the missing cigarettes was close to \$8,000.

Upstairs, Chelsea's Pizza was also robbed of a television and remotes and a Samsung Glazy Tablet belonging to Chelsea's bar. A Hewlett Packard silver/gray laptop belonging to Nathan Huff

was also taken.

The scene was photographed and dusted for fingerprints, but at press time no arrest had been made. Anyone having information about the missing items or about the burglary may call the ESPD at (498) 253-8666. The call will be kept confidential.

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Highlanders Soccer Spaghetti Dinner Feb. 22

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\$231-million prison or criminal justice system reform?

BECKY GILLETTE

The U.S. has the highest percentage of its population in jail of any country in the world. Arkansas has one of the higher percentages of people in jail of any state, and one of the faster growing prison populations in the U.S.

There are about 17,000 people in prison in Arkansas. The state's incarceration rates is five times larger than in 1978 when about 100 people per hundred thousand were in jail, compared to about 500 per hundred thousand today, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The South leads the country in incarceration rates, and has more severe penalties for crime.

"For more than the past 20 years, state and federal crime control policies have been based on the belief that harsh sentencing laws will deter people from committing crimes," states the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). "But today, with more than

one million people behind bars, and state budgets depleted by the huge costs of prison construction, we are no safer than before. New approaches to the problem of crime are needed, but instead, our political leaders keep serving up the same old strategies."

Newt Gingrich, who in 1992 advocated stiffer prison sentences in the Contract With America, has joined with conservatives to champion the Right on Crime Campaign, "a national movement urging states to make sensible and proven reforms to our criminal justice system – policies that will cut prison costs while keeping the public safe."

"We can no longer afford business as usual with prisons," Gingrich said. "The criminal justice system is broken and conservatives must lead the way in fixing it."

The Arkansas Department of Corrections has recommended building a new, 1,000-bed prison estimated

to cost \$231 million in principal and interest when financed over 30 years. A proposal that the new prison be paid for by an increase in license tags fees in Arkansas was dead on arrival in the legislature.

Rep. Bob Ballinger, Hindsville, said Arkansas locks up too many people.

"People are being locked up who shouldn't be locked up," Ballinger said. "We need comprehensive prison reform to get where we have better management. It is a problem more fundamental than the prison system and involves how we handle criminal justice."

Gov. Asa Hutchinson's proposed state budget doesn't include money for a new prison, but does provide more funding for inmate re-entry programs. Ballinger said that proposal shows the best potential for whittling down the prison population. He also said the high percentage of people in prison who either stole to purchase alcohol and drugs or were under the influence of alcohol and drugs at the time of the crime, shows the need to provide alternative sentencing and treatment.

"More drug courts could help," Ballinger said, referring to alternative sentencing where someone with alcohol or drug problems is allowed to remain free as long as they pass routine drug screenings and meet other requirements.

Ballinger said currently 300 people are in prison in Arkansas for third offense driving under the influence of alcohol not involving an accident or death. "They are not violent or likely to run away," he said. "Alcoholics need to be kept from driving, but there should be ways to manage them short of putting them in prison. It costs \$65 per day to house a prisoner in Arkansas." Ballinger advocates placing more prisoners with alcohol and drug problems into cheaper facilities where they can get counseling, and also work and start paying their own way.

Arkansas also has a large problem with people not paying court fines, including traffic tickets. Carroll County alone is owed \$3 million in court fines – not all of which is overdue.

Other counties in the state face similar problems. The one deterrent to not paying fines is to arrest people and put them in jail. But that remedy creates its own problems.

"Locking them up can make it harder to pay fines," Ballinger said. "And there is no way to get a job when you are in jail."

While people who don't pay fines are put in county jails and not state prisons, it ends up impacting the overall inmate population. Currently county jails are housing overflow from state prisons and being reimbursed by the state for less than what it costs to house prisoners.

Sen. Bryan King, Berryville, said Hutchinson's budget includes increasing the amount paid to county jails to house state prisoners.

"The governor's budget hasn't addressed a new prison," King said. "There is talk about housing prisoners out of state at private prisons. I think you actually have to drive crime down to help with overcrowding in prisons. Some of these solutions include making substantial amounts of dollars available to put more police on the street, and strengthening probation and parole programs."

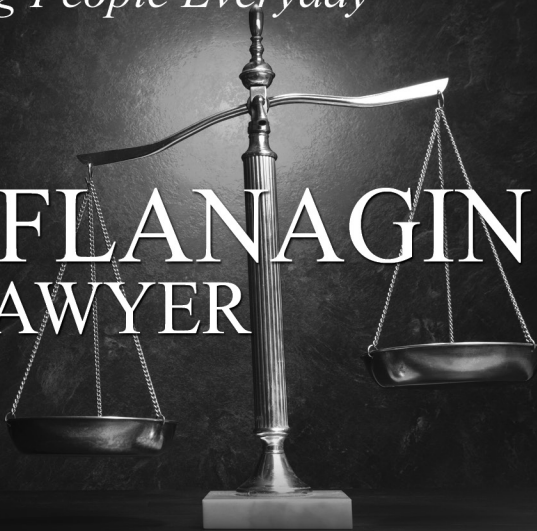
Another way to prevent growing numbers of prisoners in Arkansas could be to provide more public defenders for prisoners who can't afford to hire an attorney. The Arkansas Public Defender Commission has requested greater funding for public defenders across the state as the number of crimes has grown, and responsibilities of the public defenders has grown. That request was turned down by the legislature in 2014.

King said any time you want to expand one part of the state government, legislators have to find money to pay for it, saying, "There is even talk of a lawsuit out there about the lack of public defenders."

The Arkansas Public Defenders Commission represents 90 to 95 percent of people prosecuted by the state. Many are pressed to accept plea bargains even if they aren't guilty.

NEW PRISONS continued on page 15

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Transgender experience changes a life

BECKY GILLETTE

Caden Elliott Pruitt, 33, was born Caitlin Elizabeth Pruitt, and for the first 32 years of life was known as Katie. He had a happy childhood growing up in a small town in Kansas. But although he lacked the awareness to understand it at the time, while he looked like a girl to the world, inside he was, in fact, a boy.

"I was born in a female body, and raised as a girl, but in my brain and my spirit, I feel male," Caden said. "In the medical field, this is referred to as gender identity disorder or gender dysphoria. This is completely different from a person's sexual orientation. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender are often clumped together. But who a person is attracted to is an entirely separate issue from the gender you identify as."

Around the age of puberty Caden started experiencing depression. Even though, unlike the majority of transgender youth, he was never teased or shunned, it is a constant struggle when you feel one way inside and the world sees you completely different.

"There was a sort of disconnection from my body that I could never quite put my finger on," he said. "In high school, I started dating a girl, and I knew immediately that I was gay. But I was absolutely terrified to get caught. I kept it a secret until I was about 18. When I did finally come out to my family, they accepted me whole-heartedly. Although I carried around an unnecessary load of guilt and shame about it, it was clear that they really just wanted me to be happy."

He always had a hard time connecting with the term "lesbian," but it was obvious he had a girl's body and was most definitely attracted to females. So, for lack of any other explanation, he accepted the situation. He finished his senior year as valedictorian of his class and was homecoming queen.

"I left home on a basketball scholarship, excited to start college, and full of hope," Caden said. "Once I left my hometown, though, I had a much harder time finding my way. I remember it feeling very tumultuous. I found it impossible to feel comfortable in my own skin. I always had friends, but there was a pervasive underlying isolation that I couldn't shake."

Over the years, he went to several different therapists, and tried multiple anti-depressants. He "self-medicated" with a lot partying through most of his twenties.

"I left little room for any true growth or introspection," he said. "A few years after I finished school at Mizzou, I moved to Eureka with my ex-girlfriend, \$100, a tent, and four pets, and it was one of the best decisions I've made."

Caden feels particularly fortunate to have ended up doing an internship at the organic farm of Dane Schumacher and Marcie Brewster. A couple of years earlier Dane had come out as a transgender person, someone who felt male inside while being seen as a woman by others.

"I didn't have the language for it yet, but I knew on some level Dane and I were the same," Caden said. "I remember one conversation with him when he asked if I felt at home in my body. Did I enjoy being female? The answers were emphatically 'No!' So, I read a few books explaining the transgender experience, and then in one of those light bulb moments, my whole life suddenly made sense. Oh! I'm transgender! This is awesome! I felt an enormous amount of relief to finally have an explanation for the way I felt, but also to know that there's a huge population of people who feel the same way."

It is common reality for transgender people to experience anxiety, depression, restlessness and generally bad feelings associated with gender dysphoria and all the ways in which this can manifest in daily life. Caden felt increasingly uncomfortable introducing himself to strangers as Katie. It was becoming unbearable to use the women's restroom.

"I had been feeling a pretty constant state of uneasiness for several months leading up to my decision to transition physically," he said. "I was feeling particularly miserable on Christmas Eve of 2013. I got on YouTube and typed in female-to-male transgender, and watched several videos of other trans guys who started taking testosterone and began transitioning. I knew in a matter of minutes that I would transition, too."

"For the first time, I got a glimpse of how I could align who I was with

TRANSGENDER continued on page 21



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Glade restoration in Butler Hollow

Editor,

We express our support for the Mark Twain National Forest's proposed Butler Hollow Glade restoration project. This project will help to sustain a unique and beautiful part of our Ozark natural heritage, while enhancing wildlife habitat, site resiliency and scenic values. The project employs science and sound conservation practices to provide direct benefits to people and nature.

We are concerned that some recent criticism of the project is based on an assumption that the area was dense forest. Data show that the area was originally a far more diverse complex of woodlands and glades. The project will include badly needed restoration activities such as removing invasive cedar trees that are degrading the site and causing major losses of habitat, diversity, watershed health, as well as diminished wildflower displays, scenic vistas, and recreational activities. While cedar trees were native in limited areas of Missouri, Ambrose Barton, a surveyor who noted 15 different types of trees along 22 miles in and around Butler Hollow in 1849, did not record a single cedar tree in the region. He documented that the original woodlands were open, and at one point in Butler Hollow he measured 64 feet to the nearest tree! These open woodlands and glades supported a rich and diverse group of wildflowers and grasses, which in turn provided abundant resources for wildlife while slowing runoff and recharging healthy groundwater systems.

Butler Hollow is threatened by an increasing growth of cedars and other species that have become unnaturally dense. This is in part due to the suppression of low-intensity periodic fires that shaped the landscape for thousands of years prior to modern times. Restoration activities, including fire, are geared towards reestablishing a balance to ensure a healthy, diverse habitat.

Wildlife depends on these healthy systems. The American Bird Conservancy and Partners in Flight have raised concern for birds such as the whip-poor-will, red-headed woodpecker, and prairie warbler – all species that need open woodlands with grassy and shrubby areas that once dominated much of the Ozarks including Butler Hollow. Both the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative actively support glade and woodland restoration efforts such as these to provide high quality habitat.

Jane Fitzgerald

American Bird Conservancy

John Burk

Regional Biologist for Missouri and Illinois

National Wild Turkey Federation

Doug Ladd

Director of Conservation Science

The Nature Conservancy

I will miss my friend

Editor,

My friend, Raphael, died a few weeks ago. He lived with the mindset of a child – looking for immediate gratification, opportunities to please, new things to make his apartment an expression of his current interests. When Raphael

made mistakes or his confidence lagged, he began a process of repetitive self-questioning that compounded his anxiety and set his mind flip-flopping, like a fish on a hook. That anxiety triggered panic attacks that left him gasping for breath.

Raphael's heart, like a child's, was pure. His severe mental disability was diagnosed before he was eight years old. His focus was unwavering when set on an ideal he desired. With barely a 4th grade education, he was able to earn two cosmetology licenses. He made a move across country twice by himself. Yet simple tasks, like maintaining a checking account or budgeting for groceries and toilet paper, eluded him.

Raphael faced medication challenges, debilitating mental illness, and end-stage COPD with the knowledge that his days were numbered. He'd begun giving his things away. When he realized that his liver, kidneys and heart were beyond recovery, as well, he became so frightened that the last few months of his life were spent looking for solutions just short of institutionalized care. But his nine-year old child's mind was incapable of considering a life that felt isolated from those few he knew at his apartment complex. When a friend or loved one dies, we always wish we'd known more, done more, been more patient.

Raphael's tragic life and death offers lessons to us all: Practice awareness. See beyond the physical representation. Practice compassion. Show mercy. Spare suffering. Offer dignity. I will miss this angel, my teacher and friend. He was a kind soul.

Adrienne Gremillion

MAIL continued on page 23



WEEK'S TopTweets

@robdelaney: Using my son's raincoat as a hat so my hair doesn't get messed up. He's doing the cutest little shivers!

@ashworthcomedy: I'm at work for another hour and my phone's at 14%. If I don't make it to the end of the day, tell all my friends, "Not much u"

@PaulyPeligroso: Making \$ is easy. Press shift+4.

@nerdfaced: I just voted for Pluto to be a planet again.

@danrivermama: A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feels so good.

@rodneym_at_large: I don't own a turntable, for the record.

@NintenDom: Every Red Hot Chili Peppers song has a part where it sounds like they're trying to guess words for a crossword puzzle.

@KenJennings: I just ran into a doorknob and swore at it but in all honesty, like 99.9% of my doorknob interactions all-time have been positive & helpful.

@expertnovice: Anyone wanting to hide information from me should just put it in a spreadsheet and email it to me.

@BillMc7: If you mix Taco Bell hot sauce into your ramen, it tastes exactly like poverty.

@DadsUpLate: I just got an email that Netzero closed my account due to inactivity, I guess that must have taken 12 years to get here.

@meganamram: Just read "The Three Musketeers," and it's true, the book is always better than the candy

@shariv67: The Supreme Court is like regular court but with sour cream, guacamole and extra cheese.

Stirring the pot

Confidence seems to erode when we have so much tradition, lore, legend and biases to clutter our precious heads. As we grow into how others want us to see the world, we tend to obliterate our innocence, our ability to accept others who are part of our species. One would think members of a species would rather protect each other than kill each other, and one would be wrong.

The satirical *Charlie Hebdo* assassinations in Paris last month hurt us. Of course there is a lot of wrong in the world that makes us slap our heads and say, “Ouch!” Of course it is rude to poke fun at anyone about anything. It is also going to happen, and knowing that when we kill someone for what they believe, all we’ve done is enhance stupidity, anxiety and moral bankruptcy. Do we truly believe this world, wherever or from whomever it came, is ours to exploit? Or do we depend on it for food, air, light, life, emotional sustenance, personal growth and descendants?

We are at a bottom-of-the-well loss to understand the Jason Raperts of this world. Rapert is an Arkansas State Senator and former Maynard High School Student Council President who is convinced this country has nuclear weapons that with minor modifications could be used to exterminate bad guys (ISIS) while sparing good guys (women, children and harmless, innocent people). One can only hope the wind doesn’t blow that day.

Beheadings in other parts of the world, including Oklahoma last month, make us clench our jaws and fists in dismay. Beheadings make our hearts tremble in terror. Rapert’s response? Kill them right back. Nuke them, bomb them, spray them, wipe them out. In other words, become them. Fight hate with hate. Assume religious fanaticism and/or mental illness are both “things” we need to get rid of by simply annihilating those who carry them.

It’s hard for us to understand people who love America but hate Americans. Yet handfuls of politicians insist “we” (meaning not them, but the paid help, i.e., soldiers) should start the nuclear engine and drive over people we don’t like. As a country! That would ensure happy, productive lives here in Arkansas, eh? Wonder how healthy the cotton and rice grown under a mushroom cloud would be.

There are certainly oodles of Americans with whom we disagree, but to hate them, or their philosophies, is to mirror the same intolerance they have for us. And to feel shame because of a myopic state senator in Arkansas really makes us eat those words. But... okay, something nice about Jason Rapert should be told – he is for elimination of the grocery tax, which is such an obvious thing we can’t believe we ever stood still for our groceries being taxed in the first place. Good luck with that, Senator.

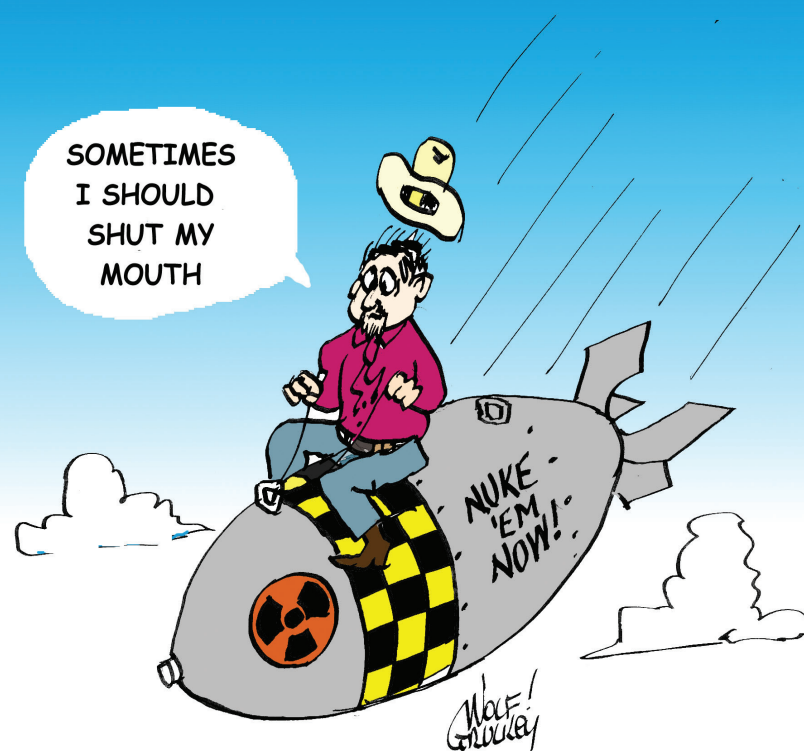
Sort of along the same lines, but not really, a man told us last weekend he wanted to “stir the pot” because he was worn out with gay people being treated as second-class citizens. Our tart response was he shoulda been born female. That way he could do life in double-time. Why not be paid about three-quarters of a man’s paycheck for doing the same job with the same results? Are we being whiny again? Gosh, the Equal Rights Amendment has only been trying to get passed in the United States Congress since 1923. It’s not even a 100-year old effort yet. Maybe the next hundred years?

We agree with the man who wants to stir the pot. We agree that children need their innocence to follow them into adulthood so they can teach others to be neither afraid nor defiant of “authority” – which we wouldn’t need. A just world where wealth is created, not taken. A world where former student council presidents who proclaim that we need to answer violence with bigger, badder violence go back to History class and repeat it so history won’t repeat itself.

Hopeless, perhaps, but maybe just one more 100-year wait.

Mary Pat Boian

JASON "STRANGELOVE" RAPERT



The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

I have been thinking about friendship with respect to Facebook, and how it has or will change our understanding of what it means to be a friend. Definitions of what constitutes a friend are rooted in culture and place, but typically a friend is someone with whom you share time and feelings, and similar interests and experiences.

Americans, and particularly American men, have fewer friends than almost any other national group. This is because of our high divorce rates, our mobility, and because we work more hours than any other people. Facebook has softened these influences by letting us “relate” more efficiently: we share vacations, family milestones, accomplishments, *inter alia*, without breaking into a sweat. But should friendship be efficient?

As a test, I set up a Facebook account for an entirely fictitious person. Within a week “he” had 1,000 friends. There was no “friend” criterion: if they accepted his request, he got a new friend. Of the 1,000 requests, only one person asked, “Who are you?” The experiment was obviously efficient, but who are his new friends?

Four are hookers, 50 peddle stuff, and a whole wild bunch has political axes to grind. These grinders are comprised of about 10 Fascists to every one Communist, subject to definition, of course: Fascists will do anything for money, love Jesus, and live to bang the drums of war. Communists are smarter than we are, have a lust for supervision, and are against all fun.

Phase 2 of the experiment is to see how fast “he” can lose friends. He’ll tell the Fascists that Jesus was a short brown guy who loved poor people and they’ll drop him like napalm on Laos. He’ll tell the Commies he smokes a cigar on Saturday night: *whoosh*, there he goes. It should take less than a week to get down to hookers and peddlers.

How real is my “real” Facebook account? It’s real to me. I’m genuinely interested in my friends, and my feelings would be hurt if they dropped me. I’ve also realized that friendship is often inefficient, and requires some bumbling, and that we need to bumble a bit more.

A little help from our friends:

• **Carroll County Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-844-247-3223 (844-24PEACE) is available 24/7. The Purple Flower Domestic Violence Resource and Support Center of Carroll County is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on North Springfield St. in Berryville. (479) 981-1676.

• **GriefShare** is a weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. Group meets in the library of the Holiday Island Community Church from 2 – 4 p.m. each Sunday. Contact Dale or Laura Nichols (479) 253-8925 or email lardellen@gmail.com for more information.

• **24-hour NWA 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** – 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. 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 followed by 12-step Christ-centered meetings for those suffering from addiction, habit, hang-up or hurt.

• **No high school diploma?** 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:

• **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

FEBRUARY 9

10:05 a.m. – Passerby noticed someone had done donuts on the field at Lake Leatherwood City Park causing deep ruts.

11:13 a.m. – Person at the cemetery reported someone had defaced historic headstones with colored chalk and one headstone had been broken.

11:43 p.m. – Constables responded to a domestic disturbance just east of downtown and arrested an individual for third degree domestic battery, third degree battery, disorderly conduct and violating a No Contact order.

FEBRUARY 10

1:44 a.m. – Individual told ESPD he had cut his hand and was bleeding significantly. However, he did not want EMS or a taxi because he could not afford them. He said he might be able to walk to ESH except he was intoxicated.

4:23 p.m. – Constable responded to an establishment downtown to take a report of a burglary.

4:27 p.m. – Intoxicated male drove away from ESH, and constables were on the alert watching for him.

FEBRUARY 11

8:00 a.m. – Constables investigated an overnight break-in at a business downtown.

11:48 a.m. – Concerned caller asked for a welfare check on a friend who had texted she needed help. Constables responded to her hotel room and arrested a male for third degree domestic battery. 1:35 p.m. – Someone backed into and damaged a garage just north of downtown overnight. Constable filed a report.

FEBRUARY 12

11:50 a.m. – Constables arrested a person on an outstanding warrant.

1:18 p.m. – Individual filed a report on his tire being slashed during the night.

2:32 p.m. – Constable provided an escort for a funeral procession.

2:32 p.m. – Person filed a report because she claimed a package she had been expecting in the mail had been stolen.

11:14 p.m. – Individual on North Main told ESPD she had heard a few possibly intoxicated people yelling outside in what might be a domestic dispute. The yellers told the responding constable they had been arguing over keys.

FEBRUARY 13

1:24 a.m. – Caller told ESPD his neighbor’s dog had been barking for hours. He said he had reported this in the past and Animal Control said to call again if the problem recurred. Constable went to the area but heard no barking.

5:10 a.m. – Alarm company alerted ESPD to a front door alarm at a business on US 62, but the constable found everything secure.

8:13 a.m. – Apartment dweller asked to speak with

a constable because some items might have been stolen.

8:18 a.m. – Another alarm had been triggered at a business, this time above downtown, and the constable who checked the building found things in order.

7:18 p.m. – There was a two-vehicle accident in a parking lot.

9:30 p.m. – Constable went to the scene of a domestic dispute. He intervened and the couple settled down.

9:42 p.m. – Then the constable went to a restaurant downtown to check on an intoxicated female. He called a ride to take her back to her room for the night.

11:45 p.m. – Passerby noticed two males run behind a building upon being seen and she said it seemed suspicious. Constables checked the area but did not encounter anyone being suspicious.

FEBRUARY 15

4:18 p.m. – Constable asked the owner to move a vehicle blocking a street above downtown.

4:58 p.m. – Motel staff reported a guest had accidentally shot himself in his hand with his firearm. His wife had taken him to ESH.

8:48 p.m. – Person at work was concerned about noises outside her business. Constable checked it out and found everything was okay.

Fire extinguisher recall

Kidde disposable plastic fire extinguishers are being recalled due to failure to discharge. A faulty valve component can cause the extinguishers not to fully discharge when the lever is repeatedly pressed and released during a fire emergency, posing a risk of injury.

The recall involves 31 models of Kidde disposable fire extinguishers with Zytel® black plastic valves. The recalled extinguishers are red, white or silver and are either ABC or BC rated. The ratings can be found to the right of the nameplate.

The extinguishers are sold at Home Depot, Menards, Walmart and other department and hardware stores, and online, for \$18 to \$65, and about \$200 for model XL 5MR. Kidde has received 11 reports of the recalled fire extinguishers failing to discharge as expected. No injuries have been reported.

Consumers should contact Kidde for a replacement fire extinguisher. If you have one of these products, phone toll-free (855) 283-7991 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday, or visit www.kidde.com and click on Safety Notice for more information.

Turpentine Creek celebrates groundbreaking for vet clinic

After months of planning and fundraising, the folks at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge are delighted to invite the public to attend the official groundbreaking on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m., for construction of an on-site veterinary clinic.

TCWR President, Tanya Smith, is especially looking forward to avoiding stress on animals that now have to be transported for treatment. "Once we get this clinic up and running, things will be very much improved, both in terms of stressing the animals out and being able to treat them more quickly and thoroughly than before."

"We are on track with our fundraising goals for the building, so we are having the groundbreaking now to mark the occasion," VP Scott Smith said. "The next stage of things is getting the equipment for the clinic." Curator Emily McCormack has been researching the types of equipment the clinic will need to operate. "We're looking at several different grant or donor situations that help fund clinics like the one we're building," she said.

TCWR board of directors and donors will be on hand for the event, along with architects Terry and Jeanine McGuire, who donated their time creating blueprints and drawings for the new building. As of Feb. 11, including pledges and available matching funds, Turpentine Creek has reached \$252,344 of the \$304,000 necessary for the clinic building.

Donations are welcome and used to pay ongoing care and

feeding expenses for more than 130 tigers, lions, cougars, bears and other endangered wildlife at TCWR. For refuge and event details, visit www.turpentinecreek.org or call (479) 253-5841.

The entry view of the new veterinary clinic at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. A groundbreaking at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, is open to the public.



ENTRY ELEVATION

TURPENTINE CREEK VETERINARIAN CLINIC



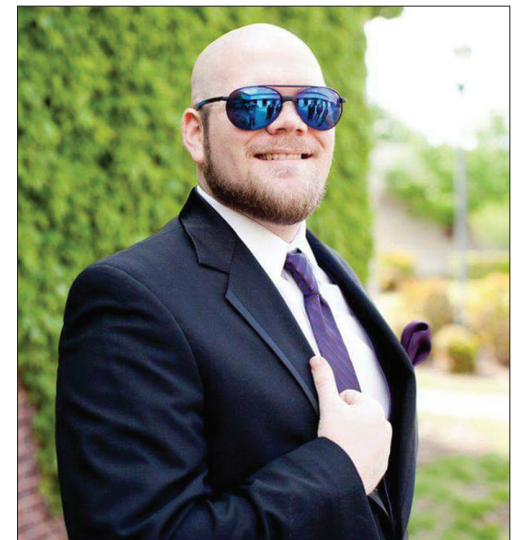
Young thespians – The Drama Club of Eureka Springs High School gathers for a photograph following their dinner theater presentation of *Check Please* in the high school auditorium on Feb. 13. The series of humorous short playlets portrayed couples in a series of first dates.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sooouper Sunday Feb. 22

Holiday Island Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its annual Souper Sunday fund-raiser Sunday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse, 1 Country Club Dr., in Holiday Island. Come enjoy lunch featuring a variety of homemade soups and desserts

served by department firefighters. Cost at the door is \$6 adults and \$2 children under 12. All proceeds benefit the fire department, which serves the Holiday Island SID and rural residents. Those who wish to donate a soup or dessert should call Mary Inglehart (479) 981-1725.



Memorial Service for Neil Miller

The community is invited to a memorial service celebrating Neil Miller's life on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m., at the First Baptist Church on Dove Circle in Holiday Island.

Those who wish may bring an 5 x 8 photo of Neil to share. Friends wishing to speak at the memorial should contact Andrew Aukerman (918) 557-2959.

Memorial fund established

A Neil Miller memorial account has been set up at Community First Bank in Eureka Springs for family travel costs and Neil's final expenses. To donate, contact Christian Anderson at the bank (479) 253-0500, or his direct line (479) 253-0524.



Drew Gentle and his *Strip Tease*

Valentines all – The Chocolate Lover’s Festival was jam packed and had to turn folks away on Valentine’s Day. In the evening, the Eureka Fine Art Gallery provided *Arte-Erotique* exhibition visitors with Champagne and chocolates to go with the erotic art from several of their artists; and Jerry Jones and Melissa Carper entertained the packed house at Love is Brewing at Brews after the parade. Upstairs at the Space, visitors got Lovesick at the Erotic Art Experience.

PHOTOS BY JAY VRECEK



John Wiley enjoys a brew at Brews.



Larry Mansker and Sallie Overby cast a critical eye on Drew Gentle’s *Strip Tease*.



Mike Masterson and Paula Watters-Jones

Engaged! – Who says chocolate isn’t an aphrodisiac? It inspired Brent Coy to propose to Shayna Huls right amidst tons of chocolate at the Chocolate Lovers’ Festival on Valentine’s Day!



Our local valentines also turned out to support the One Billion Rising event in Basin Park – a worldwide event to stop violence against women.



A demure Jessica Pierson Looney looks like she already has this royalty thing in the bag.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

Royal photo – Queen Cné Breaux and King LeRoy Gorrell look the part at the Coronation Ball at the Crescent Hotel.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE

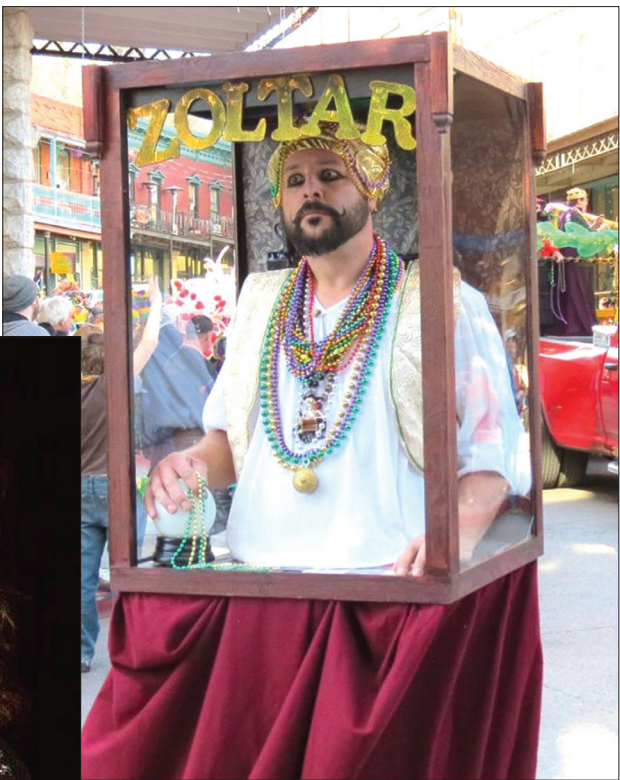


Lisa McMahon and Bert Jones

PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE

Zoltar may grant your wishes, but you may wish he hadn't. Ask Tom Hanks.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK



Left, Dan Ellis, Mr. Mardi Gras. Ain't no sunshine when he's gone.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

Maureen Stanton-Alexander entertains at the Coronation Ball.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE

Blog jam Feb. 28

Jacqueline Wolven will teach a workshop on blogging at the Village Writing School, 177 Huntsville Road, Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Learn technical aspects of blogging, how to grow your blog, all about SEO, and how to develop your brand through your blog. If your blog has been floundering or you know you need a blog but haven't done it yet, this workshop can help get you on track.

Wolven runs the Northwest Arkansas Bloggers community, speaks at blogging conferences nationwide, writes for the Huffington Post and Beliefnet.com and was recently named a So Fab Writer and Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Blogger. Cost is \$45. Call (479) 292-3665 for more info or to register, or see www.villagewritingschool.com.

Curious About Quilting?

Holiday Island Quilters' Guild invites you to attend Quilting 101's second session Feb. 26, 10 a.m., in Holiday Island Clubhouse, Room A.

Holiday Island Quilters welcomes quilters of all ages and skill levels. Find motivation for your creative interests and make new friends as well. Learn basic, simple construction techniques

for hand and machine piecing.

We invite you to our monthly meeting, held at the Holiday Island Club House, Room A, the third Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., beginning in March. Come join us for piecwork, projects, and programs! For information/registration, call Lynn at (479) 363-9052.

Master the romance of dance

Make time for the one you love and together learn the romantic rumba, sultry swing, tantalizing tango or yoga for two at Melonlight Dance Studio! These are just a few options you may choose to learn in private lessons – one hour each – scheduled at your convenience. Sign up for Latin Lovers, Swingin' Sweeties and/or Two to Tango and learn to shine on the dance floor. Gift certificates available.

Or, stretch your physical limits, balance and well being with Partnered Yoga, Yoga-for-the-Heart or start with the Heart Openers Yoga Workshop Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

For costs and details on these and upcoming workshops, and a complete schedule of ongoing classes for adults and kids, see www.melonlightdance.com or phone (720) 278-5672.

May Arts Festival event submissions made easy

The sooner you submit, the more interest you'll get

Anyone hosting an arts-related event during May Festival of the Arts can now easily submit their information directly to the Eureka Springs Festival of the Arts website.

The site is now open for submissions, with more exciting info soon to be added so visitors will be updated and eager to come, see and participate in our month-long celebration.

To submit an event, go to eurekaspringsfestivalofthearts.com,

click on INFO at the top, and follow the directions for filling out the form for MFA events. There is no cost to submit to the website. From there your information will also be picked up for inclusion in the *Independent Fun Guide* and other publications.

The Arts Council and festival organizers are planning and promoting early, so don't chance being left out of May Arts event publicity.

Questions? Email artscouncileureka@gmail.com.

ES CARNEGIE LIBRARY PRESENTS SECRET SEASON CINEMA 2015 FOREIGN FILM FESTIVAL



RATED R

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015 @7PM
IN THE LIBRARY ANNEX
FREE ADMISSION - FREE POPCORN

"Model" student is rising star – Eureka Springs High student, Naomi Grace Floyd, 17, is making waves on the national modeling scene. Naomi, national TMP model and spokesmodel for Melanie Myhre Photography, was chosen as an official model for the country's largest photography conference (Wedding and Portrait Photographers International) in Las Vegas March 1 – 4. WPPI attracts more than 12,000 of the biggest names in the photography industry worldwide. For information on the TMP model program, email Melaniemyhrephotography@hotmail.com or phone (479) 981-3765.



#Yarnolutionary premieres at the Pressroom

Remember Gina Gallina and Jeremy Mason McGraw's 2013 collaborative crochet and photography project, Yarnography? Well, it's not over. On Feb. 28, Gina Gallina takes us deeper into her yarn obsession to a whimsical mashup called #Yarnolutionary from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Pressroom, 121 W. Central Ave. in Bentonville.

Energy Project, a revolution in creative expression is fueled by crochet. There will be art, music and colorful fun. Crochet and knit-inspired dress is encouraged along with solid cream, light blue or pink attire. Bring your phones and prepare to share.

Those attending the Pressroom installation opening can mosey on down the square to the #Yarnolutionary Ball Of Yarn party at the 21c Museum Hotel where the ballroom will be transformed into a crochet wonderland complete with crochet characters, photo booth, sculptures, live music and performances from 9 – midnight.

Entry to both events is free.

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*.



CONSTANCE
WAGNER

God, how awful, Jane thought. These emotional scenes – the worst one yet! Those hands, seizing, clutching – it was like being strangled. She looked down at Tracy, shaken still by an occasional deep sob, her light hair tumbled in disorder against the gray wool of Jane's skirt. She braced herself against her own aversion, took a firm grip of Tracy's shoulders, and helped her to her feet. She even contrived a smile. "It's all right," she said. "Everything is all right. Now let's skip this whole thing and have a *pleasant* time, shall we?"

Tracy lapsed into her chair, dabbed her face with a handkerchief, and managed a wavering smile. "Honey, I don't know why you put up with me. Honest I don't. Sometimes," she added, "I think everybody in this whole town is wacky, one way or another. All frustrated – and tangled up together so, the families. Don't you think that's got something to do with it?"

Jane said: "Oh, perhaps –" not wishing to dwell on the idea, which repelled her.

Tracy persisted. "Why, yesterday," she said, "when I was over at Mother's, and Mrs. Winchfield and Mrs. Dycus and Mrs. Totten were there, sewing, they got to talking about who married who, way back when, and what was so-and-so's maiden name – and I swear, when I went down the list of the old families around here, I couldn't think of a single one that wasn't kin, somewhere or other, to every other one. All tied up together like a can of angleworms –"

Jane laughed aloud. "Angleworms! Tracy, you're killing me."

"Well, it's so," Tracy cried, pleased when she'd said something that amused Jane. "And you're in it, too, now. You and your Junior... Did you know that Mother's double-first cousin was married to Mrs. Knowles's brother – the one that got killed in the first war?"

Jane shook her head. "What does that make *us*?"

"Well, not kissing kin, maybe – but you see what I mean. Why, even those characters over on South Mountain are connected with the best families, if you trace 'em back far enough. And not even counting in the brush-colts."

Jane's mind veered uneasily toward Fenton Sayre. He was becoming more and more ubiquitous about town, now

that he had opened a furniture store next door to Corley's café, so that she scarcely ever crossed the square, these days, without catching sight of him, either standing outside the store in his preposterous fancy boots, with that hat swooped up at the sides, or arrogantly mounted on a high, piebald pony, and invariably chewing tobacco. Junior's uncle!

Tracy, who had a gift for picking an idea out of Jane's head with no word spoken, said in a casual tone that rang a little false:

"Did you know, they say Fenton Sayre and Clytie Byrne are living together? Some people think they're married. I doubt *that*, though. Why should anybody bother to marry *her* – 'specially Fenton Sayre? Now isn't that a lovely tie-up? Those two!"

"Maybe," Jane said with a cynicism that was lost on Tracy, "maybe they are madly in love with each other."

Tracy snorted. "That trash! Clytie

has certainly tobogganed since the days when she –"

She stopped, flustered, and Jane finished it for her. "When she went with Walter. It doesn't bother me, Tracy. Not any more. Is she living in town?"

Tracy ducked her head. "That apartment up over the pool-room. Of all places! I wonder what her mother thinks of that... Somebody," she recalled, "said she was going to open a beauty shop. They say she learned it at the school down there in Springview, when she was married to that fellow, only she wasn't married to him at all, it turned out, because he had a wife somewhere all the time. And they say that's how she came by that Ford that she drives around town, too. They say she agreed not to arrest him for bigamy if he'd let her have the car. Had a Buick when she married him – only it wasn't his, as she thought. It belonged to the company he forked for. I'll bet," said Tracy with satisfaction, "that it burned her up when she had to

settle for a Ford."

When they had gone to the living-room and Jane was setting a match to the kindling on the hearth, Tracy prowled restlessly along the bookshelves, peering at titles. "You've got more *books*," she said. "Walter used to write awfully well when we were all in school. Everybody thought he'd be a famous author some day. Doesn't he ever write any more?"

Jane said, "No. He doesn't do anything but get out the paper and a few odd jobs of printing. And hunt and fish and play country gentleman." She must have said this with more acidity than she'd intended, because Tracy threw her a penetrating glance, and she wondered bleakly if she herself would, in time, have reduced her marriage to a state of permanent armed neutrality, like Tracy's.

NOTES from the HOLLOW

by Steve Weems

Looking at an old 1963 *Eureka Springs Times-Echo* newspaper, I found a photograph of John Cross holding the heads of an antelope and a deer. He'd just returned from a hunting trip where he'd also hunted grouse and partridge and toured Yellowstone National Park. I looked at that picture several times before I realized why my eye kept being drawn to it. Behind Mr. Cross is the International Travelall that would later become our family vehicle. Fast forward a decade to Athens, Greece, and that same International Travelall is rumbling through a crowd of anti-American demonstrators who are banging on the windows and yelling for the Yankees to go home. There is shouting about Henry Kissinger. Interesting times.

I have the vague memory of travelling from Eureka Springs to New York City in the International so it could be shipped to Europe. Donnie Weems served with the Greek Navy on the Island of Salamina for three years. He had graduated from the Defense Language Institute and spoke the language. Daily, he would either drive

the International to the ferry or ride with coworkers.

Similar in size to a Suburban, the International Travelall was a 1962 model with a unique four wheel drive system. It seemed capable of going places that many vehicles were unable to go. I remember that my father was proud of how it had once rescued a newborn calf from death in deep snow.

So much bigger than the typical Greek vehicle, the Travelall made an impression on the locals and earned the nickname, "The Tank." After some men tried to steal it, my father employed his electronics know-how



to install an ignition lock that could only be overridden by a number code. Mounted on the large front bumper was a mechanical winch that Dad once used to hang the vehicle (or at least the front half) from a limb in a tree. I'm not exactly sure why.

The old International plays a distinct role in our family lore and my father never did part with it. It remains where he parked it last.

NEW PRISONS continued from page 6

"If the public defender system fails, the entire court system fails," the commission said.

According to a report published recently in the *National Journal*, crime in America is at historic lows with violent crime dropping by almost 50 percent in the past 20 years.

"It's hard to pinpoint which variables lead to less crime in a state, but there is one constant," the article said. "The seven states that have seen a decrease in their imprisonment rates over the past 20 years have all seen a corresponding drop in crime. To put it more simply, fewer people in prison correlates with less crime overall."

Chinese New Year – Female Green Wood Sheep/Goat – Fire & Earth

This is the first week of Lent (purification, preparation) and according to the Luni-solar calendar, the Chinese Spring Festival/Lunar New Year of 2015 – Year of the Wood Sheep/Goat. It's a turning point year. We make something from seemingly nothing. Goats are mild mannered, shy, friendly and kindhearted with delicate thoughts, strong creativity and perseverance. Although gentle on the surface, they are strong and tough on the inside, an inner resilience, excellent defense mechanisms and great professional skills.

Though goats prefer to be in groups, they shy away from attention. They're reserved and quiet reflecting on

their own thoughts and ideas. Goats are fashionable, stylish. Goats are private. It may take time to know them. Goats seldom share personal lives, having only a select few intimate friends. Their friendship is peaceful and fulfilling, supporting, caring, working hard for loved ones.

Celebrating Chinese New Year. Red (the color symbolizes joy, virtue, truth, sincerity) is everywhere – lanterns, couplets of good fortune on doors, paintings of red goats and dolls. Celebrations include setting off firecrackers at doorways morning & evening scaring away evil spirits; giving money to children (and the

poor) in red envelopes; honoring elders and ancestors; offering prayers to the Kitchen God/Stove (fire); preparing, sharing and eating "lucky foods" – fish (wishing everyone wealth and prosperity); dumplings (or spring rolls filled with long white daikon threads for long life); rice balls (reunion, being together); noodles (longevity); oranges and tangerines (success); while also preparing for the Full Moon Lantern Festival (March 5). On altars are plum and quince blossoms and narcissus (beauty). **Sunday, Feb. 22** is Washington's birthday & mine, too. Tithing first that day & then to the museum (Crystal Bridges).

ARIES: You shift between social groups and dream time, big plans for the future and things secret and reflective. Two realities at one time can be disorienting. The planets are influencing everyone to be in two worlds simultaneously. Each world affects the other. You'll be called gradually, yet more and more, to contemplation, rest and relaxation and a dream world preparing you for things to come. Remember your nightly review. See that your day was good.

TAURUS: There are others who can assist you in the work you're to accomplish next.

Ask them questions and listen to their thoughts and ideas. They have information that fills gaps in the information you already have. Continue with planning, be bold, philanthropic, public, enterprising, inventive, and principled. Think big! Don't stop there. Create an entire village! It will be needed.

GEMINI: You're to become more involved and a presence in things local in your community. Gathering and dispensing information will be most important in times to come as the old world falls away and the foundations of the new culture and civilization are being created. All around the world new concepts for living are being adopted. Learn about them. You're a leader in speaking, writing, communicating.

CANCER: Many realities call to you. One is resources, sharing yours with others, preparing for others in need. The second is philosophy, justice, expanding your mind, studying, reading, learning. Together these make for a very active and intelligent mind indeed, filled with new ideas and contemplations. Notice if there's a spark of joy, like dry kindling waiting to be lit. From the Soul comes Joy and for this your personality longs.

LEO: Mercury in Aquarius is traveling through your house of relationships. This makes your mind really active in terms of relationships. Mercury tries to build bridges from one to another. This can be disorienting if you're a Leo whose energies are mainly internal. For externalized Leos this can be an exhilarating time of connecting with others. Your mind, energy, focus, need for action and travel are shining brightly these days. It's time for new endeavors.

VIRGO: What ways of being, what daily agendas and disciplines, what boundaries and structures within your daily life do you

want to eliminate, tear down, do away with and leave behind? This is an excellent time to initiate new schedules, plans, programs, arrangements and organization that will alter daily life and also create foundation for future endeavors. Are money matters organized?

LIBRA: It's the most highly creative time for you, Libra. Whatever you do indicates future possibilities. For some Librans it is good to study the

science and art of astrology. For other Libras consulting a financial advisor, astrologically knowledgeable is good. Knowledge and application of astrology brings balance, harmony and a deep comfort in knowing all's well and in rhythm in all things. Initiate all things new in your relationship, Libra.

SCORPIO: The future is streaming into your present/future and staying there a while. Mercury ass, «what future are you hoping for, what does it look and feel like, who do you hope lives in that future with you, how and where will you live and what will your home look like? It might be straw bale, look like a space ship, totally off the grid and in a community twelve miles out of town in the woods. With chickens and goats.

SAGITTARIUS: Changes in routine, plans and agendas may occur more often. Your mind may feel like it's taken off in a starship to places far far away. I've mentioned a book list for these times before. "2150" by Thea Alexander? "Island" by Aldous Huxley? "Shikasta" by Doris Lessing. Find them. Read them. Also anything about the Secret Space Program and anything by progressive journalist Sam Smith. They provide light in our particular semi-darkness.

CAPRICORN: All Capricorns are becoming new these days. New ideas,

thoughts, actions, interests, moods, feelings. Within this change comes compassion, especially toward those having less, toward children and elder.. Sometimes our compassion gets lost along the way. Then something occurs, a loss and revelation, and it emerges once again. Compassion - a found object within each of us. Like a sanctuary light in the temple of self. Compassion. What does it mean?

AQUARIUS: So many realities occurring for you this month. A new path may be considered and possibly taken, an expansion of friendships, thoughts about community, sharing resources, and trying to heal a wound that hurts. Communication is most important now. Be fair with everyone and ethical. Tend to money carefully with great consideration toward others. Share.

PISCES: You're focused on things private and confidential. It's your birthday month. A new year for you. On birthdays it's good to tithe (give) first, helping those in need - children in hospitals (St. Jude's Hospital), building resources in communities for families (Heifer Project), medicines for those in need (Doctors Without Borders). When an obstacle or question appears, radiate a light from the ajna center (3rd eye) upon it. A revelation (answer) then occurs. Are you sleeping? What are you dreaming about?

Risa - writer, founder & director, Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute, a contemporary Wisdom School & College – an inter-disciplinary College 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



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Bountiful "Harvest" on Radio Hour

Steven Chain, coordinator of the Holiday Island Photo Guild, is this week's special guest on the Ozark Harvest Radio Hour. Steven talks about the guild, photography, and why he chose to live in the Ozarks. Author Sharon Laborde checks in with "Welcome to the Conversation" and tells us how to foreshadow in that book we're plugging away at.

Dr. Jim Young, a co-founder of the Arkansas Metaphysical Society, talks about making love in and with every sense. Big Joe Turner and Champion Jack Dupree sing the blues and let us know what music is supposed to sound like. Go to www.ozarkharvestradiohour.com and listen to all tracks in order; and download the program to your phones!

Soap lady - Dale Bishop brought her Lady Eureka products to the Chocolate Lover's Festival as part of the non-food vendors floor. You can't eat it but the way it smells makes you wish you could!

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK



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- Ermilio's
- Eureka Live
- Forest Hill
- FRESH
- Grand Taverne
- Horizon Lakeview Restaurant
- Island Grill & Sports Bar
- Island Ice Cream Parlor
- Island Pizza and Pub
- La Familia
- Local Flavor Cafe
- New Delhi
- Oscar's Cafe
- Ozark Kitchen
- Roadhouse
- 1886 Steakhouse
- Sparky's
- StoneHouse
- Sweet n Savory
- Thai House
- The Coffee Stop

Chelsea's hosts 'You Can't Steal Our Love' party Friday Capt. Ledge String Band docks Saturday

Our post-Mardi Gras festivities thaw the frozen landscapes for dancing and more revelry starting now. Chelsea's has a huge lineup Friday featuring Earl and Them, Dime Trip and others for fundraising and security awareness; Maureen Alexander

brings her sultry jazz phrasings to Brew's on Saturday; and Capt. Ledge String Band brings a female-led, sailing-aficionados, eclectic sound to Chelsea's on Saturday, as well. We can all imagine sun on our faces and feel the warmth of the wavelengths.

THURSDAY, FEB. 19

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



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LEGENDS SALOON – StarSeed,
Blues, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

ALE HOUSE – Elby, Pianist, 6 – 9 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – Jukebox
Shakedown Party, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – You Can't Steal Our
Love Party: Earl and Them, Dime
Trip, Brian Martin, Mike Hopper,
Sprungbilly, 4 p.m. – 1 a.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 – John
Harwood, Singer/Songwriter, 8 p.m.
THE STONEHOUSE – Jerry Yester,
Artist's Choices

SATURDAY, FEB. 21

ALE HOUSE – Kirk and Cara's
Acoustic Hootenanny, Singers/
Songwriters, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

BREWS – Maureen Alexander, Jazz
Singer, 7–10 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – Joe Mack,
Singer/Songwriter, 8 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – Capt. Ledge String
Band, Female lead Americana, 9:30
p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – DJ & Dancing, 9
p.m.

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

LEGENDS SALOON – DJ and

Karaoke with Kara, 8 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER – Hellbenders
Trio, Classic Rock, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 22

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

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

OZARK MOUNTAIN TAPROOM –
Cards Against Humanity/Board Games,
2– 9 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 23

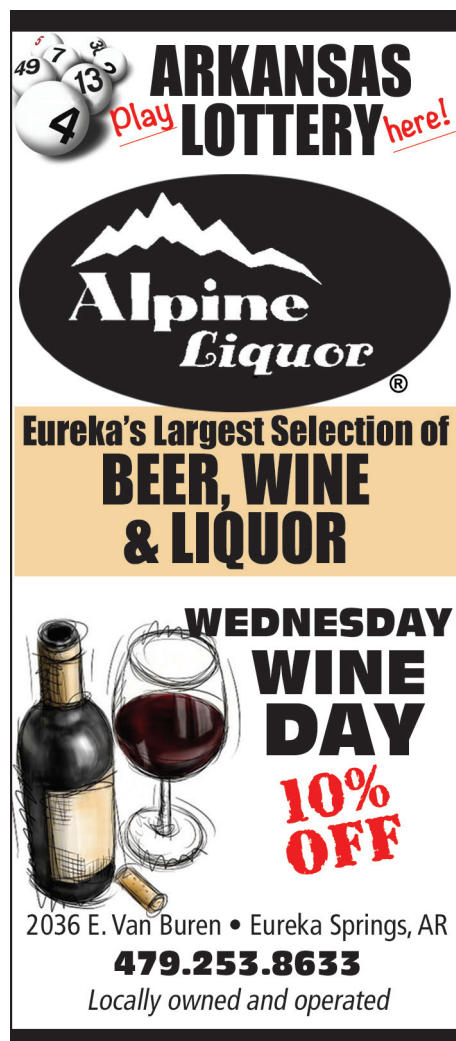
CHELSEA'S – Sprungbilly, Bluegrass,
8 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

CHELSEA'S – Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

LEGENDS SALOON – GG
Unleashed, MC Entertainer, 7 p.m.



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Mon., Feb. 23 • 9:30 P.M. –
SPRUNGBILLY
Tues., Feb. 24 • 9:30 P.M. – **OPEN MIC**
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Capt. Ledge Band performs at Chelsea's Sat., Feb. 21

Hike the Devil's Yellow Rock

Holiday Island Hikers will take on Devil's Den Yellow Rock Monday, Feb. 23, for a three-mile moderate hike. If interested in joining the hike, meet at far end of Hart's parking lot, near the drive-thru pharmacy, at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be at Mermaid's Restaurant.

This is the hike rescheduled from Jan. 12. For details, call Dan Kees (660) 287-2082 or email dandtkees@cox.net.

Any hike leader from Eureka Springs interested in meeting with Dan about hikes, please contact him at the above number or email.

Metafizzies discussion Feb. 23

Monday, Feb. 23, the Eureka Springs Metaphysical Society will feature a group discussion on spiritual topics at 7 p.m. in the reading room of the Christian Science Church at 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

ESH Guild meets March 3

The Eureka Springs Hospital Guild will meet March 3 in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Susan Hopkins and daughter, Piper Allen, who have created "Senior Solutions," a professional geriatric care consultation service. Susan specialized in home health for more than 30 years before her retirement from the hospital. Come and meet them and ask questions. Visitors always welcome.

Soap opera(tor) March 5

A thrifty laundry soap formula will be shared and demonstrated by Susan Rivera (who says it really works well with only a small scoop per load) at The

Cradle, 213 Hailey Road in Berryville on Thursday, March 5, at 1 p.m. Free to the public. For more info phone (479) 253-7895.

Annual Military Ball March 7

Holiday Island's American Legion Post 36 and VFW Post 77 are hosting the 6th Annual Military Ball Saturday, March 7, at the Crescent Hotel. Tickets are \$37.50 per person. Contact Steve Isaacson (479) 363-4458 for tickets.



Eurekaski! – Where did he even find a ski in Arkansas? The first real snow of the season brought out the best in Yahkie Naumann who took a bicycle seat, attached it to a ski, and got himself down Howell St. in high style Monday morning. *PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE*

HIGHLANDER continued from page 1

How it happened

The Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce was tasked by the school board with taking on a redevelopment plan for the vacated high school property. This included gathering ideas from several public meetings and considering all of them, researching every feasible possibility and laying a path toward putting the property to its highest use for the citizens of Eureka Springs, Holiday Island and Carroll County.

The job fell on the shoulders of Murphy, Mayor Butch Berry, Randy Wolfenbarger, David Kellogg, Glen Crenshaw, Al Larson, Bill Featherstone, Jack Moyer and Chamber President/CEO, Mike Bishop.

The committee met monthly, sometimes weekly, for two years and countless hours, working through different scenarios, drawings, ideas and concepts, much of it with the volunteer help of Breakthrough Solutions and Cromwell Architects and Engineers

One look at the renderings supplied at no charge by Cromwell, a Little Rock architect/engineering firm with a 130-year history of flexibility and a penchant for community projects, will confirm every inch of space at the old school property has been idealized to best use.

The old building at the corner of US62/W. Van Buren housing classrooms and offices will come down because of several issues. However, a portion will be preserved and hold a prominent place to commemorate

the original '50s structure. Plans also include finding creative uses for those controversial glass blocks once they're restored.

What it might look like

The proposed project will likely be completed in stages, the first being the community center including reception, gymnasium, workout rooms and equipment, locker room, a stage, commercial kitchen and an office. There will be an optional rollout floor to top the gym floor for exhibitions/banquets or dances, and a walking track above, similar to the one at the Berryville Community Center.

Attached buildings will hold exercise/classroom space, senior activities room, restrooms, office space and a meeting/media room with WiFi for public use and the capability to accommodate and broadcast larger city meetings.

Parks and Recreation will operate the community center and proposed outdoor spaces.

When all stages are complete there will be an event/convention venue (doubling the town's current convention capacity), 13,000 sq. ft. of Class A office space to be rented out, coffee shop, retail space, artists' studio and loft with kitchen – and sometime in the future, a water slide/swimming area.

Renderings also show intensive landscaping with shade trees and attractive multi-use green space for activities and relaxing.

What's next

The school board must give official approval, so the next step is to share the plan with the entire school board, city officials, financial institutions, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the community. Berry agreed to take potential city involvement with the property under advisement with the caveat that he will not commit the city to any financial responsibility at this time.

After that, "Funding first, then actual development," Bishop said. The committee has met in Little Rock with Cromwell, Parks & Tourism officials, and the Arkansas Development Commission regarding grants.

Because Eureka Springs has recently changed economic brackets, it is also now eligible for Economic Development Block Grants. "We're pursuing any and all grants and local fundraisers," Murphy said.

Bishop felt confident that, because the project would eventually generate revenue and be self-sustaining, initial funding could possibly be secured within a year from project approval.

Anyone with questions, ideas for fundraisers – or who might want to volunteer time or skills (like cleaning glass blocks) to help offset costs, should make themselves known to Diane Murphy (479) 981-1323 or Mike Bishop (479) 253-8737.

More renderings from Cromwell Architects showing the entire project can be seen on the *Independent* web and Facebook pages.

Didn't get the valentine you wanted?

With millions of people looking for love online, why limit the search to the two-legged?

Have you ever thought about finding "the one" at the Good Shepherd Animal Shelter? February can be a little dreary and cold without a special companion, and with so many dogs and cats in shelters or rescues waiting to be your one and only, it's the perfect time of year to adopt a pet.

Here's some good reasons one may be your perfect match

Pets won't play hard to get.

Pets won't break up with you on Twitter.

Pets won't mock you for eating ice cream out of the carton.

Pets will never take the last beer.

Pets don't care what kind of car you drive.

Pets love binge watching "Orange is the New Black" as much as you do.

Pets have no desire to trade you in for a newer model. Pets couldn't care less about your hair or what you wear.

Pets love it when you leave your clothes on the floor (instant nap spot!).

Pets won't look at their smartphone when you are trying to have a conversation.

Pets are cheap dates – no fancy dinners or expensive jewelry required.

Pets drooling and snoring are pretty cute. Humans, not so much.

Pets will snuggle whenever you want.

And, pets think every day is Valentine's Day – just one more chance to show you unconditional love!



A chicken in every parade – Glenn Couvillion holds up a lamppost and a featherless friend while waiting to step out in the Eureka Gras parade Saturday.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK



Decadence, fun, and good company permeated the Royal Coronation Ball at the Crescent Hotel Friday night. Crochet Queen, Gina Rose Galina, knit together a striking picture with Dusty Dulin.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE



Fun at the Ball – Chip Ford and Becky Gillette decided to be a hooker and a joker for the night at the Hookers and Jokers Ball Feb. 12. We won't say which was which.

PHOTO BY NORA PATTERSON VIOLA

DEPARTURE

Thomas Joseph Knopp March 11, 1938 – Feb. 15, 2015

Thomas Joseph Knopp was born on March 11, 1938 in Winona, Minn., to Genevieve and Joseph Knopp.

Tom had a lifelong love of wheels, from bicycles to cars, motorcycles to tractors, whatever machine ran on wheels! One of the professional accomplishments Tom was most proud of was his participation in the development of the technique of high frequency ventilation to care for those whose breathing was compromised by injury. He was very

proud to say that he had achieved the rank of Associate Professor of Anesthesiology in the Mayo Graduate School in Rochester, Minn.

Tom retired from the Mayo Clinic after 36 years of service in March 2000. He then developed a "gang" of friends during his retirement in Arkansas. One group was his lunch gang and the other was his wood cutting gang. These were warm and happy times spent in the sunshine.

Tom lost his life to pancreatic cancer

on Feb. 15, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Gail Knopp; stepson, Jonathan Tomshine; two daughters and two grandsons by his first marriage to Sandra Knopp, Anne Knopp and her son, Simon Thomas Minchik, and Amy Knopp and her son, Joseph Thomas Knopp; a sister, Barbara Leary of Moody, Mo.; a brother, Steven Knopp of Bloomington, Minn.; niece Nancy Knopp Hagerty and great-niece, Klatelyn Genevieve Hagerty.

Tom's boundless humor, sunny

smile, energy, wisdom and love will be dearly missed by all. A graveside service will take place at the Eureka Springs Cemetery in the spring. Cremation was under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home, Springdale, Ark.

The family requests that memorial gifts be designated to pancreatic cancer research at Mayo Clinic. Gifts can be mailed directly to Mayo Clinic, Department of Development, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905.



Marathon election – Carroll County Bible Reading Marathon committee recently elected officers for 2015. Front row, from left, are Vice President Kent Goude, Secretary Florence Fout and President Bonnie Roediger. Back row, Parliamentarian Donna Pharis and Treasurer Joe Sorrell. They are a small representation of different churches working together to coordinate the 6th Annual National Day of Prayer event on the Square in Green Forest May 3 – 7. To volunteer to read for a 15 minute block, contact Peggy Holmes (870) 726-6037; or volunteer other help Monday March 2, 2 p.m., at 203 Westridge Ave. in Berryville or Monday, March 9, at 6:30 pm at the Depot in Green Forest.

TRANSGENDER continued from page 7

who I wanted to be. It really started to sink in that this was my life, and I was the only one responsible for creating it. That thought was both really scary and really exciting. I didn't have to answer to Katie, or use the women's room, or hide my body to disguise my discomfort. I could actually make my brain and my body match up."

Caden joined a transgender support group in Fayetteville, and met with a licensed psychologist who could determine if he was stable enough to get a reference for hormones from a medical doctor. That culminated with starting transitioning by taking testosterone shots on March 10, 2014.

In the months since, Caden has become stockier, his voice has deepened and he has started growing facial hair. He noticed an increase in energy, his appetite increased, and so did his sex drive. He found it more difficult to express himself, and realized he can't cry as easily.

Even though there were challenges such as going through puberty at age 32, he has no regrets.

"Transitioning was the right choice for me," Caden said. "I feel a greater sense of well-being, and I have more interest in my future in a way that I hadn't before. Overall, I feel more even-keel emotionally, because I believe my brain and my body are now on the same page."

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INDEPENDENT Crossword

by ESI staff

Solution on page 23

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14					15		
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ACROSS

- Conical tent
- Mild oath
- Tin or spray
- Flair; panache
- Not all
- Fully satisfy
- Approximate
- Till furrows
- Fireplace shelf
- Interpret words
- Sudden
- Nodule
- Upholstery fabric
- Child whose parents are dead
- Peat moss plant
- Relating to hearing
- Horse
- Why people pitch fits
- Submachine gun (Brit.)
- Steam injury
- Sponge cake soaked in rum
- Not his or hers
- Horse habitat
- Terminal
- Biblical mulberry tree

- Those from Mars

- Effigies
- Twofold
- Long ago time
- Nomadic tent
- 12 or 21
- Pealed
- Three parties
- Less than twice
- Tune for a bugle
- Building projection
- Scottish No
- S-shaped curve
- Rings

DOWN

- Hebrew letter that symbolizes a serpent
- Repeat
- Ordinary person
- Corn unit
- Forevermore
- Coven meeting
- Kind of luck
- Std. unit in molecular scale
- Disconnected
- Lie about
- Over
- Gingrich
- Parsley unit

- Very long period of time (Brit.)
- Nail or Pitt
- Asian ruler
- Incantation
- Watering hole
- Road with deep tracks
- Foreknowledge
- Hard and dry
- Citified
- Breakfast and lunch
- Scrutinizes
- Short dagger or high heel
- Bond
- City pollution
- '50s haircut
- Proverb
- Emanation
- Edible seaweed
- Press
- Old marriage site
- Exclamation of surprise
- Sills song
- Old Irishman
- There are two in Tullamore Dew
- Old cloth
- Before

INDEPENDENTClassifieds

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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

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HELP WANTED

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

NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS – Service, bartenders, cooks, prep cooks. Apply in person at Rockin’ Pig Saloon or info@rockinpigsaloon.com

HELP WANTED

KEELS CREEK WINERY AND ART GALLERY is hiring two part-time/seasonal sales/taste room people. Must be 21 or over and able to lift at least 25 pounds. Knowledge of wines a plus. Weekdays and Weekends 11-6. Apply 3185 E. Van Buren. (479) 253-9463

PART-TIME LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST for fill-in during busy season. Arkansas license and insurance. Health Works Massage and Wellness. (479) 253-7977

GREAT HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED FOR RESORT HOTEL, if you are a dependable, hard working, one who doesn’t call in sick we have a career opportunity to join our company. We are expanding again and looking for people who want growth opportunity. We have already promoted 3 of our housekeepers to lead positions in the last 2 years (where their job is now 60% housekeeping and 40% office work). We are open year around. Some of our benefits include good pay, partial insurance paid after training, paid vacation, at least one Saturday off per month. Hours 9-3. Please send resume to openallyeareurekasprings@gmail.com.

DISHWASHER NEEDED: Simply Scrumptious Tea Room is hiring a dishwasher for the 2015 season. We serve lunch and are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11-2. Hours average 20-25 per week. Please apply at 185A East Van Buren, Friday, February 20th from 10 a.m.-12 noon or 1-3 p.m.

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FULL TIME HOUSEKEEPER WANTED (Eureka Springs) – Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in Eureka Springs, AR is looking for a full time, honest and reliable housekeeper. Must have reliable transportation and must work weekends. Please email résumés or call for more information (479) 253-5841 and ask for Lori.

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LARGE STUDIO APARTMENT. Historic district. No smoking. No pets. References. \$450 plus utilities. F/L/S. Garage with W/D available, add \$100. (479) 244-6746

COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE

ICE CREAM PARLOR – Holiday Island Shopping Center. Tom Dees (479) 981-2203

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

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THWR needs financial donations.
Contact Andrea White at 870.350.4189

View the nursery and release videos at Tender Heart on Facebook

Get tax help early and relax

Free tax help is available in Carroll County under the auspices of AARP Foundation and IRS. The Tax-Aide program is a nationwide free tax preparation, free electronic filing and answers to tax questions 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 and all counselors are certified.

Tax-Aide is scheduled at Holiday Island Community Church, 188 Stateline Drive on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. until April 6. Help is also available in Berryville at Freeman Heights Baptist Church, 522 W. Freeman Ave. on Mondays at the same times.

No appointments are necessary and AARP membership is not required. Prior tax return and any current documents needed to prepare the 2014 tax return are required. Businesses and rental property owners are not eligible for this program. For more information contact local coordinator Anne Dray (479) 253-7611.

Nominations sought for area's endangered places

Every year, many historic properties across the state of Arkansas are threatened by demolition or neglect. Collectively, these properties contribute to the quality of life we enjoy and shape the daily experiences of living in small towns, large cities and rural areas across Arkansas.

Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas is asking residents for help identifying endangered historic places that reflect the state's heritage for the 2015 Most Endangered Places List.

The alliance is soliciting nominations

of buildings, sites and other places to be considered for inclusion in the list. By bringing attention to these, awareness has been raised in communities statewide and many success stories have been created.

For more information and nominations, visit www.preservearkansas.org. The deadline for submitting a nomination is March 13.

Properties selected for the Most Endangered Places List will be announced in May during Arkansas Heritage Month and National Preservation Month.

MAIL continued from page 8

Sacred teachings appreciated

Editor,

I thank the new group that has formed, Heart of Many Ways (at the old Christian Science church,) for hosting such a special event this month. The Mystical Arts Monks of Tibet performed a healing ceremony for Eureka Springs and her inhabitants, which was very meaningful for me and the many people who attended.

This new venue for sacred teachings is very much appreciated. Thank you, Core Circle for your generosity of spirit and I hope your success grows and grows.

Sheri Hanson

Eureka Springs Buddhist Study Group

Chocolate Lovers help kick off 2015 season

Editor,

We thank local volunteers, participants, judges, vendors and sponsors for making the 11th Annual Chocolate Lovers Festival a huge success. We planned for a ten percent increase over last year's festival, and

exceeded that. The overwhelming difference was so many early arrivals this year. We had more attendees in the first two hours than we had all day in 2014. Wow! With so many local people connected with Mardi Gras activities and it being Valentine's Day, volunteer help was scarce, but our staff and limited number of volunteers did an amazing job.

The addition of the professional Cake Decorating Demonstrations, a much improved competition where attendees could actually watch celebrity judges in action, the Wine Pairing, Photo Booth, better selection of retail vendors and new chocolate suppliers all added in making an event of which all of Eureka Springs should be proud.

If you did not get admission to the festival, we apologize. Planning will begin soon to address the challenges to accommodate more people.

The 11th Annual Chocolate Lovers Festival, the Mid-Winter Hometown Jam, the 10th Annual Mardi Gras Celebration, and a wonderful "great weather" gift from God gave our city a spectacular kickoff to the 2015 travel season.

Mike Bishop

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