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eureka.news

ESI is your **INDEPENDENT** news source
covering Carroll County, Arkansas

This week's Independent thinker



Army veteran John Lunceford drives a school bus in Kennewick School District, Washington. He's a grandfather, so he likely recognizes when a child's cry is from distress. He heard that cry recently when a boy with red ears and hands got on the bus and simply burst into tears because he was so cold.

Lunceford probably rubbed the boys hands before he gave him his gloves and told him, "Everything will be OK."

After dropping the children off at school, Lunceford went out and bought hats and gloves for other kids in the school, and created a local movement with matching donations – when you give a pair of gloves, it becomes two pair.

It's a Christmas story only because this is Christmastime. Not one child, teenager or adult in Carroll County, Arkansas, should have to be cold just to get where they're going.

BTW, the Doggie and ECHO Thrift Shops have gift certificates.

PHOTO CREDIT: KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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1,000 + 2 – If you missed Night of 1,000 Santas you can still find Santa Claus at Peas in a Pod on West Van Buren. Traffic occasionally stops to see what he's doing and you should, too. *PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ALVARADO*

Come to Eureka for the 'cure'

City encourages licensing

BECKY GILLETTE

"We will have to wait until the Medical Marijuana Commission finalizes the process and procedures before we know for sure what can be done," Mayor Butch Berry said this week, adding that the city of Eureka Springs will do all it can to encourage a medical marijuana dispensary and/or cultivation center licensee in Eureka Springs.

This past week Berry and the Mayor's Economic Development Task Force hosted Little Rock Attorney David Couch, author of the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment that passed Nov. 8, for a public meeting at the Eureka Springs courthouse to discuss the new law. Berry said they have confirmed Couch will come back as soon as the commission establishes rules, and hold workshops on filing the applications.

"At present, we are looking at sometime in late March or early April for the local workshop," he said. "This legislation will generate a new revenue stream for the state and Eureka Springs if one of the licenses is granted to someone in the city," Berry said. "Eureka

Springs was developed because of the healing benefits of its springs. So, in my humble opinion, it would be a great fit for Eureka Springs to once again be known for contemporary medical arts and healing center. I believe that Eureka Springs would be a natural fit because of our location and the population we serve."

Berry said another possible benefit for Eureka Springs would be an increase in population with individuals and families moving here to take advantage of the legislation. "We've seen this happen in Colorado and it could very well happen here, also. One of the goals of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development is to diversify our economy and strike a balance of about 20-30 percent non-tourism and 70-80 percent tourism. The medical marijuana industry opens up new jobs, new skills and a wide range of new opportunities for our town. There is a tremendous amount of interest and enthusiasm for this initiative in Eureka Springs. This was not only demonstrated by the community meeting attendance, but also by the number

MEDICAL MARIJUANA continued on page 2

Play and make good cheer! You can never have enough socks.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA continued from page 1
of conversations we've had with residents and potential investors."

Couch estimated it would cost about \$300,000 to open a dispensary, which would be allowed to grow up to 50 plants. He estimated the cost at \$1 million for a grow facility. There are reportedly several individuals in the area working on business plans for marijuana facilities.

The economic impact to Eureka Springs and the state of Arkansas would be even greater if it follows the lead of other states following the legalizing of medicinal use with recreational use. Even some conservative lawmakers, facing deficits in their states, have eyed with envy the huge windfall in taxes from states with recreational marijuana.

At the meeting at the courthouse last week, Couch said that "if the wheel don't fall off" with medical marijuana, it is possible there could be another marijuana voter referendum in four years legalizing recreational marijuana.

Arkansas is the first "red" state to approve medical marijuana. That might present an opportunity similar to when casinos were legalized in Mississippi while still being illegal in surrounding states. Mississippi saw billions of dollars of developments along the Mississippi River



DAVID COUCH

and the Gulf Coast for about a decade until more casinos were built in neighboring states. In 2016, Colorado had income of about \$135 million on recreational marijuana taxes and fees, on \$996 million in sales.

A recent Pew Poll shows that 57 percent of Americans believe marijuana should be legal. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws says polls show medical marijuana is supported by 80 percent of people surveyed.

INDEPENDENTNews

CAPC upbeat, making changes

NICKY BOYETTE

The first order of business at the Dec. 14 City Advertising and Promotion meeting was to approve the 2017 budget, which projected an income of \$1,515,700. Only minutes before the meeting, commissioners had concluded the latest of several budget discussions, which reflected a budgeting vision not tied to the past. They reduced budgets for the Jazz, Bluegrass and Folk Festivals but increased spending on the month-long May Festival of the Arts. Commissioners also committed to paying \$40,000 toward the utility bill at the Auditorium in 2017 to relieve the city budget of that burden. Vote to approve the proposed budget was unanimous.

Director's report

Executive Director Mike Maloney gave commissioners his schedule for promoting important events early in the year. He projected advertising for the Valentine's Day activities would begin in early January in television and print in major markets within the six-hour drive radius. Since Valentine's Day is

on a Tuesday, Maloney is hoping local businesses can help the CAPC convince visitors to have an extended holiday weekend experience in Eureka Springs.

Maloney also has plans for the Chocolate Lovers' Festival and Mardi Gras events. He said Eureka Springs gets the benefits of four spring breaks, so he intends to reach into those markets. This would include Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri and beyond.

His overall marketing outreach includes pitching to several niches such as weddings, family, outdoors, and this year he is adding mountain biking and the new Made in Eureka Springs campaign. Maloney plans to use 25 to 30 15-second videos on YouTube featuring local products as a way to promote the town and lure viewers to the main website.

Financial report

Finance Director Rick Bright reported that total collections through Oct. 31 were 7.4 percent above 2015 collections for the same period. Restaurants showed a 6.8 percent increase and lodgings rang in at

CAPC continued on page 17

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CAPC finds funds to pay Aud utilities

NICKY BOYETTE

At the CAPC budget workshop last Wednesday, the first challenge was to see where in the 2017 budget commissioners could find \$40,000 to cover utility costs at the Auditorium for 2017. The management agreement between the CAPC and the city calls for the city to pay the utility bill at the Auditorium, which is projected to be about \$40,000 next year.

Commissioner James DeVito pointed out, "The city is in dire straits." He listed protective gear for firefighters among the line items the city is struggling to pay for in next year's budget. "The city is pinching pennies all over the place." He maintained the CAPC has the revenue, so

in a good will gesture it should cover the city's Auditorium utility bill next year. He speculated they could find funds by examining the budget, and the search began.

Spending on festivals popped up immediately. Commissioner Damon Henke was skeptical about the request of \$25,000 by the Arts Council for the May Festival of the Arts. Executive Director Mike Maloney emphasized the May Festival of the Arts is a CAPC event, and asked the Arts Council to help put it on. "They asked for funds to make it happen," he said, referring to the request.

Maloney added the Arts Council has been a helpful facilitator of the event, and the month-long festival kicks off the tourist season. He commented that commissioners could fund whatever amount they want, "but that event is still our major event." Commissioners settled on \$15,000 for the May festival.

Scrutiny went toward other festivals, and Henke commented he wanted to keep \$8,000 or so in the budget for the Bluegrass Festival. Finance Director

Rick Bright said he put extra funds in the Music in the Park line item to be used for jazz and bluegrass weekends with the idea the festivals would continue with music in Basin Park, but without big acts in the Auditorium.

Commissioner Terry McClung noted that Friday night jazz in Basin Park was very popular, and there was agreement a festival could extend from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. McClung said he did not want to lose the Folk Festival. He was okay moving it to a different weekend, "but it needs to be retained."

Maloney suggested they allocate \$10,000 – \$12,000 to the Folk Festival instead of \$15,000. He said he would be going to the Folk Alliance event in Kansas City where he was confident he could find quality new acts that would fit the budget. The challenge would be to attract the demographic that appreciates these new acts, such as the Fayetteville college crowd. Commissioners decided on \$12,000 for the Folk Festival and moved it to the Nov. 3-4 weekend.

CAPC BUDGET continued on page 17

NOTICE

The *Independent* will be closed from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2, just so you know. Time to celebrate, relax, and be glad we live here. That shouldn't take more than 10 days, right?



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INDEPENDENTNews

Planning clears path for CUP, outdoor dining, Code revisions

NICKY BOYETTE

The Dec. 13 Planning Commission meeting began with a public hearing regarding continuing a Conditional Use Permit for a five-unit Bed & Breakfast at 50 Wall St. Neighbor Ken Lockhart told commissioners he was not opposed the B&B continuing to operate, but asked for a few issues to be rectified by new owners, Tom and Debbie Reay.

Lockhart mentioned regular almost daily loss of parking in front of his property and even being blocked in by guests or visitors at the B&B. He said he has found beer bottles in his backyard. The owner of 50 Wall St., Frank Green, disagreed with some of Lockhart's claims. Lockhart repeated he was not opposed to the B&B, "just asking for courtesy."

When the item came up during the regular meeting, Reay said he and his wife are moving here from Houston because they love the town

and look forward to operating the B&B. Commissioner James Morris acknowledged there are parking issues on Wall Street, but street parking is not illegal. He maintained the B&B owner must satisfy parking requirements in City Code regarding off-street parking, not monitor street parking. Vote on the Reay's application to continue the B&B was unanimous to approve.

Eating outdoors

Contractor Penny Pemberton represented the application to create an outdoor dining area at 82 Armstrong. She said the owner had first wanted to build an outdoor stage on that spot, but since that was voted down, he wants to make a new use of the space.

There were questions about hours of operation and lighting, but Morris said Building Inspector Bobby Ray would be the one to approve the lighting. Morris said he would not be against anyone trying something to improve the town as long as no one else is inconvenienced. His concern with this application was a possible noise problem.

"And there is more outdoor seating just on the other side [of the building]," interim chair Melissa Greene pointed out.

Commissioner Ann Saltee said she was okay with the application as long as noise was under control, and there was a unanimous vote to approve the application contingent on no amplified

music in the dining area.

Eating indoors

An application to enclose part of a deck at the Thai House to add as many as 16 seats, with no plumbing or electrical alteration, was approved.

Revision of City Code

Greene introduced a new set of Code revisions, including looking closer at the definition of a CUP, saying Planning's goal would be "to tighten up" definitions in City Code.

Besides CUPs, Greene listed CUP revocation, wedding/reception establishments, and event venues as needing attention. Conversation about the definition of "transient" evolved into definition of tourist lodging, which led to creating a document that would make it easy for someone applying for a CUP to know the accompanying responsibilities.

Public comments

Jeff Collins said he lives at 7 Lookout Circle, next door to the Lookout Cottages, site of planned renovations and construction activity. Collins said the site is used for weddings, reunions and group parties and as an adjunct to activities at the nearby Crescent Hotel. He cited a variety of parking and traffic issues and not enough monitoring of guests at events. For him, it all amounts to a loss of personal privacy. He said some construction done at the cottages was not properly permitted.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m.

Fundraiser set for family of threat suspect

An account has been set up at Arvest Bank in Eureka Springs to help assist the family of a man arrested and charged with allegedly threatening to kill his wife and homosexuals at a restaurant where she works, Café Amore. Emily is credited with reporting the threat to police even knowing it could mean financial hardship for her family if her husband were jailed. Jeremiah Bliss-Leija remains in jail on felony and misdemeanor charges, and is under a \$250,000 bond.

Emily is supporting herself and four children on part-time employment.

She is known locally as an excellent caretaker and hard worker. Donations can be made at Arvest to the account named Emily's Christmas Fund.

Emily was quoted in the Affidavit of Probable Cause that she was afraid of her husband and did not wish to return home.

Christmas Eve Service

The Holiday Island Community Church, 188 Stateline Road will hold a Christmas Eve Candle Light Service beginning at 4 p.m. All are invited.



ESi
Eureka Springs
INDEPENDENT

Court passes tight budget

NICKY BOYETTE

At Monday's Carroll County Quorum Court meeting, an ordinance establishing the annual operating budget for 2017 passed unanimously, although it was slightly under last year's budget. Justice of the Peace Lamont Richie commented the budget for the general fund is below 2016 because the county incurred an increase of \$250,000 for health insurance and \$60,000 for county property insurance. Projected general fund revenues are \$6,176,696 and projected general fund expenditures are \$4,472,992.

Richie said the Road Department would be increased by six percent to allow for the purchase of more asphalt and gravel and a truck. Other departments will be cut compared to 2016, but they can request adjustments midyear if the budget allows.

CCSO gets hacked

Lt. Daniel Klatt of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office spoke to the

court about the recent hacking of the CCSO computer system. He said the system was held ransom at least four days and officers were unable to access the system although no services were affected. The only file that would open was a ransom note demanding \$2440.

In a press conference on Dec. 12, Sheriff Randy Mayfield announced the event occurred Dec. 5 and there was no way to determine the source. Ransom was paid in bitcoin, which is untraceable.

"There was no safety issue," Klatt told the court, although staff had to use pen and paper for booking and other daily operations. He said he is assessing what happened and intends to have a plan in place by the end of the week to avoid a recurrence.

Richie asked if the same protections would need to be in place for all county computers, and Klatt responded, "No system is immune. There are hundreds of ways to get in." He stressed having

a backup strategy was important. At least four other systems in Northwest Arkansas have been similarly held ransom. Klatt said the hack was about the ransom, not getting access to data.

JP Marty Johnson commented, "Nothing can keep them from doing it again," but Klatt replied his focus is on not letting anyone into the system.

Mass transit

Jeff Hatley, Public Information Officer for Ozark Regional Transit reported ridership is up slightly in Carroll County, and Berryville riders used ORC more than any other Carroll County city. During 2016, 1,994 Carroll County riders rode with ORC. The cost of a ride is based on distance, but most rides will be in the \$2 - \$3 range. More information is available at ozark.org.

Court business

• JPs approved a resolution seating Debbie Davis to fill a vacancy on the Eureka Springs School Board.

• The court approved a supplemental

ordinance which allowed pay instead of vacation time for Jeannie Davidson of the Assessor's office. The total appropriation was \$3932.53.

• JPs also passed an ordinance approving and levying the county, municipal and school tax millage for 2016. Included in the ordinance was 2.5 mills for the new eastern district ambulance service.

• An ordinance approving and levying the one mill voluntary contribution for the Berryville cemetery for 2016 passed.

• Gene Chapman, Carla Short and Joe Foust were approved to sit on the Inspiration Point Fire Protection Board.

• The court will hold its 2017 organizational meeting Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 5 p.m.

• The court acknowledged the service of retiring JPs Joe Mills and John Reeve.

Next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m.



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Arkansas medical marijuana law detailed

NICKY BOYETTE

The Medical Marijuana Amendment, known as Issue 6, was approved by Arkansas voters Nov. 8, and the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development invited David Couch, author of the issue, to speak Dec. 15. More than 50 people attended.

Mayor Butch Berry introduced Couch as an attorney who since 2001 has represented elderly people in nursing homes, worked to raise the minimum wage in Arkansas, advocated for election finance reform and crafted the medical marijuana initiative that is now law. Couch is the president of the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Association.

Couch told the crowd he worked with Melissa and Gary Fultz on the 2012 Arkansas Medical Marijuana Initiative that lost by only 30,000 votes, less than a two percent margin. He said he went around the state explaining the initiative to voters at small churches, and time after time folks whispered their "cannabis confessions" to him. He said he could see

a definite change in how people viewed marijuana, and was confident medical marijuana would be approved by the voters in 2016.

He said the biggest issue in 2012 was the grow-your-own provision that many people viewed as fraught with opportunity for abuse. This one issue was the reason he and the Fultses went separate ways in 2016. The Fultses sponsored Issue 7, which was stricken from the ballot. Regarding his Issue 6, Couch stated, "It passed, so here we are today."

Couch said Issue 6 mentions 12 specific conditions and six general conditions that would qualify a patient to receive medical marijuana. Included in the general conditions are any diseases that cause seizures, chronic pain, muscle spasms or other debilitating diagnoses including post-traumatic stress disorder. Physicians licensed to practice in Arkansas cannot prescribe cannabis, but can recommend the patient would benefit from it. Couch estimated Arkansas would have 40,000 - 45,000 patients eligible for

medical marijuana.

He also did not restrict purchasers to residents of Arkansas. He said as long as a person has a valid medical clearance, a patient from any state would be able to purchase in Arkansas.

To get a card signifying eligibility, one would go to a personal physician for a written recommendation. The Department of Health will issue a card, and the patient can purchase the product at any dispensary in the state.

Issue 6 sets up a distribution system, according to Couch, which is designed to keep costs down. The law calls for a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40 dispensaries in the state. A dispensary could be a nonprofit agency or a cooperative, for example, and each dispensary can grow up to 50 adult marijuana plants at a time. He compared them to craft breweries, which make specialty beers, because each dispensary can specialize in the cannabis strain it grows, and dispensaries can trade among themselves.

He said no one can own interest in more than one dispensary or cultivation facility, but one person can own one of each. When a card-holding patient goes to a dispensary, the purchase is recorded in a statewide database. A patient is allowed to purchase 2.5 ounces every 14 days, and dispensaries are allowed to deliver their products.

Couch said the Alcoholic Beverage Control would establish rules related to the operations of dispensaries and cultivation facilities. The Medical Marijuana Commission will determine the process for getting a license for a dispensary or growing facility. The five-member commission already met for the first time, and included are a surgical oncologist, a pharmacist, an anesthesiologist, an attorney and a lobbyist for the Arkansas

railroad system. The commission must begin accepting applications for licenses by July 1, 2017. The license holder must be an Arkansas resident.

Though the concept behind this amendment was to provide medical cannabis for patients who need it, Couch said many politicians see it as an economic development issue, and polls indicate there should be enough support to pass a recreational cannabis initiative in 2020.

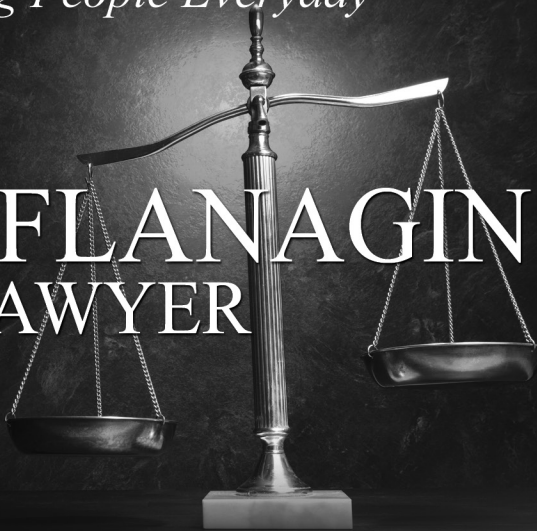
Couch commented the products would be taxed at the regular statewide sales tax rate, though one politician already floated the idea of a substantial additional tax. The sales tax revenue would be distributed as:

- 5% – Department of Health
- 2% – Alcoholic Beverage Control Administration Division
- 2% – Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Division
- 1% – Medical Marijuana Commission
- 10% – Skills Development Fund
- 50% – Vocational and Technical Training Special Revenue Fund
- 30% – General Revenue Fund

Couch estimated it would take \$300,000 minimum to open up a dispensary and \$1 million to start a growing facility. The commission has not yet decided how to award licenses, but Couch recommended a merit system rather than a lottery. He prefers clustering dispensaries where patients are, but scattering them throughout the state so there would be adequate access.

Only if there were too many highly qualified applications for licenses would Couch recommend a lottery to decide who gets a license. He anticipates the first dispensary in the state could open by Labor Day, and said Eureka Springs would really benefit from having one.

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St. Elizabeth Catholic Church presenting carol service and vigil mass

A Carol Service will be held at the St. Elizabeth Parish Center on Passion Play Road on Christmas Eve at 3 p.m. The Elizabeth Chamber Choir under the direction of Sharon Parker and accompanied by Marsha Havens will present the carol service based upon Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Jesus. The Nativity of the Lord at the Vigil mass will follow the Carol Service at 4 p.m.

Experts weigh in on medical marijuana rules

BECKY GILLETTE

Medical marijuana has been legalized now in Arkansas. But there is already a shortage of physicians in the area with no family practice doctors currently accepting new patients. Does that mean it could be difficult to find a physician willing to write a recommendation that their patient has a condition that would benefit from medical marijuana? Even doctors who favor medical marijuana could have concerns about how it might impact their licenses.

Kevin O'Dwyer, attorney for the Arkansas State Medical Board that licenses doctors, said he doesn't have any advice for physicians on the issue. "The act doesn't call for the medical board to formulate any rules and regulations on it," O'Dwyer said. "Right now what physicians would do would just be a diagnosis. That would be the only thing the doctor would have to come up with."

The diagnosis would have to fit within the health conditions allowed in the act, but some categories are very broad, such as having arthritis or pain.

David Wroten, executive vice president of the Arkansas Medical Society (AMS), said since this is a legal product for medicinal purposes, his take is that no physician would be subject to licensure risk by following the law. "Now, if they don't follow the law, i.e., issue certifications for patients who do not meet the criteria, absolutely they will face licensure risk, as they should," Wroten said.

He said at the appropriate time, the AMS would provide whatever advice they can to help physicians make decisions. "However, we are several months premature at this time. Rules and regulations have to be adopted and implemented by at least three state agencies. Permits for growers and dispensaries have to be awarded and issued. Only then can the growers start growing. So it will be quite a while before any product is out."

The Arkansas Health Department will be issuing rules for patients to obtain their ID cards. Wroten said his guess is that once that happens, physicians can start writing certifications for those patients doctors believe should be

allowed to have an ID card. "But that is still several months away," he said.

Dr. John House, local physician and chief of staff at Eureka Springs Hospital, said based solely on his interpretation of the amendment, no doctor should have anything to fear by certifying someone for medical marijuana.

"The amendment requires that a doctor certify that a patient has one of the approved conditions and to make the statement that he or she believes the patient would benefit from medical marijuana," House said. "No prescription will be required from a doctor, just the letter of certification which is then sent to the state. In turn, the state issues a medical marijuana card. Things could change based on how the department of health phrases the final rules and regulations, but my informal survey shows that most doctors in Eureka will be willing to write such a letter of recommendation."

There is also the issue of access to physicians. There is a shortage of primary care physicians in Carroll County, with no doctors in Eureka Springs taking new patients. However, in other states, like Michigan, traveling doctors visit with the express purpose of seeing patients seeking a medical marijuana card.

David Couch, the Little Rock attorney who authored the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment, said at a meeting in Eureka Springs last week that access to physicians will be no problem based on the number of emails he received from interested physicians following passage of the amendment in November.

Arkansas Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) Director Bud Roberts said as long as the Arkansas State Medical Board has no objections, he doesn't think physicians would have anything to worry about in respect to their medical licenses.

"However, the Arkansas Department of Health will regulate physicians and patients," Roberts said. "As for any civil or criminal liability, physicians are best advised to consult with their respective attorneys."

In Colorado, where recreational and medical marijuana are legal, some surrounding states have reported a steep increase in marijuana possession arrests

MARIJUANA RULES continued on page 23

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Christmas Day services being held

The Holiday Island Community Church, 188 Stateline Drive will be holding Christmas Day services at 9:30 a.m. time on Sunday, Dec. 25. All are welcome

Good Shepherd meet at LeStick

The next Board Meeting for Good Shepherd Humane Society will be held Wednesday, Dec. 28 in LeStick Nouveau Restaurant, 63 Spring St. at 1 p.m. All are welcome.

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**

A different way to look at hoarding

Editor,

Until the recent election I would have said I was bullet proof when it came to politics – that *nothing* could surprise or further disillusion me when it comes to our failed political systems (not just nationally, but worldwide). I would have been wrong!

Am I talking about the great, orange, reality show ape who speaks in the royal “we?” Yes. And no. He’s not the disease, just a particularly ugly symptom. The only truly hopeful (if somewhat distasteful) metaphor I could draw from this is that of a boil. Something sub-surface and painful that festers for a long while and must eventually either dissipate and be reabsorbed, or come to a head and explode before it can drain and heal.

The underlying infection comes from building our societal structures on top of a weak-to-worthless foundation – namely, placing top value on gold, silver, currency, etc. Those can all be useful, but when people stop using them in order to hoard them they become just pretty rocks and dirty paper. Why, when people collect and stash away other marginally useful things, do we make fun of them and call “hoarding”

a disease, but when people collect and hoard money, we call them wealthy and admire or try to emulate them? It’s the same disease!

I guess we’ve lived in “civilized” societies for so long that we’ve forgotten – or lost touch with the elementals that support life on this planet. The land, the sun, the wind and the *water* (from which many believe all life-forms evolved.) Those people at Standing Rock seem to have a handle on it.

Who cares about the Boston Tea Party? Tea is an indulgence – water is life!

Gloria Churchill

Caring for animals

Editor,

This is an open letter to the heartless deplorables who dump their unwanted animals in the country.

You can lie to yourself that these helpless creatures will be taken in by some kindly stranger. The truth is that they will spend their last days hungry, terrified and then ripped to shreds; killed and eaten by coyotes, foxes or dogs.

I’ll bet you call yourself a Christian, yet you ignore the words of Jesus, “What you do unto the least of these, you also do unto me.” Spay and

neuter the animals you keep around your home. “What?” you say? “I can’t afford that!” Then don’t have them. Or at the least, take the unwanted offspring to the local NO-KILL shelter.

May God forgive for you your sin.

Sheri Hanson

Happy to be here

Editor,

As we close the door on 2016 this town we live in has and continues to attract new people. Why here? Are you crazy? “This is the town of misfit toys,” is the refrain you hear for the artisans and other highly talented and gifted people who call this village their home. Most of us who choose this as their home identify qualities they believe make this place home and safe.

Our hidden sanctuary we call Eureka Springs has things that other places only dream of. Respect for each other. Caring for neighbors regardless of race, creed or politics, the pride and admiration of those who have served this country, the knowledge that your view will be heard, the safety to know we can and will be a Eureka and accepted as such regardless of what we believe. We love this place and care for everyone. Happy New Year Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Ferguson Stewart



WEEK'S Top Tweets

@T_NCrumpets: No matter how tough you think you are there’s always a closed pistachio ready to mess you up.

@chrisdowning: Why do people say “get well soon?” Why don’t you want me to get well now?
@canadasandra: The host of the party told me to make myself comfortable so I went back home to bed.

@thetoddwilliams: [interview] Boss: How many words can you type a minute? Me: Probably all of them. Boss: What do you mean? Me: Well, like for example, pickle.

@tabooobsof: My husband suggested I tone down the Botox and just age gracefully. I laughed and laughed. But didn’t

scowl. Cuz Botox.

@andrewnadaeuo: If you read the entire dictionary technically you’ve read every book but out of order.

@panmidwest: Note to self: I am a note.

@ericshadow: Me: I had salmon for lunch. Wife: The L is silent. Me: Ha, I knew that. I meant unch.

@professor kumi: Smoking breaks at work should be deducted from vacation time. We all have addictions, you don’t see me leave a meeting to fry plantain.

@notalogin: [Wheel] _’D L_K_ TO SOL__ TH_ P_ZZL_ I’d like to solve the puzzle, Pat. “Go ahead.” I’d like to solve the puzzle. “Yes, go ahead.” No, I’d like to...

Burn, burn, burn: Let oil flow like a river

We're clearly coming to the end of the fossil fuel era. We have the technology to shift to emission-free energy, we have the will of the people. The only thing that's keeping us back is the fossil fuel industry's hold on our political system. That is what we need to change. — MARK RUFFALO

Two Arkansas Water Protectors, arrested on Dec. 12 and charged with criminal trespassing for stopping the Diamond Pipeline near the St. Francis River, are facing \$500 in fines and 30 days in prison. Imagine the horror of Texas drillers at the sight of a 100 lb., 5 ft tall, 24-year-old mom and a grandpa chained to the equipment. This should have never happened.

Pipeline Politics

Arkansas politics of deforestation, coal power generation and fossil fuels, have dire consequences for Arkansans. Private property rights, public health, and environmental justice, are an illusion. Pipeline permits are granted as political favors, blocking public input while pretending to follow the law.

Arkansas gives millions to India for a steel pipe mill, but cuts Medicaid benefits for people with developmental disabilities. Welspun hires temporary workers to avoid paying for work injuries.

On August 8, 2016, Diamond gave Welspun a \$46 million contract, ignoring defective welded pipes, OSHA safety violations, and one fatality. USACE says there were no public comments opposing Welspun. However, the Corps permit was granted on May 26, before the Welspun deal.

USACE trusts what Diamond says: "Information submitted by the requestor stated that Diamond Pipeline will exceed industry standards with pipeline materials, testing, and monitoring." No concerns with seismic activity or karst geology. "Plans show the pipeline is to be installed well below the bottom of the channels and rivers and therefore will not affect navigation or operation and maintenance activities of any USACE project."

No engineering review required. "Regulatory authorities do not include approval of project structural designs. Plains All-American should be contacted to obtain specific details related to the design parameters of the pipeline." No concerns with floods on the right of way. "ADEQ does not require stormwater permits for oil pipelines."

Burn, Burn, Burn?

We are running out of time to shift away from fossil fuels to emission-free, solar and

wind energy. Divesting from fossil fuels and investing in solar and wind technologies must continue.

Electric cars are emission-free. Fuel emissions from North Dakota to driving in China include fracking to extract shale oil, transportation of crude oil on pipelines over thousands of miles of land and rivers, shipping on tankers overseas, refining crude for gasoline, distribution of gasoline on pipelines and trucks, and driving emissions.

Mni Wiconi

The Dec. 14, 2016 public order to stop drinking tap water in Corpus Christi, Texas, highlights the public health risks of crude oil refineries. Valero denied responsibility for the contamination. However, new reports show Indulin AA-86 and hydrochloric acid, back-flowed into the water line within the Valero terminal on Dec. 7. As of Dec. 19, the problem had not been resolved. Valero owns 50 percent of the Diamond pipeline.

Norman, Okla., has had cancer fatalities from Chromium-6 and increased arsenic levels. Wastewater from fracking injected in wells is the source of contamination.

Selenium causes damage to the kidneys, skin, and nervous system. It can make its way into water after being discharged by oil refineries, and coal ash from coal-fired power plants.

What makes America great?

Except for the First Nations, all of us at some point migrated to America. For some it was a choice, others were lucky to be born here.

Here are some of the things I think about: John F. Kennedy's vow to defend freedom for America's friends and from its enemies, and his commitment to fight poverty and promote hemispheric solidarity. He ended his inaugural speech by saying: "My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

O beautiful for spacious skies,

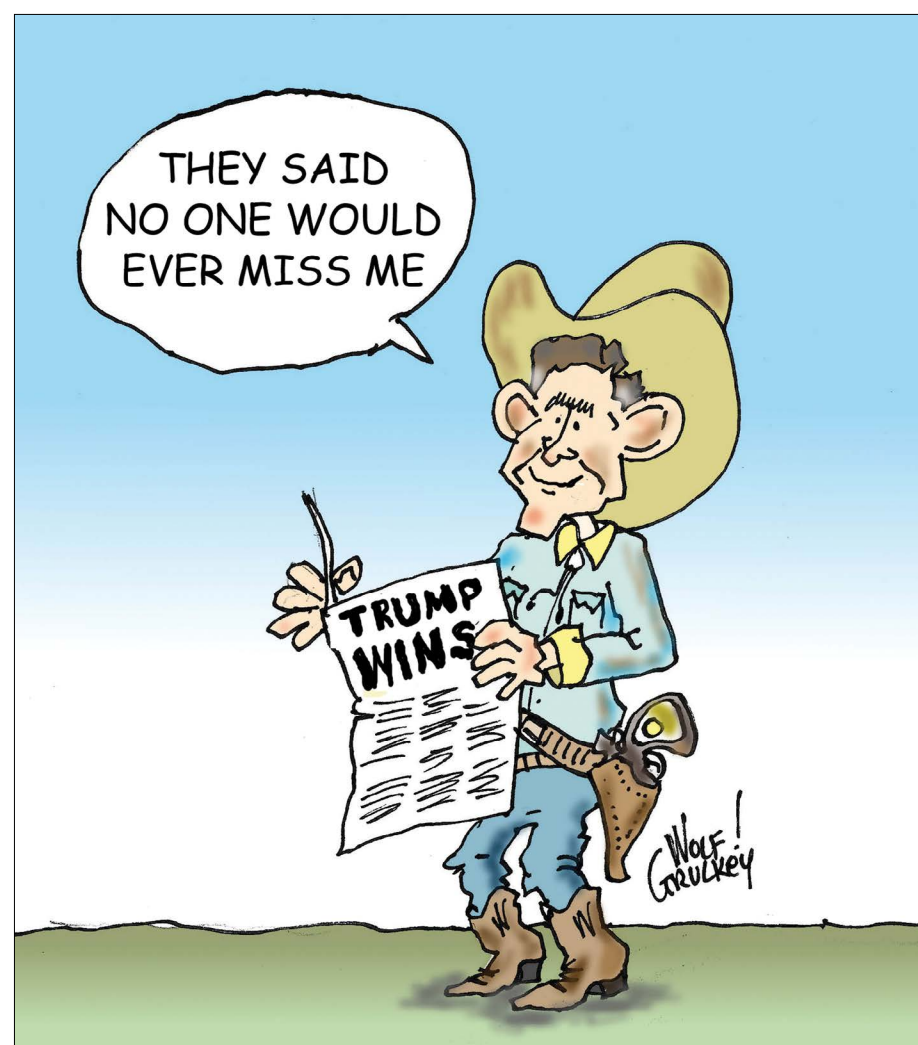
O beautiful for pilgrim feet,

**O beautiful for heroes proved in
liberating strife,**

O Beautiful for patriot dream

America, The Beautiful — Katharine Lee
Bates, 1913

Dr. Luis Contreras



The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

My wife and I bought a new car as a Christmas gift to each other for the next 10 years, or 200,000 miles, whichever comes first. The most shocking thing about the car is that it cost twice as much as I remember new cars costing. The most astonishing thing about it is a dashboard gizmo that plays every song ever recorded.

During an unguarded moment when we were dating, I confessed to my wife Susan that I liked The Association, in particular their song *Cherish*. It was a big hit some time during the Taft administration — or when I was in junior high school. Secretly appalled, she considered ending our up to then burgeoning relationship, but considered the alternatives — I was, after all, an employed heterosexual — and decided to soldier on. We married and I never listened to The Association again.

Until now. Now, she plays the new car's dashboard like a piano, and dredges up every sappy 1970s' soft pop artist or group she can find, like The Fifth Dimension or The Buckinghams. Then she merrily shouts, "They sound just like The Association, don't they!" I (defenseless with both hands on the steering wheel) am in passive-aggressive hell. Salt to the wound, she plays *Along Came Mary* about once an hour, and grins like Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*.

Moral judgments about music, like politics, can be withering. I once told my friend Don Lehnhoff, who played trumpet for Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, that I enjoyed the Beach Boys. He looked at me as though I'd cut a high wide one from the front pew at mass, and I'm not sure our friendship ever fully recovered.

We should all get a free musical pass at Christmas. I hope you have *A Holly Jolly Christmas*. At the very least, *Please Daddy (Don't Get Drunk this Christmas)*, and may every little boy's dying mother get *Christmas Shoes* to look her best when she meets Jesus. May your heads be filled with *The Christmas Song* (either Alvin and the Chipmunks or David Hasselhoff's version will do), and your hearts with *The Little Drummer Boy*.

Pah-rhump-a-pum-pum.

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
- **A Cup of Love Ministries offering free soup** – A Cup of Love Ministries provides soup lunches at Flint Street Fellowship on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 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 Tonyglen, 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.
- **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.



Slam, bam, wham – The driver of a 1998 Ford pickup lost control last Wednesday afternoon heading up Flint St. and onto Hale. The pickup bounced across the road and hit a Toyota pickup belonging to Jack Byrne at 16 Hale, slamming his truck into his porch. Byrne said it’s time to consider a speed table rather than speed bumps in sections of East Mountain. Driver of the Ford was ticketed for expired plates. *PHOTO BY PERLINDA PETTIGREW OWENS*

INDEPENDENT ConstablesOnPatrol

DECEMBER 12

12:36 a.m. – Downtown bar patron claimed a male took her wallet and cell phone and would not return them. Constable on patrol spoke with everyone involved.

7:38 a.m. – Individual near downtown reported a Garmin Navigational unit had been stolen from her vehicle over the weekend.

11:36 a.m. – Hotel staff called in a vehicle parked in the fire lane. Constable discovered it was the vehicle stolen the night before.

5:01 p.m. – Resident was concerned there might be vagrants in his house. Constables checked and found the house vagrant-free.

8:41 p.m. – Individual told ESPD she thought she was being stalked. Also things were out of place at her residence.

DECEMBER 14

4:42 p.m. – Constable went to the scene of a vehicle versus vehicle versus house accident on a street just east of downtown. No injuries.

4:59 p.m. – In the western part of town, a domestic confrontation prompted a visit from a constable. The participants claimed everything had been verbal only.

5:37 p.m. – There was a two-vehicle accident on US 62. No injuries.

6:57 p.m. – Constable was called to investigate suspicious packages. He discovered they were empty and ready for the trash.

DECEMBER 15

6:00 a.m. – Constable checked on a report of a residential burglary alarm and found the house secure.

DECEMBER 16

3:14 a.m. – Individual in distress thought someone was in her apartment. Constable and EMS responded, and a family member was called to stay with her.

11:25 p.m. – Off-duty constable heading toward town on Hwy. 23 South called in an erratic driver. Constable on patrol initiated a traffic stop and learned the driver was tired.

11:31 p.m. – Inebriated person was falling down as he navigated a downtown street. Constable searched for but did not encounter him.

DECEMBER 17

7:47 a.m. – There was a loose llama rambling through a neighborhood south of town. Its owner retrieved it.

DECEMBER 18

10:39 a.m. – Owner of a house on Main Street asked for a welfare check on his residence. He suspected someone might be stealing his electricity. Constable checked and found nothing awry. Neighbors had not noticed anything unusual either.

1:12 p.m. – Caller asked for a welfare check on his brother. Constable found the brother doing well.

9 p.m. – Another caller asked for a welfare check at a residence, and constables discovered an unattended death.

Christmas presents a pleasure to rewrap for this woman

BECKY GILLETTE

Vickie Davis Weis, 46, recently went to the Eureka Springs Post Office to send her first-ever Christmas presents to her mother, only to find out the packages she wrapped didn't fit into any mailing boxes. She got down on the floor, and started rewrapping. People waiting in line were delighted with her story.

After searching for her birth parents for about 35 years, Weis, of Holiday Island, was reunited with her birth mother, Evelyn Marie Davis, a few months ago.

"All the women coming in were giggling," Weis said. "I said, 'Oh, it is for my mom. I've only met her one time aside from being born. This is our first Christmas.' I had to get it mailed off in order to get to them in time. Everyone at the post office was cheering me on."

Weis first started looking for her mother when she was 12. Only someone who is adopted and has yearned for her whole life to know her family can understand what it was like for Weis to run into roadblock after roadblock in searching out her birth family. She reached the end of her research earlier this year when a woman named Robin, who was volunteering to help find her birth parents, found a man she believed to be Weis's father. But the man was horrified and said it wasn't possible, that he had never cheated on his wife.

"I realized then that I could hurt someone else with my search, so I told Robin I wanted to give up," Weis said. "I had a meltdown. But Robin talked me into giving her two more weeks. And after one week, she found my mother."

It turned out the man that had been found was related to her father, who is now deceased. She was told all her life that her father was 30 when she was born, but he was 21, her mother 14. Weis herself was only about that age when she went into a crisis because she understood why she was so different from her family.

"It hurt terribly," she said. "I started asking about my mother. I wanted to find my mom. Any time I inquired about finding my family, it was such an insult to my adoptive father. There was resentment towards me because I had the need and desire to find her. I was told, 'You don't want to find her.'"

Weis was actually kidnapped by her adoptive father initially. She was placed in a home with four other infants in Tampa, Fla., where her adoptive father was a minister with a television show and political and judicial connections. Their youngest child had died as a baby. He was doing visitation around Tampa and went into the home where she was being cared for and said, 'I want this red haired baby and I'm going to take this baby home.' He showed up at home and said to his wife, 'Would you like to have this baby?' She said, 'Who wouldn't want to have this baby?'

"He took me inside, and the next thing you know, the local law enforcement showed up and said, 'You're not allowed to take a baby like this,' Weis said. "They took me back to the home that had me. From there, it took time, but then they were able to adopt me."

Most of her childhood was spent in the Philippines



where her adoptive father was a missionary before the family moved to Oklahoma. At 16, Weis moved to Tampa to live with her adopted sister, Tina.

She spent many hours there trying to find her mother. She did everything she could think of and ended up with mountains of paperwork but no success. In her thirties, she got a computer and started again, running into wall after frustrating wall.

"I kept searching," Weis said. "I was pretty much dying inside. Then my granddaughter was born blind and I petitioned the court for my non-ID. It means medical records you can get from your birth mother without exposing who she was. I waited quite a while, and six months to a year later got a rejection. They said, 'No, we will not release anything to you.' I was devastated. I burnt that letter, it hurt so bad."

She said she has thought about her mother every night of her life. Her birth memory was of being held by a young woman in a bed before the nurse took her away.

"Birth memories are a rare thing, but they do happen," Weis said. "It carried me through. But over the years I got so tired of getting nowhere. I reached a point in my life where I was giving up on the inside. It was killing me inside and out. I was on an adoption database, but decided it was not meant for me to know where I came from, my mother, or who I am. Prior to that, I had really cried out for help on the database. I said: 'Somebody please help me.'"

Robin, also an adoptee, said she would help. She worked in hematology in Jacksonville, Fla., and had conducted her own search with genetic gene pools. But

after the experience with contacting the wrong person who Robin thought was Weis's father, Weis was ready to give up. Robin pleaded to give her just two more weeks. And then she found Weis's mother.

One irony is that Weis learned her aunt had found Weis nine years ago. Weis had petitioned the court around the same time. But by that time, Weis's email, phone and address had all changed.

On a visit five months ago to Tyler, Texas, Weis met not just her mother, but one of two half-sisters, her Uncle Bill, and Grandmother Christine. They met at Uncle Bill's house and "ate like kings and queens. It was the most beautiful experience. It was like I was never gone. I was home. I was with my family. I'm on top of the world. Life couldn't be any better."

It was a little awkward at first with her mother.

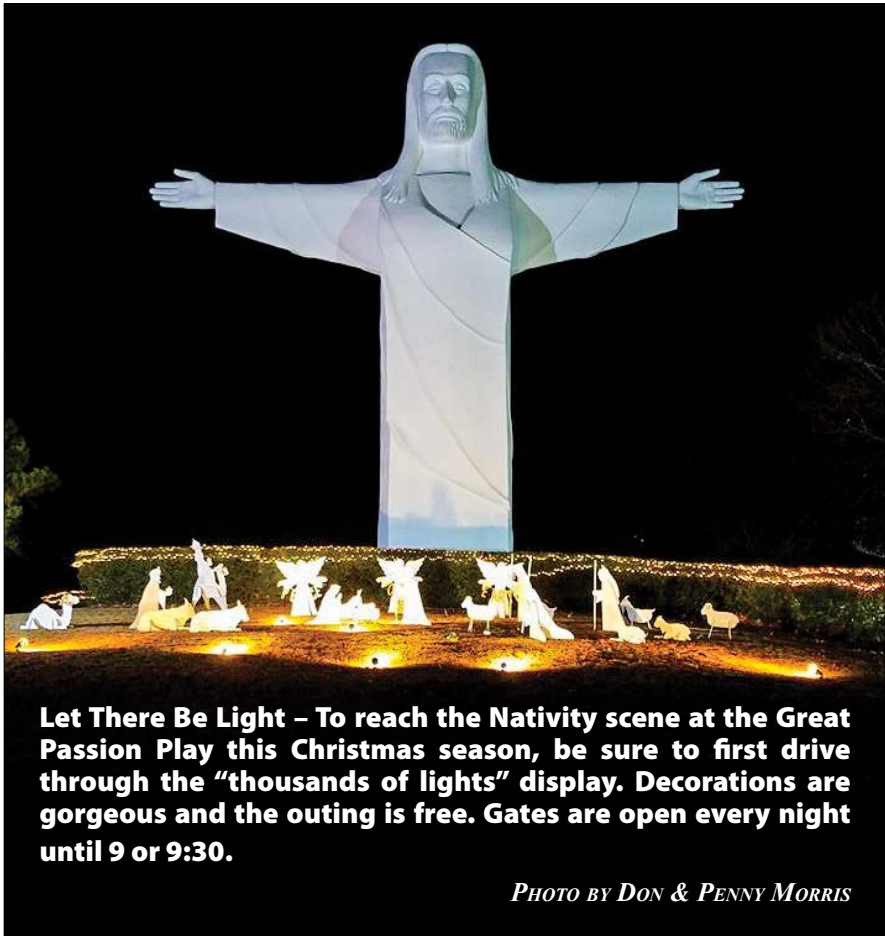
"We were both nervous and didn't know what to expect," Weis said. "I couldn't stop squeezing her. I couldn't believe she was real. Adoptees get infatuated with their mothers. We stare at them. My mom is this beautiful, wonderful, gorgeous person. And for the first time in my whole life, I looked in the mirror and loved myself. I saw me."

Her mother and both sisters are planning a visit to Eureka Springs in a couple of months.

"Robin is my angel," Weis said. "If it was not for her, I would have failed. This is all because of Robin and her kind, loving, full understanding she could help another adoptee. I would do anything for her. I am forever indebted to her in all the lives to come including this one!"



Even more Santas visit Eureka – Matt Marjason was just one of the many Santas around town for the Night of 1,000 Santas on Dec. 17. Whether it was the Santas or weatherman that brought the North Pole temperatures, the icy weather fit the theme. The Santas reportedly spread lots of holiday cheer at Brews and Chelsea's. *PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ALVARADO*



Let There Be Light – To reach the Nativity scene at the Great Passion Play this Christmas season, be sure to first drive through the “thousands of lights” display. Decorations are gorgeous and the outing is free. Gates are open every night until 9 or 9:30.

PHOTO BY DON & PENNY MORRIS

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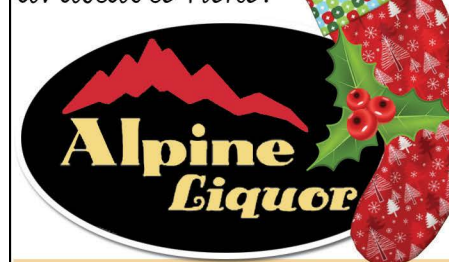
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Eating up Christmas

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.

Meditation, reading and discussion

The Eureka Springs Buddhist Study Group will gather for 30 minutes of meditation followed by reading and discussion on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Spirituality at Metafizzies

The Dec. 26 meeting of the Eureka Springs Metaphysical Society will feature a group discussion on spiritual topics beginning at 7 p.m. at the Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

‘Scripts being sought

Five & Dime Drama Collective is soliciting manuscripts for a Spring 2017 theatrical production. Script categories include: 10-minute plays; one act plays (20-30 min.); or full length plays (60-90 min.). Scripts must be original work, never produced and by a local Eureka Springs area author. For submission information and guidelines email FiveAndDimeDrama@gmail.com.

Universal Worship Service New Year’s Eve

The Sufi Center of the Ozarks Universalist Church, 17 Elk St. will host its annual New Year’s Eve Universal Worship Service on Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. at the Unitarian This will be the 18th year for this service, which honors all the world’s spiritual traditions

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 Seven (cont.)

When the Seidels left the St. Charles, they moved up the hill to the Jernigan house. I did not know any of the Jernigans: the young folks were the age of our oldest brother and sister. I have heard Charlie speak of Dan Jernigan. But I know quite well where that house is, on the hill above the Valley House, and facing Mill Hollow.

Ruth Seidel Jackson writes: “When we moved up on the hill, mama was always in her rose garden which was the most beautiful in town, and such variety! From pure white, pink, yellow to deepest velvety red. And the German magazines that papa had bound for her! The pictures were wonderful.

“I remember when the teachers from Crescent College used to stop to chat with our mother on their way to the Magnetic. Mama would fix a glass of lemonade, and put on each plate, a rose for them to take with them.”

The Seidel children have made places for themselves. Joe, the little under school age child that visited my East Mountain school, was the oldest son. He decided to quit school to help his father in the wholesale business. All the other boys went to the State University at Fayetteville. The girls all went to Crescent College. But Joe’s father taught him nights. Joe later went to Ft. Smith. He must have been successful for he sent his mother an automobile. He sent his young brothers, Emil and Dewey, tweed suits with two pairs of knickers. That was like our brother Charlie. After he left home at Eureka Springs, he was always sending things to us younger children.

Helen Seidel Selya of Boston wrote to me: “There is a little Joe Seidel Kaltenbocker who looks just like his

grandfather who did not live to see him. Joe’s daughter graduated with honors from Wellesley.”

Ruth wrote, at the time of our brother’s death: “We have lost two darling brothers, Joe and Dewey, since 1946.”

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Seidel left Eureka Springs reluctantly. Mrs. Seidel said she never expected anywhere else to see such beautiful sunrises. Ruth says she would not take a million dollars for her childhood there, and that they all regard the Arkansas Ozarks as “the hills of home.”

The Seidels are all possessed of musical ability. Emil has been a radio artist. He and Cy have played with Major Bowles, John Charles, Thomas Nelson Eddy and Paul Whiteman. They, and also Dewey, are composers.

Helen Seidel Selya, who now lives in Brookline, Massachusetts, is a singer.

When the family went from Eureka Springs to Indianapolis, they went into the Music Publishing business. Cy went there to study dentistry and Joe fitted him out with an office but he sold the equipment to go into the Music Publishing business. Ruth says, “We all did, too.”

Isador now lives in Chicago, Emil in New York, Ben in Boston.

Ben learned to ride a horse when he was three years old. He is now in business in Boston in something the same business his father engaged in at Eureka Springs. Emil has had to give up his piano playing.

Helen Seidel Selya tells of visiting Rose Barnett Clark in Newton, Mass., and of seeing Tom Barnett when she visits Ben in Boston.



Ruth Seidel, who lost her husband in 1936, lives with her daughter Dorothy, whose husband is Captain C.E. Berry stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In 1896 the Post Office was over Montgomery Brothers’ Store, and halfway up the steps from Main to Spring Street. I have a letter from Mrs. Rosa Baker, Wichita, Kansas. She came to Eureka Springs in 1886. Her father bought the newsstand from Mr. Cuthbertson and Major Clapperton. The Cuthbertsons moved to Aurora, Missouri. Mrs. Baker tells me things that I did not know: “John Hamilton was Post Master, John Hively was at the delivery window when we took possession of the newsstand in the Lobby at the Post Office. We were running it when they had that big fire on Main Street. We thought we were going to lose everything we had.

“We lived on Spring Street across from Mr. Turner’s Dry Goods Store. Bessie Spring’s folks ran the Spring Bath House just below us. After a year we moved across from the Basin into the old Bellechamber house. They lived in the new house close by.”

Rosa married Ben McLaughlin in 1889.

She asks me in conclusion: “Do you remember Ollie Skillen and Rhodo Ritchie who lived on the Depot Grade across from Hill’s Livery Barn?” I do. But we called Hillside Avenue simply The Grade down on North Main Street. It led us up town. We went down Main Street to the depot.

Locals have front seat to history during visit to Standing Rock

BECKY GILLETTE

Suzanne and Mark Eastburn of Rock Springs consider a recent trip to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation to participate in opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline one of the highlights of their lives.

“We, like many others, were in great need of healing after the poison of the election, and this was the perfect antidote,” said Mark, who is retired from Eastburn Heating and Air. “We came to help the indigenous people and ended up receiving help. For a few days, we were cured of our ills. I lifted and carried more than I have in the last ten years, with no backaches or joint problems. I was just good old fashioned tired.

Suzanne noticed she wasn’t sluggish or unsteady while we were there. There is so much to be done. I picked up litter, sorted recycling, gathered cardboard for insulation, and learned to erect a teepee for an elder called Black Horse.”

Suzanne said it was an unforgettable experience. “It seemed magical,” she said. “People were helping other people, giving them tents to stay in and whatever they needed. There was a whole tent full of gloves and hand warmers. One tent was set up for coats and boots. The people in the kitchen fed whoever needed a meal. Whatever you needed was there.”

The Eastburns consider this one of the most significant environmental protests of their lifetimes. “The pipeline is totally wrong and, if allowed to be built, would eventually pollute both the Missouri and the Mississippi Rivers,” Suzanne said. “At the camp they had seven Indian chiefs representing tribes that had never gotten together in modern history. They were reunited with seven tipis. There were flags of all the nations with about one hundred nations present.

“I worked in the pantry quite a bit, getting canned goods inside and on the shelves. They didn’t have any electricity to be able to see in the pantry so we used generated power from our RV to have lights in pantry.”

The Eastburns, who were Hillary

Clinton supporters, had decided a week before the election to go to Standing Rock.

“It was healing to be up there to help,” Suzanne said. “It was spiritually uplifting. Everybody was very polite and non-aggressive. It was almost like a sit in. If the pipeline security people hit them, they just took it. They didn’t fight back. It was sad about the pipeline security shooting them with the rubber bullets. Those left big welts. We saw that firsthand.”

One of the things that made the trip particularly special to them was meeting up there with their niece from Seattle, Tara Greenwood. “Tara called just before we were leaving home and said her car had been stolen, so she had taken leave from her job,” Mark said. “When the car showed back

up, undamaged, she was inspired by our email and she was on the road, halfway to Standing Rock. Wow, what a place to reunite! She had so much helpful information. There was an orientation meeting instructing us on indigenous customs and how to respect them. Because the camp is on disputed land, we were asked not to take photos, which we respected. This was not out of custom as much as security. Your photos could be used by law enforcement against you or someone else.”

Eastburn said there was no discussion of the recent election outcome. Instead, people were focused on working together.

“There is a lot to be done,” Mark said. “It takes a lot of wood splitting and sorting out donations. It is just a continuous process. We were there to support the Natives so they could spend their time with prayers and what they call direct actions as far as protests. Our experience was absolute fellowship. It was such a positive, positive place. I’ve never been in anything like it. It was

“The entry road is lined with the flags of all the tribes, too many to count, that have come together in support of the Standing Rock Sioux.”

drug free, alcohol free and weapon free. Those are three things they absolutely insist on. They have their own Native American security people to enforce that.”

Mark said the camp is out on a nearly treeless, grassy flood plain near the confluence of the Cannon Ball and Missouri Rivers. In times long past this would have been the summer camp for indigenous Sioux who would move to the Black Hills where there is plenty of fuel for winter.

“The entry road is lined with the flags of all the tribes, too many to count, that have come together in support of the Standing Rock Sioux,” he said. “There are large army type tents that house the supply office and the next area is reserved for the sacred fire, which is tended 24/7. Around the fire

people come and go, and there is a Native speaker who makes announcements throughout the day over a public address system. The PA is also used to bring prayers, songs and stories to those in earshot.

“Tipis, personal tents, yurts, geodesic domes and RVs make up the homes and project centers. There are no permanent structures. Everything must be easily taken down in case the authorities force the camp to evacuate. No one tells you where to camp; you just join an existing camp which has a shared fire.

“We, like many others, were in great need of healing after the poison of the election, and this was the perfect antidote.”

– Mark Eastburn

Some Indian camps have forty or more sharing one fire to conserve wood. The Native rule is never having a fire that is higher than your knees. If you do, you cannot control it. One fire is home to the seven nations of the Sioux who have never before banded together. This was an historical event.”

It is estimated that there were about 10,000 people at Standing Rock at one point. Mark said while they were there, the Indian youth organized a prayer wheel one night and nine hundred people showed up – so many that it had to be made into a prayer spiral.

“There is such a subtle attraction to Standing Rock, people just seem to be drawn to it,” Mark said. “Nothing there is frantic, just busy. No one is trying to indoctrinate anyone.”

The Eastburns came home earlier than expected because of an illness in the family. They would like to go back – but not in the depth of winter when it can be brutally cold. Mark said while it wasn’t that cold while they were there, blowing wind is constant.

“The cold can be overcome with hard work, of which there is plenty,” he said.

In early December the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers temporarily blocked the project by required a full Environmental Impact Project under Lake Oahe, which was considered a monumental victory. But owners of the pipeline said they plan to press forward.

The Eastburns recommend people who want to help make contributions at StandingRock.org.

“One fire is home to the seven nations of the Sioux who have never before banded together. This was an historical event.”

Solstice, Hanukkah & Christmas – A Star Shines Forth

With the Sun entering Capricorn, winter is here (northern latitudes). Mercury is retrograde also in Capricorn and in the sky soon (Christmas morning) the planets (Venus/Jupiter) that formed the Christmas star more than 2000 years ago are trine (harmonious) on this Christmas morning, 2016.

The Jewish and Christian festivals of Hanukkah and Christmas occur together this year, too. **Hanukkah** (8-day festival of light) begins at nightfall December 24th followed at midnight with **Christmas** (birth of the Avatar, World Teacher). When the different religious days occur

simultaneously, the seeds of the Aquarian new world religion are being sowed in the hearts & minds of humanity.

In the days between solstice and Christmas, there is a hushed stillness in the air. The Sun is quiet too, resting at the Tropic of Capricorn. There is a searching for respite, a place to stay by a young couple. There is no room in the inn, so a stable is found. Here the young mother gives birth. The animals looking on. In the sky a bright star shines (Venus/Jupiter). Far to the East three Astrologer Magi Kings, searching the sky,

note a “star shining forth.” the two prophesied planets (Jupiter and Venus) aligned. And so they begin their journey westward with gifts gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Above in the sky the constellation Virgo (Madonna with child). We listen within ourselves, an infinitude of space. There we hear the constellations, voices of the numbers, harmonies of the spheres. As His Light shines forth in the heavens we hear, **“Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the newborn King! Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All”**

ARIES: It’s important to maintain moment to moment awareness of all experiences each day and of all who come into your sphere of life. If aware you will see their gifts (talents and abilities) and they will reflect your talents, too. This is a great revelation. Allow yourself no expectations. Remain poised in observation to all that is around you. In this silence new values come forth, new perspectives, new realities you have been searching for.

TAURUS: Know that plans will change, feelings and emotions too. Memories will be part of the holidays this year and you have many of them. You will sense and feel special people no longer with us. Know they are still loving you, still close by. You will have new revelations about your work in the world. Perhaps a book, a painting, a work of creativity. Follow the signs.

GEMINI: If not traveling then soon you should be. Travel offers prospects and plans that change the course of your life, advancing you into the future. When the retrograde occurs all our focuses turn inward. Thoughts concerning money and resources become practical. You seek new ways to communicate. Make a plan to study Compassionate Communication with friends and partners. You will never be the same.

CANCER: New insights come forth about the people in your life. Before you had global ideas. But now you have a deeper more personal understanding about how others live their lives. You communicate your insights to those who care for you. Become interested in what others think. Ask their insights. This creates deeper connections. And then love is released. You are surprised.

LEO: Tend to your health. A health issue from the past may reoccur. If seeing a doctor, seek a Functional doctor (MD) in your area or close by. Functional doctors diagnose, test and look at health differently. It’s important to have a new approach to all things. From health to work to animals to plants to co-workers. Mercury retrograde offers revelations around our concerns. Listen in quiet. Information comes on little cat’s feet.

VIRGO: Notice your creative expressions increasing with more feelings of happiness

and enthusiasm and then playfulness comes into the mix and you recognize these are natural gifts within each of us and something spontaneous begins to occur and you understand your life experiences from birth to the present and then you understand everyone else’s, too. And everything transforms daily in front of your eyes. And then there is joyfulness.

LIBRA: The past returns for review. Nothing can stop this. Gradually a new perspective appears concerning childhood home, parents, siblings, family interactions. Childhood impressions change like a kaleidoscope of colors. With revelations your understanding increases as you step unexpectedly into a state of compassion. To anchor this shift you reorder everything in your home. And a state of wonder follows you everywhere.

SCORPIO: So many thoughts occurring during this time. You attempt to find a pattern to a puzzle of life. You realize there are things you want to say (and not say) to family and friends. You notice all around is the light of insight and a new way of doing things and you review old knowledge and see how it forms the foundation for a new philosophy of life. Soon, quietly, new skills appear.

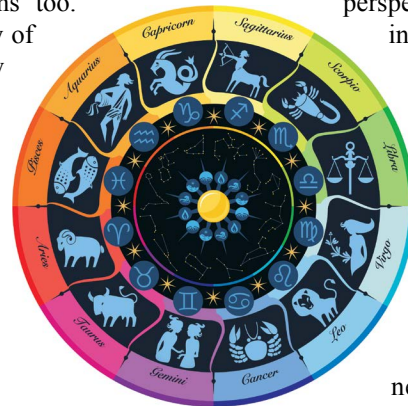
SAGITTARIUS: Life and its gifts have you assessing many things - values, resources, what you have and don’t yet have, what you want and don’t want.

You look too at what you considered lost (returning later in different forms). New and innovating ideas about your future work in the world. They take into consideration all your desires and aspirations, later to anchor in the world. A new land calls. You answer.

CAPRICORN: It’s good to create an “I am...” Journal. With Pluto in your sign, all Capricorns are transforming and becoming their greater selves. Seek to see yourself in new ways, with new information being given about who you are. Write in your journal sentences beginning with “I am...” Write each day. See how you begin to unfold and express yourself differently. A new self-coordination, identity, harmony and creativity emerges as you write about yourself.

AQUARIUS: Perhaps you feel many endings or closings or approaching a curve in the road. There may sadness or sorrow concerning something (someone) that is no longer. This will ease over time. New perceptions occur in the next three weeks offering an understanding of the past. Look back as much as you can. Cherish everything. This remembering is a gift. Soon you will be stepping forward onto another path.

PISCES: So many things change for Pisces during this retrograde concerning affiliated groups. You review when and why you joined and your purpose with them. You discover now they hold a different importance in your life and gradually make changes in terms of your interactions. There is a sense of a new world service calling, new relationships and a new form of group sharing takes place. You step more fully into inner worlds. While remaining very practical in the outer worlds. There is no confusion.



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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EATING OUT
RESTAURANT QUICK REFERENCE

CAPC BUDGET continued from page 3

Maloney offered to reduce his 2017 Internet expense back to \$100,000. He said that amount worked well in 2016, and he already knows where they will spend it.

With that change, Bright pointed out they now had \$43,000 available in the budget.

"So we can cover the Aud utilities," DeVito noted.

Commissioner Susan Harman pointed out the agreement with the city needs to be re-worked, and it should be made clear this is a one-time gesture by the CAPC.

Other items

With the budget settled, Sales Director Karen Pryor told commissioners she would add shows in three new areas in 2017: faith-based groups, the small meetings market, and the mountain bike sector. She estimated she would be gone 130 nights next year. Her first trip is to an American Bus Association show in January where she already has 40 appointments scheduled over five days. Her travel schedule runs through October with the last one being Boomers in Groups where she has 30 appointments so far. Pryor said Eureka Springs has seen many visitors over the years as a result of

this particular show.

Maloney announced Parks Director Justin Huss and his crew brought several international bikers to ride the trails at Lake Leatherwood City Park, "and they loved our trails." Emphasized was the fact Tom Walton, mountain biking enthusiast and noted benefactor, now knows about the trails around Eureka Springs.

Maloney also mentioned he will begin advertising for an Events Coordinator next week.

Subsequent conversation turned toward ways in which the Chamber of Commerce and the CAPC partner well, and ways in which they duplicate

each other. Some thought went toward providing better customer service by redefining roles. The Transit Department was identified as another logical partner in making sure visitors could easily get the information about what to do in town.

CAPC continued from page 2

a 7.9 percent jump. Cabins and cottages had the largest October increase at 22.3 percent, and Bed & Breakfasts were up but only by .9 percent.

Next regular meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m.

Rescheduled holiday show at Auditorium; Jimmy Wayne Garrett at Cathouse

As Christmas falls on a Sunday, it provides many fun opportunities in all these days leading up to it. The annual Home for the Holidays concert has been rescheduled for Thursday, Aud, 7 – 10, showcasing local talent in a family friendly holiday atmosphere. Jimmy Wayne Garrett (Not Too Far from Mississippi) plays choice cuts each Wednesday at Cathouse Lounge to make hump day worth getting out for. And always go to Cathouse on Tuesdays when Los Roscoes play great azules. How better to get the blues?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

AUDITORIUM – *Home for the Holidays*, Family Christmas Show, 7 – 10 p.m. *Rescheduled date*
CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *George*



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Fri., Dec. 23 • 9 p.m. –
**THE LIBERTY BELL
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Mon., Dec. 26 • 9 p.m. –
SPRUNGBILLY

Tues., Dec. 27 • 9 p.m. – **OPEN MIC**

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Brothers, Rock, 8 – 11 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, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

BALCONY RESTAURANT – *Steve Jones*, Singer/Songwriter, 12 and 5 p.m.
BREWS – *Camptown Ladies*, Americana, 6 – 9 p.m.
CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Lori Locke Band*, Rock, 8 – 11 p.m.
CHELSEA'S – *The Liberty Bell Rhythm Band*, 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.
ROWDY BEAVER – *2 Dog 2 Karaoke*, 7 p.m.
ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Sunshine Ramblers*, Americana, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

BALCONY RESTAURANT – *Pearl Brick*, Singer/Songwriter, 12 and 5 p.m.
BREWS – *Stephen Pruitt of Voxana*, Americana, 6 – 9 p.m.
CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Dave Smith*, Singer/Songwriter, 8 – 11 p.m.
EUREKA LIVE! – *DJ & Dancing*, 9 p.m.
GRAND TAVERNE – *Jerry Yester*, Singer/Songwriter, 6:30 p.m.
LEGENDS SALOON – *DJ Karaoke*

with Stan, 8 p.m.
LE STICK – *Pete Maiella*, Singer/Songwriter, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Los Roscoes*, Blues, 6 p.m.
CHELSEA'S – *Open Mic*, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

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



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WEDNESDAYS • 6-8 P.M.
Jimmy Wayne Garrett

THURSDAY, DEC. 22 • 6-8 P.M.
George Brothers

FRIDAY, DEC. 23 • 8-11 P.M.
Lori Locke Band

SATURDAY, DEC. 24 • 8-11 P.M.
Dave Smith

TUESDAYS • 5-7 P.M.
Los Roscoes




Jimmy Wayne Garrett plays each Wednesday at Cathouse Lounge, 6 – 8 p.m.

On the origins of a mistletoe kiss

We link the Christmas tradition of catching a kiss beneath mistletoe hung in a doorway to long-forgotten pagan traditions and the mysterious rites of Druids. We may graft that belief of transmission from the Druids

to Christian rituals to figures such as St. Patrick, who supplanted ancient nature dogmas with Christianity in 4th century Ireland. Dozens of trees books and other printed histories of the last 500 years inevitably describe the use of mistletoe

in the context of Druid ritual sacrifice in which a priest clad in a white robe cuts the throat of two bulls with a golden sickle. Mistletoe (harvested from an oak tree) is then taken in a drink to impart fertility to those who are barren, and serve as an antidote for all poisons.

That story often wrapped in Christian scolding for ungodly heathen practices and repeated *ad infinitum* in the historical literature, predates Christianity. The story comes from book 16 of the encyclopedic 37-volume *Natural History* of the Roman scholar and officer, Pliny the Elder, who lived from 23-79 AD. His *Natural History* work was completed in 77 AD.

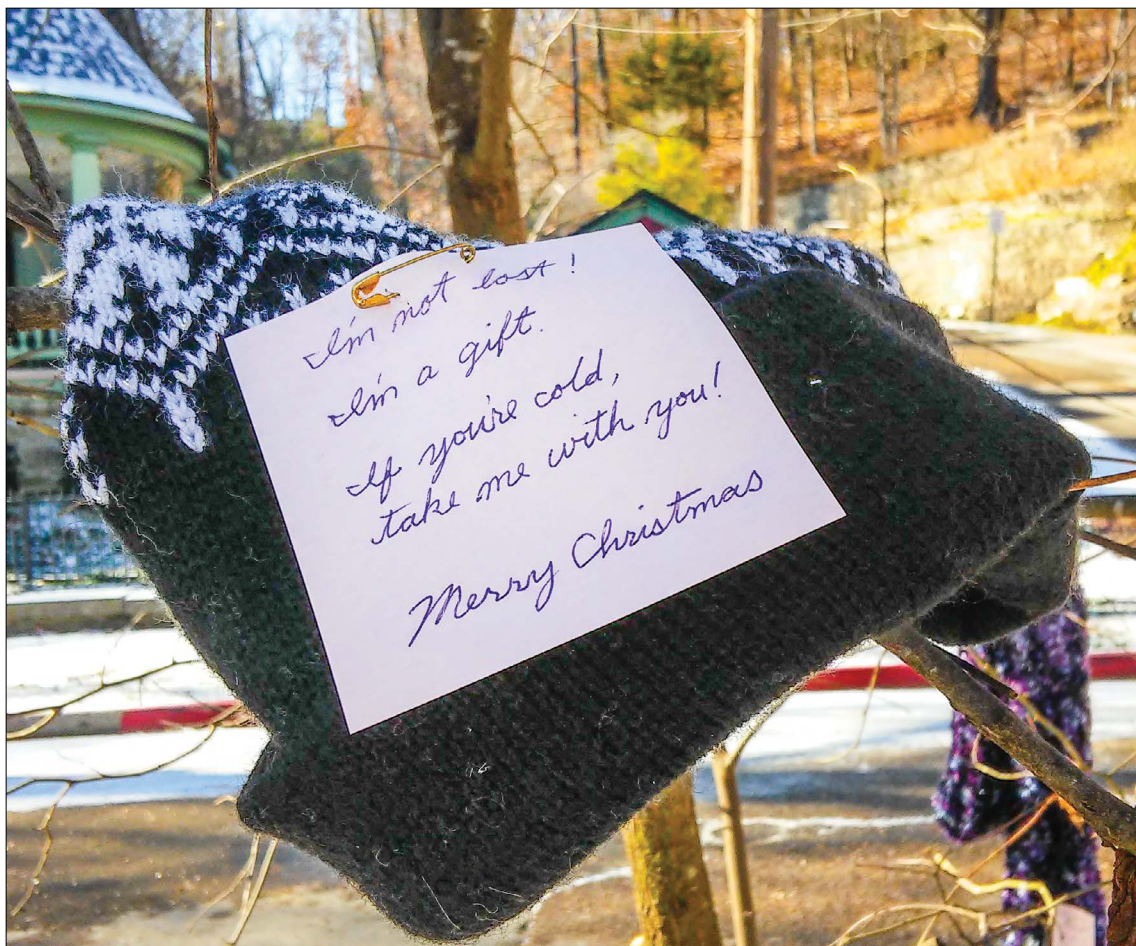
Western knowledge of Celtic rituals and Druid rites comes to us from the pre-Christian Roman occupation of what is now England and Wales. Julius Caesar invaded Britannia in 55 and 54 BCE. During the time of Pliny's service to the Roman army in what is now Germany, the emperor Claudius annexed England in 43 AD, which became the *Provincia Britannia* of the Roman Empire from 43-



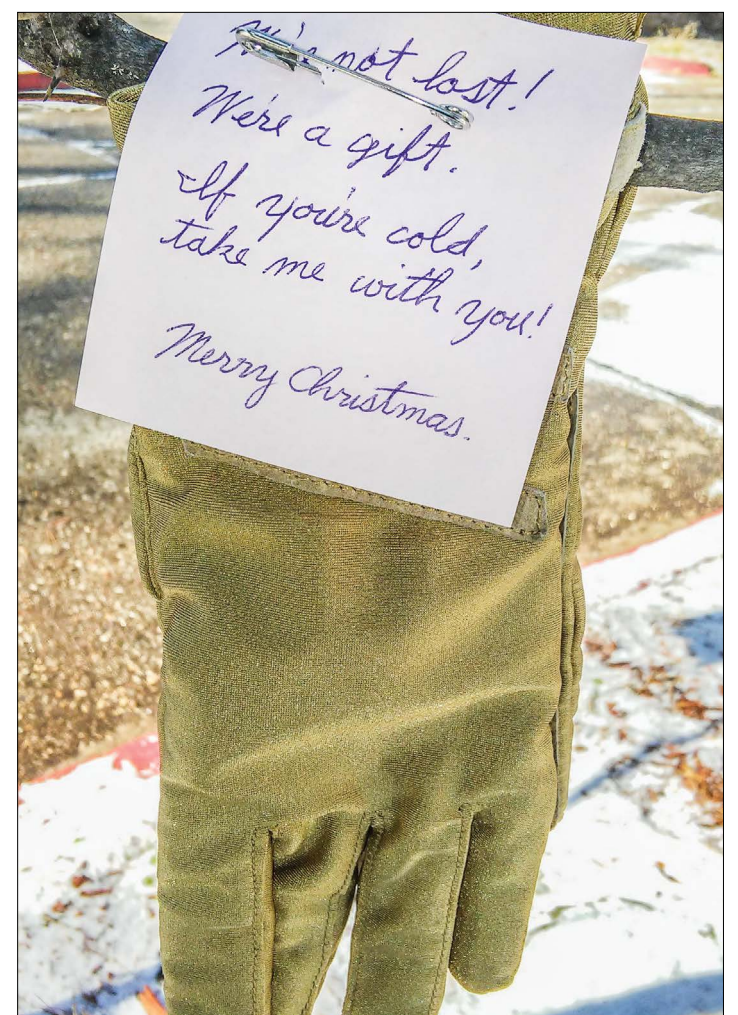
410 AD. Our knowledge of the ritual use of mistletoe in ancient Celtic tradition comes to us from the observations of Roman soldiers as recorded by Pliny.

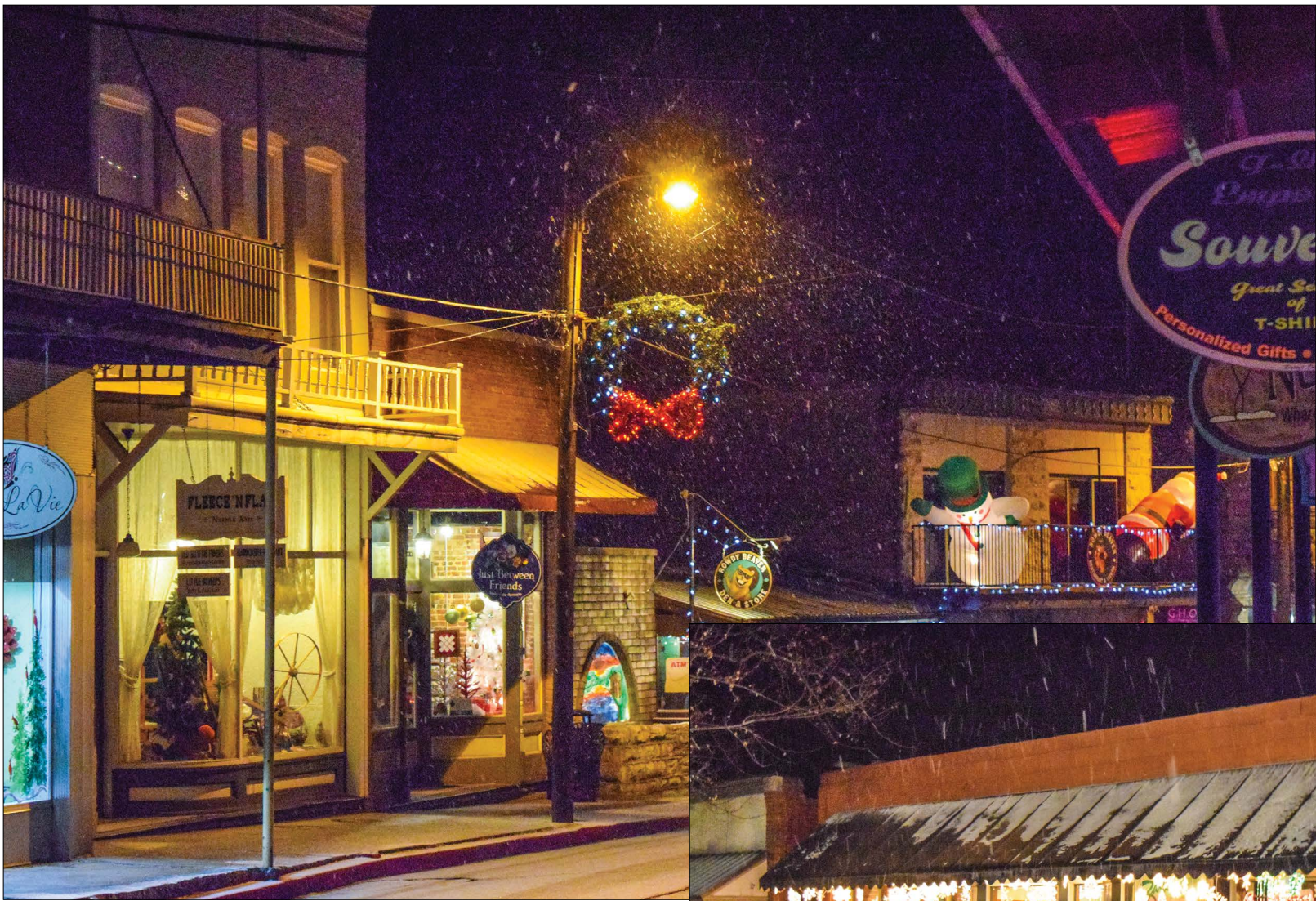
In England, mistletoe (*Viscum album*) growing on oaks is rare (though more common on other tree species), so the Druids paid high regard to mistletoe growing on oaks. Indeed in medical books, well into the Renaissance, that oak mistletoe, *Viscus quercus*, was believed to have the highest medicinal value for epilepsy and various nervous conditions, and general debility.

Hailing in the New Year, marked by the winter solstice and Christmas tradition of forgotten origin, use of mistletoe for the ritual of Christian gaiety to "catch a kiss" therefore comes down to us from pre-Christian Roman observations of the ceremonies of Druid priest.



Stay warm while being cool – A giving tree on Spring near the library has donned hats, gloves, sweaters – anonymous gifts from ones who care to those in need.





The weatherman was right! – Maybe we should listen after all. And so it was that on Saturday night Eureka Springs received its first dusting of snow that began as sleet and continued for several hours.

PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ALVARADO

Christmas Dinner at Peachtree – The staff at Peachtree celebrated an early Christmas buffet with residents and guests. Following the meal many stayed to listen to The Camptown Ladies.

PHOTO BY JAY VRECENAK





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DROPPING**A** Line by Robert Johnson

Well, it's almost Christmas and I wonder how many wives got their man a new fishing rod and new tackle. I don't think I have gotten anything for a birthday or Christmas for over 10 years that didn't relate to fishing. Except from my wife when she was with us. After almost 20 years of it she would buy me something so I would stay home more, like a lawnmower. But everybody else figured if it related to fishing, I would put it to good use. I still think of Kathy being born here



in Eureka almost 60 years ago and all the changes since that one room schoolhouse. Only time she ever fished was with her Dad, Jack Johnson, off Beaver town bridge for perch. Merry Christmas, Kathy. Here's a pic of Kathy and granddaughter, Courtney Medleton when it all started more than 20 years ago.

Well, I'm rambling on because with this cold front not a lot of fishing been going on. The fish are still here and still need to eat. The air temperature is not part of the survival of fish. It can adjust the water a few degrees but nothing like that cold wind we had when this cold front came in. It's over now and we are getting warmer days.

Johnny Glantz (Big 1's Striper Guide) had a trip out Saturday morning before the front came in and he honestly had his best day of the year. After hearing some big fish ran upriver he put in at Hickory Creek out of Springdale to fish the White and War Eagle arms of Beaver. Went to our favorite spot where we catch them in the spring when the spawn is on. They had fish in as soon as they started dropping lines in. He had nine stripers in the boat the first 30 minutes with three in the 30-pound range. All four people in his boat had their limit the first hour, so they ran upriver a ways with him to see what all is involved in netting shad and played with some light tackle for some green

fish. (That's bass to Johnny.)

Now the good thing about the cold front: The river is only running about 50 foot deep now so it cools more and faster than the lake, so all that bait and stripers have to come back this side of the Hwy. 12 bridge for warmer water now and should stay put until February into March when it starts warming again.

So we're still fishing out of Prairie Creek in Rogers unless something changes like last year when they opened the floodgates for the first time in winter and brought the stripers closer to our end. Walleye and bass, trout and crappie are still being caught here at Holiday Island. But a lot of our warm water fish have moved north closer to Eagle Rock for warmer water. Going into the mouth of Roaring River could pay off now.

Well, I better get some chores done here. Grab a pole when you see the sun, especially if the winds are calm, and you might just be surprised on how good the fishing might be. We're still selling our gift certificates at a 10 percent off for any date you choose in 2017. These make good stocking stuffers. Also still doing the 1 person 1/2 off til February. If you see one of those pretty days coming, grab that pole or give us a call. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

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

INDEPENDENT**Crossword**

by Mike Boian with extensive help from his wife, Ann

Solution on page 23

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 53 | | | | | 54 | | | | 55 | | | |

ACROSS

1. Scorch
5. Amusement
8. Sleepwear, for short
12. Life of Riley
13. Single unit
14. Vicinity
15. Metal coating
16. Extreme strictness
18. Giants' Manning
19. Rose oil
20. Horned viper
21. Spew
23. Short name for body ink

25. Locates
27. Long and tiresome
31. Drink made colder
32. Completed
33. Scottish dagger
34. Confound
36. Child care professional
37. Early form of jazz
38. Shed feathers
39. Eroded
42. One with no chance for parole
44. Wrestling surface
47. Language

development prior to Indo-European and

Semitic

49. Clinton's first Attorney General
50. Sheltered
51. Portion of a circle
52. Small, comfortable hotels
53. Stagger
54. Open meadow
55. Egyptian deity worshiped in Memphis

DOWN

1. Waxy covering for bird beak
2. Robbers' take
3. Designated, as a task
4. Soak in water
5. Ahead, toward the front
6. Military organization
7. Rendered false
8. Cold crème container
9. Elaborate melody sung solo
10. Army dining hall
11. Coarsely ground corn
17. Toward the mouth
19. Donkey

22. Cow's mammary gland
24. Type of dangerous wave
25. Lie
26. Milieu for the Blackhawks
27. Up to the time
28. Application for sore muscles
29. Container for remains
30. Montana slogan "Big ___ Country"
32. Relating to fingers and toes
35. Valley in poetry
36. Negative conjunction
38. Mohammed's hometown
39. Slightly open
40. Imaginatively recounted story
41. Rapier
43. Terminate
45. Best supporting actress Paquin
46. Nonsense, *Brit.*
48. Goddess who presides over the underworld
49. Final commendation, abbr.

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PERSONALS

Dear parents,
Crazy Cousin Carol will be throwing
you a party at the farm. It’s sure to be
a wingdinger! I’ll have your Mexican
chicken casserole heated and ready to go.
Hope you can make it with rings on your
fingers and bells on your toes.
I’ll be waiting.

PERSONALS

LOCAL ARTIST CINDY ROGERS NEEDS HELP NOW! Her son, Nicko Aleshire, was in a motorcycle accident in Miami, Florida, Sunday night and his left foot was amputated. He is in ICU. She needs to get to Miami ASAP. If you know of a place she could stay in Miami or have some money to help her get there, it would be of great help. (479) 981-1947, 76 Mountain, Apt.4, Eureka Springs AR 72632.

PJP – What’s with the crazy elf? Elf here, Elf there, everywhere I turn the crazy Elf! On the coffee pot, in the plant, in the tree, hanging from the exit sign, sitting on the shredder, fishing in the sink... Starting to think it is following me.

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MARIJUANA RULES continued from page 7

from people leaving Colorado. Arkansas is surrounded by states that don't have medicinal marijuana.

"The risk that medical marijuana will find its way into the wrong hands is always going to be present," Roberts said. "There will be new problems faced by law enforcement that we haven't had in this state at this time. Currently, we are in the rule-forming stage to deal with some of that. We are looking at what other states have done. In Oregon, Washington and Alaska, ABC has a similar role."

When will medical marijuana actually be available in Arkansas? Roberts said they anticipate in about a year.

Do people really have to give up their firearms if they get a medical marijuana card?

"That is what I understand," Roberts said. "That is not a matter of Arkansas law. I understand ownership of any kind of firearm would be prohibited by federal law, if one has a medical marijuana card. Even though marijuana will be legal for medical use in Arkansas, even those who use it for medical purposes are technically violating the federal law. The Drug Enforcement Administration regulates it as a Class 1 substance and that makes it

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illegal. The federal laws have gun control rules in them, is my understanding."

There are also issues regarding how to handle funds from medicinal marijuana operations. It has been a cash business in most cases because of federal money laundering laws.

"Money received probably will have to take the form of cash," Roberts said. "Commercial paper and checks directly link receipts of funds from sales and expenditures to a substance that on a federal level appears to be illegal."

Regarding how much it will cost, Roberts said ABC doesn't control the pricing.

"I feel confident the price will be left to the marketplace," he said. "I believe it will be about the same price as Colorado and other states with medical marijuana."

According to Coloradopotguide.com, the average retail price for a gram of marijuana flower over the past 12 months was \$10 per gram. High grade cannabis can cost as much as \$60 per gram. There are about 28 grams per ounce, which would make an ounce of marijuana about \$280. Patients in Arkansas will be allowed to purchase 2.5 ounces of marijuana every two weeks.



Singing is part of the the reason for the season – The elementary school Scottie Christmas program last Thursday at the Aud got people out of the house for an evening of choreographed and spontaneous jubilation. The students' Christmas carols, hilarity, and holiday euphoria brought an SRO crowd to a standing ovation. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY DONESA MANN





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