



SWEPCO originally planned 161kV, not 345 kV line

BECKY GILLETTE

American Electric Power (AEP) subsidiary Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) originally proposed to rebuild 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines rather than build a new 345 kV line from Shipe Road to Kings River, an option that would have cost far less and been much less damaging to the environment, property values and tourism.

In filings with the Arkansas Public Service Commission (APSC) this past week, the power line opposition group Save The Ozarks (STO) said that testimony by a Southern Power Pool (SPP) witness – which was not rebutted by SWEPCO – established that SWEPCO initially believed only a 161 kV line rebuild was needed to solve reliability problems that were given as justification for the \$117-million project.

SWEPCO clearly errs when it argues in its opening brief that it has sufficiently demonstrated the need for the project as proposed, states the filing by Mick G. Harrison, attorney for STO.

“SWEPCO in its brief clarifies importantly that this 161kV rebuild would have been upgrading existing 161 kV systems,” Harrison said. “Thus, this rebuild alternative would essentially be a no-new-terrain alternative which

would have dramatically less adverse environmental impacts and costs than new terrain alternatives. SWEPCO concealed this material fact in its application to the

commission and presented an application and testimony in support of that application that misled the commission and the public to believe that SWEPCO

actually had concluded that a 345kV line was needed to resolve identified electric power transmission reliability problems.

STO continued on page 28



Blast from the Past – Marching bands, horseback riders and hay wagons meandered down Spring St. for the 29th Folk Festival Parade in 1976. Miles Mountain Musical Museum with “one of the largest and most interesting and unusual collections of musical instruments in the world” added a calliope’s steam whistle notes to festivities. Notice Whitney’s Gems, Watch and Jewelry Repair in the background. The 66th Folk Festival parade is Saturday at 2.

This Week’s INDEPENDENT Thinker

Pope Francis, a humble Argentinian Jesuit, is full of human faults and readily accepts them, but he seems to be doing his level best to correct a churchfull of wrongs.

Francis has opened financial records of the ultra-secretive Vatican in an effort to identify exactly what the Catholic Church has and where it can do the most good.

This week Francis placed a German bishop on administrative leave for bumping the price of a museum, conference hall and chapel from \$7.5 million to \$42 million, including a million dollar garden and personal \$20,000 bathtub.

Pope Francis, we believe, is following the footsteps of his namesake, Francis of Assisi, and his guru, Jesus Christ.



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INDEPENDENTNews

Airport losing valuable manager

NICKY BOYETTE

Manager's report

"I've seen it grow, and this is an airport the county can be proud of," airport manager Sheila Evans said at the October 17 Airport Commission meeting, "but due to family health issues, I feel it is necessary to redirect my energy and attention." Evans will be resigning effective Dec. 31.

"We hate to lose you. You've brought us a long way," commissioner Lonnie Clark said. Clark chaired the meeting in the absence of Dave Teigen.

There were other acknowledgments of Evans's contribution to the airport since she began almost two years ago, but some commissioners were too caught up in the moment to comment right away.

Commissioner Mark Mallet said, "It's going to be hard to replace you." He pointed out the airport is an asset for the county and needs county support.

"We've become an airport, not just a place to land an airplane," commented commissioner Ron Rupe, "and the county needs to understand that in this situation, you've got to have money."

Evans joined in by observing, "I can only hope the county has an epiphany and sees how important this airport is."

As for how to move forward, Clark told commissioners they could establish a hiring committee, but they did not have to. Two people had expressed interest in the position of manager, he said, but one of them, a qualified applicant, did not want to work the hours. The other one was in the room at the moment.

Clark introduced Dana Serrano. She admitted she was "not Cajun like Evans," but she saw what the airport meant to the area and wanted to help grow the business.

Following executive session, Clark said the board had decided to hire part-time office assistant Lana Fletcher. They also hired Serrano as airport manager effective November 1 to a 90-day probationary period. She would work with Evans through November and December, and she would fly without a net in January, after which the board would reevaluate. She accepted those terms.

"Welcome aboard," Clark told Serrano.

In her manager's report, Evans said September was a good month for fuel sales. She had 76 fuel transactions in which she sold 1780 gallons for \$9349. In August she sold less than \$5000 worth of fuel.

She also presented information on replacing the fuel pump she said is old and has always been trouble. The airport has replaced many parts in the pump over time, but it is still extremely slow for pilots to use.

A new pump system recommended by a consultant from Shell would cost \$21,000, and she acknowledged they do not have that much money now. She had also asked the consultant if Shell would provide financial assistance, and he is looking into it.

After further discussion, Clark suggested, "Let's keep it on the front burner until we hear back from Shell."

Evans announced she sold a business user license to KC Copters, a Kansas City helicopter business that wants to see if there is a market for helicopter rides around Carroll County. A former Kansas City television reporter, who is also a helicopter pilot, created the company. Their website already has a map of Carroll County with directions for how to get from the airport to Eureka Springs.

Evans saw this as an attractive addition to the services offered at the airport.

Other business

- Engineer Dan Clinton, who is overseeing the new hangar and roadway construction, said both projects are progressing. Foundation for the hangar has been laid, and the hangar is due to be delivered on Nov. 11. He said it should take maybe six weeks to have the hangars in place and operational.

Clinton said the next project would be to rehab the runway to prevent water from settling on it. He suggested installing a French drain system alongside the runway and little by little re-creating a crown down the middle of the runway so water naturally runs off into the French drain.

AIRPORT continued on page 28

Jury ups Gentry Safari Park eminent domain offer from SWEPCO

DAVID FRANK DEMPSEY

If your million dollar view of the Ozarks is between 0 and 225 ft. of SWEPCO's proposed 345 kiloVolt transmission line easement boundary, that portion of your property will be reduced in value by only 20 percent, and the value of property more than 225 ft. away from the easement boundary will not be harmed at all according to SWEPCO's legal team.

That was the basis for a lawsuit by SWEPCO against the owners of the Gentry Wild Wilderness Drive Through Safari which was heard this week in Bentonville. The owners refused to accept \$37,000 for the taking by eminent domain of 9.17 acres through a 144-acre quadrant of the Safari known as Safari Four. That figure was based on SWEPCO expert witness and real estate appraiser Tom Reed who valued the land at \$2500 per acre.

Reed admitted the 9.17 acres condemned in the taking of the 150-ft.-wide easement was a total loss for the owner. Using his own appraisal he concluded SWEPCO should pay \$22,925 for the easement itself. He then added 20 percent of his appraised value of the two 225-ft.-wide negatively impacted swaths alongside the borders of the easement to come up with the \$37,000 figure.

A jury disagreed in a nine-to-three decision after a two-day trial last week awarding the Safari owners \$87,539, far less than what the owners were asking.

Ross Leon Wilmoth, Jr., appeared for his family that has owned the Safari for more than 50 years. Wilmoth and his own equally expert appraiser, Tom Rife, claimed the entire 114-acre quadrant had to be closed to the public because USDA regulations for the exotic animal park could not be met with the easement and power line in place. They also want compensation for barns, holding facilities, reservoirs and special fencing. Their estimate of the loss to the Safari was \$399,000.

USDA regulations state that a trained animal handler or attendant



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– SWEPCO and AEP's legal team returns to court in Bentonville in a jury trial concerning eminent domain for a 345 kiloVolt transmission line over part of the Gentry Wild Wilderness Drive Through Safari. From the left are Paul Burdeaux, project manager Brian Johnson, Dr. Dwight Mercer, attorney Bill Greenhaw, attorney John Greenhaw, Jonathan Wiltsie, Dr. Louis Hosek and Peter Main.

PHOTO BY DAVID FRANK DEMPSEY

must be present when the public is in the vicinity of exotic animals. The word "public" includes power line workers, which puts the USDA regulation in conflict with SWEPCO's easement language that gives its workers access to the easement any time they deem necessary.

Wilmoth, who worked for SWEPCO for 34 years while at the same time running the Safari, disagreed strongly with SWEPCO expert witness testimony that static charges built up in any metal object left under a 345 kiloVolt line can deliver no more than a very mild and harmless shock. Wilmoth said that from his own experience,

GENTRY continued on page 28

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Planning approves variance and CUP

NICKY BOYETTE

Kim and Tom Tuccillo want to buy the property at 8 Washington and move here with their three kids from Kansas City. Their plan is to restore the property, which once was a Bed & Breakfast, back into a 3-unit B&B, but they need a variance of the 200-ft. rule and a Conditional Use Permit.

The Planning Commission, which convened as the Board of Zoning and Adjustment to consider the variance, began its Tuesday night meeting with a Public Hearing on the variance and the CUP.

Kim Tuccillo said they have roots here, that grandmother built Arsenic and Old Lace. She said they see great potential in 8 Washington, "and we want to make it beautiful again."

There were sentiments for and against the Tuccillos' applications. Bill King read from a well-researched statement which began, "I'm here to speak for the renters and working people of this town who

have no voice and are impacted every time a residential property is converted to commercial."

King also pointed out, "Even though conversion from residential to commercial is contrary to the city's Master Plan, business interests almost always win out over the interests of residents." He opposed granting the variance and the CUP.

Gwen Bennett had submitted a letter also opposing the application. She observed the city just expanded the 200-ft. rule to all residential zones, and now Planning is considering granting a variance which seems like a contradiction. She welcomed the family, but opposed another commercial venture moving into the neighborhood.

David Mitchell saw it differently. He owns a B&B within 200 ft. of 8 Washington, and was pleased the house would be saved if the Tuccillos' deal goes through. He fully supported of the variance.

John Green, an immediate neighbor,

called the building as it stands now "an obscene eyesore." His opinion was "If they want to put in a B&B, then have at it. Anything that makes it vibrant again is a variance well-spent."

Chair Beverly Blankenship read into the record four letters supporting the application, one of which stated the Tuccillos "are constructive, hard-working people we need in town."

Commissioner Melissa Greene was effusive in her support. She called it a win-win that a family wanted to put time, love and money into the place.

Blankenship said this request was different than previous ones in that there was a plan attached. She pointed out the variance is for the property and they can attach conditions to it so the variance does not apply if the deal falls through for the Tuccillos.

Commissioner James Morris, as he has stated many times, said he does not serve the letter of the law but the spirit of the law. He saw it as a more negative impact to the city if the city allows the structure to deteriorate further. "It is time we act responsibly and take action to give the city relief from this property," he commented.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a variance to the 200-ft. rule contingent on the successful purchase by the applicants and their creating a 3-unit B&B.

After considering conditional use requirements, which seemed to be satisfied, the commission also approved granting a CUP for a 3-unit B&B at 8 Washington.

"This will improve everyone's

property values," commissioner Pat Lujan stated.

Other items

- Approval of a new construction permit for a new deck at 173 S. Main Street.

- Commissioners decided they would not attend a planning workshop in Ft. Smith because they have almost depleted their 2013 budget of \$1000. Morris said they should ask council for a bit more money in their 2014 budget. "After all, we're not expensive," he remarked.

- Commissioners discussed their upcoming joint workshop with city council Tuesday, Oct. 29. "The city is going to grow, and it will be either planned growth or it is just going to grow. City council and Planning need to look at the big picture together," Blankenship said.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m.

Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District (IPRFPD)

31 Ozark Automotive Road, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Notice of Annual Meeting, Election of 3 new Commissioners and Vote to Increase Assessments

The Annual meeting of IPRFPD will take place at the **Retreat at Sky Ridge** (637 CR 111, Eureka Springs, AR, 72631) on **Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 6 PM.**

• ELECTION OF 3 NEW COMMISSIONERS

Three (3) new Commissioners will be elected at this meeting. The candidates are Gene Chapman, David Gaylor and Lynn McKenzie, all residents of the District. You can read their biographies on our website, www.ip-fire.org. All qualified electors residing in the District are eligible to vote for the Commissioners.

James Mautte, Bob Howle and Patricia Helwig will be stepping down from the Board of Commissioners after this election.

• VOTE TO INCREASE ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Commissioners of IPRFPD voted at a Special Board Meeting on Sept. 2, 2013, to hold a vote at the Annual Meeting to increase the assessments in IPRFPD. Each assessed landowner or assessed parcel or acre property owner shall have one (1) vote per paid assessment.

Assessments in IPRFPD have not increased since 2005 when the Quorum Court of Carroll County agreed to permit the collection of the assessments for IPRFPD by the Carroll County Tax Collector, via the annual real estate taxes. Increases in truck fuel and energy costs, high repair costs for fire trucks and equipment, purchase of new trucks and equipment and insurance premiums for the vehicles, buildings and firefighters dictate that we must ask for this increase so that the Fire District can safely protect its residents.

If voted in the assessments will change as follows:

- Undeveloped land will increase from \$30 to \$50 per year.
- House with land will increase from \$60 to \$100 per year.
- Commercial property will increase from \$75 to \$125 per year.

If someone owns more than one parcel in the District, and the name(s) on the deeds are exactly the same for each parcel, they will be assessed only once. For example, if someone owns 3 parcels, land only, house on land and a commercial business they will be charged only \$125 for the year for the commercial property.

Public meeting on CAFOs

The Buffalo River Watershed Alliance will hold a public meeting at the church at 17 Elk St. on Monday, Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m. as part of the Waterkeeper's Alliance "whistle stop" tour regarding Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) such as the controversial 6,500-head hog factory on the banks of Big Creek tributary to the Buffalo River. The public is invited. Please consider bringing food and drink to share after the meeting. More info: 253-6963.

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Vacation request 'mostly' denied by Parks

NICKY BOYETTE

Monday evening, the Parks Commission meeting began with a public hearing on the request by Jim McAvoy for a vacation of parts of Hartman and McCune Sts. and an unnamed alley. Commissioners gathered at the site in September to familiarize themselves with the property. The request was contentious because McAvoy and neighbor, KJ Zumwalt, disagreed on where Hartman Street, a green space between their properties, was platted, and both had surveys that supported their claims.

Jim Crouch, attorney for McAvoy, gave a history of the surveys supporting McAvoy's claim and asserted the spaces he was asking for would not be usable by the city and were not suitable for developing trails. He said the terrain was prohibitive, and access to Main Street would be blocked by the Pied Piper building even if a trail were attempted.

He also claimed that granting his client's request would not affect Zumwalt because she hardly ever uses the contended Hartman Street anyway.

Whereas McAvoy had Crouch, Zumwalt had Beau Satori advocating her case. Right away, Satori stated regarding Crouch, "Obviously this gentleman has never been to Eureka Springs." He commented Eureka Springs like trails and like to walk. The named and platted, but undeveloped, streets were mapped out in 1885, and were not designed for autos because there were none. They were for pedestrians, horses and maybe coaches or wagons. He said there could have been horse traffic through the area, and the ravine, which is home to Moony Spring, would be an ideal site for a trail. Vacating the part of Hartman between McAvoy and Zumwalt would prevent that possibility and prevent Zumwalt from getting to the rear of her property.

He advocated "conserving and preserving access for the future," and recommended the commission deny the vacation request.

"Good fences make good neighbors, but green zones make better neighbors," Satori observed.

LeRoy Gorrell is Zumwalt's next door neighbor, and said he uses Hartman as access to the back of his property and

would lose this access if McAvoy's request were granted.

Zumwalt simply said the city should keep its property because the Moony Spring area would make a good space for a trail, and Hartman could be an entryway to that area.

Crouch rebutted these claims by stating there is no path to any spring, no place to park, and it doesn't make sense to put a path there. He asked commissioners to do the reasonable thing by granting his client's request.

McAvoy pointed out there are other access points to the Moony Spring area, and "I just want to close the part of Hartman on my property."

Parks Chair Bill Featherstone said they had three options: deny in full, approve in part or approve in full.

Parks Director Bruce Levine told commissioners the Trails Committee had recommended it would be okay to vacate the part of McCune running immediately next to McAvoy's house but none of the rest of his request.

Commissioner Daniel Jackson moved to recommend to city council to approve the Trails Committee's suggestion regarding McCune but decide on the rest of the request separately.

Commissioner Ruth Hager commented, "Vacating that part of McCune is a no-brainer. It is in the middle of his property." She concurred that separating the decision-making into components was a good idea. However, she asked why other nearby property owners had not spoken up.

The vote on Jackson's motion to vacate only the part of McCune next to McAvoy's house was unanimous.

Then Jackson moved to recommend to council not to vacate any of the other properties, which meant the city would keep the other part of McCune and all of Hartman and the unnamed alley. The vote was 3-1, Hager voting No, with Featherstone casting the deciding fourth Yes vote to deny McAvoy's request for vacating the other properties.

Another vacation request

Also on the agenda was setting a date for a public hearing regarding a vacation of Sweeny Alley. In the aftermath of the previous discussion, Jackson pointed out Parks should consider all options for

handling a situation, including land swaps, buying and selling, whatever, because some properties might not be suitable for use as a trail but might provide access or egress in some way. Sweeny Alley might fit that scenario.

The commission set their next meeting date, Nov. 18, as the date for the public hearing on Sweeny Alley.

Director's report

Levine announced paving could begin this week on the road leading into Lake Leatherwood City Park, weather permitting.

Also the famous geese at LLCP have been mostly conspicuously absent since Parks began considering bowhunting as a way to clean up the beach. Levine said so far they have installed a glittery balloon with a big eye on it as a deterrent, as well as an alligator head offshore. Another deterrent he might try would be LED lights with a variable unpredictable

PARKS continued on page 29



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INDEPENDENTNews

AECC looking into renewable energy

BECKY GILLETTE

The Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), which provides power for Carroll Electric Cooperative Corp. and 16 other rural electric cooperatives in Arkansas, has recently added wind power to its mix of generation sources, and is also investigating the possibility of solar installations.

"Our job is to keep rates affordable and keep power reliable, and do it in a responsible way that reflects the values of the people who own us," said Duane Highley, president/CEO of AECC. "That's why we are so interested in renewables right now. We know our members are interested in renewable energy and they own us. We know our members are mostly rural people—a lot are farmers—and they understand the value of clean air and clean water. They know that we

have to protect our environment. Those are values that they hold dear."

Highley said AECC started out developing renewable energy in the 1980s with hydroelectric projects. Those weren't the lowest cost at the time, but were projected to be the best thing to do in the long term.



HIGHLEY

"So, in the same way, we looked at wind power and found wind power could be brought into Arkansas affordably," Highley said. "We are buying wind energy from Kansas, and have just entered an agreement to partner in a project that is being developed in Oklahoma that will produce enough energy for 50,000 homes. And we are doing that affordably. These wind projects will not increase our costs. The wind energy comes in at a fixed price for 20 years. It is not subject to inflation like fossil fuels. The wind energy will actually lower and stabilize our rates. That is why it is such a good deal for our members to lock in a long-term supply of energy at a fixed cost."

Highley said they have looked at developing wind power in Arkansas and have found some areas with medium good wind resources. But utility scale wind power prospects aren't as good as in Kansas and Oklahoma.

"Today we can acquire wind power out of Kansas and Oklahoma that is competitive with our other resources," he said. "Wind doesn't blow all the time, so we have to be able to supplement when the wind is not blowing."

Highley, who had been contacted by the *Eureka Springs Independent* to ask if AECC would consider leasing solar panels to interested customers, said solar is becoming more affordable all the time.

"I'm delighted to speak about solar," he said. "This is a topic I have a great deal of interest in right now. I have been following solar for years, but what I see happening today is the prices are coming down to a point that while it is not yet affordable for Arkansas because our rates are so low, I think it will be affordable in several years to a decade. I want to plan for that. We put a solar

panel on one of our office buildings in Little Rock in 2006 or 2007. That one had about 25- to 50-year payback depending on economics. We didn't get real excited about that because that it a pretty long time to wait to get your money back. Since we installed that panel, the price of panels has dropped tremendously."

The AECC staff and board of directors have started talking internally about what kind of business model would allow their members to participate in a solar project cost effectively.

"Community solar is one model we are looking at," Highley said. "We are researching different ways other utilities have implemented the community solar model to see if it would make sense for our members in Arkansas. Instead of panels on individual homes, the panels would be clustered. The basic idea is one large-scale solar project that allows people in communities to buy a share of that project. Then the electricity generated by that share reduces their electrical bill by the amount of energy that is produced. One key advantage for the member consumers is they get economies of scale not possible from smaller solar installations. We are trying to make it affordable for our members."

Currently about 150 of AECC cooperative members across the state have added solar panels to their homes or businesses. Highley said that could cost thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars. If installed on a roof, the panels have to be removed if the roof needs repair.

"People can choose to do that, but if you go with community solar, you can build at utility scale and generate maybe 250,000 or 500,000 watts of capability," he said. "Then you can maintain it more cost effectively, and the people who participate in the project share the costs and the benefits."

Highley said they are currently investigating legal and technical issues, and hope within a year to see a tangible project.

"I can't get ahead of the board of directors, but the goal is to try to see if it is possible to either proceed with a

SOLAR continued on page 31

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Design for fluoride-feed buildings completed

NICKY BOYETTE

Consultant Brad Hammonds of Mc-Goodwin, Williams, and Yates told the Carroll-Boone Water District board that designs are complete for fluoride feed stations to be constructed at both stations of the Freeman-Raney Water Treatment. He still wants to get more input from plant operators, but expects to submit the final draft to the health department next week and begin taking bids around Nov. 19.

He said the board might need to convene a special meeting before Thanksgiving to pick a contractor because he wants the contractor to have as much time as possible given the project must be "completed and operational" by October 31, 2014. That is the end of the grant cycle set by the Delta Dental Foundation, whose grant funds the estimated \$670,000 for the project.

Expanding transmission capacity

Hammond distributed copies of a five-year Master Plan with details of the expansion project in which they intend to construct a parallel line the entire length of their transmission line over to Harrison. Phase I of the project will installing a 37,000-ft. line from the plant on the north side of Beaver Lake to Hwy. 23 just south of Eureka Springs. This phase will also include boring a burrow under the Kings River where a line will go in Phase 2. Throw in the cost of a 400-HP pump and the cost of Phase I might reach \$17 million, and it is projected to be completed by 2018.

Phase II is projected to cost \$9.4 million and Phase III, finally finishing

the 50-mile journey to Harrison, \$16.4 million. This project might take until 2033 to complete, and Hammond said they would update projections every five years.

As for paying for it, Hammond had already explained to the board there were options, each with advantages and disadvantages, but that interest rates have gone down recently. There is always volatility with rates, so it would be wise to begin the project quickly to grab a lower rate. One financial option requires more upfront paperwork but not so much bond indebtedness at the beginning, but as for which option to choose, "When all is said and done, it might be a wash."

Green Forest Mayor Charlie Reece advocated incremental adjustments if water rates ever need to be increased.

Hammond said three of the four cities have already passed resolutions approving the expansion, and the Eureka Springs city council has it on its next agenda. The next step would be to solicit proposals from bond underwriters.

Chair Jim Yates said Hammond should check with investment firms to get the best rate so the board can decide which financing option is best.

Manager's report

Plant manager John Summers said they would be removing the underground fuel tank Nov. 13. He said state inspectors and observers would be present while a soil sample is taken. Referring to expense of the inspection, Summers remarked, "Then we give them \$6000 and they go home."

The board at the July meeting asked

staff to get a quote for bringing in another aboveground tank and decommissioning the underground one. There has been no decision yet on acquiring the aboveground tank.

Summers also they have contracted with Miller-Lagoon Services to keep the ponds clean for the next three years. He mentioned the switch to polyaluminum fluoride additive has helped to minimize sludge buildup.

Officers

The CBWD board is actually stand-alone board comprised of boards representing each county. There are officers for all three boards who serve one-year terms from January 1 to December 31. At the meeting, the groups elected the following officers for the next term:

Boone County Water District: Jim Yates, president; Frank Brooks, vice president; Mark Billings, secretary-treasurer.

Carroll County Water District: Gene Bland, president; Harold Collins, vice president; Gene Chafin, secretary-treasurer.

Carroll-Boone Water District: Jim Yates, president; Gene Bland, vice-president; Harold Collins, secretary-treasurer.

Finances

Office manager Cathy Klein told the board they had sold 114 million gallons more than they had budgeted, which was very good. However, they also had to spend more than expected on equipment upgrades and maintenance. She said the end-of-year bottom line was \$153,000

favorable.

She presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014), and it projects they will sell 2,745,517,097 gallons of water next year and earn \$3,432,797.

Hammond mentioned CBWD keeps rates very low – \$1.25 per thousand gallons – compared to nearby water districts, even lower than the much larger Beaver Water District which has no transmission line to maintain.

Yates reminded the board that there were no raises in last year's budget, but this year's budget includes a three percent raise for all employees except Klein, who began six months ago, for whom he recommended eight percent.

The board unanimously approved the budget.

Next meeting will be Jan. 23, 2014, at 10 a.m.

Sunday at EUUF

The Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 Elk Street, is hosting ordained humanist minister Jeffrey Tate, M.D., who will speak on "The Meaning of Life" Sunday, Oct. 27. He is certified in psychoanalysis, holds a Master of Arts in European Philosophy, and is a diplomat of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Please join us Sundays at 11 a.m. for the program followed by refreshments. Childcare is provided. Extra parking at Ermilio's Restaurant, 26 White Street. (479) 253-0929, www.euuf.org.

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ESDN asks for line item in CAPC budget

NICKY BOYETTE

Mike Maloney, executive director of the City Advertising and Promotion Commission, announced at Wednesday afternoon's workshop he had received 25 funding requests so far for fiscal year 2014, and other requests were presented at the meeting.

Jackie Wolven, executive director of the Eureka Springs Downtown Network, said she wants not just a funding request, but a line item in the CAPC budget. One of her board members, Jack Moyer, said the idea is to further the partnership with the CAPC. Since both the CAPC and ESDN spend money to bring people to town and promote events in town, it would more efficient if they worked together.

Chair Charles Ragsdell pointed out that by law the CAPC cannot provide

support for any organization. It might support specific services or events, so he asked for a more detailed list of events planned by ESDN so the CAPC could consider helping.

Wolven stated she would be willing to contract with the CAPC and "we'll provide results."

A new funding request is the Independent Film Festival scheduled for January 23-25. Sandy Martin of the Arts Council said the film festival has already gathered more than \$3600 in sponsorships, and interest in the event is spreading throughout the area, even statewide. Martin said the festival would bring visitors to town during the traditionally slow month of January.

Ragsdell said the commission would consider the requests at the next regular

meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Budget talk

Finance director Rick Bright said he had found some double entries in his expenses that meant extra funds are freed up. Combine that money with funds available from other line items in the budget and Bright said they enough to cover expenses for the rest of the year, plus have \$41,000 in reserves to help get through the usually slow early months of the year. Commissioners had said they wanted at least \$30,000 in reserves.

Bright also said collections are a bit over projections, which means maybe more money for the reserves.

Commissioner Robert Schmid suggested they put as much they can into reserves.

Bright said one of his priorities is to get through the slow months successfully, and he suggested a couple of ways to minimize expenses early in the year and still advertise adequately, such as holding off on producing new ads until

March or April. They already have ads they can run which are not dated and are still effective.

Ragsdell is confident they are on the right path, and had numbers to back up his claims. He said his numbers show retailers in town have had record months four out of the first eight months of the year. He acknowledged there are plenty of naysayers who insist retail in town is down. He said the CAPC needs to do a better job of selling itself in town so townspeople can see what the commission is doing. "We are doing a better job of bringing people to town than we ever have," and called the issue "a disconnect between misconceptions and reality."

Commissioner applications

Damon Henke, owner of Eureka Suites, and David Patel, owner of Wagner Inn, both applied to sit on the commission. Their applications will be considered at the next regular meeting.

Next regular meeting will be Wednesday, November 13, at 6 p.m.

National School Bus Safety Week

District requests motorist cooperation

Eureka Springs Public School District Superintendent David Kellogg announced Oct. 21 that National School Bus Safety Week is being observed as part of Arkansas School Bus Safety Week. The district has eight route school buses and three spare buses transporting more than 520 students to and from school each school day; traveling 550 miles daily and nearly 100,000 miles a year. During School Bus Safety Week, in addition to providing transportation program information, the district is asking for community cooperation in helping maintain or improve its safety record.

One of the most common hazards, according to national statistics, is a motorist who violates the school bus stop law.

Motorists are required to stop for stopped school buses displaying flashing red lights and a stop arm.

Please be on the alert while driving and help our school bus drivers maintain their good safety record.

Drivers needed for veterans

Anyone with a convertible who is willing to donate a couple of hours and drive a vet in the Veterans' Day Parade on Nov. 11 is asked to phone (580) 399-5887.

And don't forget to check out the Hamburger Cook-Off Nov. 8 and the Pick Off in the Park on Nov. 9! For details see "Eureka Springs Veterans' Day Parade" on Facebook.

November 18 • 7:30 P.M.

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Another speed bump on the road to a new hospital

NICKY BOYETTE

Chris Bariola, CEO of the Eureka Springs Hospital, told the Hospital Commission Monday afternoon that a proposal circulating through the halls of Congress might affect 850 critical care access hospitals in the nation, and it definitely has put progress toward building a new facility in Eureka Springs on hold.

The proposal would limit critical care access hospitals from being nearer than 15 miles from each other. Bariola said his odometer reads 14.5 miles between ESH and Mercy Hospital in Berryville. This proposal is one of many proposals in the mix as Congress gets ready to vote on a budget.

The concept is designed to decrease spending for both Medicare and Medicare beneficiaries. Bariola distributed a statement reading, "The report demonstrates an unfortunate

lack of understanding of how health care is delivered in rural America. If the recommendations were implemented, many facilities may be forced to close and patients could lose their access to essential medical services."

The idea is not in President Barack Obama's budget, and Bariola said he did not think the proposal would pass, but it cannot be disregarded. He has been in touch with other hospital administrators about the plan, and politicians are gathering to prepare their defense of critical care access hospitals. "It would be a huge political nightmare if it went through," Bariola said.

Allegiance, the company that leases operation of ESH and has said it intends to build a new hospital in Eureka Springs, is still looking for properties on which to put a new facility according to Bariola. When asked why Allegiance did not just pursue suitable property more than 15 miles from Mercy and proceed, he replied, "We're just making sure."

He said the questions should be

answered no later than early in the year because a budget would be in place.

There were also comments about the condition of the current building, and the commission was doubtful it would be a suitable facility for a hospital through the entire length of the contract with Allegiance. It is in the contract that Allegiance is required to maintain the facility, although no one stated precisely what level of maintenance is required. The contract runs for three more years and Allegiance has a renewal option for five additional years.

Mayor Morris Pate expressed concern about what he has heard regarding doors not closing squarely and other structural concerns which might indicate larger issues. He said he wanted the commission to ask Allegiance for an up-to-date inspection of the building. He does not want the town to lose its hospital, and said he is just watching out for the best interests of the town.

Next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 18, at 1 p.m., at ECHO clinic.



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Budhi Whitebear at Flora Roja

"Come to The Kitchen Table, an Art space for Heart, Hope, and Healing with Budhi Whitebear" will take place Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Whitebear, a board certified art therapist, facilitates classes beginning at 10 a.m. with an art group for people suffering from chronic pain. From 11:30

– 1:30 and 4 – 5:30, there is an open studio for people who want to create art in response to a health issue, and at 2 p.m. a women's problem solving group. All classes offered on a sliding scale fee at Flora Roja Community Acupuncture, 119 Wall. www.floraroja.com. (479) 253-4968.



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Inspiration Point Fire District standing strong

NICKY BOYETTE

The Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District is tucked into the western part of Carroll County between the Grassy Knob and Holiday Island Rural Fire Districts. US 62 runs through the middle of IPRFPD's 20 square miles. Commissioner Jim Simmons, recently seated to the Western Carroll County Ambulance district, was effusive about the how much the district has pulled itself from the edge of closing to a stable, well-organized fire department.

Simmons said three years ago, only five of the seven pieces of rolling stock were usable. The board had never been sworn in, there was no communication with people in the district, there were no annual meetings, and the department was on the verge of not having enough firefighters to continue operating. The minimum required to be a fire department is six firefighters, and they had six but two were ready to leave.

Now the district has seven working vehicles, including two pumpers, two tankers and three brush trucks. There are 22 firefighters, five who are Emergency Medical Responders and three Emergency Medical Technicians. They also have one EMR and one traffic director who are not firefighters. There is a quarterly newsletter informing people in the area of events and news, and they conduct required annual meetings.

In other words, they have managed to organize themselves.

Chief Ed Thompson said, "The first year was rising out of the ashes, but now we're so different than three years ago." The difference, he said, has been the people. An attorney offered advice, an experienced firefighter helped with the reorganization, and a Ham radio operator improved their communications.

Nevertheless, the challenge with a volunteer organization is always recruiting, especially younger people, so that it's not always the same folks doing everything.

Thompson said older folks might be more available, but they are not as athletic as they once were. Younger people are more likely to be working and not be available to respond at 3 p.m. to a traffic accident. He said the good news, though,



is when there is a call, he gets plenty of responders at the scene.

They get more traffic and medical calls than fires, and responders are spread out fairly well through their region. Overall, they get far fewer calls each month than Eureka Springs or Holiday Island, so volunteers must practice to keep sharp. Recently they practiced using the 3000-gallon portable pond and then were put on the spot of needing to use it soon after. The practice paid off.

Availability of water is a concern. Thompson said there are a few ponds here and there but not many east of the White River. Simmons said it takes about a minute for a 3500-gallon tanker to drain its contents before it can return to a water source for more water.

Even though the Carroll-Boone Water District recently locked its hydrants for safety reasons, Thompson commented the arrangement with CBWD is still workable and they have been able to get water there.

Nevertheless he said they are looking for better solutions for filling their tankers.

Thompson said their next big goal would be to make changes and expand Station #2 so they would have room to host trainings or community events. Recently they had training on burns at the Grassy Knob facility because IPRFPD's is just not big enough.

Margy Thompson said, "We have people who are certified trainers, but you can't outreach if you don't have the space."

She also pointed out they have a core group who are reliable, but she does not want them to wear out. There is always a need for more volunteers, and not just for

firefighters or responders. She produces the quarterly newsletter, and in the recent issue, she stated, "Many of you may never want to get near a fire truck, much less hold a hose, and yet we still need everyone's help to keep this a viable department."

She said they could use folks to help with fundraising, participate on

IPRFPD continued on page 31

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Editor — Mary Pat Boian

Editorial staff — C.D. White, Nicky Boyette

Contributors

David Frank Dempsey, Ray Dilfield, Steven Foster,
Becky Gillette, Wolf Grulkey,
Dan Krotz, Risa, Steve Weems

Office Manager/Gal Friday — Gwen Etheredge

Art Director — Perlinda Pettigrew-Owens

Ad Director — Anita Taylor

Director of Office Sanitation

Jeremiah Alvarado-Owens

Send Press Releases to:

newsdesk@eurekaspringsindependent.com

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Letters to the Editor:

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or **ES Independent**

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Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Display ads:

Contact

Anita Taylor at 479.253.3380

anita.ads.independent@gmail.com

Classifieds:

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ES Independent, 103 E. Van Buren, #353, Eureka Springs, AR 72632 or editor@eurekaspringsindependent.com

Hellbenders aren't here

Editor,

People often confuse the Mudpuppy (aka Water Dog) with the Ozark Hellbender. However, there are no confirmed records of the Hellbender in the upper White River of northwest Arkansas. There are only two known records, based on actual specimens, from the White River and both of them are from downstream of Bull Shoals dam. The only recent populations of the federally endangered Ozark Hellbender are from the Spring River and Eleven Point River.

Kelly J. Irwin

Herpetologist

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Hellbenders are too here

Editor,

I have fished the waters of Table Rock Lake, from the Roaring River to the Beaver tail waters for over 30 years. I have fished through all seasons and conditions, from snow and bitter cold to

blazing summer droughts, and I learned that nature does not often reveal its well kept secrets.

I've also encountered more than one person who won't believe anything a fisherman says! However, I can live with that, because I am 100 percent sure that I know what I see, either at the moment, or by doing research on my findings at a later time. I will also throw in that, while my college degree was in art, I minored in biology, which was my first love.

With the information online and in books, there is no doubt in my mind that the amphibian I caught on three separate occasions was an Ozark Hellbender. Each time, I observed that this catch, either on trotlines or while fishing for walleye, appeared at first glance to be a mud puppie. On further investigation, I realized it had no external gills, was about 10-12 in. long and had only four toes. It was a dull grayish-brown with dark splotches on its body. By the time I caught the last one, about four years ago in late winter I knew exactly what I had.

I was recently forwarded a letter from a doubter, casting aspersions on the mere mention that Ozark Hellbenders

exist at all in the White River below Beaver Dam. However, my nature is such that this person's beliefs matter little to me. My critic has studied the species considerably, but perhaps this person would have faith in my sightings if he visited and studied an area he may have never explored.

Roger Shoffit

Tell us if you see a Hellbender

Editor,

A story about Ozark Hellbenders in the Oct. 10 edition of the *Independent* was contested Kelly Irwin, a herpetologist with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and an expert on Ozark Hellbenders who worked to have the creatures placed on the Endangered Species List.

In his brief letter to the editor, Irwin said he suspected the animals that were caught and identified as Ozark Hellbenders by area fisherman Roger Shoffit may have been a different species locally known as a mud puppy. Irwin admits he has never been on the waters near Beaver, Arkansas.

MAIL continued on page 28



WEEK'S Top Tweets

@Timoney68 --- If I could be any animal I'd pick a turtle, strictly for the chance, however slight, I could be turned into a ninja.

@Travis_Lemire --- Oh, you lost your phone and it's on silent? That's too bad. If you liked it then you should've put a ring on it.

@cherrysubmarine --- Poetry would be a lot harder if violets were orange.

@WendyLiebman --- I've been decorating my house for Halloween by not vacuuming or dusting all year.

@Cali_Kid_Mike --- Nice try government. But I'm not taking you back until I know where you've been for the last two weeks.

@Mike_Hunt_05 --- I'm so old that I was the tv remote when I was a kid.

@wesjohnson8 --- "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?" Officer, "Keep it, when you collect four of them, you get a bicycle."



@Zen_Moments --- Among mortals, second thoughts are wisest. ~ Euripides

@AlexFernie --- This whole government shutdown is just viral marketing for the upcoming January government shutdown.

@BarackObama --- Congrats, New Jersey

Stolen goods

We were charmed by the story of a Miami, Florida, cop who was 911'd to a grocery store to apprehend a thief, a woman who had tried to get out the sliding glass doors with \$300 worth of groceries she neglected to pay for because she couldn't. Three hungry children were home and did we already mention the word "hungry" in this sentence?

An in-your-face act of desperation has multiple interpretations: "Are you crazy?" "Can't those children get by on less?" "Why aren't you working?" "Did you really think you'd get away with it?" "Why did you have children if you can't feed them?" Ah, the judgments from the courts, the laws, the grocer, the pious, the public.

The cop, Officer Vicki Thomas, arrived and arrested the woman. "Do you have any food in the house?" Thomas asked the woman. "Not at all," was the answer.

Circumstances happen. Sometimes people cheat others for the money. Or food.

And sometimes people lose their jobs. The money they have paid into unemployment, which comes from both their paycheck and a matching amount from their previous employer, runs out.

What to choose? Three packages of Ramen noodles for 90¢ or loading up with \$300 worth of food to feed a hungry family for a couple of weeks, likely knowing you will be arrested?

Stealing is stealing, the taxpayers will say, whether it's petty cash or public office. A person who will steal will do anything. Arrest them. Well, unless they stole public office.

And that's how it works and the law is the law and people are simply too worn out to deal with it. But while this seesaw of what's legal not necessarily being what's moral is going on throughout our land, we are continuing to judge others by their circumstance.

No matter a person's situation, we all think. Even people with head diseases like dementia think and imagine. We create a world that appeals to us rather than spend our time doing what someone else expects of us. When we must go to a job for which we are not prepared and have little interest, but do it for a paycheck, it's hard to plan for a happy future. Circumstances have a way of sucking the energy out of us, but we still think, even if it's not clearly thought out.

The woman in the grocery store was not violent. She could've just taken out her caseworker or the checker or a boyfriend or the arrester and at least been fed herself for years and years. She committed an act of love that some call stealing. It was not an act of turbulence or danger.

Officer Thomas issued a misdemeanor citation because she pretty much had to because that's what she's paid to do. But she also dug into her own pocket and bought the woman \$100 worth of groceries.

There is a national circumstance of outright thievery and it's happening now. We have hungry people stealing and we have hedge fund managers stealing and we have bishops stealing and we've got a whole bunch of stealers out there.

In the meantime, Pope Francis is shouting from the red tile rooftops of Rome that we should not steal but if we do, get to the root of it. Teach. Forgive. Improve. What happens to make a person steal? We absolutely know we can take care of each other, and our hesitation to do so is as loud as a sonic boom.

We don't know these women and we don't know the Pope. But we do know that it was a flip of the coin whether to make Vicki Thomas, the Pope, or the unnamed stealer This Week's Independent Thinker.

— MPB



The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

My Jack Russell tore the head off a skunk on Tuesday night. I got wind of it – an apt phrase – at bedtime, and knew for the fourth or fifth time in as many years that we were in for a rough night. Not the skunk, plainly: her night and all subsequent nights had become past rough, but the dog would need scrubbing (a thing she hates), we'd be kept up late, and everything would stink for at least a couple of days.

It would take awhile for the dog to know the consequences of her murderous act. Directly after battle, she pranced and danced over the skunk's carcass. She had forgotten, was oblivious, to her impending submersion into the rain barrel, the necessary, awful, rude application of peroxide and baking soda, and the incomprehensible – "Why? What did I do?" – period of weepy banishment to the garage.

Her confusion is honest. She's been bred to kill small, animate things, and the failure to provide her with a granary and granary mice, or corn cribs fertile with rats, is all mine. It is not her fault that I am a mere cheese doodle pusher, the unreliable source of unsatisfying, sedentary walks. How she suffers for my negligence!

Nor can I fault the skunk. They are made to audition for road kill, to walk at night and vanish when night hatches the egg of day. Why this skunk decided, if skunks can decide, to live in town instead of the forest primeval is unknowable to me. I hope my compost pile wasn't a factor in her decision to amble across the back yard. The possibility of heedless, reckless composting weighs on my conscience; how terminal the consequence: *La moufette est mort!*

I can only thank God that the dog happened on a skunk, and not a politician. I'd still have to submerge her in the rain barrel, scrub her with peroxide and baking soda, and banish her to the garage. But common, if undeserved, decency would force me to keep her from tearing the pols head off. That would be discouraging.

INDEPENDENT Constables On Patrol

OCTOBER 14

9 a.m. – An employee triggered an alarm at a business downtown.

11:12 a.m. – Store clerk called ESPD regarding a shoplifter in the store, but the constable who responded discovered the clerk had been mistaken. No shoplifting.

1:58 p.m. – There was a two-vehicle accident on US 62, and two people were transported to ESH.

4:23 p.m. – Gallery owner reported someone had shoplifted items. Constable took a report.

OCTOBER 15

12:45 p.m. – Individual told EPSD someone had broken into her storage unit and taken some items.

4:46 p.m. – Constable provided traffic control.

4:47 p.m. – Constable responded to a burglar alarm at a residence, and found the home was secure.

11:02 p.m. – Individual nearby alerted ESPD to a party going on in Harmon Park. Constable on patrol informed the revelers the park was closed.

OCTOBER 16

12:33 a.m. – Another alarm sounded, and the constable found everything okay.

1:24 a.m. – Someone heard a loud noise by a business on the western edge of town, but constables who went to the scene did not find anything amiss.

7:46 a.m. – A cat with a broken leg bit the hand of the person trying to help. The cat ran away and the person went to ESH. Constable filed a report.

7:55 a.m. – Driver said he had been rear-ended on US 62. There were no injuries.

8:50 a.m. – Animal Control followed two loose and unaccompanied dogs home and issued a warning to the owner.

4:24 p.m. – Individual told ESPD she had

returned home after being gone for a few days, and her pills seemed to be missing. She found them later.

8:08 p.m. – Neighbor reported a domestic dispute going on nearby with a 10-month old child present. The male had grabbed the female but there were no injuries. The male left the premises. Constable spoke with the woman.

9:58 p.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver on a warrant out of Berryville for failure to pay for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

11:10 p.m. – Gas station attendant reported a vehicle had been sitting by the pumps for at least 15 minutes without attempting to get gas. Seemed suspicious. Constable discovered the driver was having car trouble and was waiting for a friend to help.

OCTOBER 17

10:49 a.m. – Concerned observer wondered if the elderly man across the road who seemed to be wandering around was okay. Constable responded, and found the man was just fine.

11:18 a.m. – Constable on patrol came upon a two-vehicle accident on US 62. There were no injuries.

1:45 p.m. – Resident in an apartment said her neighbor had been harassing her. Constable spoke to both parties, and warned the alleged harasser that charges could be filed if the behavior continued.

OCTOBER 18

11:22 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for driving on a revoked license.

7:39 p.m. – Individual near a bar complained the music was too loud. Constables went to the scene and asked the proprietor to turn it down.

OCTOBER 19

1:46 a.m. – An individual just outside

a place of business was screaming for his friend. When asked to move along, he screamed and cursed some more, but walked on down the street. Constable on patrol did not encounter him.

3:01 a.m. – Neighbor complained about the yelling and noise next door. Constable spoke with the homeowner and asked her to turn the music down and keep all the people inside.

8:30 a.m. – Surveillance video at a motel captured footage of the neighbor's dog knocking over trash cans. Animal Control followed up.

7:41 p.m. – Guest at a motel reported her wallet had been stolen out of her room. Wallet showed up the next day.

8:29 p.m. – Constables responded to a report of a loud leaf blower on North Main, but they did not see or hear a leaf blower.

9:48 p.m. – Central dispatch alerted ESPD to a slow, erratic driver who was not staying in the lane. Constable on patrol

made a traffic stop on the vehicle once it got to town.

10:42 p.m. – Another erratic driver reportedly passed on the double yellows in town. Constables were on the lookout.

OCTOBER 20

12:26 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for DWI and driving left of center.

11:38 a.m. – Resident complained that a truck with a trailer was blocking his driveway. He also claimed there had been damage done. Constable responded but decided no report was necessary.

10:30 p.m. – Restaurant employee reported a driver who should not be driving. Constables watched for but did not encounter the vehicle.

11:40 p.m. – Dog owner near downtown reported his Beagle got off its leash. It has a harness but no tags.

11:41 p.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for DWI and the passenger on a Carroll County warrant.

Local Pit Bull Awareness Day Oct. 26

The Good Shepherd Humane Society will host a Pit Bull Awareness Day Saturday, Oct. 26, in Basin Park from noon until 5 p.m. Shelter staff members and volunteers will be on hand with educational information and some

of the shelter's people-loving Pit Bulls longing for a good home. There will be games and a goody bag raffle. So come out and mingle with the crowd, or grab a leash and trot your pooch to the park for an afternoon of informative fun.

National awareness for "Puppy Doe"


Pit Bull Awareness Day on Oct. 26 is actually a national event, given even more impetus this year by the Massachusetts story of Puppy Doe, a sweet-natured brindle female Pit Bull that had to be given up when its owners moved. Unfortunately, new owners tortured the dog savagely over a number of months, the specific details too horrific to print, save to say that few of her bones were still connected and she had numerous long-term and violently-enacted injuries when she was found barely alive.

She did have a little bit of love and a good meal, however, before she had to be euthanized. Her story has prompted several organizations to offer rewards to find the perpetrator, and has even prompted legislation in Massachusetts.

Those aware of the story are keeping tabs on Facebook via the *Justice for "Puppy Doe"* page. (Type as is to get the correct page.)

Meanwhile, heartbroken dog lovers around the country are staging vigils to remember Puppy Doe, and organizers have planned a vigil in New York City on National Pit Bull Awareness Day, Oct. 26.

Locally, we can show solidarity with animal lovers across the nation and also be thankful for the good fortune so many abandoned animals encounter at the hands of a caring staff at the Good Shepherd Humane Shelter. The shelter receives no county or city funding – just the kindness of its donors – so please come support and celebrate the good work they do on Oct. 26.



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Johnathon invites Eurekans to set a spell on his International Front Porch *Mayor proclaims 'WoodSongs Old Time Radio Day'*

GWEN ETHEREDGE

On Thursday, Oct. 24, Mayor Morris Pate awarded folksinger and *WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour* host Michael Johnathon a proclamation making Saturday, Oct. 26, *WoodSongs Old Time Radio Day* in Eureka Springs.

In an interview with the *Independent*, Johnathon extended our readers a personal invitation to come to the AUD Saturday night to enjoy an evening of music and fun while being a part of the live audience for *WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour*. The show will be broadcast to more than a million listeners on 509 radio stations and the American Forces Radio Network (which airs on every military installation and ship) and is also televised via the Public Broadcasting System.

The experience will start outside, where the AUD will be surrounded by buskers to serenade the crowd. "This is what we did in Dublin for a sold-out show of two thousand," Johnathon said. "We don't want to be stars at arm's length from the audience, we want the audience to be part of the show." There will be stories, laughter and music, all in a family friendly manner – so bring the kids.

There are two shows being recorded, the first featuring LeRoy Troy and the Tennessee Mafia Jug Band which Johnathon describes as "*Hee Haw* meets *O Brother, Where Art Thou*." Troy and company's fun and light-hearted music has taken them far – from The Grand Ole Opry (at least a dozen times) to the society wedding of Billy Bob Thornton and Angelina Jolie.

The second show features Michael Martin Murphey, a multiple Grammy nominee with six gold records. Murphey has had a profound influence on music and has been called one of the best songwriters in America with hits such as "Wildfire" and "Carolina in the Pines." He even penned New Mexico's state ballad, "Land of Enchantment."

Johnathon said he wants local talent to be showcased as well, and has a line-



up of area musicians who will get some international exposure. These include:

The Clark Family Trio from Searcy, Ark., a mom and two daughters harmonizing with Bill Nesbitt of Little Rock on the guitar.

Banjo Billy of the Ozarks who has been fiddlin' and pickin' for 40 years.

Clancey Ferguson, 15 year-old "Princess of Bluegrass."

The Ozark Alliance from Salem, Mo.

Mountain Sprout, local favorite from Eureka Springs, with high-energy hillbilly music.

David Kimbrough III, bluesman from Northwest Arkansas, who has recently added the mountain dulcimer to his repertoire.

Martin Johnson, native Arkansas and acoustic guitarist.

It all happens on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the auditorium. Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. The *WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour* can be viewed live online as it happens at folk-book.com, for a one-time fee of \$5.95. The radio broadcast is set to air about nine weeks later.

Johnathon, who spent three years in the Appalachian Mountains learning



folk music, is a folksinger, songwriter, playwright and promoter in addition to being founder of *WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour* and an innovator in making the old music traditions accessible in the world of technology. He will also perform in Basin Park along with Melissa Deaton on Friday, Oct. 25.

Event Schedule:

Wednesday, Oct. 23: Barefoot Ball at the Basin Park Hotel. Doors open 7:30, music by The Hillbenders at 8. Tix at www.theaud.org.

Thursday, Oct. 24: 66th Annual Queen's Contest in the Auditorium, 7 p.m. Our lovely young ladies change it up this year by performing a talent or giving a speech. Come cheer them on and see who will preside over the folk festival parade as Grand Marshal! The inimitable Hedgehoppers will also be performing.

Friday, Oct. 25: Free folk music

starts at noon in Basin Park with Michael Johnathon and Melissa Deaton along with a host of great Ozark musicians and Josh Jennings, winner of the 2012 Singer/Songwriter contest.

Saturday, Oct. 26: Free music starts at 11:30 a.m. in Basin Park, featuring the Ozark Folk Festival Singer/Songwriter contest.

The Folk Festival Parade begins at 2 p.m. followed by more music from Michael Johnathon in Basin Park.

Then, get ready for "the big one" in the auditorium! One ticket gets admission to both live broadcast tapings of the *WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour*. Doors open at 7 p.m., show at 7:30. Get tix now at www.theaud.org.

Sunday, Oct. 27: Wind it all down but still keep 'yer toes tappin at the Gospel Folk Brunch in Basin Park with Brick Fields. Free music starts at 12:30 p.m.



Storytelling via photography

Artist and photographer Melanie Myhre will present a one-day workshop Saturday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the OM Sanctuary, 266 County Road 3027.



This workshop will show photographers techniques used in storytelling fine art photography. Photographers will participate in inspirational creative exercises and storytelling photo shoots. A

model with elaborate wardrobe and outdoor scenes will be available to work with, providing a unique, hands-on learning experience. Each photographer has the opportunity to come away with new techniques and perspective no matter what type of photography they specialize in or how much experience they have.

Limited to 10 participants. Registration required before the day of the workshop. Call (479) 981-3765 to register, and see www.28rites.com for directions. More details on the workshop at www.melaniamyhrephotography.com/workshops.

FRESH-ly painted pumpkins – one-of-a-kind art up for bid

Come watch local artists paint pumpkins at FRESH at the Emporium on N. Main from 5 – 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, then bid on your favorite in a silent auction and take it home the next day to decorate your porch for Halloween or your table for Thanksgiving!

You don't even need to wait for your favorite artist to complete their work before you bid, but take note – bidding

won't conclude until noon on Thursday, Oct. 31. After that, winning bidders can pick up their unique pumpkin(s).

Browse the Emporium, opening at 10 a.m. on Thursday, and have a delicious lunch at FRESH while keeping an eye on the bidding sheets. Money raised will go toward youth scholarships at Eureka Springs School of the Arts, and you'll have a unique Halloween treasure.

The Lesters in concert plus Fall Arts and Crafts Fair Nov. 2

Part of "Family Fest 2013" in the Village at Pine Mountain will include a performance by The Lesters in the Pine Mountain Theater along with the 3rd Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair.

The fair features handcrafted items created by dozens of regional artists and crafters in the Village parking lot from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Lesters will perform in the Pine Mountain Theater at 2 and 8 p.m. The Lesters

have been mainstays in southern gospel music for decades and present a lively variety of southern gospel favorites. Admission for the Lesters' concert is \$15 for adults and children under 12 are admitted free.



Ladies Man a fabulous French farce romp – Seen here is the Holiday Island Association of the Arts Guild's cast for *The Ladies Man*: Noah FitzPatrick, Bill Harris Ron Huibregtse, Susan Vernier and Vicky Vander Horn. Not shown are Tom Lukken, Clare Thompson Roy and Mary Kolbe. The fast paced and uproarious production, set in the early 1900s, will be performed Nov. 7, 8 and 9. A dinner theater on Thursday night (limited seating - \$27.50 per person) will begin at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday night productions (\$10 per person) are at 7 p.m. For information and tickets, call (479) 253-7766 for the dinner theater or (479) 253-5622 for Friday and Saturday tickets.

Call for artists, silent auction items for Veterans' Day show

Artists are welcome to submit work for the 2nd Annual Veterans' Art Show at Caribé on Sunday, Nov. 10. All vets can enter any artwork they choose. Non-vets are encouraged to enter work honoring vets, military, peace, patriotism, etc. Everyone is welcome to enter, but should phone Lezlie Foley (405) 320-0011 now so

she can plan space.

New this year, there will also be a Silent Auction of art, merchandise, gift certificates and more from Noon – 5 p.m. during the show, all to honor and support our veterans. Anyone with art or items to donate to the auction is encouraged to phone Jay Vrecenak (479) 363-6029 as soon as possible.

Mad hats make merry

Eureka Springs School of the Arts (ESSA) 10th Annual Mad Hatter Ball is Friday, Oct. 26! Pick-up your ball tickets in the lobby of the Crescent Hotel from 6:30 p.m. and kick up your heels to the music of Red Ambition in the Crystal Dining Room. Take a break from the dance floor for an Italian pasta dinner and to place your bids in the silent auction in

the conservatory. See who's going home with a beautiful one-of-a-kind art work by featured ESSA instructors. Enter the hat contest for a chance to win a five-day workshop at ESSA in 2013! All proceeds raised support educational programming at ESSA. Don't have a ticket yet? Get one now at www.essa-art.org under "Events," or by calling (479) 253-5384.

House concert features Audrey Auld

Eureka House Concerts presents Nashville singer/songwriter Audrey Auld on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 17 Elk St. This Australian transplant was raised in the bush in Tasmania without television or radio. She studied dancing and took up the classical violin in a musical family – her father played jazz piano and her stepfather had a jazz band. She eventually moved to town and became immersed in the popular music of the 1970s. Auld is said to have captured the art and soul of Americana twang music. Opening for her will be Fayetteville's Air Loom.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with a meet/greet and potluck. Music starts at 6 p.m. For more information visit eurekahouseconcerts.com or call (479) 244-0123.

Paranormal activity at the AUD – more will be revealed

C.D. WHITE

Alan Silva, founder of Arkansas Paranormal Investigations (API), brought a team to Eureka Springs on Oct. 19 to investigate possible paranormal activity in the lower level of the city auditorium ... and found some.

The team spent about 10 hours in the auditorium – from 4:30 in the afternoon until 2:30 in the morning. “We still have a lot of footage to review but at this point we can definitively say we did capture paranormal activity,” Silva told the *Independent*.

“We were able to get responses with a flashlight that we had set up. We would ask questions and the flashlight would turn on by itself and off when we asked it to do so. We also had some questions being answered by audio alerts. Asking a spirit to sound one of our audio devices, it would come on and off as questions were asked. We also have some photos that have anomalies in them,” Silva said.

One witness who was present during the investigation reported, “They found several of what they referred to as ‘areas of interest.’ One in particular got them really excited. Their various sensors got real twitchy in one area of the basement. In answer to a battery of questions, they got responses that seemed to indicate they were communicating with a twelve-year-old boy.”

Silva didn’t mention the boy in his comments to this paper, but noted there was still a lot of footage to go over, and said he will be doing a “Reveal with Ray” from the auditorium once all the evidence has been reviewed. API will also provide a DVD with the footage and photos that were captured. The API team reportedly has more than 20 years of investigative experience and has traveled the country conducting investigations.

Meanwhile, let’s see what the Dance of the Dead can shake loose in the deep downstairs darkness of the Aud on Nov. 2!



PHOTO BY MELANIE MYHRE

Aud-ities – Alan Silva and team investigator, Pam Bunch, check out some oddities on several sensors they used to detect paranormal activity in the lower level of the city auditorium on Oct. 19.

Carroll County Weekend at Great Passion Play!

Carroll County residents can enjoy The Great Passion Play’s final season performances for a special price Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 and 26. Now that things may have slowed down for busy locals, this is a good time to see what’s new at the Play and the many venues on the grounds. Tickets are only \$5 with proof of residence in Carroll County and are good for the Play, Bible Museum,

Sacred Arts Museum, free music concerts, David the Shepherd and the Parables of the Potter.

Randall Christy, CEO of the Passion Play, spearheaded the effort to make a 2013 season possible. “I know everyone here at the Play is so thankful to the residents of Carroll County for their prayers and support,” he commented. “This season has been such a success that we have

released the 2014 schedule and are already selling tickets and booking groups for next year.”

Reservations can be made online at www.greatpassionplay.org with the coupon code “CARROLLCOUNTY,” made over the phone at (800) 882-7529, or in person at the box office. Present valid photo ID or proof of residence when you pick up your tickets.

NOTES from the HOLLOW by Steve Weems

Through much of its history, Eureka Springs had a small but vibrant community of African-Americans centered on Cliff Street below W.O. Perkins Lumber. My understanding is that the number of black Eureka residents dwindled through the decades until only Richard Banks remained. After the strong response to last week’s column, I have several additional stories about this legendary local man.

Seeing Rich around town was an everyday occurrence and everyone knew him. Tori Bush remembers walking home from school and seeing him sitting at the bottom of Benton Street whittling. Like others, Butch Berry remembers numerous rides in Rich’s Model A Ford up Benton Street to school.

Several mentioned that Rich enjoyed his beer but would not go into the Hi Hat. When Butch Berry’s father was home on leave from the Air Force, he’d take beer out to Richard. Likewise, Marc Speer remembers his father taking beer to Rich sitting on the steps outside the Hi Hat. He said that at the time you could buy beer to go, and Rich would ask men he trusted to buy him five cans of beer instead of a full six pack, since five cans is what he could drink. As Marc Speer said, “The man knew his limits.”

Working off my father’s recollection of men wagering at the feed store on how much weight Richard Banks could lift, including feed sacks with his teeth, I asked about his physical strength. Turns out he was even stronger than

I imagined, especially for a man of medium stature.

When Rich would have been about 24 years old, McKinley Weems watched him unloading a truck at the wholesale grocery. He lifted 100 pound sacks of sugar and put one on each shoulder and then with each hand carried another 100 pound sack, moving 400 pounds of sugar at a time. He could also unload a 50-gallon wood barrel of vinegar by himself.

Gayla Wolfenbarger tells how Richard Banks often had dinner with the Mullins family at Pivot Rock, and while in the hospital at the end of his life, they visited him daily.

Even though he was living out west by this time, when Tommy Hughes read in Virginia Tyler’s column in the



Times-Echo that Richard Banks was hospitalized, he mailed him a get-well card. It was returned advising that the addressee had died.

Send your comments to steve@steveeweems.com or P.O. Box 43 in Eureka Springs.



Mamma Mia! – September’s Holiday Island Presbyterian Church Spaghetti fundraising dinner was a roaring success. CASA and Meals on Wheels each received a check for \$1,850! Pictured from left are Reverend Clare Kelley, HI Presbyterian minister; Jerri Marlowe, Carroll County Senior Activity and Wellness Center Director (Meals on Wheels); Mary Osborn, Older Youth Specialist, CASA of Northwest Arkansas; and Don Shafer, Mission and Outreach Chairman of HI Presbyterian. Special appreciation to everyone who bought tickets, prepared food and joined in to support something so important.

“Voices” event something special – grab the last chance to see it

Last weekend more than 500 people heard stories, both poignant and humorous, from some of Eureka’s most interesting residents who lived during the 1920s and ‘30s and now reside in the silent city. If you’ve never been to one of these productions, you’re missing something special.

Come out with friends and family to enjoy this season’s last performances of “Voices from Eureka’s Silent City” living history cemetery tours Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 and 26. Learn some intriguing facts about our town and have a good time doing it.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., tours leave every twenty minutes until 8:30 p.m. from the parking area on US 62E at the former Victoria Inn, with free shuttle service to and from the cemetery. Tickets are available there, or in advance at the Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce, all Cornerstone Bank locations and the Historical Museum, 95 S. Main.

Tickets are only \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under. This event benefits the Eureka Springs Historical Museum. For more information phone Steven Sinclair, museum director (479) 253-9417 or email director@eurekaspringshistoricalmuseum.org.

TheNATUREofEUREKA by Steven Foster

Watercress – A kindred herb



As we transition through the seasons, signs of the past blend with what is to come. Cool spring-fed creeks hold for me a reminder of spring; before winter has yet to begin. Perennial and annual wildflowers along creekbanks have gone to seed and turned dormant. The leaves of deciduous woody plants fade from green hues to fall colors, whether vibrant or dull. It’s easier to get to the water’s edge, through stick-tights, beggar’s lice, and other hooked, barbed or Velcro-like seeds and dry fruiting bodies will snare your clothing, hitching a ride, choosing you as their seed-dispersal vector.

One plant that hunkers down during the hot weather, then turns lush in spring-fed moving water in the Ozark winter is watercress. Bunches of watercress sometimes make their way to groceries or places where specialty vegetables are sold. As a rather hot-tasting mustard, one can only eat so much of it. Watercress is best used as a secondary leaf ingredient in a fresh salad or a great soup vegetable.

It is a kindred herb, a neglected free food, best at this time of year before it flowers and produces seed in the spring, at which time the leaves become more pungent and less palatable. By Thanksgiving, watercress has shed its straggly

summer growth and its fast-growing leaves are tender, lush and vibrant. Take it from waters that are free from pollutants, as the leaves can uptake toxins and heavy metals from water. Of course, you should wash it well before consuming the leaves.

Botanists now call it *Nasturtium officinale*, after a few years of suffering through the Latin name *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*. It is not to be confused with our garden nasturtium with its bright orange and yellow flowers. That plant, *Tropaeolum majus* hails from the Andes, and borrows its common name from the Latin name of watercress, given their similar flavors, though they are unrelated in every respect. The essential oil in watercress leaves have organosulphur compounds that give them their bite and distinctive flavor.

It is impossible to determine where this plant originates. It occurs in virtually every country with cool fresh, running water. It was observed in America as early as 1630, and was likely already here before Europeans arrived. Here is a plant that defies all cultural and geographic barriers and blurs the line between food and medicine.



Fame Came Late © is an **unpublished historical manuscript** written by Lida Wilson Pyles (1906-2000). It is the story as she was told about Eureka Springs bear hunter, John Gaskins. Pyles married into the Gaskins family in 1924.

Slick had totaled the amount we owed the men, just as we had instructed him to do. He had written the check I had signed and took it out to the store where he received cash for it. But there his compliance with our instructions ended.

He had taken the cash, gone down under the bridge and into the woods out of sight of the waiting men in the stave yards. There he had stayed hidden until the men, tired of waiting and beginning to suspicion that “they had been had by Slick Jim” went home without their pay.

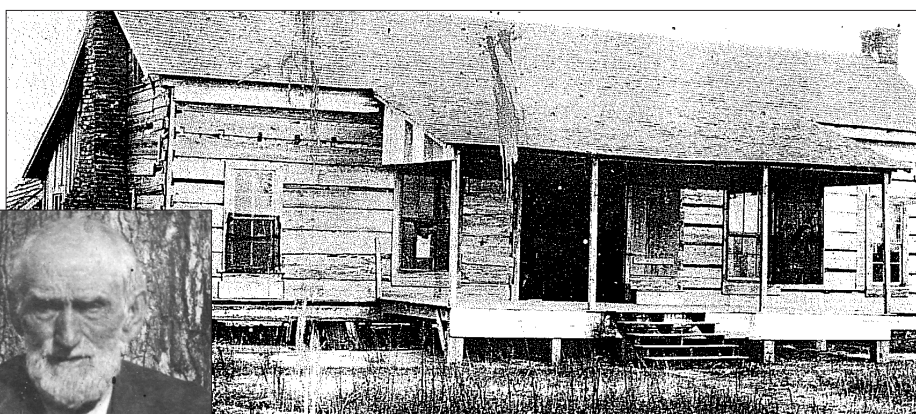
Then, Slick had gone up the road to meet with Mr. Reddick. He explained we were gone because of a death in the family. He told Mr. Reddick he would have to pay the men off in our absence and asked him to make out our check in Slick’s name so that he could cash it and pay the men in cash. It all sounded very reasonable to Mr. Reddick, and he complied with Slick’s request. After all, he had been seeing the man there with us around the stave yards for weeks and knew he was related to us in some way.

During the transaction, Mr. Reddick remembered he was carrying a fresh supply of blank checks for us. He turned them over to Slick, too. We never blamed Mr. Reddick for what happened. After all, we trusted him and knew his reputation.

After Mr. Reddick had gone, Slick went into Eureka Springs to the bank, cashed the check he was carrying, the one written to him. He had no problem cashing it. Then, he not only had the amount of that check, but also had the cash he received from the one I had given him. Remembering that he was still carrying the supply of blank checks for us, he forged my name on one of them in the amount of \$150, which was about all our account would handle. All told, he had almost \$900 when he departed for parts unknown.

We did not see him again for years. Elba swore he would kill him if he ever showed up again, but I knew Slick would talk his way out of it.

It was in July that we returned to Cassville to look after the house and get some clothes. There we found a letter in answer to one we had written to Sallee Bros. in Pocahontas, Ark., applying



for a job. We had not been surprised when we had not received an answer, as nobody had work for anybody. But, this belated answer brought new hope.

They had a place for a man of Elba’s skills and wanted him to come at once.

We did not have any money to make the trip. A friend, Richard Whittington, would take Elba in his car if we could manage the money for gasoline. We traded him the last remaining two hogs, which he sold for the expense money.

Elba stayed there three weeks before he could manage to come back after the children and me. He arrived, driving a car he had borrowed from his new boss.

Elba’s employment with Sallee

Bros. lasted until 1945, by which time we managed to save enough money to buy a business of our own.

Pocahontas grew to be home for us. Many things happened during our stay there. Our second son, Danny, was born there on March 12, 1938. Both of the older ones finished school there.

When the World War II came on, Nina Jean had started working in a hospital in Newport, Ark. There she met and married Elbert Hugh Hutson, who was stationed there with the U.S. Air Corps.

We moved from Pocahontas to Pleasant Grove, Ark., in 1945. During our stay there, Dale married Thelma Smith, the daughter of local people, and her father worked for us.

During all the years we were away, we managed to get back to Eureka Springs at least once a year. Elba’s parents and

mine were in failing health.

It was on one of those visits that we ran into Slick again. We had gone up to see the folks and when we got there, Elba inquired where Emery was. Mama said, “Slick Jim showed up again yesterday and they went out to cut some fence posts to build a new fence around the garden.”

Here he was again. After doing all the damage he had done on his last visit, Slick had come back to take care of a much needed chore around the place!

When Elba started in the direction of where the two were, I was scared to death I knew he was still smarting under the collar remembering the time several years ago when Slick had taken all the money we had and more. He had left us in debt.

I need not have worried. As usual, Slick had talked his way out of danger. Elba told me later that when Slick had seen him coming toward him, he dropped his axe and hurried out to meet him, hand outstretched.

“Little Man,” (the name Slick always called Elba), “I’m so glad you are home again. Your Ma is getting too old to have to spend so much time away from you.”

Not a word was ever said about the happenings of the past. Even though it was never mentioned again between us, we never forgot it. I assume he did. Such tricks were many in his book of memories.

Save the Ozarks Karaoke Halloween benefit

There will be a “Legendary Halloween Bash” at Legends Saloon (formerly the Lumberyard) Oct. 31 beginning at 7 p.m. Spend a fun night for a good cause with a costume contest, door prizes, games and music by DJ driver.

Featured will be “Involuntary Karaoke” – when someone offers a donation to Save the Ozarks to hear you sing! Someone else can up the ante, and the only way you can get out of it is to pay the offered donation or sing, so make sure to practice your scales before you arrive!

A \$10 admission at the door will benefit Save the Ozarks. There will be a cash prize for the costume chosen by guests. Cover charge at the door.

Trunk or Treat?

Is that trunk really full of eyeballs – or is that bubble gum? The First United Methodist Church invites all Halloween trick or treaters to the 10th Annual Trunk or Treat event. It’s a safe and fun alternative to door-to-door trick or treating, featuring treats from the trunks of church members’ cars. Trunk or Treat begins at 4 p.m. Halloween evening and ends at dusk.

Bring your little tricksters to front parking lot of the Methodist Church on Hwy 23S, ½ mile south of US 62. Refreshments will be served under the sanctuary porch. For more information contact the church office or event coordinator Paul Gandy (479) 366-4996.

Which witches hat is which?

Get your broomsticks ready for the Witches Hat Ball on Oct. 31 at Eureka Live Underground starting at 9 p.m. If you want to save your costume for the big contest on Nov. 2, just wear a witches hat (and, well, something else) on Halloween night. No cover charge, just a night of dancing and spending time with others after the children are tucked away.

A drag event and Halloween costume contest will be held Saturday Nov. 2, at 9 p.m. There will be a cash prize for the costume chosen by guests. Cover charge at the door.

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INDEPENDENTNews

Harvest Fest a Success!



Eurekans at Harvest Fest – From left, Yahkie Nauman, Reillot Weston, Graham Duffy, Latigo Treuer, Shaman Hill and Gerry Ball.

Yonder Mountain String Band's Harvest Music Festival 2013 was enormously successful with beautiful fall weather and wonderful musical acts. Held 80 miles south of Eureka Springs, Harvest Fest has become a local favorite.

The event kicked off last Wednesday with a few small shows, and Thursday all remaining stages opened. Thursday featured The California Honeydrops, Hot Buttered Rum, Good Gravy, Sam and the Stylees, JJ Grey and Mofro, as well as our own Ice Cold Fatty, a second favorite of the entire weekend for my cousin, the bass player of another outfit. Les Claypool's Duo de Twang was outlandish in all the right ways. Mr. Claypool may be from another planet.

Friday brought the rain. I took a golf cart taxi to the Media Hut and sat for a featured artists' discussion. Derek and Susan Tedeschi were there, as well as members of Greensky Bluegrass and Turnpike Troubadours. Much of what Derek and Susan said were great representations of the festival: "The music is the music... festival is about community... just kinda part of what we do."

Their statements and smiles conveyed the happiness and love we all attend this festival for. Tedeschi Trucks Band played new songs such as "Made Up Mind." Patrick Sweany has opened for them a few times on their current tour and they appeared on Conan O'Brien this

week. Great Arkansas Show!

It rained steadily all day Friday, but that didn't dampen the spirits of Andy Frasco and the UN, one of my new favorite live acts – such charisma and stage presence. He's a deft pianist and has an awesome accompaniment in his sax player, Ernie. They would go on to lift the Dusty Irish Whiskey from the crowd late, late Saturday. Friday night's last show, still raining, was Mountain Sprout. Bigger stages bring bigger crowds and I recognized about 42 people standing next to me in the rain, all doing a muddy hillbilly jug jig.

Saturday was Gangstagrass for breakfast followed by Beats Antique, a surprisingly funky group I highly recommend for anyone who loves performance art coupled with banging drums. Cool cool cool!

Honky Suckle performed at The Roost Saturday night. These guys get better and better every show, they even let me sing a little ditty with them whilst Chucky Waggs played a mean solo.

The last show of the weekend belonged to Andy Frasco and the UN, a rowdy bunch. He's been into Motown lately so he played a slew of Stevie Wonder songs, "Shout!," even a bit of "Careless Whisper." Fun!

Special shout out to the Carroll County homies who attached a bowling "ball and chain" to my ankle for my Bachelor Party. Some of the most fun I've ever had! (The festival, that is...)

A little help from our friends:

- **Food pantry, furniture bank and used book store** – Wildflower Chapel Food Pantry is open 10:30 – Noon on Fridays. Thrift Store and Used Furniture Bank open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (479) 363-6408. Service times: 253-5108.
- **Coffee Break Al-Anon Family Group Women** – Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m., Faith Christian Family Church, Hwy. 23S. (479) 363-9495.
- **First United Methodist Church offers free Sunday suppers** 5:30 – 7 p.m. Hwy. 23S. Night Church at 6 with short message and music. (479) 253-8987
- **GRIEF SHARE** 13-week grief recovery program begins Oct. 13. Sundays 2 – 4 p.m. HI Community Church Fellowship Hall library (188 Stateline Drive). Join at any time. \$15 workbook fee required. For details phone (479) 253-8925, or e-mail lardellen@gmail.com.

Meetings at Coffee Pot Club behind Land O' Nod Inn U.S. 62 & Hwy. 23S

- **Alateen** – Sundays, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Email alateen1st@gmx.com or phone (479) 981-9977.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Barbara (479) 244-0070.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** – Fridays, 5:30 p.m. (903) 278-5568
- **Al-Anon Family Group (AFG)** – Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays 7 p.m.
- **Eureka Springs Coffee Pot AA Group**
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
All other meetings: See www.nwarkaa.org

It's Folk Festival weekend and that means Basin Park will have live music on Friday and Saturday afternoons, with an AUD performance Saturday night that includes Michael Martin Murphey. In addition to the official Folk Fest performances you can hear: 1 oz. Jig at the Squid & Whale on Friday; Desi & Cody at The Cathouse Lounge on Friday & Saturday; Chucky Waggs at Chelsea's on Saturday & Sunday; and at New Delhi Café on Friday, Josh Jennings performs at noon, then Foley's Van at 6:30 p.m.

Not a fan of folk music? No problem, this is Eureka and you will have no trouble finding music to your liking. For blues fans there is no experience quite

like the Barflies, a Dallas band that will be at Jack's Place Friday and Saturday. On the same nights, Kaps & Stems bring their blues influenced funk sound to Voulez-Vous. R.J. Mischo will play the Squid & Whale on Saturday with his magic blues harmonica.

Just wanna rock? Try Ozark Thunder at Chasers on Friday and Rowdy Beaver on Saturday. While you are at the Rowdy Beaver give your Halloween garb a test run and enter the costume contest that starts at 9 p.m. Left of Center rocks Chasers on Saturday night, as does Third Degree at the Rowdy Beaver Den.

To add a little jazz to your weekend, Caribé will host a CD Release party for Swing and A Miss on

Sunday from 6-9 p.m. The self-titled debut album takes you back to the '40s with hits such as "Hit that jive, Jack" and "If it ain't got that swing." Brought to you by Maureen Alexander on vocals, John Harwood on bass, Arkansas Red on guitar and Tony Harlan on drums, this jazz/swing band will take you to a bygone era.

Voulez-Vous is having an event to honor all service workers on Monday night. Sponsored by the Eureka Springs Gay Business Guild, there will be discounted menu and drink items and a show by Summer Osborne, folk-soul-acoustic rock, and no cover charge. Let the stress of a busy weekend go in style.

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 25

- **BALCONY RESTAURANT**
Hogscalders, 12 p.m. & 6 p.m.
- **BASIN PARK** *Catherine Reed*, 12 p.m., *Emily Kaitz*, 1:30 p.m., *Anna Horton & Handmade Moments*, 3 p.m., *Josh Jennings*, 4:30 p.m., *Michael Johnathon*, 5:30 p.m.
- **BLARNEY STONE** *Sam Clanton*
- **CATHOUSE LOUNGE** *Desi & Cody*, 8 p.m. - midnight
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** *Ozark*

Thunder Toga Party

- **CHELSEA'S** *Mountain Sprout*, 9 p.m.
- **EUREKA LIVE!** DJ & Dancing
- **EUREKA PARADISE** DJ & Dancing *Ladies Night*
- **GRAND TAVERNE** *Arkansas Red* Guitar, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- **JACK'S PLACE** *Barflies*, 9 p.m.
- **LEGENDS SALOON** DJ Karaoke
- **NEW DELHI** *Josh Jennings*, 12-4 p.m., *Foley's Van*, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Karaoke,

7:30 p.m.

- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** *Bottlerocket*, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** *1 oz. Jig*, 9 p.m.
- **THE STONE HOUSE** *Jerry Yester*, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- **VOULEZ-VOUS** *Kaps & Stems Band*, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 26

- **The AUD** *Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour with Michael Johnathon*, 7 p.m.
- **BALCONY RESTAURANT** *James White*, 6 p.m.
- **BASIN PARK** *Singer/Songwriter Contest*, 11:30 a.m., *Ron Landis & Friends*, 2:30 p.m., *The Jones Brothers with Chuck Onofrio*, 4 p.m.
- **BLARNEY STONE** *Brick-Fields CD Release Party!*, 9 p.m.
- **CATHOUSE LOUNGE** *Desi & Cody*, 8 p.m. - midnight
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** *Left of Center*
- **CHELSEA'S** *Chucky Waggs & Company*, 9 p.m.
- **EUREKA LIVE!** DJ & Dancing
- **EUREKA PARADISE** DJ &

Dancing

- **GRAND TAVERNE** *Jerry Yester Grand Piano Dinner Music*, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- **JACK'S PLACE** *Barflies*, 9 p.m.
- **LEGENDS SALOON** DJ Karaoke
- **NEW DELHI CAFÉ** *Steve Jones*, 1-4 p.m., *Pete & Dave*, 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER** *Ozark Thunder*, 7:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** *Jesse Dean*, 1-5 p.m., *Third Degree*, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
- **SMILING BROOK CAFÉ** Open Mic, 6-9 p.m. - BYOB
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** *R.J. Mischo with Nate Boff*, 9 p.m.
- **VOULEZ-VOUS** *Kaps & Stems Band*, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 27

- **BALCONY RESTAURANT** *Steven Emery*, 12 p.m., *Chris Diablo*, 5 p.m.
- **BLARNEY STONE** NFL Game Day-We Have Every Game
- **CARIBE** *Swing and A Miss*, CD Release Party, 6-9 p.m.

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Sun., Oct. 27 • 7:30 P.M. - CHUCKY WAGGS

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Desi & Cody at the Cathouse

— Hear the folk-inspired melodies of this Tulsa duo at The Cathouse Lounge Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 & 26 starting at 8 p.m.



- **CHASERS** *Sunday Funday*
- **CHELSEA'S** *Chucky Waggs*, 7:30 p.m.
- **EUREKA HOUSE CONCERTS**
Air Loom opening for *Audrey Auld*, 6 p.m.
- **JACK'S PLACE** NFL Football with Dylan, 1 p.m.
- **LEGENDS SALOON** Free Texas Hold 'Em Tournament with prizes, 6 p.m.
- **NEW DELHI CAFÉ** *Nathaniel Rogers*, 12–4 p.m., *Handmade Moments*, 5–8 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** *Philbilly*, 12–4 p.m.
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** Local Talent Showcase
- MONDAY – OCTOBER 28**
- **BLARNEY STONE** Monday Night Football
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Pool Tournament, 7 p.m., NFL Specials
- **CHELSEA'S** *SpringBilly*, 9 p.m.
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** Disaster Piece Theater
- **VOULEZ-VOUS** *Summer Osborne*, 7 p.m. *Special event to honor local service workers*

TUESDAY – OCTOBER 29

- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Game challenge night
- **CHELSEA'S** Open Mic
- **LEGENDS SALOON** Pool Tournament, 6:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Hospitality Night
- WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 30**
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Ladies Night – Drink specials, free jukebox
- **NEW DELHI CAFÉ** Open Jam
- **PIED PIPER CATHOUSE LOUNGE** Wheat Wednesday *Draft Beer Specials*
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Wine Wednesday
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** Ladies Night & Pie Social with *Sweetwater Gypsies*

THURSDAY – OCTOBER 31

- **BALCONY RESTAURANT** *Maureen Alexander*, 5 p.m.
- **BLARNEY STONE** *Black Oak Arkansas*
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Taco & Tequila Night
- **CHELSEA'S** *Fossils of Ancient Robots*, 9 p.m.
- **EUREKA PARADISE** Free pool
- **GRAND TAVERNE** *Jerry Yester*

Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

- **JACK'S PLACE** *Karaoke w/DJ Goose*, 8 p.m. – midnight
- **LEGENDS SALOON** *Legendary STO Halloween Bash*
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** *Open Mic Musical Smackdown with Bloody Buddy*, Taco Thursday \$3 Margaritas til 6 p.m.
- **THE STONE HOUSE** *Handmade Moments*, 6–9 p.m.
- **VOULEZ-VOUS** Halloween Debauchery with *Diversity Band*

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Sat., Oct. 26 • 7:30 P.M. – Ozark Thunder

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Contest starts 9 p.m.



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OCT. 26

Halloween DEBAUCHERY



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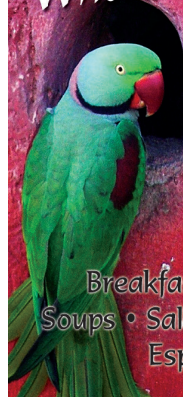
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CELEBRATE the 66th Annual Ozark Folk Festival at the Voulez-Vous Lounge!

Fri., Oct. 25 & Sat., Oct. 26
9 p.m. • No Cover



Open Sun., Mon., Thurs. & Fri. at 4 p.m., Sat. at 2 p.m. | Full dinner service every night | Dinner served until 11 p.m. on Fri. & Sat.
63-A Spring St. | Eureka Springs | 479.363.6595 | Inside the historic New Orleans Hotel



Celebrating a life – On Monday, Oct. 21, family members and Eureka Springs High School classmates of Elizabeth Parker gathered at the school's rain garden to honor the memory of their friend, classmate and loved one. Senior class members took turns speaking to Lizzie's family about their love and feelings of loss for the young woman that would have been graduating with them in the spring. The EAST's Greenway Project planted an Autumn Blaze maple tree in her memory and the Building Trades program crafted a wooden bench in honor of Elizabeth. Mom Sharon Parker (seated in doorway with Lizzie's father, Tim Parker) and her brother placed a QR tag on maple the tree, which can be scanned with a QR app to reach a dedication webpage of pictures and memories. Mrs. Parker challenged the senior class to continue to honor the memory of her daughter by living each day with the passion and commitment Lizzie had.

The mangos have it – Cecilia Berry, right, won first place in the Farmers' Market Pie Contest Oct. 17 with her No Bake Mango Pie. She's pictured here with judge KJ Zumwalt. Second place went to Cathy Norberg for her Dutch Apple and third place to Stu Drizner for his Chocolate Fudge Pie.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

War Eagle Craft Fair – The annual craft fair drew large crowds this year, including this group of ladies enjoying fried turkey legs.



PHOTO BY PAM LEVERING



DROPPING A Line by Robert Johnson

This week I bring you a pic of Greg Summers from Kansas City with one of the stripers he caught out of Beaver Lake Oct. 18. This one fought so hard that he just kept going belly up when we tried to let him go so I got some meat in my freezer.

Beaver Lake surface temp is down to 67°, which is bringing these fish and bait closer to the top. We caught all our fish on shad, but always keep a big top water bait ready to cast when a big school boils up. It can get exciting. My two favorites are a five-in. Zara Spook and a six-in. inch blueback, white belly Redfin with a white buckhair treble hook on the back.

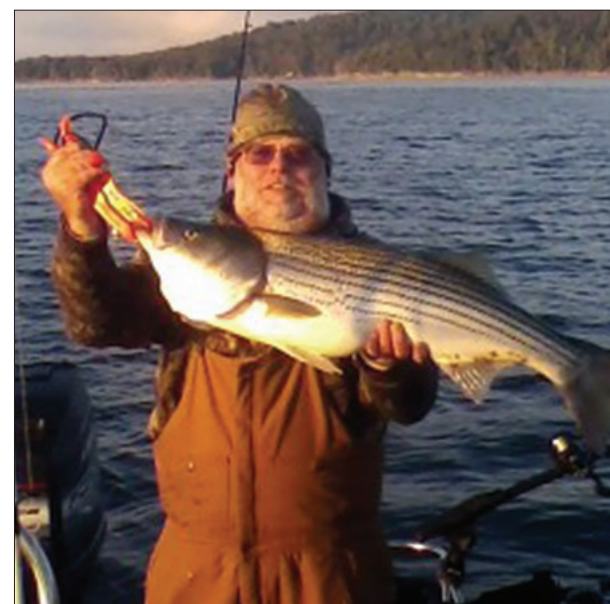
Had a buddy call the other day who got into a school in the day use side of the dam this week. Another buddy took my advice and has been renting a rowboat from Lake Leatherwood and putting in his own troll motor and battery for some good top water

bass at a very low cost.

Here at Holiday Island our surface temp was down to 67° on my crappie trip Thursday. We ended up with eight good slabs, some bluegill and some bass, all caught on minnows about eight ft. deep. Bass are doing good on top and the walleye are moving closer to the drop off flats of the Island. Big stringers of perch are also being caught off the shoreline.

The mornings have been cool but we have been warming up fast with good action. These fish have been waiting all summer for cool water. Now is a great time to get in on some good fishing. A lot of us guides have a lot of open days now since deer season has opened. If you can't get out on your own check out my web page for specials we are running on both lakes. www.fishofexcellence.com.

Well, that's it for this week. Nice to have our boat launches open and don't forget to take a kid fishing.



Details, details...

As usually happens in the waning hours leading up to a major production, a virtual cyclone of minutiae consumes the attention of all concerned. Seemingly minor details, left unattended, seem to have a tendency to sneak up and sink their fangs into one's hindquarters when least convenient. As a result, one spends an awful lot of time trying to anticipate the potential pitfalls and work to their prevention before they finish teething.

Inevitably, these hidden traps require an extensive range of experience and skill sets to even recognize, much less ameliorate. Besides the basics of theater stagecraft – sound, electrics (theater-speak for lighting), rigging and carpentry (which, again in theater-speak, means far more than just cutting wood) – it helps to have some chops in facility management, building maintenance, electronics maintenance & repair, construction, concessions/catering management, vendor negotiations and



scheduling, volunteer coordination, ticketing & box office management, advertising & promotion, artist relations, finance & budgets, general office skills, and event production.

Throw in liberal helpings of remote video, audio, and film production, years of experience with the needs & expectations of touring productions – from both sides of the coin, and top it all off with garnishes of politics and a dash of contract law and you're almost there. (btw – it's not enough to just *know* about all these things; with limited staff, you'll also have to be willing and able to *do* any or all of them)

Don't forget to add in considerable time management and multi-tasking skills on the side.

Despite the demands of the immediate project, there's also a considerable pipeline (which didn't just fill itself) of upcoming projects demanding attention. Concentrating only on the immediate matters at hand is an open invitation to the aforementioned fangs. There's only so much hindquarter to go around.

If you're really lucky, you'll be able to delegate some of these tasks. Even that, though, turns out to be a double-edged sword because you'll still have to be able to coordinate what the surrogates are doing. Without some overarching supervisory authority and coordination coming from somewhere, the potential conflicts and gaps tend to multiply rather than be reduced.

Yep. Piece o' cake.



Stars And Stripes Forever show kicks off flag fundraiser

Eureka Springs will soon be showing its stripes (and stars) all around the city permanently. The American Legion, Walker-Wilson Post #9, in cooperation with Mayor Morris Pate and the Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce, has announced a new Flag Initiative that will place American flags on existing utility poles throughout town.

Flags will be placed on poles with streetlights, allowing them to be installed permanently. The project will be accomplished in stages – the first from the top of Planer Hill to the train station. Plans include adding a larger flag at the top of Planer Hill and encouraging residents and local businesses to display flags at their homes and places of business.

A special fund is being established through the American Legion to cover the cost of purchasing flags. To kick off fundraising efforts, the Pine

Mountain Theater is hosting a special show, "Stars and Stripes Forever," during Veterans' Day Weekend on Friday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m., featuring special music by local performers along with Presentation of Colors by the American Legion Color Guard. Highlight of the evening will be a keynote address by retired Air Force Lt. Col. Steve Gray, currently serving as senior military and veteran's affairs liaison for Sen. John Boozman.

Individuals can sponsor a flag for \$50, and local civic clubs and organizations are being asked to consider supporting this event. Mayor Pate has issued a challenge to anyone, pledging he will match a single donation of \$500.

For more information contact Jack Baker, (479) 253-2519 or Mike Bishop, (479) 244-7641. Donations can be dropped off at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center located in the Village at Pine Mountain.

Local Lions Club celebrates Founders' Night

Just in time for the Lions Club Charter Founders Night, the new Eureka Springs-Holiday Island club received a Melvin Jones (founder of Lions Clubs International in 1917) Fellowship patch to place on the club banner. There will be celebration Saturday, Nov. 2, at Forest Hill Restaurant at 6 p.m., cash bar at 5:30 p.m.

A number of neighboring club presidents and district governors and past governors will be in attendance to give blessings to the new organization. Members of the public are invited to attend, particularly former Lions who now live in the area. Cost is \$15 prepaid or \$20 at the door. Contact Cheryl Malone at cheryl@arkansas.net or phone (479) 253-4010.



Seeking a glass slipper – The Hillbenders awesome sounds got these local ladies to take off their shoes and barefoot it at the Barefoot Ball on Wednesday night. From left, Mary Howz, Amanda Haley and Candace Duling danced at the 66th Barefoot Ball in the Basin Park Hotel.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

Dare the hair and cheer the beard

The first-ever Great Ozarkan Beard-Off is Nov. 29 – Dec. 1. But guys, you need to prepare now for the Clean Shave contest. Start out on Friday, Nov. 1, with a clean shave and see how much hair you can grow by Nov. 29. You could win up to \$300 for the most beard growth in November!

Besides being a good excuse for not shaving, the weekend Beard-Off is a great fundraiser for the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation. Men of all ages from all over are invited to compete in several categories of hairiness – from all around great hair to beards, mustaches, sideburns, partial beards and free-form styling. There are plenty of chances to enter, including five categories containing three contests each, including a Grandpa Beard category – at least 15 chances to share your hair with flair and win cash and prize packages.

And ladies, there's also a Fake Beard category in which you can compete along with the gents. Be creative. We don't care if you make a beard and/or moustache out of old love letters (but if you can grow it, flaunt it!).

Prizes range from \$300 – \$100 for top three rankings in *each* category all the way up to a \$1,000 Grand Prize package for the Grizzly Adams of the Ozarks Award for Best Overall Hair. You can even get a group of guys, fellow employees or schoolmates together and enter one of the Group Beard categories.

Contests for different categories



PHOTO BY GREG ANDERSON

will take place at various venues around town. A full schedule and locations map is posted on the GOBO website. A “Bingo” card will also be handed out to be stamped at each venue and turned in for prizes.

The best part is, you don't have to worry about growing or grooming a beard at all – make someone else do the work and *sponsor* a beard!

For details on all contests, sponsorships, registration forms and updates see “Great Ozarkan Beard Off - GOBO Eureka Springs” on Facebook, visit www.goboeureka.com, phone (417) 310-2605 or email goboeureka@gmail.com. Contest details, prizes and some awesome exemplar beards are also featured in the November *Independent Fun Guide*.

Fall Diversity Weekend: “I do” and “Boo!”

Aspiring brides, grooms, zombies and all manner of goblins and ghouls will materialize and at times intermingle on the streets of Eureka Springs during Fall Diversity Weekend, Nov. 1 – 3.

In addition to a host of events already on the calendar, locals John Rankine and Bill King, partnering with the new Eureka Springs Gay Business Guild, have scheduled a series of open-to-the-public events designed to raise awareness of and financing for the campaign for same-sex marriage equality in Arkansas. First up is a bachelor/bachelorette party at the Voulez-Vous Lounge on Friday, Nov. 1, with musical group Big Bad Gina.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, participants can join King and Rankine in a symbolic

act applying for marriage licenses at the Carroll County Courthouse; followed by a wedding brunch at Caribé Restaurant y Cantina, the reciting of vows at the traditional Public Display of Affection in Basin Spring Park, a wedding march on Spring Street and, finally, a wedding reception at The Space at 2 Spring St.

Other highlights of the weekend, include live music at Henri's Just One More, Voulez-Vous Lounge and the New Delhi Café, drag shows at Eureka Live Underground and a Day of the Dead Parade and Zombie Crawl.

And there's still more. See the complete Fall Diversity schedule of events with times, locations and a printable schedule at www.outineureka.com.

'Tis the season –

Senior Abbey Moore swished a free throw against the Omaha

Eagles in a home game Tuesday night. The senior girls fought hard, losing the game by just two points, 29-27. Senior boys beat Omaha 73-42, with all five starters scoring double figures.

The student section in the background show support for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month with their sea of pink.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE



Arvest Bank VP, Allen Huffman, addresses FBLA

Allen Huffman, Vice President at Arvest Bank and Eureka Springs High School graduate, was interviewed recently at the school during the Stage Talks program for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Huffman shared his high school and college dreams to be a professional golfer, his college experience at Arkansas Tech, what led him to return to Eureka Springs and how he became a VP at Arvest Bank.

FBLA is sponsored by Sherry Sullivan, Business Education teacher at ESH, who was thrilled to have the new FBLA/Eureka Springs Downtown Network program for her students. The Stage Talks are a monthly event showcasing a business leader in the community in a fun, informative environment that allows students to ask questions and consider what the future might hold for them in Eureka Springs after college.

Whose burger reigns supreme?

It could be yours! Find out Friday, Nov. 8, at the 2nd Annual Bragging Rights Hamburger Cook Off from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Pine Mountain Village as area restaurants and grill cooks as well as home grillers vie for bragging rights and trophies.

The public samples the wares, votes and gets a tasty lunch for only \$2. Competing area restaurants and grill cooks, as well as individuals who think they have a special way with a burger, will be serving up their best meaty

creations. All you need to compete is a grill, serving table and a burger-dressing person to serve up the goods.

Entry fee is \$25, with all proceeds going to support the American Legion's community services. Trophies and bragging rights awarded to restaurants, the best grill cook *and* best home griller. The public gets to judge! The event is part of Veterans' Day Weekend activities. To sign up, see the Facebook Page “Eureka Springs Veterans Day Parade” or phone (479) 253-2519.

Ahimsa – Doing No Harm

With Mercury retrograde in Scorpio, we are in a time of renewal, tending to matters of the past that, eventually, must be left behind. It's a time of rest and inner reflections resulting in illumination (Scorpio's meditation). During times of reflection (Mercury's retro in Scorpio), our minds review and assess the past. We focus on finances, values, aspirations and motivations. With Scorpio it's important to explore emotional intimacy. We're more sensitive at this time.

Libra last month restored balance. Now, with Scorpio, we're plunged once again into states

of dis-equilibrium, entering mysterious waters, experiencing the Nine Tests (Nine-headed Hydra) of Mars (ruler of Scorpio). Our personality (physical body, emotions, concrete mind) is tested for strength and adaptability. Can it withstand the Light of the Soul?

We enter into conflicts and chaos, attempting to move "from darkness to Light, from death to Immortality." Struggling toward the Light, we enter into battle. The Way is not easy; there are many obstacles. The opposites of Libra, now merged (why Scorpio is known as the sign of sex), seek to absorb

each other (the battle of fusion).

Fusion produces transformation. The personality, Soul & Spirit (Life itself, Monad, permanent atom) Lights meet, blend and rise up. We become Hercules, the Hero(ine)-Disciple. The Dweller (Saturn) and the Angel of the Presence face each another. Which will we choose? Mercury retrograde in Scorpio calls us to practice Ahimsa – "We think no thought & dream no dream that could harm our brothers & sisters & thereby dim their light. We see our brothers & sisters in the Light & with them, hand in hand, we walk toward the Light."

ARIES: You might find yourself called to instruct or teach. There may be those who will follow you to the ends of the Earth if what you have to teach is valuable and pertinent to the needs of the times. You may be considering a trip, vacation or relocation far away. Careful with legal situations. Humanity's rights and freedom are important to you. For Halloween you are the Alchemist philosopher.

TAURUS: It's most important to form partnerships of cooperation and shared resources. You're learning each day how to work, how to not always stand alone. Loans, taxes, finances, wills, selling and/or purchasing land are of concern. You observe the world's financial situation to determine the best way to secure personal resources. A loss will gradually be overcome. You are Charon, death's boat keeper. You collect pennies.

GEMINI: You seek to form new partnerships and create new rules and rhythms within existing ones. You need to bond completely with another. Careful not to create hostility as you come close. Seek only to form harmonious relationships. Create a project with others, including physical work and activity. Shared activity brings everyone together. From romance to sex to enmity to harmony, you're the leader. Gemini is the Lovers card.

CANCER: Each day you have important work to do, great strides to make. Much is expected of you. You meet challenges,

make needed changes, feeling extra strength and courage within. Careful not to leave difficulties for another time. Tend to your health, revitalize your blood's vitality. Allow the Sun to penetrate the back of your neck each day for 15 minutes. This vivifies your entire body. For Halloween you're the Hermit.

LEO: You acquire all things needed for the coming times. There will be both an increase and a saving of resources.

You may initiate new ways of buying or gathering valuable and needed supplies. What you've relied on in the past changes. You notice the many levels of attachment and desire in your behaviors. You might discover a chalice of gold or meet a blacksmith. You're Vulcan for Halloween.

VIRGO: All you do in the world highlights your talents, abilities and unique perspectives. You experience self-worth, important in developing a new sense of well-being, identity and confidence. Careful running so swiftly through each day. Accidents occur. All challenges, tests from Mars are overcome easily. You're the Empress/Emperor for Halloween. Or Zeus, clothed in fire.

LIBRA: Feeling concealed, under a web of veils, you seek to emerge into the light of day. Secrets held within your heart, often not accessed, become

conscious. An important project requires you to think, ponder and work alone with deep concentration. Maintain daily exercise and don't ignore feelings. In the silence, you find purpose and reason to transform a long held and sad situation. You're the scales of Justice this Halloween.

SCORPIO: You'll be called to participate in a community of thoughtful intelligent people. It's a call to service and your presence and position are important. You will be tending to someone(s) in need of care. Accomplish a great amount of work and you're released from solitude and aloneness. Eventually, a material goal, held a long time, comes to fruition. You're Socrates this Halloween.

SAGITTARIUS: You assess your ambitions and professional life. You see your progression through the years and how these influence your future. You have given initiative, creativity and direction to your life purpose. It's time for recognition of achievements. Your authority has evolved in leadership. During this time be careful of your public image; maintain patience and understanding with others. Allow no one and nothing in your life to be threatened. Your Halloween persona is the Wheel of Fortune.

CAPRICORN: You seriously consider your life philosophy, what you support

politically, the educational interests calling you, and whether teaching is your profession. You will need to make an important decision. Call forth Right Timing for all activities. Know that discipline (of others) offers them structure, boundaries and rules – all needed for growth. Create a ceremony. Ceremonies anchor us, connecting heaven and earth. You're Persephone (female) or Pluto (male) for Halloween. **AQUARIUS:** The relationships formed in your life all cooperated in helping to create who you are now. Things financial may be of concern. It's best not to mix sex, intimacy and money. You might feel like you've taken your "last stand" on issues dealing with your profession, intimacy and money – three separate issues yet somehow connected. There's a battle. Eliminate all things unnecessary in your life. You're on the Path. You're the Star for Halloween.

PISCES: Relationship is a serious endeavor for you. Each day you learn how to be in relationship. Something significant begins – new realities, agendas and initiatives. You're courageous. Do not be hasty with daily life tasks and responsibilities. There's danger of hurting the self and/or falling. It's an excellent time for great mental work. It's also time to cultivate Right Judgment and the proper use of love. Your Halloween totem is the scales of fairness and equilibrium. You are the light at the end of the tunnel. For everyone.



Risa D'Angeles, founder & director, Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute, a contemporary Wisdom School studying the Ageless Wisdom teachings – the Tibetan's teachings in the Alice A. Bailey blue books, the Agni Yoga Teachings of Master Morya & Master R's teachings. The foundation of the Teachings is Astrology. Email: risagoodwill@gmail.com. Web journal: www.nightlightnews.com. Facebook: Risa's Esoteric Astrology for daily messages.

“However, SWEPCO knew that it was SPP, who is not the applicant, who had rejected SWEPCO’s 161kV line proposal because SPP wanted a 345 kV line to get the benefit of ‘head room’ for purposes of anticipated future projects or development for which there was and is no demonstration of need. SPP’s desire, for its own corporate (or public policy) purposes, for ‘head room’ does not equate to a legally sufficient demonstration of need for a 345 kV transmission line.”

SPP, which is a Regional Transmission Organization that gave SWEPCO a notice to construct the 345 kV line, has said that if the transmission line and Kings River substation are not constructed in a timely manner, the risks to SPP and its members and neighboring utilities are numerous.

No demonstration of need

The filing states that what SPP wants here is not the same as what the public needs, and that the project would achieve

a level of reliability beyond what is legally required and which is not justified from a public need or cost-benefit perspective. Harrison said SPP, using SWEPCO as its agent here, is merely using the concept of such super reliability as a pretext for a project that serves its corporate purposes or some private purpose, meaning there is simply no legally sufficient demonstration of need for the project as proposed.

“SWEPCO’s lack of candor in its application to the commission, regarding which party really wants a 345kV line and why, is sufficient reason for this application for a Certificate of Environmental Computability and Public Need (CECPN) to be denied,” Harrison said.

The filing also takes issue with SWEPCO not obtaining environmental permits for the project to submit with its application. SWEPCO maintains it is acceptable under Arkansas law to obtain these permits after the APSC decides whether to issue the requested CECPN. STO said that position is inconsistent with

an amendment to Arkansas law in 2011 that requires that the APSC consider the relevant environmental permits as part of the APSC’s deliberations on whether to issue a CECPN.

Arkansas Code states the APSC shall not grant a certificate unless it determines that the major utility facility represents

AIRPORT continued from page 2

• Danny Hendricks, flight instructor, announced his intention to purchase two of the hangars for his flight school leases.

• Clark commented he had seen at least three deer meander across the runway during the meeting, and Hendricks said deer are a real problem. He said he has seen at least six close encounters where landing planes suddenly found deer in their path. There was also an incident in which a pilot was making his first solo flight, and Hendricks said just as he took off five or six deer were spotted at the end of the runway. If there had been an acci-

an acceptable adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology, requirements of the customers of the applicant for utility service, nature and economics of the proposal, any state or federal permits for the environmental impact, and the various alternatives, if any.

dent, the plane would have been totaled and his flight school shut down, not to mention injuries to the pilot.

Clark said he has spoken with two excellent well-trained bowhunters who were willing to help the airport with the problem. Evans said they would need to update their annual depredation permit and then proceed.

The commission plans to fence in the entire perimeter beginning around the hangar areas. After that project is completed, the commission will seek state grants to complete fencing.

Next meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 21, at 12 p.m.

GENTRY continued from page 3

depending on weather conditions, the shock could be more like that of an electric cattle prod. This statement was made under oath to the attorneys and the judge, but the 12-person jury was not allowed to listen.

The jury did hear testimony from SWEPCO and Wilmoth’s expert witnesses on health effects, both who said science-to-date has proven no adverse health effects to humans or livestock. Wilmoth’s witness, Dr. Paul Mixon, did say however, it was unwise for people with pacemakers to go near strong electromagnetic fields.

SWEPCO expert witness on health effects, Dr. Louis O. Hosek, denied there was danger to people with pacemakers near high voltage lines. Hosek did admit there were probably no studies of electromagnetic fields on exotic animals and almost certainly no such studies were conducted over the 15 to 20-year lifespan of such animals.

Mixon spoke briefly about the corona or noise generated by high voltage transmission lines saying it could extend well beyond the electromagnetic field.

The jury was also kept out of the courtroom when veterinarian Dr.

Richard Carver testified under oath about his experiences working with the animals at the Safari. Carver said exotic animals could not be compared to cattle. They are much easier to frighten and when they flee they sometimes injure or kill themselves by running into trees or vehicles. He also stressed the importance of Safari Four’s barns, holding pens and other specialized equipment.

Wilmoth said the Safari Four quadrant would remain closed to the public but he might be able to use part of it for raising hay for some of the animals. He has gotten estimates for

purchasing a parcel of land contiguous to the Safari. His total estimate of the land purchase, building of new reservoirs, roads, barns, fencing and holding pens is \$3.1 million.

When asked after the trial if Safari LLC would appeal the verdict, Wilmoth said he was undecided. “If we do it’ll be him on the stand,” he said, nodding toward a younger family member, “I won’t do this again.”

The easement across Safari Four is one of the last parts of the 14-mile-long 345 kiloVolt transmission line from the Flint Creek coal powered plant to Shipes Road at Centerton.

MAIL continued from page 12

By comparison Shoffit has spent hundreds, if not thousands, of hours on the waters near Beaver over a period of almost three and a half decades. He is not a herpetologist, but a self-taught naturalist who can identify almost all the animals and plants around that stretch of the White River/Table Rock Lake body of water.

Roger Shoffit or Kelly Irwin are both bright fellows and men of their word.

If any *Independent* readers have personal knowledge of these marvelous creatures we would welcome hearing of your experiences.

David Frank Dempsey

Treat us like Texas

Editor,

SWEPCO offers incentives for rooftop solar power, but only if you live in Texas. In Arkansas you’re out of luck. It shows they are actually capable of doing the right thing, but here in Arkansas, they have other motives... run massive amounts of power through us but not to us.

The difference may have something to do with the Texas Interconnection. It is a Regional Transmission Organization that is not as demonic (evidently) as the Southwest Power Pool. Can it be that the SPP is the real demon in all this? That SWEPCO’s not

so bad after all? If that could be true, they have some explaining to do to the people of Northwest Arkansas, and some making up to do after this fiasco is over.

I am literally amazed that the judge hasn’t made up her mind by now. The two days of testimony in Eureka Springs should have helped her to understand that Carroll County is a special place filled with remarkable individuals who love this land. That alone should call for an Environmental Impact Statement that was thorough, honest, accurate and not done in such haste. That hearing alone should have helped her understand that we are wise to

the intentions of the utility and SPP. They claimed again and again from day one that their proposal was only about reliability. Sure, if you think a fire hose is necessary to water your tomatoes.

We like things just as they are: trees, salamanders, bats and all, and we’ll fight like wildcats to keep things just as they are, thank you... unless SWEPCO wants to help us just as they do Texans. Rooftop solar, free for all, might help the utility to begin finding its way back into our good graces. And I only say might. It might take years for them to regain our trust.

Doug Stowe

Dear Ma,

I'm a normal, healthy middle-aged man with a normal, healthy appetite, if you know what I mean. My beloved spouse eats like a bird. I compensate for our differing levels of interest in what we both agreed was a safe and non-threatening way; at my desk behind the locked door of my study.

As a fan of Dr. Ruth, Sue Johanson and Nancy Friday, I grew up believing that privately exploring one's fantasies was a normal, healthy part of human sexuality. It sure seemed harmless to me, and the Internet has a menu for any tastes. I'm no addict, but I do enjoy an occasional drive to the dark side of the information super highway.

But now, Ma, every time I start warming up the car all I can see is Peeping Sam in my rearview mirror. Talk about a buzz kill. Thanks to Edward Snowden, all I can think about is some NSA contractor sitting at his computer getting his jollies off my jollies and my tires deflate.

Stranded and Mortified

Dear S&M,

While some sophomoric NSA contractors may be getting their kicks on your Route 66, Ma believes that's the least of your worries. As we continue down the road to Dystopia, it's entirely possible some Christian Taliban group comes

to power and you and your ilk become fodder of public stonings. They've got your number, and, as you know, "the Bible says..."

No matter what one does on the Internet, phone, or by text, it's quite disconcerting to know that Uncle Sam sees and stores every stroke of your keyboard. Big Brother once existed only on the pages of science fiction thrillers, but welcome to 1984, 30 years late.

Ma

Dear Ma,

So, let me get this straight; a huge "too-big-to-fail" mega-bank lures poor and middle-class people into mortgages they clearly can't afford, then packages those bad mortgages as supposedly safe securities, and makes hundreds of billions selling them to pension funds and gullible investors. The mortgagees are homeless and broke, the pension funds depleted, and the bank pays the government \$13 billion, a fraction of what they stole. The bank profits, the government profits, but not even a few crumbs of bread for the pigeons.

Don't Seem Right

Dear Mr. Right,

You've got it in a nutshell. Let them eat cake.

Ma

He also said he had been reading about the beneficial effect of having green spaces in an urban environment. He said a study from Australia even connected green spaces with a decrease in diabetes. He read, "Investments in green spaces are investments in health," and then commented, "Our job is to protect what we have." He said their trail system, which offers opportunities for hiking and biking, makes a difference.

Other items

- Commissioner Myrna Thaxton said she will be speaking to each of the school principals about the Learning Tree project.

- Levine reported the Springs Committee is researching a possible ordinance requiring a sewer inspection upon transfer of property.

Next workshop will be Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. at Harmon Park. They will discuss issues related to Lake Leatherwood. Next regular meeting will be Monday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m.

PARKS continued from page 5

display pattern.

He said the Calif Spring project next to the Historical Museum on Main Street, is progressing well.

There are two possible Eagle Scout projects, one for developing a camping spot on the island at Lake Leatherwood and the other for improving drainage on a part of Planer Hill, which are being proposed.

Levine said the gross income at LLCP was better than last year, and he expects they will close the park for the winter after Thanksgiving.

Chairman's comments

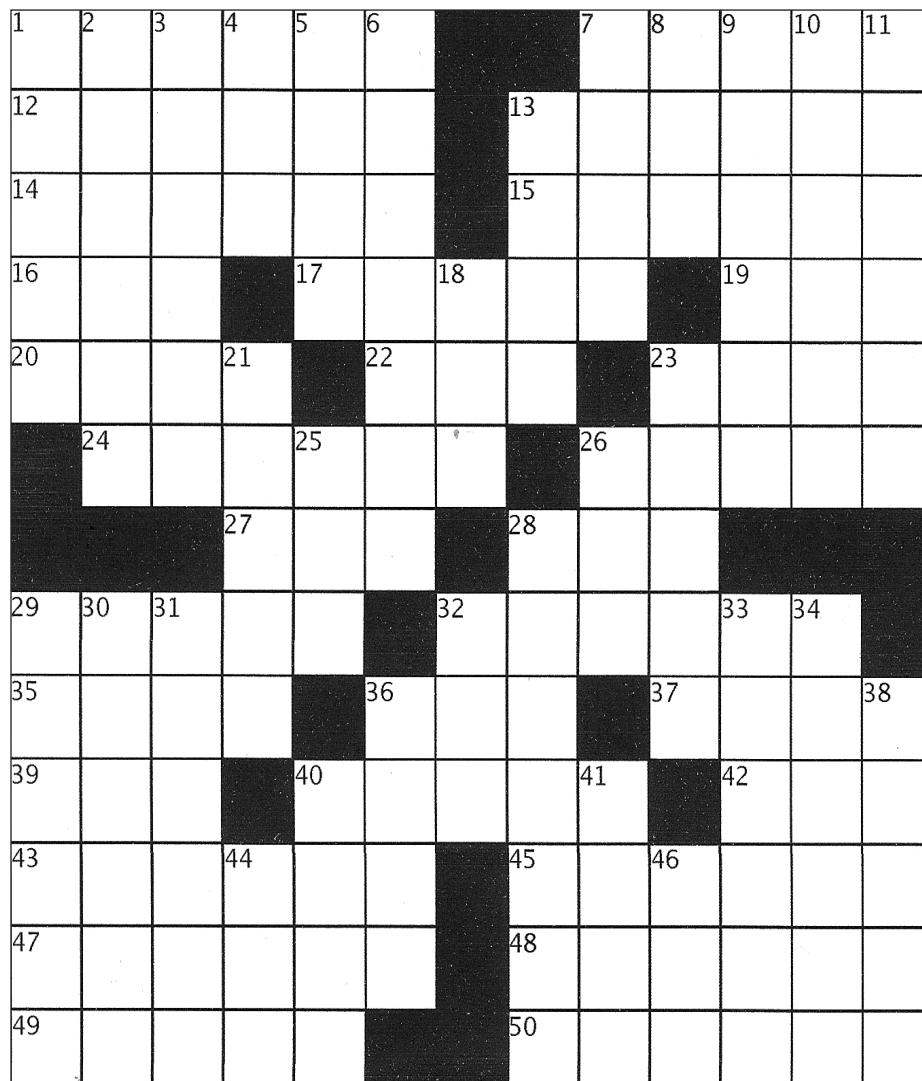
Featherstone commented on the Dog Park Committee fundraiser in Basin Park on Saturday in which committee members sold homemade pet items such as doggie treats and a variety of items. He complimented their "dogged determination" in pursuit of a dog park in Harmon Park.



INDEPENDENT Crossword

by Wayne Levering

Solution on page 31



ACROSS

1. Fear or dread
7. 144
12. Chemical salt
13. Spigot
14. Eat out?
15. Shrewd
16. Solid water
17. Woven thread
19. Not high
20. Primitive tomb
22. Imitate
23. Military station
24. Trouble or woe
26. Keyed up
27. '60s war zone (abbr.)
28. Loudness unit
29. Currency
32. Irish
35. Sources of iron
36. Not night
37. Old television trouble

39. 6th Hebrew letter
40. Whispered story
42. Color gradation
43. Crooked letter
45. Jot down
47. Hard lumps; knotty
48. Slang for caught
49. Fresh raisin
50. Absolute rule

DOWN

1. Theme
2. Draw forth
3. Elementary playtime
4. Sped through Stop sign
5. Ear-related
6. Take back
7. Rough cut
8. Worn groove
9. Visionary?
10. Bristly
11. Blotto
13. Destiny
18. Photo finish?
21. Ditties
23. Folded money
25. Sunbeam
26. Teeny
28. Home of the bayonet
29. Not still
30. Speaker
31. Books in Bloom author Barr
32. Leg
33. Take in air
34. Metal elbow guard
36. Mussolini title
38. Full of dandelions
40. Get up
41. Wander around
44. Cut off
46. Pinnacle

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ESTATE SALE – 35 BURKIMO LANE, Holiday Island on Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Drop-leaf harvest table/chairs, vintage school house desks and bench, harvest cabinet, glider chair/stool, coffee table, twin & double beds, chest drawers, extension ladder, shop vac, bake ware, fireplace tools, exercise bike, miscellaneous items. Dot Hill

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T	E	R	R	O	R			G	R	O	S	S
O	L	E	A	T	E			F	A	U	C	E
P	I	C	N	I	C			A	S	T	U	T
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Hikers “Haunt the Hills” Oct. 28 – The Holiday Island Hikers and Ramblers are shown here enjoying a recent ramble at Crystal Bridges. The walking/hiking clubs will meet again Monday, Oct. 28, at 9 a.m. in Hart’s parking lot for a “Let’s Haunt the Hills at Mount Kessler Trails” trek in Fayetteville. The walk/hike is a three-mile moderate jaunt. RSVP required. Email hihikers@yahoo.com by Oct. 25 to reserve gourmet pizza lunch.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

SOLAR continued from page 6

project, or know we won't, by the end of the 2014," he said. "The idea isn't fully vetted. But it is something we are in very active research and discussion on, and I would welcome any dialogue with people who have interest across the

IPRFPD continued from page 11

special projects, write grants or help those who write grants. Simmons added they appreciate it when there are volunteers who provide sandwiches and drinking water for responders at a fire. Ed Thompson said there is one gentleman who shows up regularly just to clean the station.

Margy said this is the way a volunteer operation works. Since they never know who can show up, they need a large pool available.

As for funding, Simmons explained, “There is a bag of money disbursed by the State to fire districts which meet the requirements.” For Inspiration Point, this amounts to \$13,000 per year, which is about one-third of their annual budget. There is also an annual assessment on property owners in the district that the board wants to increase. The proposed increase for undeveloped property would go from \$30 to \$50 per year, from \$60 to \$100 for properties with a house on them, and commercial properties would go from \$75 to \$125 per year. The proposed

state to share their thoughts with us as we are doing this. Our co-op's mission is to make your life better. If we can find a way to help make something happen with solar that is a better option than putting it on your roof, that is what we are exploring."

increases will be put to a vote of the landowners at the annual meeting to be held Nov. 6 at SkyRidge Resort.

After that, there are fundraisers, barbecues and donations. On Friday, Nov. 8, 5 p.m., there will be a chili cook-off, cornbread baking contest and bake sale at Station 1. You can get a steaming bowl of chili, homemade cornbread and tea for \$5. For more information, contact Margy Thompson at (479) 244-6876.

IPRPFD also conducts controlled burns. They respond when an elderly person needs medical assistance or to car crashes on the curves of US 62. During the Bikes, Blues and Barbecue weekend last month, Inspiration Point volunteers responded to six motorcycle accidents. In August they assisted HIFD in coming to the aid of a motorist who had been swept off the road by raging floodwaters.

And three years ago, they were a whisker away from disappearing. If you need their help in an emergency in the Inspiration Point district, call 911 and IPFD will be there.

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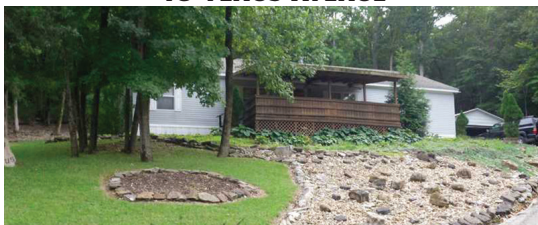
E-mail: morganrealestate@cox-internet.com

6 WOOD CIRCLE



Architecturally designed home in prestigious Eureka subdivision in private, in-town location. Private fenced pool for end of day relaxation, custom-built children's play house. Oak flooring, double faced fireplace warms great room and dining room. Super upper loggia for office/media room. Top-of-line windows and doors and stainless steel kitchen appliances, plus under-counter drink refrigerator and Maytag washer & dryer. Nestled into nature, you will be proud to call this private place home. MLS# 685105. REDUCED. \$215,000.

43 VENUS AVENUE



Beautiful home featuring split bedroom/bath arrangement with large master bedroom and en-suite bath featuring large shower plus deep soaking tub and twin vanities. Quality carpeting, paint, and bonus of 4 inch crown molding throughout. Living room has wood burning fireplace. Front covered porch and rear deck. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage. Lot 53 is a large vacant lot and is included in this sale. HISID assessment for this lot is \$416 per year. From this home, you are completely private and can see no other homes. Just enjoy trees and the seasons. MLS# 690761. \$98,250.

OZARK AUTOMOTIVE ROAD



This offering consists of 2 tracts of land, each having about 160 feet of paved road frontage and about 300 feet of depth which goes to a "Woods Road" below. Approximately 1 acre of land in each tract. Great view of Beaver Dam and Dam Site Park in distance. Super neighborhood with Inspiration Point Fire Dept. close by. Mowed grass in front, trees in rear. Very easy to build on. MLS# 691308. \$18,500 for each tract — or \$37,000 for both tracts.



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Ron L. Bell

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