

This week's
Independent thinkers

San Francisco, that city above the blue and windy sea, has been a magnet for artists, lovers, activists, missionaries and fog since 1776. San Francisco is also a sanctuary city, meaning it will protect undocumented immigrants by not prosecuting them simply for not having the proper paperwork.



PHOTO FROM EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to cancel federal funding for sanctuary cities, which would be \$480 million for San Francisco, money spent on health care, assistance and infrastructure. To cut that money off because a city provides refuge to those who contribute to its success is counterproductive.

San Francisco County Sheriff Vicki Hennessey says the sanctuary policy is a “public safety tool” for the city of love, where people used to wear flowers in their hair and maybe still do.

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Santa in the park – With the Great Ozarkan Beard Off Santa Beard competition in Basin Park, Santa Claus made an appearance on Saturday. While he was in Eureka Springs, Santa listened to children who sat on his lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas. Santa will be back in the Park on Dec. 3 from 1 – 3 p.m.

PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ALVARADO

Hospital contract clarified for council

NICKY BOYETTE

Chair Michael Merry spoke to city council Monday to explain the state of the hospital commission, saying that in 2006, the commission’s job was to run Eureka Springs Hospital, but the task became too expensive. Commissioners contracted management of the facility to Allegiance Health Care, a for-profit company based in Shreveport, La.

Merry said Allegiance has not divulged how much it costs to operate the facility, but business is good enough they recently brought in a 32-slice CT scanner, a machine that produces better images than almost any other in the area. Even though Allegiance has upgraded other services so more patients can get services they require without leaving Eureka Springs, the management company so far has not lived up to the promise to build a new hospital in town.

Each year, the commission receives \$375,000 from Allegiance and Louisiana Home Health Care, and Merry expects the commission will end 2016 with \$2,280,917 in their several accounts.

“What do we need the money for?” he posed. He said if Allegiance filed for bankruptcy tomorrow and left the scene, the commission would use its resources to pay

staff and bills while it looks for another management company. He mentioned he has been approached by other companies with an interest in running ESH, so he’s confident the commission could find a replacement if they had to. However, if the commission ever let the doors close, ESH would never open again because of recent legislation limiting critical access hospitals from being within 15 miles of each other.

Nevertheless, Merry said he is confident Allegiance will stay. The final automatic five-year renewal of their contract triggers during 2017.

Alderman David Mitchell pointed out Allegiance would need to give only a six-month notice to get out of the contract, and he was not convinced the commission would be able to operate ESH. He urged commissioners to develop a plan for such a scenario. He also suspected another combination of medical services, maybe not a hospital, might in time replace ESH.

Merry agreed a different configuration of medical services might operate there some day, but assured Mitchell the commission’s funds were in place to protect the hospital. He reiterated that Allegiance has been bringing in new services so patients can stay in the area.

COUNCIL – HOSPITAL continued on page 2

Tax failed. Now what?

NICKY BOYETTE

Conversation from the earlier budget workshop continued at Monday's regular city council meeting regarding a response by the city to citizens voting down the proposed one percent tax. Mayor Butch Berry told council Finance Director Lonnie Clark would produce a list of options showing what increases would be necessary to meet certain requirements, but the options would simply meet obligations, not improve water

lines. He also mentioned that instead of building a new Public Works building, he was considering using the funds at the sewer plant where there would be a return on the investment in the form of cost savings down the road.

Berry also mentioned trying again to get a tax passed, maybe three-fourths or five-eighths of a cent.

Clark stated if the city had the equipment to locate water leaks and fix

them, the city would not need to buy as much water. Berry said there are satellite images that reveal cold and hot spots on the earth, and a water leak would be a cold spot on the ground. "It costs money to save money," Berry said.

Berry said raising rates would provide some money for infrastructure repairs, but not the amount needed. He said Clark would bring suggestions to council before the budget is settled.

Food truck regulations get a go on second reading

NICKY BOYETTE

On council's Monday agenda was the second reading of Ordinance 2249, which regulates food trucks and trailers in the city limits. Alderman Mickey Schneider, who has advocated for food trucks but stridently opposed this ordinance, was not as contentious but no less intransigent when it was time to discuss the ordinance.

She asked if anyone had been

looking further into legalities regarding her objection to the restriction requiring food trucks and trailers to operate at least 100 ft. from any restaurant unless the restaurant owner gave permission.

Mayor Butch Berry answered that City Attorney Tim Weaver considers the ordinance to be okay.

Schneider again made her point that it was unfair in her view that restaurants can be side-by-side but a food truck, which is a mobile restaurant, must be 100 feet away.

Weaver stated the ordinance would withstand a judicial review, insisting cities have the right to regulate new

land use, and the city considers food trucks a new land use, thus the reason for the ordinance.

"You're showing bias," Schneider responded.

Weaver said he could claim the ordinance shows a bias against his neighborhood because it does not allow a food truck to operate there. He reiterated his opinion the ordinance would stand up under a judicial challenge.

Alderman David Mitchell moved to put the ordinance on its second reading, and the vote to approve it was 4-1, Schneider voting No. The third reading will be Dec. 12.

Winter wonderland parade

The Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights, sponsored by Equity Bank will be on Friday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. The parade theme is Toyland and will travel down Spring Street.

For more information contact Jessica Wheelless at Jessica@eurekaspringchamber.com or call (479) 253-8737 or visit www.eurekaspringschamber.com.

COUNCIL - HOSPITAL continued from page 1

Alderman Kristi Kendrick re-emphasized the point the commission should have a plan in place for what would happen if Allegiance left town. Kendrick also brought up the city could use an influx of money and the commission is sitting on more than \$2 million. She asked if the commission needed to pay the bills at ESH temporarily, would it need all its funds.

Merry responded the commission is limited in what it can do with its money. The commission abides by

a ruling from the attorney general that mandates funds must be spent on medical services for citizens of Eureka Springs. "I don't want to go to prison for mishandling funds," Merry commented. He said the city would have to get laws changed to have access to the commission's money.

Kendrick mentioned she was a lawyer and definitely believes in doing things legally, but told Merry she intends to explore further to see what the city's options were. Merry had no objections.



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Defeated tax spurs creative budgeting

NICKY BOYETTE

Eureka Springs city council gathered at 4:30 Monday to continue reviewing the proposed 2017 budget for the city, and found it tight, lean, and sparse in between. Mayor Butch Berry told aldermen he had not included the \$4000 for the cemetery alderman Bob Thomas had requested, for example, nor did he include funds to further refurbish the downtown fire station.

Berry said the 2016 budget had included \$38,000 for one new replacement vehicle for the police department, but Police Chief Thomas Achord had instead used the funds for two used vehicles he found in Missouri, and as Achord was pleased with the results he might do the same thing again in 2017. In fact, Berry said all department heads have done well controlling spending and making do since he imposed a spending freeze last spring.

Aldermen were unsure why the fire department was on pace to acquire 40 new self-contained breathing apparatuses over a four-year period. Ten units were paid for by a grant earlier this year and ten more at a cost of \$80,000 were in the 2017 budget. Alderman David Mitchell asked that Fire Chief Nick Samac come to the next budget workshop and explain the request.

"I can't imagine needing forty," commented alderman Terry McClung, a former firefighter. He said there are only six to eight firefighters at the station at a time, and maybe six to ten more show up when there's a fire, but some are at the trucks and some in command. "Not everyone enters the structure," he noted. "He [Samac] needs to convince us."

There were also concerns regarding the consequences to ESFD if the city loses its ambulance contract with the Western Carroll County Ambulance District next year. Berry said there will be other bids for the contract, and pointed out the department would lose EMTs and firefighters if it did not get the bid for the contract, which will be awarded midyear.

Berry also mentioned that he and Finance Director Lonnie Clark have discussed diverting money already earmarked for a new Public Works building to either a testing facility or chemical storage facility at the Sewer Treatment Plant. Berry said the cost of the Public Works facility keeps climbing and the investment at the sewer plant

would create continual cost savings for the city.

Alderman Kristi Kendrick asked if there were a way to use the money the Hospital Commission has in its accounts. Alderman Mickey Schneider responded, "I'll tar and feather you if you take health care money away from the citizenry." There was discussion regarding the legalities that limit what the Hospital Commission can do with its funds, and Clark mentioned the state legislature will be starting a new session soon, and someone with the appropriate knowledge, such as Kendrick, could try to get the law changed.

"I don't like money sitting there which will never be used," Kendrick declared, but Berry pointed out the Hospital Commission funds would be no more than a momentary fix and then they would be gone.

Aldermen then delved into inner machinery of the budget, perceived peculiarities of individual line items, and why some revenue projections were so low. Berry and Clark dutifully tried to answer the inquiries. At one point, Mitchell commented, "This is rough, and if we lose the ambulance contract, there goes \$140,000!"

Berry added another couple issues. He reminded council the Parks one-eighth cent tax sunsets next year, but he is confident Parks will mount a campaign to renew the tax which is dedicated to support Parks Master Plan projects at Lake Leatherwood City Park.

Also, Berry mentioned there is still the issue of meeting the bond covenant, which stipulates that net city revenue from water and sewer should equal 120 percent of the bond payment plus an additional three percent for depreciation. He said the city has never been behind in making bond payments, but it has not been meeting the 120 percent requirement. He said the recently defeated one percent tax would have forestalled raising water and sewer rates, but citizens chose to vote it down. Therefore, raising water and sewer rates is now on the table because the city must meet the 120 percent requirement although these increases will do nothing to improve the city's infrastructure.

"We need more than the 120 percent to get anywhere," McClung commented.

Clark said he has been studying four different strategies for the rate increase: 1) raising rates to cover the 120 percent;

2) raising rates plus paying down the principal on the bond; raising rates plus paying down the principal, and paying back over time what the city took from the general fund to cover deficits at the sewer plant; 4) raising rates plus paying down the principal, plus paying back the general fund, plus adding what the one percent tax would have generated.

"It's a work in progress," Clark stated.

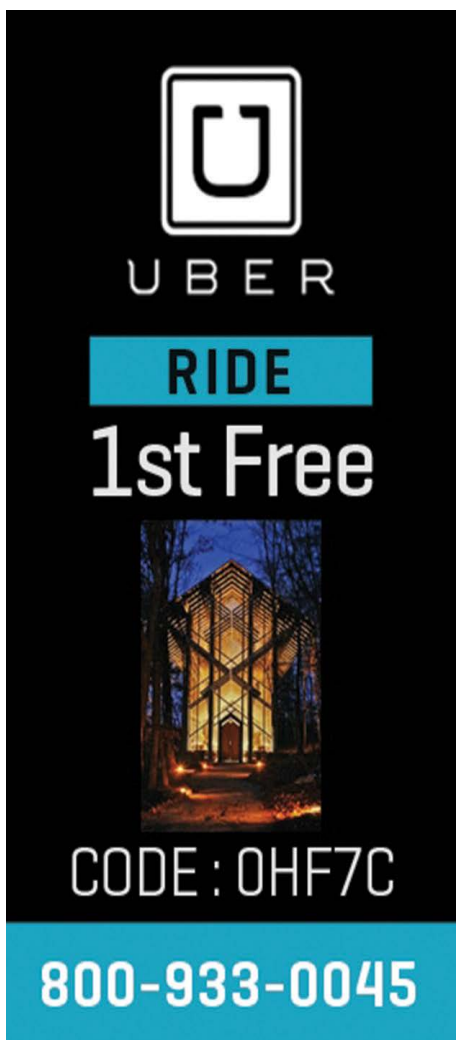
"You can kick the can down the road only so far," Mitchell remarked implying it was time for the city to get out of its predicament.

Kendrick asked how quickly the city could begin recouping new funds, and aldermen said a rate increase would take effect as soon as it is passed.


Berry said the city will have to raise water and sewer rates, but since it will put a burden on citizens and businesses, he said the challenge is how much to raise it.

McClung was quick to respond. "Why go for anything less than what

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Workshop on land vacations coming soon

NICKY BOYETTE

Alderman Kristi Kendrick presented council the second of two ordinances regarding changes she envisions for the process for vacating property in the city at the Nov. 28 meeting. Mayor Butch Berry had wanted to set a date for a workshop to discuss recommendations, and alderman Terry McClung commented he wanted to review the Parks Master Plan to see what might already be covered even though he had no problem with Kendrick's concept.

Alderman David Mitchell remarked, "I'm having a hard time tracking this; this one isn't flowing."

City Attorney Tim Weaver pointed out possible complications, but Kendrick was steadfast in moving forward. McClung repeated that he wanted to look at the Parks Master Plan before they have a workshop, and Berry responded that his office would arrange a date.

Other business

- Approval of the first two readings of Ordinance 2250 authorizing council to reclaim jurisdiction over certain

property near Dairy Hollow Road.

- City Clerk/Treasurer Ann Armstrong presented a bulky pile of documents representing the city's year-to-date business through the end of September, and enjoined all comers to stop by her office to check it out.

- Aldermen approved Resolution 698, which authorizes Berry to negotiate and execute a lease for the parking lots immediately surrounding the courthouse, and Resolution 699, which extends the same authority to Berry for office spaces in the courthouse. Term of

the courthouse lease is for three years subject to annual renewals.

- Council approved all three readings and the emergency clause of Ordinance 2251 which waived competitive bidding for the purchase of a fine screen assembly to replace the one at the sewer plant. Bidding was waived because there is only one company that has the product available. The item was paid for by disaster relief funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Next city council meeting will be Monday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m.

Local view on Secretary of Education nominee

NICKY BOYETTE

President-elect Donald Trump announced his choice for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, a billionaire from Michigan who has campaigned for diverting public school funds in Michigan to support private and charter schools.

Superintendent Bryan Pruitt of

the Eureka Springs School District commented, "She goes along with what Trump said during his campaign, and that is to push toward vouchers, charter schools, private schools and school choice. I'm not opposed to the concept, but my question is what will be the effect on public schools?"

Douglas N. Harris wrote in his Nov. 25 article in the *New York Times* "Betsy DeVos and the Wrong Way to Fix Schools," that as one of the architects of Detroit's charter school system, "she is partly responsible for what even charter school advocates acknowledge is the biggest school reform disaster in the country." He goes on to report that of the urban communities which participate in rigorous testing of academic skills, "Detroit is not only the lowest in this group of lowest-performing districts on the math and reading scores, it is the lowest by far."

Pruitt said he read that DeVos is against Common Core. He acknowledged there are improvements to be made with Common Core, but the concept behind it "is a good thing in theory." He noted the intent is a student could leave Eureka Springs and move to Buffalo, New York, and pick up at the same place academically.

Behind Common Core, Pruitt said, is federal oversight which allows for "fair and equal and appropriate education wherever you go." He said it would be worth watching to see if DeVos, if she is confirmed, stays with federal control of a common curriculum.

Pruitt is concerned with possible conflicts related to a push toward charter and private schools at the expense of public school funding. "One of my issues I'd be concerned with is we've got to have the best resources, the best teachers for our schools, and we're going to do that. But it all boils down to money and politics."

He pointed out the regulations

are different for charter and private schools. "They can hire people we can't hire... the rules are different." He said charter schools are not bound by the certification requirements that the Eureka School District must abide by, and they can pay teachers less or even more. He agreed the idea of school choice sounds good and parents should be able to take their kids wherever they want to go, but 70-80 percent of students cannot afford to go anywhere but public schools.

"If they pull funding from public schools, that will get our attention," Pruitt said. "However, if they give more power back to the states, I'll like that, but it's anybody's guess what will happen."

Lisa Graves wrote in her November 27 *Common Dreams* article "5 Things to Know about Billionaire Betsy DeVos, Trump Education Choice," that a particular focus for DeVos is deregulating and privatizing the education system through vouchers. She has poured money into right-wing organizations such as the American Federation for Children and the Alliance for School Choice as a way to influence local governments to adopt her privatization agenda.

Graves quotes National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia as stating that DeVos's "efforts over the years have done more to undermine public education than support students. She has lobbied for failed schemes, like vouchers — which take away funding and local control from our public schools — to fund private schools at taxpayers' expense."

FEEDBACK continued on page 17

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Recount vital to determining election integrity

BECKY GILLETTE

"Never in the history of political polling have so many got it so wrong and offered so few plausible explanations," said a local letter to the editor after the presidential election. Right after the election, the mainstream media in the U.S. largely ignored the "plausible explanations" that include the potential election fraud in key battleground states where exit poll numbers gave the majority to Hillary Clinton while electronic vote machines totals gave narrow victories to Donald Trump.

The media was largely silent about the discrepancies in the three states until recently week when Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein announced a fundraising campaign to ask for a recount in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In those states, Trump had a total of only 107,000 votes more, but took all the electoral votes.

After Stein took action, Clinton joined the recount effort. One poll showed 42 percent of Democrats believe the election was stolen from Clinton. There were social media campaigns urging Clinton to ask for a recount and ask the federal government to investigate foreign interference in the election.

Trump, who prior to the election claimed the election was rigged and declined to agree to accept any result that didn't put him in office, responded to the recount effort by saying it was a "scam" by the Green Party to raise money.

While the polls have been wrong before, it has never been by this large a margin, said local attorney Forrest Jacobi, who has been involved for more than a decade in advocating the end to "black box voting," voting machines that don't provide a way to verify individual votes. He said the Trump campaign calling people who support the recount "cry babies" ignores the legitimate need to verify vote totals.

"Exerting your Constitutional and legal rights to have a recount is part of our legal system," Jacobi said. "Those

who call sour grapes on recounts are trying to deny people their legal rights. Any candidate can ask for a recount. Jill Stein didn't get much traction during the campaign, but is now getting more publicity asking for a recount than she did running as a candidate. We live with a political process that has voter suppression, election fraud and now there are allegations that the Russians have been hacking into our political system. It would be good to find out if the Russians did hack into our system. Anything to improve the system would be good. A recount could indicate there are some problems with our system that we need to remedy."

"It was basically a coup. The Constitution doesn't give the Supreme Court the right to pick the president."

— Attorney Forrest Jacobi

Ferguson Stewart, a local Trump supporter, agreed this recount is a Constitutional right. "But she must provide a legitimate reason for this recount," he said. "I do not see anything but a waste of publicly donated money and my concern is with who has donated this money, more than two million dollars. I would like this information to be made public and if it is found that a large portion of this money is from non-U.S. sources, I truly believe that an investigation should be launched as to who and why and what is the true intent."

Jacobi said it has been suggested the Democrats don't want to talk about voter suppression and election fraud because it would deter people from voting.

"However, if the system is flawed where the results do not represent the will of the people, we need to do something about it," he said. "At latest count, Hillary got 2.2 million more votes than Donald Trump, so there is something wrong with the system. For one thing, we need to eliminate the Electoral College."

Trump now claims he won the popular vote because "millions" of people voted illegally, but he presented no evidence. Jacobi finds it ironic that the recount Trump is opposing could expose if there were people who voted illegally.

"A recount would substantiate his

allegation or prove that it is more hot air," Jacobi said.

What is at stake, Jacobi said, is more than just one presidential election, but the integrity of U.S. elections.

"Right now voting machines are manufactured by private companies who use proprietary software," Jacobi said. "It has been proven again and again that results can be manipulated. When the Republicans do it, it is known as a 'red shift.' When the Democrats do it, it is known as a 'blue shift.' There was evidence of tampering in the Democratic primary in New York when Clinton's lead far surpassed the vote for Bernie Sanders indicated by polls."

He said voting machines should be transparent.

"Australia has open source software," Jacobi said. "Anyone can check the software and verify that is correct and doing what it is told to do. Now, we have no verification whatsoever. In fact, statistical analysis says it is not working."

There is precedent for the winner of the popular vote to lose the election. In 2000, Al Gore lost to George W. Bush after the Supreme Court intervened and stopped a planned recount in Florida that would have given Gore the presidency.

Jacobi said the U.S. Supreme Court exceeded its power.

"It was basically a coup," Jacobi said. "The Constitution doesn't give the Supreme Court the right to pick the president."

Some might argue if the recount shows Clinton won in those states, it would be very disruptive.

"But we just can't look the other way," Jacobi said. "We have to do something. If we are going to change the election system, this is one way to do it. If there are problems, they need to be exposed and they need to be corrected. And the exit poll numbers say there are problems."

Jacobi has been concerned about

RECOUNT continued on page 8

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BECKY GILLETTE

To visit the 12-acre homestead of Richard and Jane Pille north of Holiday Island is a compelling lesson in how one couple have turned strong feelings about the need to protect the environment into a lifestyle built around principles of sustainability.

"I like the simple life," Jane said. "I like to raise my own food. I like the rhythm of the seasons. I enjoy hanging clothes to dry on a line outside. To me, that kind of lifestyle with a low carbon footprint is really satisfying."

She spends a lot of time gardening, tending chickens and walking the property with her border collie, Bess. Richard is busy, too, keeping up the property up and installing 48 solar panels on the barn to generate all the electricity they use, as well as nearly enough for their nearby businesses.

Their homestead is designed around principles of permaculture, which they describe as a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; protracted

and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless labor; and looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single-product system.

"Permaculture is providing a means of regeneration of the Earth," Richard said.

Their mentors are permaculture authors Bill Mollison, David Holmgren and Brad Lancaster.

"All pioneers and mentors, much of what we do here comes directly from or is influenced by these folks who promote the Native way of life, respect for the Earth, self, and those around you," Richard said. He is Lakota, and grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Both like learning. "There are always new ways of preparing and preserving food," Jane said. "Fermenting foods is one of the oldest ways of preserving food, and one that is becoming more popular now. It is healthy and tasty. And we have 45 chickens that are just starting to lay. My chickens are probably the most spoiled creatures on Earth. We sprout greens for them in winter so eggs are nice and orange and tasty, and so our hens have a complete fresh diet year around. I have a large group of people I supply eggs to."

She is also very interesting in preserving the future. That started decades ago when she read Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.

"I was really affected by the fact we were poisoning ourselves and acting like it is okay," she said. "A lot of people are still doing that. There need to be conclaves of people looking at it a different way and finding things that work but don't harm the Earth. That's what we're trying to do here, present another possibility to people."

They bought this property because in addition to a cypress log house, it had a barn, shop, good-sized deer-fenced garden, and a deep well.

Earlier in life Richard worked as an "imagineer" for Disneyworld in Orlando where he was inspired by the gardeners.

"They are into sustainable gardening there because it is all magic," he said. "They can't be there while the public is visiting, so systems they put together are truly self-sustaining. They grow plants from all over the world. When I met Jane, she was just such an avid gardener. We got into landscaping our property in Springfield into a sustainable situation, a

SIMPLE LIFE continued on page 23



PHOTOS BY BECKY GILLETTE



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Photography as a 'stepping off' point

Everything you can imagine is real – Picasso

BECKY GILLETTE

After Edward C. Robison III got serious about photography in 1999, he used a large format 4"x5" film camera. At that time he was encouraged to switch to digital photography, but decided against it because he thought the quality was not that great.

But in the years since, digital photography has improved so dramatically that Robison has been able to do things like publish a photography book in 2015, *Ozark Landscapes, An Augmented Reality Project*, that allows viewers using a smart phone or a tablet to see time-lapse photography of some of the most scenic spots in the Ozarks. He also did the May 2015 *Independent Fun Guide* cover where a viewer with the proper phone app virtually walked up Spring Street.

Now Robison has gone a step farther and is involved in developing a virtual reality (VR) experiences from photographs taken in Arkansas.

"I've been shooting photogrammetries of a bunch of places in Arkansas," Robison said. An award-winning photographer with 11 books to his credit, Robison talked tech. "Photogrammetry creates a three-dimensional model that can then be imported into a program so it can be viewed in a VR headset."

Almost similar to the holodeck of Star Trek fame, in a virtual world you can see all around as though you are really there. As Robison says, "It has a real wow factor."

An example is a photogrammetry experience of a mountain in Washington. Wearing the headset, you can see the sky above, a lake below, and bluffs. You can "jump" from one spot to another to see different views. You can pick up objects and move them around. The program is so convincing that most people who walk to the edge of the bluff are unwilling to try to

step off the ledge.

"In that experience, if you did step off, you would float on air," Robison said. "In other experiences, you fall and die in the virtual world."

Robison is working with his son, Ethan, 15, to create a game for a virtual world.

"We've been learning 3D modeling programs together," Robison said. "We both also picked up juggling and unicycling together. Unicycling helps keep me in shape. With my photography, I do a lot of



Edward C. Robison develops 'being there' of virtual reality on his studio computer.

PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE

backpacking, hiking and mountain biking. I need to stay in shape in order to get to the locations I photograph."

While currently the most popular use of VR is video games, there are many other potential uses.

"I think the future of computing is going to augmented reality," Robison said.

Robison has traveled around the world doing his photography.

"For highlights of my career, travel is probably the best part," Robison said. "This year I've gone to Hawaii, and shot jobs in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Paris. I went to Colorado and New Mexico this year to photograph fall color and did some shoots in the Ozarks."

He does a lot of work for Bass Pro Shops, including advertising photos for Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, Mo., and Dogwood Canyon near Shell Knob, Mo., He has also done projects for Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, NBC Nightly News and Sierra Club Calendars.

Great photography requires far more than good technology.

"You can technologically be good at photography and not necessarily make good photographic artwork," Robison said. "You have to be creative with new subjects and

new angles. It's just documentation if you aren't using an artistic eye. I think that's where a lot of people fall short. They're trying to capture what is in front of them instead of creating something new and innovative."

Before he stopped shooting 4"x5" film, it took 30 minutes to set up a shot and cost \$10 per piece of film. You had to be careful and deliberate.

"Digital has thrown that aside," Robison said.

ROBISON continued on page 23

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INDEPENDENTMail

All INDEPENDENTMail must be signed and include address and phone number for confirmation. Letters to the Editor should be limited to 200 words or so. We reserve the right to edit submissions.
Send your INDEPENDENTMail to: **ES Independent**, 103 E. Van Buren, #134, Eureka Springs, AR 72632 or **Editor.Indie@gmail.com**

'Tis the season of solutions

Editor,

I may be a bit slow, uneducated, or just plain stupid, but I believe a business labeled or licensed as a "bed & breakfast" is obligated to serve breakfast and a bed to sleep upon.

Elaine Burks
Little Rock

'Tis the season of words

Editor,

It came to my attention this morning that the annual Eureka Springs Christmas parade is occurring Dec. 2. I guess the reason I missed it might be due to the fact that it's called "The Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights."

What is wrong with calling a Christmas parade, which celebrates Christmas, THE CHRISTMAS PARADE?

Bev Taylor

'Tis the season of truth

Editor,

If I ask you why you voted for Trump and his campaign of hate, please

don't discredit yourself even more by denying it. Admit to yourself that you supported a textbook sociopath, reality star bully who spewed and tweeted racist, misogynistic and xenophobic comments on a daily basis for more than 18 months.

I totally support your right to vote for whomever you want, just don't lie to me, and more important, yourself, about choosing a candidate whose blatant lies you bought into because you refused to look at your dark shadow self.

Can I be a smug, judgmental jackass? You bet, but at least I'm honest with myself.

John Rankine

'Tis the season of accountability

Editor,

We here in America are asking questions about the election and I, too, have questions but first I need to tell the people why my name did not appear on the local ballot here in Eureka Springs.

I had, like in 2014, started to gather signatures on a petition to run for alderman in Ward 3 Position 2, and

was given a certification letter from the Carroll County Clerk dated 6/30/2016 that my petition to run was complete.

Then in early July 2016 a story about elections stated that only petitions received after July 29, 2016 would be valid. I was shocked.

I talked with the Carroll County Clerk and was told don't worry, your filing early is fine. Well, I was not going to be beholden to some special exception that was outside of the approved election laws so I stopped my attempt to run for this office.

It is now again as happened after the city election in 2014, when I was sent a certificate of election even though I did not win the election. I have questions as to the people running these elections, and here locally we need to find out why our local County Clerk is not either properly trained or the Arkansas Election Law need to be reviewed and a special investigation started by the state attorney's office in response to this and other situations here in Carroll County.

Those who know me know that I am a Christian and I forgive those involved and wish no ill will to them.

Ferguson Stewart



WEEK'S TopTweets

@thetoddwilliams: Scientists at the Federal Helium Reserve indicate they're storing a billion cubic meters of helium gas. It's a lot funnier when they say it.

@darlalinky: Maybe naming my new hippie-themed bar Free Spirits was a bit misleading. Lesson learned.

@scorpio1080: Black Friday: Because only in America, people trample others for sales the day after being thankful for what they already have.

@smethanie: I texted someone "hell yeah" but autocorrect changed it to "hell year" because even our phones know.

@ryanholmquist: Castro: I will not die until America is destroyed. Trump: I'm gonna be the president. Castro: Well then.

@robfee: Here lies Aunt Brenda. Trampled to death on the day after Thanksgiving trying to save \$18 on a crockpot. Rest in peace, sweet angel.

@cbdoubles: Well, I've got to hand it to you. – Guy explaining how the baton works in a relay race.

@joshgondelman: Clothes are such a fraught gift because it's like "Here's the size and shape I think you are and so how I think you should style yourself!"

@daemonic3: Everyone, meet our new baby, Lucian. "Aww, what a nice name." It's her dad's, so I picked the middle name. "What is it?" Theskywithdiamonds.

@phranqueigh: "You're not like the other girls." "Yeah, that's pretty much how this works. We're literally all different ones."

RECOUNT continued from page 5

black box voting since Sen. Max Cleland's re-election campaign in 2002. Cleland was a disabled Vietnam War veteran who lost amid allegations of reprogramming of the election machines in Georgia.

"There have been all sorts of unusual elections since then where the results did not meet the exit poll numbers," Jacobi said.

Considering computer experts who have proven how easy it is to hack voting machines, why does the U.S. continue to use electronic voting machines with no paper trail? Jacobi said in Wisconsin, there was a huge disparity between paper ballots and machines.

"The paper ballots aligned with the exit polls," he said. "The big discrepancy was with the electronic machines, which you cannot check."

Jacobi said the bottom line is the U.S. has turned over voting to machines controlled by private individuals.

"Coming up with numbers that can't be verified is not a transparent system," Jacobi said. "The Max Cleland election proved something obviously wrong with our system and it has continued since then. It has gotten worse, not better, and will continue to get worse until we redo the system."

NO, Diamond, NO

“The deadliest snake may be overcome by a swarm of spiders”

— Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief, World War II, Japanese Combined Fleet

“I am closing the portion of the Corps-managed federal property north of the Cannonball River to all public use and access effective December 5, 2016. This decision is necessary to protect the general public from the violent confrontations between protestors and law enforcement officials that have occurred in this area, and to prevent death, illness, or serious injury to inhabitants of encampments due to the harsh North Dakota winter conditions. Anyone found to be on land north of the Cannonball River after that date will be considered trespassing and subject to prosecution.” — Colonel John W. Henderson, Commander, USACE Omaha District.

“Our Tribe is deeply disappointed in this decision by the United States, but our resolve to protect our water is stronger than ever.” — Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s Chairman, Dave Archambault II.

The surprising decision to evict the Tribes, after 500 years of broken treaties, raises many questions: Who is running the U.S.? Is USACE siding with the frackers? Are we in for another Wounded Knee massacre?

NO

There is no room for negotiation when NO is the answer. Energy Transfer Partners, has a January 1, 2017 deadline for the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). Frackers shipping shale crude, signed agreements at \$8 per barrel. At \$46 per barrel, ETP would be lucky to get \$4 per barrel, running a 1,700-mile Rat Racetrack.

Mni Wiconi

Water is Life has a deep meaning. No water, no crops, no food, no life. Imagine living without access to fresh water. This is already a reality for many countries, and people living near Norman, Oklahoma. A good friend recently went to a funeral. Her brother-in-law, 40 years-old, after four years of living near Norman, died from tap water! Here is someone, previously in perfect health dead from Chromium-6 contaminated tap water. Locals know not to drink tap water but no one is speaking up. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality says water is safe.

A November 2016 Canadian long-term study proved fracking causes earthquakes. Connecting fracking, earthquakes, highly toxic wastewater injected in the ground, aquifers, water wells, Chromium-6, and tap

water may seem like a stretch. But if you go to Norman, don’t drink the water!

We say NO

What are the people of Arkansas waiting for? If we had someone in charge, a powerful charismatic leader like Chairman Archambault, someone we could trust without reservation, Arkansans would say NO to Diamond, with a single, strong voice. We don’t have leaders who care for Arkansas or people we trust with our lives. However, we have a wide range of smart groups of people caring for their kids and grandkids, opposed to fracking, fossil fuels, and high-risk investments from corrupt corporations. We say NO.

Swarming Plaintiffs

Diamond made a bet, *no one in Arkansas will take us to court, we can do whatever we want.* Diamond is wrong. Legal crowd funding and other creative solutions give people collective power to take on Plains All-America by sharing the cost of legal fees, expert witnesses and whatever it takes to kill

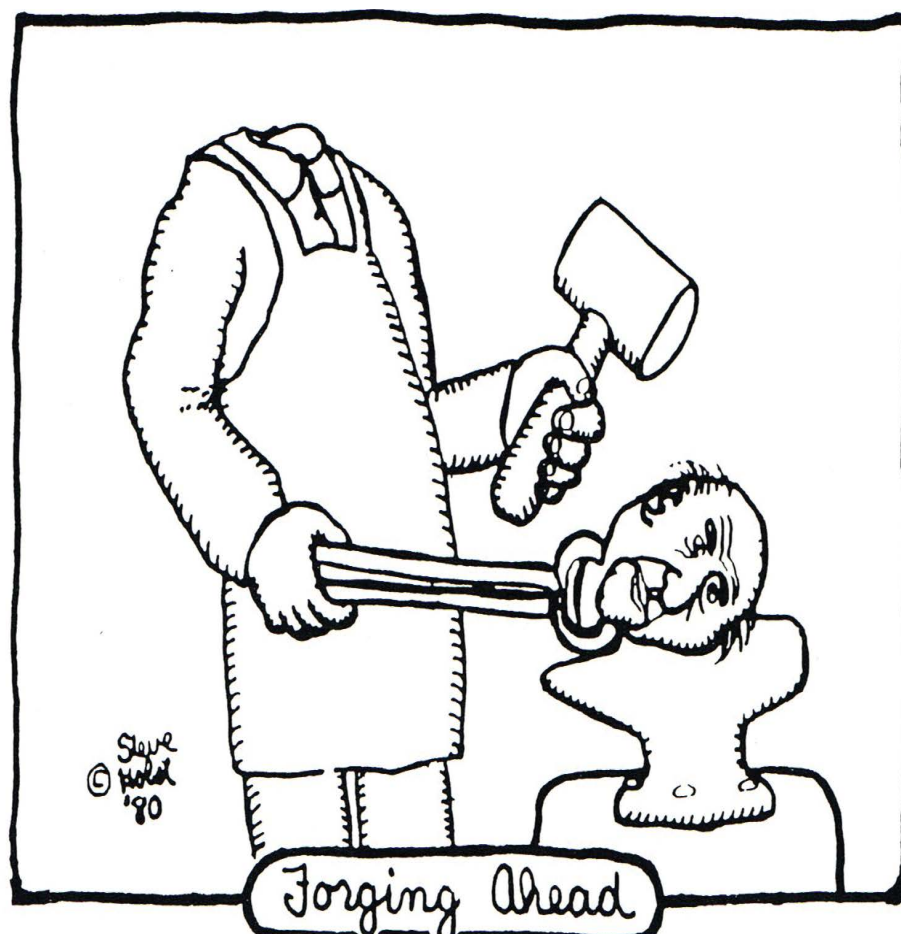
the black snake. With the help of the best attorney in Arkansas, the two permits given to Diamond, expedited and full of holes, Diamond, like DAPL, will be stopped. Landowners stand to rip up their easement agreements and have Diamond pay for clearcutting without drainage and trespassing private property.

Inspired by Chairman Archambault and the brave brothers and sisters leading the way, Diamond hereby is on notice: **Arkansas is not flyover country for shale oil exports.**

What can you do?

Swarms follow simple rules without central control. With 10,000 to 20,000 people making \$10 contributions, we will fund a dream legal team. We will show up like a swarm at the Arkansas Supreme Court of Appeals. We need to contact friends and family. Join the swarm, kill the black snake. Please comment online and on the Facebook page **Stop the Diamond Pipeline**. Swarm rules. Details next week.

Dr. Luis Contreras



The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

Eric Hoffer was among the most remarkable of Americans born in the 20th Century. Orphaned as a young teenager, and blind from ages seven to fifteen, he hitched his way to California after the First World War and spent the next 40 years as a migrant farmworker and then as a longshoreman on the docks in San Francisco.

Hoffer’s period of blindness gave him an unquenchable thirst for reading once he regained his sight. Entirely self-educated, Hoffer said, “When I wasn’t unloading bananas or coffee from the holds of freighters, I spent my time in public libraries.” In 1951, he wrote *The True Believer*, an abstract but lucid analysis of mass movements that was an instant critical success; it is a well-regarded classic and foretold our most recent political adventure with great accuracy.

Hoffer’s writing was aphoristic, meaning he would formulate a quote, then explain what he meant by the quote. For example, after retirement at age 65, he wrote, “At night I dream of unloading slow boats from China. Dreaming is the work of the retired.”

A Hoffer aphorism or quote I particularly like is. “The sign of a good society and a good government is not in what it builds, but in what it maintains.” Hoffer went on to explain that good maintenance applies to big and small things alike, from securing the intent of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to assuring that our roads are smooth and public bathrooms are clean.

It is no secret that we’ve failed to maintain our various infrastructures over the past 50 years, or that our new federal leader has promised to make it right: new airports, safer harbors, speedier freeways, and even wayside rest areas are promised. The details are sketchy, but the main financing scheme weighs heavily toward partnerships between government and for-profit corporations. That means pay as you go toll roads, user fees, and sliding dimes and quarters into fitted slots for the privilege of “resting” along the highway.

I’m not sure that’s what Hoffer meant by his definition of a good society, but then, who knows what anything means anymore.

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. at 103 West Church St. in Berryville. (479) 981-1676. The Purple Flower will also have free and confidential Domestic Violence Empowerment Support Group on every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Berryville Community Center from 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- **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** – Cup of Love provides soup lunches at Flint Street Fellowship Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and at First Baptist (Penn) Church on Fridays, 11 a.m. – 1 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.
- **Wildflowers one-dollar, furniture barn/thrift store** US 62E across from Hill County Hardware. One-dollar store in the yellow building every Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thrift store, furniture bank in big blue barn behind the chapel open Wednesdays – Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Donation drop offs Thursday – Saturday between 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Healing and delivery outreach in chapel Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
- **Shamatha and Tonglen meditations Monday** – A meditation group will meet every Monday at 6:30 p.m. to focus on Shamatha, learning how to focus to achieve peace of mind, and Tonglen, a practice of love and compassion on all beings. The meetings will alternate these two practices so that one is the focus on each Monday with coffee and tea afterward. Call Alece at (479) 244-6841 or Gary at (479) 244-6840.
- **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: Kathy Remenar (417) 342-8498, Carnegie Library (479) 253-8754, Carroll County Center (870) 423-4455. Offered by North Arkansas College with Carnegie Library support.
- **Grief Share**, A Bible-based, 13-week program for those who have lost a loved one will begin on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 1 – 3 p.m. at Faith Bible Church, Suite C, 3 Parkcliff Drive, Holiday Island. Share with others experiencing similar circumstances in an informal, confidential setting. Call (479) 253-8925 or email lardellen@gmail.com.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Barbara (479) 244-0371 • **Narcotics Anonymous** – Fridays, 5:30 p.m. (903) 278-5568. Meetings held at Eureka Springs Coffee Pot Group behind Land O’ Nod Victorian Inn.
- **Coffee Break Al-Anon Family Group Women** – Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m., Faith Christian Family Church, Hwy. 23S, (479) 981-1686. • **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. Meetings held at Eureka Springs Coffee Pot Group behind Land O’ Nod Victorian Inn. All other meetings: See www.nwarkaa.org
- **St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store** – First Tuesdays – provide assistance with medical help, utilities, clothing, emergency shelter, shoes, etc. Annual charity Christmas Gift & Food Program. Mon-Sat 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 1844 Hwy. 62W Berryville.
- **St. James’ Community Suppers** – Held Sunday from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Meals provided by local restaurants and are free to all. St. James’ Episcopal Church is located at 86 Prospect Avenue on the historic loop and meals are served in the undercroft.
- **Support Group** – for those with **Parkinson’s** and their caregivers, first Wednesday of each month, ECHO Community Room at 10 a.m. For questions email Sally at sarahg@arkansas.net or call (479) 9810-1587. Next meeting Dec. 7.

INDEPENDENT ConstablesOnPatrol

NOVEMBER 21

8:37 a.m. – Nurse at ESH informed ESPD of a domestic confrontation between a father and son. The incident occurred outside city limits, so CCSO responded and arrested an individual for domestic battery.

1:35 p.m. – Guest at an inn reported a stray pit bull had wandered into the room. Animal Control captured the animal and encountered the owner who was looking for it. Dog and owner were reunited.

5:50 p.m. – One vehicle rear-ended another on US 62.

9:56 p.m. – A mother told ESPD her daughter had been missing from their hotel for two hours. While the constable was taking a report, the daughter walked in.

NOVEMBER 22

2:12 p.m. – Individual entered a business, pushed displays off the counter, harassed one of the clerks and left the scene. Constables watched for the individual to let him know not to return to the business.

NOVEMBER 23

12:12 p.m. – A semi knocked over two signs and a mailbox on a narrow street just east of downtown before it got stuck.

7:16 p.m. – Constable on patrol took a report of a theft at a bar on US 62.

NOVEMBER 24

11:43 a.m. – Motorist reported his pickup was stolen while he was in a restaurant. He had left the keys in the vehicle.

1:39 p.m. – Employee triggered an alarm at a restaurant.

NOVEMBER 25

12:44 a.m. – Resident in an apartment above downtown reported hearing screaming and yelling next door. Constables arrived at the scene, and the couple involved said they were not arguing, only having a loud discussion. Constables asked them to have a quieter discussion.

1:08 a.m. – Observer told ESPD there was erratic driver in a neighborhood above downtown, but the responding constable did not encounter the vehicle.

1:20 a.m. – Motorist reported he might have hit a deer on US 62 toward the western part of town, but the constable did not see a deer near the roadway.

3:29 a.m. – Constable complied with request for a welfare check on an individual. He did not find the person at the residence but later confirmed by phone the person was okay.

11:24 a.m. – Alarm company reported the

side door alarm at a business had been tripped. The constable checked it out and found the building secure.

12:02 p.m. – Guest at a tourist lodging refused to get out of bed when it was time to check out and she denied having any medical issues. Staff asked for a welfare check, and the responding constable issued citations for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was transported to ESH.

NOVEMBER 26

11:16 a.m. – Downtown merchant reported items were stolen.

12:05 p.m. – Passerby noticed a wounded deer on Planer Hill.

4:10 p.m. – Concerned observer noticed a male slumped over in his pickup parked in a parking lot off US 62. Constable learned he was taking a nap.

NOVEMBER 27

1 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for speeding, driving left of center, DWI and refusal to submit.

2:16 a.m. – Constables stopped an erratic driver and discovered the driver was tired from driving all day, so they escorted the individual to a motel.

3:50 a.m. – ESPD got word of another erratic driver but never encountered the vehicle.

8:24 a.m. – Passerby on Planer Hill noticed an injured deer near the roadway. Constable discovered the animal was dead and called Animal Control to remove it.

9:41 a.m. – Dogs ran amok in a location toward the southern end of town. Animal Control reminded the owner of local leash laws.

10:03 a.m. – This time dogs were loose and rambling on a street off US 62 heading east. Animal Control again issued a warning to the owners.

Ham it up at potluck

The Little Switzerland Amateur Radio Club will meet at First Christian Church, 763 Passion Play Road on Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. for a potluck dinner. Bring your favorite food for all to enjoy and feel free to bring your friends.

How Democrats can win the presidency in the future

In any attempt to understand the outcome of the election, attention must be paid to the Democratic National Committee. The DNC did all in its power to insure the nomination went to its preselected candidate, with her high “unfavorability” ratings.

The purpose of the primaries and caucuses is to let the voters of the Party choose a candidate they like well enough to vote for and support with some enthusiasm. By having an open, free-wheeling primary season, the Republicans ended up with a candidate whose supporters were enthusiastic and turned out to vote for him in large numbers.

The DNC’s forcing of Hillary Clinton on the Democratic primary voters is eerily reminiscent of their forcing Al Gore on the Party faithful in the year 2000. Both Gore and Clinton are capable, intelligent people who might well have made good presidents, but we’ll never know because neither of them was a candidate with appeal broad enough to win the electoral vote.

Re-structure of the Electoral College favors the Republican Party. In order to overcome this disadvantage, any Democratic candidate for president must appeal to the center as Barack Obama did in 2008. An articulate, camera-ready senator with a short, clean record, he was an ideal candidate and was elected – twice.

In Arkansas, hardly a hotbed of liberal thinking, a substantial majority voted this November in favor of medical marijuana. Nationwide a majority of Americans supports gay marriage. So, the support is there for progressive, centrist policies. In order to tap into that support, the Democratic Party must let the voters of the Party choose a candidate *they* want, not one preselected for them by the Party’s powerbrokers.

Had the DNC allowed the kind of open primaries the Republicans had, Hillary Clinton would probably have rolled off the turnip truck on the same corner as Jeb Bush with his \$100 million, and a viable candidate (one the voters liked well enough to vote for) could have emerged. Remember, Barack Obama handily defeated

Clinton in 2008, when she was eight years younger and not yet burdened with Benghazi and her emails.

People can complain about the Electoral College and speculate about Russians hacking the vote count in, say, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, and Michigan to give the result Putin wanted. Certainly, it was a tragic mistake on Barack Obama’s part to have left a Republican in charge of the FBI, a man who was all too happy to announce 10 days before the election that he was reopening the investigation into Clinton’s emails. But, setting all that aside, people did not vote for Clinton because *they did not want to*: a result foreshadowed by her “unfavorability” ratings which were high before the primaries ever began.

If the powers that be in the Democratic Party wish to win the presidency in future elections, they must start conducting their primaries in an open, democratic manner: Let the people decide, like the Republicans did. It works.

David Zimmermann

‘Eco Villages’ permaculture topic

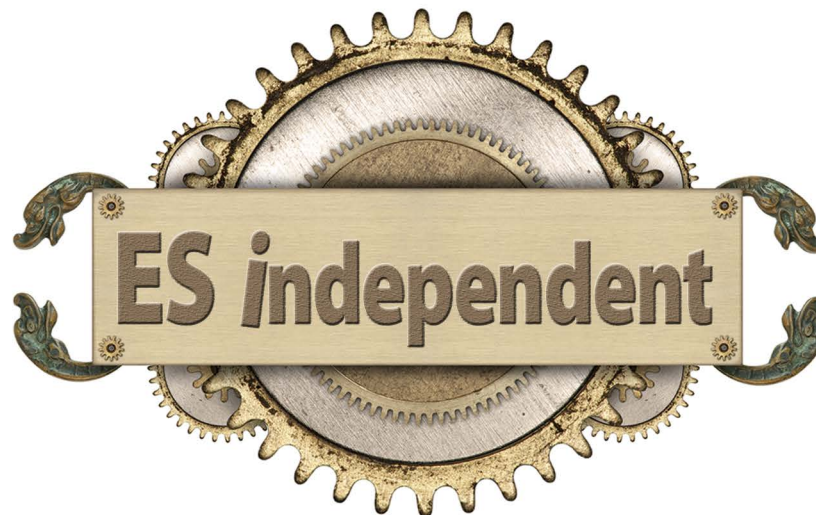
The Northwest Arkansas Permaculture Study Group will meet Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Home of Kimberly Clark, 900 Pivot Rock Road from 10 a.m. on the topic of Eco Villages that are permaculture based and sustainable. For more information call Jerry Landrum at (479) 244-0377.

Spurlin speaks at EUUF

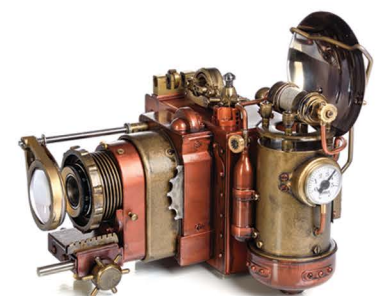
Join on Dec. 4 at Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 Elk Street at 11 a.m. to listen to congregation member Sharon Spurlin present *Where do we go from here? Drawing on all our resources*. Childcare is provided and there is extra parking at Ermilio’s Restaurant, 26 White Street.

Interpreting the New Testament at Metafizzies

The Dec. 5 meeting of the Eureka Springs Metaphysical Society will feature Stephen Foster continuing his discussion on the metaphysical interpretation of the New Testament. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.



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Send us your events, announcements,
happenings – ESIPressRelease@gmail.com

Letters to the editor go to Editor.Indie@gmail.com



Need to find us in your mailbox? \$50 mailed to us
at 103 E. Van Buren #134, Eureka Springs, AR 72632, can get that done.

Holiday Cheer with Holiday Island Singers

The Holiday Island Singers will hold their Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Holiday Island Country Club Ballroom. Tickets are available at the Pro Shop in Holiday Island, at the door or ask one of the Holiday Island Singers for a ticket.

Sounds of the Holidays

The Ozark Chorale will hold their Holiday Concert on Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium for their 20th year. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Walking the red carpet

The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow will hold *Hollywood and Vine*, a fundraiser featuring Copper Cane California wines paired with 5-star gourmet offerings provided by Grotto Wood Fired Grill and Wine Cave on Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.. Enjoy music, dancing and the debut of a Hollywood glam art exhibition by Teresa Pelliccio.

Guests are invited to dress as their favorite movie star and there will be prizes for best costumes. Tickets are available for \$50 and seating is limited. Book early for a 10% discount. To buy tickets go to www.eventeureka.com/book-now. There will be free shuttle rides home within Eureka Springs city limits.

Buddhist Study Group meets Dec. 1

The Eureka Springs Buddhist Study Group will gather for 30 minutes of meditation followed by reading and discussion on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Coming together Christmas Day

A community Christmas Dinner will be held at the ECHO dining room on Christmas day from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. sponsored by Flint Street Fellowship. There is no charge for the dinner and all are welcome. For anyone needing a ride or to volunteer call (479) 253-4945. ECHO is located at the corner of E. Van Buren and Rockhouse Road.

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free gifts and goodies for the kids with all proceeds going to Standing Rock.**



171 W. Van Buren
(Hwy. 62)

Saturday, Dec. 3 • 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Christmas Open House



We are proud sponsors of the John Two-Hawks Christmas Concert
Tickets and CDs available inside Just My Style Recycled Boutique. Proceeds go to Standing Rock.

EXPLORING the fine art of ROMANCE... by Leslie Meeker

My husband and I really enjoy the holidays but every year our love life goes out the window. With all the extra goings-on, what can we do to enjoy some sex and romance during this hectic season?

While there is much merriment to be had during the holiday season, there is much stress as well. More stress equals less sex.

Just as you're enjoying accolades for being the holiday hostess-with-the-mostest, your holiday vixen's left withering in the kitchen. The Elf on the Shelf and his judgment aside, when it comes to romance even Santa knows that extra naughty is extra nice.

With a little planning summoning up some extra seasonal sizzle is simple:

Decrease overall holiday stress by managing your finances during this season of over indulgence. Plan ahead. Schedule and maintain boundaries. Learn to say No. You cannot possibly contribute to all community giving events, nor can you accept all

invitations to every social festivity.

Create a holiday mantra that will both calm you and refocus you romantically. "I hold the peace of the season in my heart and much gratitude for my partner and the passion we share." Repeat. Breathe. Repeat.

If your mantra fails, go blow off some steam, preferably physically. Monster mode at the gym or Manage-a-Moi mode at home. Either way you'll benefit from the release of mood enhancing endorphins.

Have fun. Hang mistletoe... everywhere! It's a simple reminder to connect, whether it be in the kitchen, laundry room, den or otherwise.

Don't limit holiday décor to hearth and shared spaces in your home. Take it to the bedroom. String Christmas lights from bed post to post. Sexy Santa lingerie is certain to inspire desire, perhaps a celebratory quickie before the office Christmas party.

Games are not just for reindeer and toys aren't just for kids. Take a favored holiday theme and turn it into your own erotic game. Following are just a

few ideas inspired by the "The Twelve Days of Christmas" theme – Drummers drumming: Feather duster or paddle drum that bum. Pipers piping: Explanation unnecessary. Maids a milking: Costumed role play all the way. Golden rings: Visit your nearest pleasure product professional for details.

But what about the kids? LOCK THE DOOR! You're "wrapping presents" after all.

Celebrate your relationship this season and have a very Merry XXX-mas!

Questions? Email leslie@esindependent.com. Leslie Meeker, M.A., L.P.C., is a psychotherapist who has specialized in relational and sex therapy, sexual compulsivity and sexual trauma for the past 17 years, after receiving extensive training in human sexuality at the Masters and Johnson Institute in St. Louis, Mo.



OTHER DAYS at Eureka Springs® – by Nellie Alice Mills, 1949

Nellie Mills wrote *Early Days at Eureka Springs 1880-1892* as a memoir of growing up in Eureka Springs. She received so much information from those who shared those times that she published her second book based on correspondence and newspaper research. *Other Days* was published in 1950 by Free Will Baptist Gem, Monett, Mo.

Chapter Five: The East Mountain School

“Miss Nellie Mills, Dr. Russell Gilbert let me read your book of Eureka Springs, Arkansas from 1880 to 1892. I am so happy I got to read it for it brought back many memories of my childhood days in Eureka Springs. You spoke of some of my school teachers and some of my school mates.

“My father and mother and we children moved there from Harrison in a covered wagon in 1894. I started to school at the East Mountain School. It was on the top of the mountain. The school building was new then; I believe Mrs. C.S. Barnett, my first teacher, was the first to teach at that school and Mr. E. M. Bare was the man teacher there. Mrs. Barnett's son, Tom, started to school the same day I did; also the Seidel boys, Joe and Isador, went to the same school. Kate Rippetoe was my teacher at the Brick School as we all called the High School Building.

“Miss Mills, I was married in the house that you lived in across from Cold Spring on Mud Street.

“I knew the Spangler boys, Earl, Ernest, and Leonard (we called him ‘Dutch’).

“I lived in Eureka Springs from 1894 to 1908. I knew almost everybody that lived there then: Powell Clayton, the Hawleys. My father was the blacksmith on Main Street just north of Gadd Spring. He also had The Red Front Wagon Yard.

“I go back there very often as I have an uncle that has lived there all these years. My wife's brother, Luther Ross, was born and raised in Eureka Springs.

His parents lived up Mill Hollow south of Seidels' Produce House.

“I remember the horse drawn street cars and the drivers, Bill Reynolds and Sam Allen. I remember when they put electricity in at Eureka Springs.

“My grandfather Burris drove the stage coach between Eureka Springs and Harrison; down one day, back the next.

“I knew George Sexton and his sister Bertha, who had a lame walk. I worked for Homer McLaughlin, as a boy, delivering groceries on foot for two dollars a week. I knew the Hensons and Annie Ross House; I went to school with her son, Elmo House. We delivered the *Daily Times-Echo* of evenings after school.”

I suppose Mr. Osborn was in World War One. Many American boys were in Europe during that time. He concludes his letter thus:

“I work here at the Hotel Vinita as clerk. I got some training as bellhop at the Crescent Hotel. Yours truly, Ben T. Osborn.”

These items about the East Mountain School explain a fragment I have found among my clippings. The date of this item is definitely set by a notice on the back signed “William McKinley, Executive Mansion, May 9, 1898.”

The item reads: “There are not many of our citizens who know much about the East Mountain School. It is located away up the mountain and is so difficult to get to, that but very few ever visit it like they do the schools



on this side. For that reason, even at this hour, we want to say that our visit to that school during the time the Exposition was going on was indeed a revelation to us. This is about eleven years of age, but we were surprised at their work. One little girl had written the geography and history of Arkansas consuming five or six pages of the regular school paper, and while it was in the style and language of a child of ten, we will guarantee that there is an abundant supply of grown people that do not know all that paper contained. One little girl of eight had an essay on the dandelion which gave a splendid description of that little wild flower.”

I do not know where that schoolhouse was situated, but the noes I knew were not as hard to reach as the red brick “on the other side.” Once I climbed to that schoolhouse by ascending over the bluff above the Harding. That might not have been the right way to get there, but it was a hard way.

That is the latest history I have of the East Mountain School. If that schoolhouse, which I never saw, was on top of the mountain, the last ascent was the steepest of all. Once, only, I climbed from that first East Mountain Schoolhouse, on the east side of the mountain, to the crest of the hill. I never climbed a steeper hill.



Thanksgiving feast at the Cookery – KJ and Sarah organized a community Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who wanted to dine among friends, family and community. All were welcome, and guests brought desserts and side dishes.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK

Check it out – Eureka Springs Historical Museum Operations Manager Stephanie Stodden presents a \$750 check to Cemetery Commissioner Bob Thomas, proceeds from "Voices From Eureka's Silent City," which takes place every October. Everyone at the Eureka Springs Historical Museum thanks the commission for allowing use of the cemetery, and for all of their hard work keeping the grounds looking so lovely.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



TheNATUREofEUREKA by Steven Foster



Sugarcane
Recipient of federal entitlements
©Steven Foster

The art of sugaring

What better time to contemplate our modern national obsession with sugar than the holiday season? Start with the sugar load of Halloween, post-Thanksgiving sugar blues, and the sweet treat-filled weeks leading up to Christmas. 'Tis the season to give ourselves permission to cheat on sugar guilt, knowing that in just a few weeks we have the opportunity for the New Year's resolution to quit eating all that sugar to which we have been addicted since childhood.

It's an all-American perpetual tradition supported with immoral federal subsidies for sugar cane production and high-fructose corn syrup. Sugar is the real gateway drug to all other substances, which when abused, have a pharmacological effect, despite being labeled food, with negative biological consequences for the individual and society. We are a society blind to the effect of carbs gone wild. Some of you think I'm crazy for even bringing this up. I am crazed, since I am writing this under the influence of a chocolate cream pie I made for myself this afternoon. And I will eat the whole thing. Sugar should be heavily regulated and taxed like tobacco and alcohol. Those of you who don't think my comments on this subject are silly, are probably sugar-free health food freaks or getting ready to inject yourself with your daily dose of insulin as you read this.

Per the United States Department of Agriculture,



Americans consume between 150-170 pounds of refined sugar per year. We consume, mostly unwittingly, between 30-34 five-pound bags of sugar per year. Global raw sugar production for the 2016/17 period is 171 million metric tons.

In the early 1800s, Americans consumed four to six pounds of sugar per year. Mass production of sugar from sugar cane began in the 1650s. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603), the very rare commodity, sugar, was consumed at a rate of three pounds per year – and only by the Queen herself or those with whom she chose to share a smidgeon.

Indigenous peoples of North America introduced European conquerors to the kindly task of extracting and concentrating sugar and syrup from the sap of maple trees. It is a fine tradition, the art of sugaring, which I contemplate as I watch the last vestiges of maple tree foliage fade away for another season. The price of maple sugar and maple syrup reflect the real cost of non-government subsidized sugar sources. Think about that as we get ready to drain the swamp.

Advent, Liturgy, Light in the Darkness, St. Nicholas

December, month of hopes, anticipations and expectations (suspense for the little ones), is filled with festivals of light in the ever-increasing darkness. There is a feeling that something new is about to occur. Everywhere preparations are being made. Advent is a preparatory celebration in the Christian churches. Advent, Latin word “adventus,” means “something’s coming” – winter, solstice, new light, birth, holidays, parties, festivities, revelations.

Advent lasts four weeks. Evergreen Advent wreaths with four colored candles (3 violet, 1 rose) are made. Each **Sunday** night a new candle is lit. The

candles represent light glowing in the solemn darkness. We light our candles in the dark half of the year awaiting the light half of the year.

As each year is divided into four seasons, the Liturgy of the Christian church divides the year into “liturgical seasons.” “Liturgical” is Greek for “the work of the people” – a communal participation in the “sacred” through worship, praise, tithing, prayer, acts of kindness and mercy. Each season has a different mood, theological emphasis, mode of prayer, decorations, colors, readings, themes and scriptures.

In the Ageless Wisdom teachings, the year

is divided into six seasons for the Three Laws & Three Principles of the Aquarian Age. The season we have just begun (Nov. 21 – Dec. 20) focuses on the Principle of Essential Divinity (divine fire at the heart of all matter). As we light our candles in the dark in December, we are reminded that the Essential Divinity within us is a fire, Agni. And each of us, a light in the darkness.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, is St. Nicholas’ feast day. Nicholas was generous and kind, protector to those in need. He loved children. St. Nicholas is the Advent saint. He is Santa Claus.

ARIES: You’re out and about, in and of the world. You can’t help it. The world, people, events, food, travel, adventures, mountain peaks, plains, cultures, culture, civilization – all summoning you to participate. Perhaps you will consider writing a book, perhaps publishing becomes interesting. Think deeply on your goals. Create more. Ponder upon this statement, “I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another.”

TAURUS: I ask that you also read and ponder upon the statement at the end of Aries. And then observe the many and varied goals, dreams, hopes & wishes filtering through your mind each day. There’s not enough time each day to accomplish everything, Time seems to have changed, accelerated. You have many plans to fulfill. Visualize yourself in the midst of abundant resources and money. See yourself as the Law of Attraction. Accomplishing all dreams.

GEMINI: What are you planning for the holidays? Will you prepare with family and friends? With someone in particular? Tend carefully to the one closest to you. A silver light is shining on your relationship. Communicative intimacy is being called for. Past, present and future seem to be bundled together. You and another need to travel. Down a river or lake somewhere. Blue mountains ahead.

CANCER: Your health at this time is what matters most. Focusing on health is good because you have the capacity to purify, harmonize and heal more quickly now. Foods are also on your mind. Are you considering preparing food to give as gifts? Are endless tasks and responsibilities appearing moment by moment? Till you have no time? Say no to some. You need rest.

LEO: Your heart seeks more adventure, fun, play and being tended to in a very creative way. You need to accept invitations to parties and festivities, be with friends, attend plays, art shows, dances, and visit other people’s homes. You need both a Christmas tree and a Hanukkah bush with lights and candles everywhere. You need to be loved, cared for, recognized and then loved some more. Who can do this?

VIRGO: You are the light of the world to your family. You are the one who must connect them, one to the other, create festivities that make them feel at home. You must begin to plan a large gathering so that those who have no family are welcomed (where you are). You must merge separate realities, unify oppositions, and synthesize all the parts and pieces. You love these tasks.

LIBRA: Being out and about in the neighborhood, dropping in on neighbors, driving around town seeking the most dramatic holiday decorations, having dinner with friends, gathering holiday decorations, seeing relatives, talking on the phone, sending holiday cards – all these you love to do. You look forward to the beauty of this season all year. Who is your family these days?

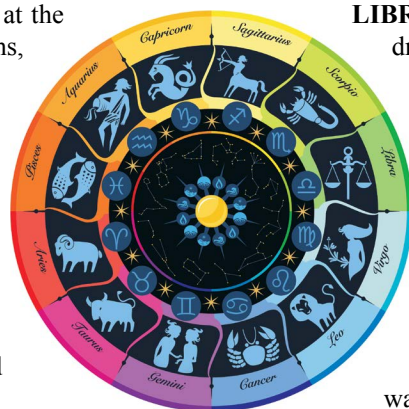
SCORPIO: For the next several weeks you sense a light shining on you. You’ll feel lucky, able, capable, resourceful, wealthy, emotionally supported. Don’t run out, however, and buy everything you fancy and shining brightly. Unless it’s for a loved one. Then be lavish. However, most appreciated would be your heart, given to another. Even if it’s to a friend. We think of you as internal, hidden, watchful. Give a little more of yourself for a while.

SAGITTARIUS: All parts of you are active, energetic, hopeful (we hope). You also become a bit more impulsive, quick to anger, impatient, wanting your own way (for a time). We see you as being more assertive, daring like a warrior. You become very attractive. However, be careful with everything – communicating, driving, walking, running, using tools, implements. Things red, hot and sharp (all of which, to some, you are) might attack. You’re laughing. That’s good. Caution with language.

CAPRICORN: You may be fatigued, weary, drained, worn out, depleted of major nutrients and in need of rest. Soon you will need to be out and about in the public more, so take this time to draw back, do less work. You can still plan and create goals. However, do not act upon them immediately, instead making health, rest, and well-being your central focus. Allow these to be your directives for at least a month.

AQUARIUS: As you go out and about be careful not to be too reckless. You have energy and enthusiasm, you have hopes and wishes, you have opportunities and invitations. Amidst the many possibilities, attend only one or two at a time. Say thank you, exit gracefully, then focus on several more. Pay all bills promptly, don’t worry about money. You always have the needed resources and resourceful people.

PISCES: You become more public, more of your leadership qualities are summoned. A forum or group invites you to teach, to offer your gifts of communication, counseling, intelligence and knowledge. You prepare. However, you are aware that at any time, things dissolve away. So you are hopeful, patient, accepting, acquiescing, yet you are also wary, cautious, circumspect, careful and coiled like a kundalini snake, which is OK (for now).



OLIO
OF THE OZARKS
RADIO

o•li•o (ō-lē-ō), n., 1. a dish of many ingredients.
2. hodgepodge. 3. a medley or potpourri.

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BUDGET WORKSHOP continued from page 3

will do you some good? We gave them an option. It was a great idea. It [would have] disbursed the burden to everyone." He asked why would they raise rates unless they intended to solve the problem.

The group agreed they needed the numbers Clark is working on.

McClung also contended they should give a tax another chance. "I can't help but think but we can get a three-quarter cent tax passed." Other aldermen agreed with the concept and tossed around what amount would be palatable to the voters, but there was no disagreement that increases in water and sewer rates loomed on the horizon.

FEEDBACK continued from page 4

Garcia went on to say, "She has consistently pushed a corporate agenda to privatize, de-professionalize and impose cookie-cutter solutions to public education. By nominating DeVos, the Trump administration has demonstrated just how out of touch it is with what works best for students, parents, educators and communities."

In her article, Graves also pointed out, "DeVos has approached the issue of education as a religious issue," and she "wants to change the law to reflect her personal views." DeVos wrote in an article for the Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call*, "My family is the largest single contributor of soft money to the national Republican party." When asked about whether she was trying to buy influence, she remarked, "We expect a return on our investment."

Pruitt said he sees a problem if public schools become embroiled in a competitive business model. If school districts

have to compete for funds like businesses compete for customers, the focus moves away from education. "My attention is on public schools," he said. "Education is based on hard work. People need to respect that."

He had no problem with charter schools as a concept, and acknowledged those which focus on teaching trades for students who do not plan to go to college, but grimaced at the consequences of the federal government redirecting Title 1 funds, which go toward poverty and special needs students and minorities.

Although no one can predict what DeVos will be able to do if she is confirmed, Pruitt said the district would continue to communicate with legislators at the state level and express concerns. In fact, Pruitt said he would be participating in a group discussion with Sen. Bryan King Monday evening. His advice for preparing for what's next? "Let's all work together, but be vigilant and keep a close eye on the situation."

Christmas Parade Friday and John Two Hawks Saturday – flip the holiday switch!

Holidays in Eureka Springs are *hot*! Our annual Christmas Parade of Lights Friday night downtown lights pathways of communal heart with joyous revelry. John Two Hawks, Grammy-nominated Native American flutist, performs a

holiday concert Saturday night at the Auditorium. His shows are unique, popular, and the perfect gift to spend with someone during the giving season – an exciting annual event to warm our holiday blues away.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

BREWS – *Ashleigh Caudill and Violet Delancey*, Americana, 6 – 9 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *George Brothers*, Rock, 6 – 8 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *Green Screen Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

GRAND TAVERNE – *Jerry Yester*, Singer/Songwriter, 6:30 p.m.

LEGENDS SALOON – *Another Turn*, Rock, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

***DOWNTOWN – PARADE OF LIGHTS**, 6 p.m.

BREWS – *Pearl Brick*, Singer/Songwriter, 7 – 10 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Mark Shields*, Rock, 8 – 11 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Rozenbridge*, Rock, 9 p.m.

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

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

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

NEW DELHI – *Jeff Kearney*, Singer/Songwriter, 6 – 10 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER – *2 Dog 2 Karaoke*, 7 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

AUDITORIUM – *John 2 Hawks*, Holiday Flute Concert, 7 p.m.

BALCONY RESTAURANT – *Steve Jones*, Singer/Songwriter, 12 p.m., *Pearl Brick*, Singer/Songwriter, 6 p.m.

BREWS – *Blues Jazz Soul Group*, 6 – 9 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Lori Locke Band*, Rock, 8 – 11 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Tim Budhig Band*, Americana, 9 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *DJ & Dancing*, 9 p.m.

GRAND TAVERNE – *Jerry Yester*, Singer/Songwriter, 6:30 p.m.

LEGENDS SALOON – *JAB the Band*, Rock, 9 p.m.

LE STICK – *Pete Maiella*, Singer/Songwriter, 7 p.m.

NEW DELHI – *Steve Zimmerman*, Classic Rock and Blues, 12 – 4 p.m., *Gates Magoo*, New Orleans Folk, 6 – 10 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER – *Terri and the*

Executives, Rock, 7 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Terri and Brett*, Rock, 12 – 4 p.m., *Hedtripp Duo*, Rock, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

BALCONY RESTAURANT – *Pearl Brick*, Singer/Songwriter, 12 p.m.

BREWS – *Trivia Night*, 6 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *Green Screen Karaoke*, 7 p.m.

NEW DELHI – *Whisky Menders*, Classic Rock and Blues, 12 – 4 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Terri and*

Brett, Rock, 12 – 4 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

CHELSEA'S – *Sprungbilly*, Bluegrass, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Los Roscoes*, Blues, 6 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Open Mic*, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

BREWS – *Open Mic*, 6 p.m.

CATHOUSE – *Jimmy Wayne Garrett*, Singer/Songwriter, 6 – 8 p.m.



John Two-Hawks plays the AUD Sat., Dec. 3, Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.

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No razors needed – The Great Ozarkan Beard Off began on Saturday at noon in Basin Park with the Santa Beard competition. Contestants were first shown off to the crowd and then passed to the judges where both real and fake beards were assessed through a mobile app. The Beard Off continued throughout the rest of the day at New Delhi, Brews, and Chelsea's with roughly 40 participants. Proceeds went to local non-profit People Helping People.

PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ALVARADO



Deck the Park with a whole lot of Christmas – Basin Park was busy on Saturday as the Great Ozarkan Beard Off competitions began. The park is decked for the holiday season with the Nativity Scene set up in the bandshell and lights hung for the nights. Visitors who were burned out shopping on Black Friday got to enjoy a Eurekan take with Shop Small Saturday.

PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ALVARADO

David Shane Bolerjack Oct. 21, 1952 — Nov. 20, 2016

David Shane Bolerjack ended this life's journey and began his next just before dawn on Nov. 20, 2016. He had struggled with cancer for almost four years; when it became clear there would be no escape, he made the conscious choice to lean into the experience and face his eventual death rather than deny it. It was a remarkable choice, as it meant that he would be aware of what was happening to him, and it was not easy... but there were many gifts along the way.

David's choices led him to a home in the woods which became his sanctuary, his sacred retreat, and it was there that he prepared, with help of his loving family and a few special friends, to translate from his earthly form into the higher. He derived great spiritual strength from MasterPath and his teacher, Sri Gary Olsen. David was ever gracious (despite his discomfort at being in the spotlight of attention from those who loved him), brave, and courageous, inspiring all who were blessed to be in his company. He inspires still.

Not being one who is attracted to gloom and doom, David sought humor as a release, especially with his brothers. He was a huge fan of The Three Stooges, and that is a big clue to his way of looking at the world. Being a poet and musician, he continued to play his guitar until just a few weeks ago. He enjoyed walks in the woods and sitting on a special bench along the lane, where he

and grandson, Shane, shared picnics and invented stories about Gruffalos and flying dragons.

He participated in a painting project that his wife, Pam, initiated, wherein everyone who came to visit was invited to paint. There are now eight completed collaboratively-created canvases, each expressing the beauty and faith of David and his family, friends, and care-giver/collaborators. And all the while, excellent food was prepared and heartily enjoyed, especially when eaten on the decks watching for the fox to make its appearance.

David is survived by Pam, his wife (and so much more) of 36 years; his three steadfast brothers, Stewart, Byrum, and Nathan, and their awesome wives. He had two sons of whom he was intensely proud: Derek (who came to him in what David called "a package deal," since Pam arrived with a four-year-old) and Timothy. Both sons are tender, funny, smart, and continue to be a blessing. Timothy and Jennifer brought David's first grandchild, Shane, into his life; Derek and Leah brought Lewis; and, oh my, what joy and amazement ensued! Being "Poppa" was the best!

David was a veteran, proudly serving in the Navy aboard the USS Enterprise in the mid-1970s, and enjoyed an eclectic work history. He worked all over the place: Tysons, Kraft, and as a (very poor) house painter.



He became an ophthalmic technician and a paralegal. A stickler for neatness and organization, he often said he loved being a clerk the best, because of the satisfaction derived from the shuffling of paper. Seriously...

There will be a "Celebrative Gathering to Remember David Shane Bolerjack" on Friday, Dec. 9, at the Crescent Hotel Conservatory from 6 – 8 pm. There will be music, food, laughter, probably a few tears, and many stories shared. The paintings will be displayed. Please come.

Memorial donations will be welcomed by The Clear Spring School, Circle of Life Hospice, or Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.

Gail Marie Pierce Larimer Nov. 18, 1938 – Nov. 19, 2016

"Exit Lines"

No sad songs for me, I have been one of the lucky ones in life: wonderful family, great career, plenty of travel and a comfortable lifestyle. I have lived in the country, small towns, city suburbs, and a glass and steel box 56 floors above Chicago's Michigan Avenue, and for the past 35 years in the historic district of my adopted hometown, Eureka Springs.

I was born 78 years ago on a frosty November night to Kathleen Louise McConnell Pierce and William James Pierce of Stigler, Okla. I arrived in a bedroom in my grandmother's house, attended by a country doctor.

After returning from the war, my father built a new house and established a small cattle ranch. For my sister and me this meant the outdoors, plenty of pets, and riding horses. My family also owned the area's dream factories – the movie theaters, so the silver screen jump-started my imagination.

My first job, at 14, was with the town newspaper and I was on my way as a writer. Editorship of my college newspaper followed, and in 1960 I earned my degree in journalism and public affairs reporting from the University of Oklahoma, plus post-grad work in English literature. I secured a dream job as a specialized reporter at the Oklahoma State Capitol with press table credentials in the House, Senate and Governor's Conferences.

Over the years, I wrote and edited international publications in insurance, real estate and photography and provided web content.



Aside from my work, my main recreation was sailing. First and foremost, I was a writer, even as I served as chief executive officer of Self Storage Association and of Antique & Amusement Photographers International and while operating my own organizational management company for 23 years. In recent years, I have turned to short story fiction, winning a few awards along the way. I have been active in the Village Writing School, producing a

weekly online column. Other activities have included readings at Brews and participation in the Unitarian Fellowship.

I leave behind my beautiful daughter, Leslie, and husband Anthony Leggett (like a son to me) of Eureka Springs; granddaughters Raven Leggett, Glory Leggett and great-grandson Nico Bloch, all of Fayetteville; my sister Kay White of The Woodlands, Texas, and her tribe of children, grandchildren and a great-granddaughter, located throughout Texas and Oklahoma; my cousin Sue Lyn Evans of Muskogee, Okla.; and my cousin Carol Ann of Stigler, Okla.

My second husband, Ted Larimer, pre-deceased me in 2007.

I have asked for no funeral or formal memorial. My life has been a celebration. If you want to remember me, contribute your time and/or your money to something you really care about. For my part, one of my passions has been the preservation and restoration of Eureka's historic properties. I have personally participated in ten renovations – hotels, commercial and residential. I also served as a member and chairman of the Historic Auditorium Commission. Back in the 1990s, we began this major project with new wiring and a bank of restrooms. Others have continued this important work.

My family plans a simple gravesite farewell with cremains interred in the Eureka Springs Cemetery. My marker is a stone bench under a pine tree, a place for rest and meditation. All are welcome there. My family thanks you for your thoughts and prayers.



It's the last day of November and the fish are liking it, but very few anglers are fishing. Beaver Lake stripers are being caught in the dam area, more from Point 5 all the way to Prairie Creek and islands by the Hwy. 12 bridge. They're running about 30 feet deep when not surfacing, with the water temp still in low 60s.

Bass are venturing to the back of the creeks with a few stripers following them. Here at Holiday Island we're running a little cooler with the water temps closer to 55°, and most warm water bass and walleye are being caught between Beaver and the Island and on up into Missouri, where there's deeper, warmer water.

We got into some nice spotted bass right on the border last week throwing white rooster tails, jigs and top water baits. Walleye are being caught off

the bottom hitting slim deep divers with pink, chartreuse and white being the best colors. They're also being caught on jigs, minnows and spoons.

If you like trout, we've got some bigger ones hanging closer to Beaver and heading up river. Try trolling flicker shad in crawdad and shad colors.

Well, I'd better close for now by letting you know from now until March, since most of you are staying indoors even on warm days, if just two people want to get out we can do for half price. Good deal if you want to take a kid fishing, since no charge for kids under 16 with an adult. Also, I'm selling gift certificates to fish any date in 2017 with 10 percent discount.

Hopefully I'll have more to say next week, stay warm.

Robert Johnson, fishofexcellence.com, (479) 253-2258

INDEPENDENT**Crossword**

by Mike Boian with extensive help from his wife, Ann Solution on page 23

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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- ACROSS**

1. Gruesome, grisly

5. American pioneer and scout Carson

8. British light submachine gun

12. Theater award started by *The Village Voice*

13. Ill fortune

14. Domesticate

15. Minor error utterance

16. Picnic regular

17. Leave out

18. Sweetheart or lover

20. English ruling family from 1485 – 1603

22. Axelike tool

23. Hen's daily production

24. Landlocked East African country

27. Sense of coordination

31. Unit of electrical resistance

32. Hip-____, music style

33. Price on a fugitive's head

37. Fourth letter of the Hebrew alphabet

40. Ram's partner
41. Biographical data

42. Utter confusion

44. Relocated

47. Opposite of sweet

48. Rusty man of *The Wizard of Oz*

50. Largest continent

52. Stack up

53. Lest

54. Short siestas

55. In the distance

56. Eric the ____

57. The narwhal only has one
- DOWN**

1. Sticky mess

2. Silver coin of ancient Greece

3. Ready to eat

4. Sycophant

5. Harvest festival, Dec. 26 – Jan. 1

6. Electrically charged atom

7. Eruptive skin disease

8. Dreary, turgid

9. Tree with bark resembling peanut shells
10. Islamic chieftan

11. Safety device

19. Basic math function

21. Sound of distaste

24. Take by unlawful force

25. Specialized U.N. Agency

26. One measure of fissionable material

28. Definitive article

29. Totally popular

30. Vehicle speed, for short

34. Less remote

35. Number it takes to tango

36. Relating to times past, *archaic*

37. Condemned to hell

38. Times before

39. Eastern shore of the Mediterranean

42. Hair style

43. Grass skirt dance

45. Twin brother to Jacob

46. Dance moves

47. Healthy retreat

49. Intense anger

51. Request

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PERSONALS

Dear parents,
Still have one chicken casserole. Keeping the birthday date on the brain in between Christmas thoughts. Perhaps a Mexican chicken casserole for the birthday would save money?

HKP – No reply to the “The Big TINY Build?” No remark on when the “Big Dig” needs to be completed? Too much turkey and now you’re lazy and sleepy? Waiting impatiently for your response.

FOUND

CANOE, near Henry’s Hollow. Owner may claim with VIN#, description. Call (479) 253-9299: Leave message.

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ROBISON continued from page 7

“People can now take thousands of photos.”

But that doesn’t mean it doesn’t take patience and sometimes luck, especially when dealing with time-lapse photography.

“Time-lapse may take five hours to get a shot, so you have to make sure the subject is good, and the light is good, or you will waste all that time,” Robison said. “Time-lapse takes lots of time and patience.”

Born and raised in Warrensburg, Mo., Robison and his family moved to Eureka Springs in 2009. Their Sacred Earth Gallery is located on US 62 near Inspiration Point, an overlook where he frequently does photography.

“This was a great choice of a place to live,” Robison said. “I don’t foresee

SIMPLE LIFE continued from page 6

little oasis in the center of the city. It was just fun.”

Then it got more involved for him. He was asking himself questions like: What is valuable in life?

“I was watching our culture of consumption where no one produces much of anything,” Richard said. “We decided to make our way of life different. Permaculture and sustainability are what are important. It makes for a very simple life. When you put a seed in the ground and watch it grow, it makes you feel good about yourself every single day. It’s a really a peaceful way to live. It isn’t about wanting something bigger and better.”

Their homestead is filled with examples of green living. They bought a used curved-glass greenhouse to attach to their home that is used to grow food in winter, start seedlings in spring, and heat the house. The island in the kitchen was made from old seed storage cabinets. Cypress from an 1801 barn was used to make bookshelves.

Rainwater is harvested off the buildings and pumped to a 2,600-gallon

storage tank at the highest point of the property to provide water to irrigate extensive gardens and orchards. Their property is landscaped with swales that retain storm water. They grow a number of different types of mushrooms, as well.

Herbs are dried in the house for use year around, and the kitchen pantry is filled with foods preserved from their garden. They fertilize with rabbit manure and winter cover crops, and add large quantities of mulch to the garden that feeds the soil.

“We are experimenting with our first hoop house or high tunnel,” Jane said. “I’m excited about what can grow in there without any additional heat. Putting the infrastructure together to have a sustainable farm has taken somewhat longer than expected. We have tried to build these different systems that support each other. Sometimes they have worked and sometimes they haven’t. But the whole place is becoming a sustainable system where the earth is always being

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moving anywhere else.”

When they moved from Lawrence, Kan., to Eureka Springs, they had a gallery downtown on Spring Street. Then in the 2009 ice storm, their home on Buck Mountain burned down, destroying everything including most artwork. For a while they considered getting an RV and traveling the country. But then they found a stonehouse and space for the Scared Earth Art gallery at the present location.

Robison said the gallery on US 62 has worked better than being downtown. Downtown hundreds of people walked in, but most people just wanted to talk and kill time. A small percentage bought something.

“We get way less traffic here, but a large percentage of them are buyers because they made a conscious decision

to stop,” Robison said. “The pressure to sell a lot of work is less because overhead costs are far less.”

For the past two years he has been working on a couple of big art projects including 75 large art pieces, primarily of scenes in Carroll and Newton counties, for the Carroll Electric Cooperative building in Berryville. He also has completed about 40 large pieces for the Butterfield Trail Village, a retirement community in Fayetteville.

His wife, Jana, is also a successful artist who does fine art paintings in a whimsical illustrative style.

“She has been doing well this year, as well,” Robison said. “We do very different work. Her artwork always depicts people, and I don’t photograph people.”

For more information, see [www. ECR3.com](http://www.ECR3.com).

nurtured instead of being drained by chemicals and overuse. The whole methodology is towards polyculture instead of monoculture. Just watching that be successful is pretty exciting.”

Richard said permaculture isn’t just about growing your own food.

“The culture part of it also has to do with being good neighbors and having meaningful exchanges with the people you live with – not just your neighbors, but the whole society we live in,” he said. “It is about finding value in all those things that are sustainable and supporting and encouraging that in other people. It all has to do with using natural resources, optimizing what you have and making a life out of it.

“My focus right now is really having everyone understand how badly we need each other. My thesis is that no matter what goes on with the federal government, if we recognize each individual’s value and support each other in our daily lives, that is a permaculture. We have to recognize others’ value. That is not always easy.”

Code Yellow Alert for O and A
Negative blood types

The Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) will hold a blood drive at the Holiday Island Elks Lodge, 4 Parkcliff Drive on Monday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs on Dec. 6 from 1 – 6 p.m.

Each donation will be awarded LifePoints as a part of CBCO’s donor rewards program. LifePoints may be redeemed online for a variety of gift cards or points may be assigned to other meaningful causes or charities. To be eligible to give blood you must weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and present a valid photo ID. For more information about sharing your good health with others or on the LifePoints donor rewards program go to www.cbco.org or call toll-free (800) 280-5337.

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