



Silver belles – The “Junebugs,” June Owen, right, and June Hegedus, were out enjoying the Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas Memories Parade of Lights on Dec. 16. The two Junes always manage to make a notable and enjoyable appearance in the city’s social landscape.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK

Romano home a total loss

*Owner thankful to
Eureka Springs community*

C.D. WHITE

Eureka Springs firefighters were dismayed to find they couldn’t reach a house on fire Friday, Dec. 13. The fire department was dispatched just before 11 p.m. to the home of Bobby Romano off County Road 3063. Romano and his roommate, Rob Stanley, were out when the fire began.

According to ESFD Public Information Officer, Randy Ates, multiple 911 calls began coming in at 10:48 p.m., which is when firefighters were dispatched.

Unfortunately, arriving fire crews found the driveway’s narrow gate and lightweight cattle guard prevented fire engines from pulling into the driveway to get to the house, which was some distance in. To make matters worse, the driveway was an eighth of a mile long – too long to lay hose to the fire from the tanker.

The gate and cattle guard are not actually on Romano’s property, but are the only access to it. Firefighters remained unable to get close enough to fight the blaze until two small brush trucks arrived and were able to squeeze through the gate. By then the house was already collapsing.

Romano, who had been phoned by neighbors, arrived on the scene while firefighters were present. He

FIRE continued on page 10

This Week’s INDEPENDENT Thinker

Sister Megan Rice, 83, may well spend the rest of her life in prison.

Her crime? Splashing blood, hanging banners, “interfering” with national security, damaging federal property and trespassing.

Her reason? Drawing parallels between militarism and poverty. She dared ask why the wealthiest nation on the planet can’t find money to provide its citizens with sound medical care and a decent education, but will sign any check designated to amp up military equipment designed to annihilate humans – be it drones or nuclear bombs.

Her sentence? Possibly 30 years. We’ll know at the end of January.

Neither her government nor her church support Sr. Megan, but we do.

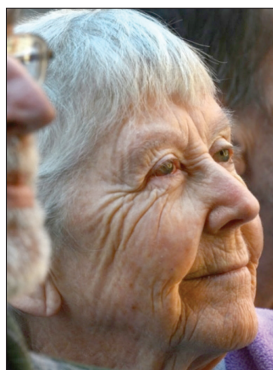


PHOTO BY LINDA DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

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It’s like we all took a trip to Manitoba.

CAPC ends the year with reserves

NICKY BOYETTE

Rick Bright, finance director for the City Advertising and Promotion Commission, said the good news is the CAPC will start the new year with the reserves they need to get through winter. The bad news for local business owners has been the weather. Commissioner Lynn Bridwell, owner of Grand Central Hotel and Tavern, said, "We're having a bit of a tough time right now."

Commissioner James DeVito said his restaurant made no more in the past week than he might make "on one mid-week day during tourist season."

Bright said he is ready to produce a draft 2014 budget as soon as commissioners decide how much they want to allocate for festivals and market support funds.

Bright acknowledged they had overspent on the group travel line item in this year's budget, but overall the budget looks good. Collections through October are .8 percent above last year. Collections would look better, Bright said, if not for the long list of delinquent business owners, and he explained what actions the CAPC is taking to resolve these delinquencies.

Commissioner Terry McClung asked Bright a series of questions about the budget information he had received. "To me, it's confusing," he said. McClung wanted a bit of tweaking so that he could easily see, for example, how much money they actually have distinguished from how much belongs to a promoter of an event at the Auditorium, such as ticket sales for the recent B.B. King concert.

Bright observed they do not keep separate books for the auditorium because it would be very cumbersome, but acknowledged McClung's point.

Funding support

Commissioners agreed to cap the total amount allocated to the funding support line item at \$30,000, an increase from \$20,000 one year ago. The commission has received at least \$93,000 worth of support fund requests this season.

"Whatever they (applicants) want to do, they have to pass it by Rick, and we have to follow the guidelines,"

McClung said.

The guidelines state, "All funds must be used for promotion and advertising of the event or project. At least 50% of advertising and promotion must take place in areas outside of Eureka Springs and/or Carroll County. This media promotion must be placed in areas at least one-hour driving time from Eureka Springs. This is to ensure that funds will be used to attract visitors who are likely to stay in Eureka Springs paid accommodations for at least one night."

Commission Chair Charles Ragsdell said instead of giving the applicant funds, the applicant must request a purchase order from Bright. Ragsdell challenged the commission to be ready to tighten the funding request guidelines for fairness and clarity and decide who gets what at the workshop Dec. 18.

Festivals

The commission voted to fund festivals in these amounts:

May Festival of the Arts	\$12,000
Blues Weekend	10,000
Bluegrass Festival	16,000
JazzEureka	16,000
Folk Festival	15,000

Director's report

Executive Director Mike Maloney announced Eureka Springs was recognized in *Convention South* magazine as one of the top ten Popular Summer Business Getaways in the South.

Thirty-five percent of the visitors to the eureka Springs website go there through an iPhone or iPad, and this percentage continues to increase.

He also announced the WoodSongs shows recorded here in October will be broadcast in mid-January on KUAF 91.3 FM and in the Springfield market. Television broadcast dates have not been announced.

Maloney said they would be airing a series of iPodcasts featuring 26 different topics around town. "We'll be taking advantage of the internet in a way we haven't before," he said. The pieces will be non-commercial interview-type formats, and they will be available on Facebook, YouTube and iTunes,

CAPC continued on page 29

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Planning loses Blankenship

At the end of a short Dec. 10 Planning Commission meeting, Chair Beverly Blankenship told the commission, "I have resigned from the Planning Commission effective at the end of the year. We've made a lot of progress and I hope you'll keep it up and keep doing the good work."

In her letter of resignation, Blankenship thanked Mayor Pate for "taking the high road" after they had

both been in the mayoral contest and giving her the opportunity to serve on Planning.

Her letter also stated, "For the past decade I have served in City government with pride and passion. Recently, I went to Haiti to help a friend and some orphans there. I can only say, it has changed the direction of my passion. My resignation has nothing to do with a conflict, a personality, the mayor's race,

or anything political. It is truly a matter of the heart."

Three items on the agenda – Vision Plan Objectives, Election of 2014 Officers and Revision of Chapter 6.08.01 Farm Animals – were moved forward to the next meeting.

In other business, the commission approved a new construction review for a small building behind an existing building at 145 W. Van Buren, contingent

upon compliance with all City Codes.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m.

Dances of Universal Peace

Dances of Universal Peace will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church building, 17 Elk St., at 7 p.m, Friday, Dec. 20. The Dances are simple and joyful meditations that involve the singing of sacred phrases with accompanying movements from the world's many spiritual traditions.

There is no charge to participate. Contact Rebecca Babbs (479) 253-8303 or email babbsrebecca@gmail.com for more information.

Scots swallow Tigers

Snow and ice made it hard to dribble, or even get to the gym, so the Eureka Springs Highlanders had a long layoff before getting their groove Saturday afternoon against Lead Hill in the Green Forest Tournament.

Following a slow start, the Scots prevailed winning 74-45. Coach Brian Rambo said the boys didn't have much energy in the first quarter, but

once they got in the press and created turnovers, the offense took off.

"Dalton Johnson hit a loooong three-pointer at the buzzer giving us a six-point lead (32-26) at the half," Rambo said. After that the momentum was more than the Tigers could handle, and the Scots' defense controlled the boards the entire second half.

Ryan Sanchez was high scorer

with 13, Trevor Lemme was good for 12, Jake McClung and Dalton Kesner had nine apiece, Reggie Sanchez eight, and Dalton Johnson and Mathew McClung, seven each.

The Highlanders were 10-2 for the season going into Monday night's game against Yellville Summit in the Omaha Border Classic, but lost by a hair in overtime, 84-78.

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Parks discusses island campsite; recommends vacation

NICKY BOYETTE

The Parks Commission continued its conversation regarding Nick Walker's proposed Eagle Scout project to build a campsite on the island in Lake Leatherwood. The campsite would have an elevated tent platform, boat dock, fire ring and a picnic table.

Parks Director Bruce Levine said he talked with others in the parks business about remote campsites and had heard many good ideas, but one important consideration for everyone was sanitation. He suggested they could install a camp toilet, but then sewage would need to be hauled out.

Commissioner Daniel Jackson was skeptical they could provide the oversight necessary to keep the camp clean. He also asked, "Does the gain outweigh the risks?" Jackson also questioned the impact on wildlife in the vicinity and possible pollution from campers finding its way into the lake.

Commission Chair Bill Featherstone replied he expected those who camp there would be "hard core serious campers who would take care of the place." Plus the fee to camp there would be higher. He saw work-arounds for all the objections.

Commissioner Myrna Thaxton commented those doing the project should inventory the wildlife on the island, and the group liked the concept.

Commissioner Fergie Stewart said plainly, "We should let him [Walker] continue."

Levine said he would find some answers to their concerns, and

commissioners will not need to make a decision for a couple more months.

Featherstone said there was also the idea of creating a remote campsite on the opposite side of the lake. "We can create exotic campsites to expand experiences at Lake Leatherwood City Park."

Vacation of Sweeny Alley

Jeff and Kay Franco represented their request for vacation of Sweeny Alley. Levine said the Francos had sent notifications to all property owners with 200 ft. of Sweeny Alley, which was only themselves. The gas company said it was okay with the vacation, but Levine had not heard back from the electric company or Public Works.

Commissioners had been to the site, and there was little discussion before they voted unanimously to recommend to council the city grant the vacation request pending approval by Public Works and the electric company.

The Francos also agreed to allow an eight-ft. wide easement for a trail at the bottom of his property.

Other business

- Levine said there had been no goose sightings recently at the Lake Leatherwood beach. Stewart added, "Seems like the goose management plan is working. Three months into it and we've gone from 25 regulars every day to rare sightings." He said springtime would be the true test of their measures.

- Levine said he wanted to ask council to allow Parks to reassume responsibility of the building once known as the Eureka Kids Building. He said Parks employees Pat Lujan and Darrell

Backs need a space for a workshop and storage. Commissioners agreed the space was needed and voted to approve Levine's approaching city council about the building, but they were a bit uneasy about new overhead expenses.

- The Trails Committee has been

meeting almost weekly in order to have a draft of their Trails Master Plan in January.

Next workshop will be Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m., at Harmon Park, and the next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m.

Code Yellow alert for O and A negative blood types

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) has issued a CODE YELLOW ALERT for O negative and A negative blood types. There is currently less than a two-day supply of this type on hospital shelves and donations are needed immediately.

Every five minutes on average, a transfusion takes place. It takes around 250 donations each day to meet the area's blood needs. You can

help by giving this week at Eureka Springs Hospital, 24, Norris on Friday, Dec. 20 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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

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Acuna-Sanchez mental evaluation postponed again

Due to the state hospital's backlog, Victor Acuna-Sanchez, 19, cannot be given a second mental evaluation until mid- to late February. According to Prosecuting Attorney Tony Rogers a second evaluation is needed because Acuna-Sanchez's answers to doctors were incomplete at a

November evaluation.

Judge David Klinger set a date of March 6 in Eureka Springs for the mental status hearing.

Acuna-Sanchez is accused of capital murder in the death of Laura Acevez, 21, on New Year's Eve 2012. Acuna-Sanchez had violated numerous

No Contact Orders, but on Dec. 31 he was released from the Carroll County Detention Center and allegedly drove to Acevez's apartment west of Eureka Springs and allegedly shot her with a .22 caliber pistol. She died that afternoon at Mercy Hospital in Rogers.

Free Christmas dinner at ECHO

All are welcome for dinner on Christmas Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the dining room in the ECHO Clinic building at US 62 and Rockhouse Rd.

The dinner is sponsored by Flint Street Fellowship and there is no charge. Please call 253-4945 to volunteer to help or if you need to arrange for a ride.

Parade winners announced

The Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the 2013 Parade of Lights in three categories. A good crowd turned out for the parade, even though it was a Monday night.

In First place: Arvest Bank – Commercial, Academy of Excellence – Non-profit, and Gina Galina Yarn

Bomb – Other.

In Second place: Crescent Hotel – Commercial, Grandview Baptist Church – Non-profit, and Krewe of Krazo – Other

In Third place: Pasteleria Bakery – Commercial, Beaver Lake Baptist Church – Non-profit, and Steve Holst Dragon – Other.

HI town hall meeting rescheduled

The Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Monday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Island Clubhouse ballroom has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 8, same place and time.

Attorney Tim Hutchinson will answer questions on the Settlement and on the Settlement Notice that has been mailed to all property owners by HISID.

Estate sale for charity Dec. 21, 22

There will be a great opportunity to acquire home furnishings, antiques and last minute Christmas gifts during a charity-inspired estate sale at the old Arvest building, 37 Woodsdale, in Holiday Island on Saturday and Sunday.

Your participation will help benefit two local charities, Flint Street Food Pantry and the ECHO Clinic. The indoor event will take place regardless of weather.

A sample of items available include furniture (antiques, primitives, modern), desks, book cases, trunks, coffee tables, commercial/office furniture, art, frames, pottery, glassware (vases, stemware, etc), collectibles and decorative items, pocket watches, pocket knives, firearms, silver coins, kitchenware, clothes, accessories

and much more.

Purchase of green-labeled items gives a 100 percent donation to the charities, pink-labeled items 25 percent and orange-labeled items a 10 percent donation. A full 100 percent of proceeds from purchase of the delicious refreshments and pastries will also be donated.

Organizer Shelly LaFree is also accepting donations and consignment items. Anything you you'd like to sell, and are also willing to donate some or all of the proceeds to these charities – email islandemporium@yahoo.com and they'll arrange to pick up or meet you.

If you wish to help further, please bring non-perishable and canned foods or some spare change to throw in the jar!



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Homestead benefits from engineer's innovations

BECKY GILLETTE

As a chemical engineer for a major oil company, Katy Turnbaugh supervised 29 people and undertook energy conservation measures on a pipeline that reduced power usage from \$8 million per year to \$2.5 million per year. After becoming a whistleblower on pipeline safety that led to leaving her career, she bought a farm south of Eureka Springs in 2004 where she has had a second career in sustainability. She built a passive and

active solar house, installed a windmill generator, and has built up a herd of 19 heritage cattle in addition to a dozen goats, a large flock of chickens, geese, ducks, three horses and seven dogs – most of the dogs adopted after being abandoned.

In addition to running the farm, Turnbaugh is in her third year teaching chemistry and physics at Eureka Springs High School. She recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) to work on a sustainability project designed to help small farms stay in business. She is directing students in projects to develop production techniques to grow micro fodder for cattle, sprouted grains and grasses that could be fed to animals during periods of drought or cold winters. Eureka Springs was one of only two high schools and three colleges in a six-state region selected for the grant.

SUSTAINABLE continued on page 14

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Busy beavers –
New Beaver Mayor Annie Shoffit and former mayor, Mary Hill (in costume), lighted up Beaver Park for the first time Sunday night when they turned on the lights to the Beaver Tree and sign.



They brought the bling! – Winners of yard signage and bragging rights in the Bling in the Springs holiday lighting contest are Greg and Nancy Bartlett at 4 Oakridge for residential, and Kettle Campground on US 62E for commercial. Make sure you include them on your nighttime cruise around Eureka Springs to see the Christmas lights!



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Grumpy Grinch – Perhaps the Grinch was grumpy because his float, built by the Berryville Junior Chamber of Commerce, didn't get to be in Berryville's Christmas parade. Their parade was canceled due to weather, but the Eureka Springs Chamber invited parade entries from across the river to participate with us instead, and we're glad they did!

PHOTO BY MELANIE MHYRE



Peace from the Platters – Grand Marshals, the World-Famous Platters, led the annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade to cheers from the crowd-lined streets.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK

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C. D. WHITE

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All the training and state-of-the-art equipment they have won't help if responders can't get to you, yet in our rural areas that's often not a concern until something happens. Ates recalled several fires where the access road was difficult at best and possibly dangerous to large vehicles; not to mention several instances that had responders, anxious to help, wasting time wandering unmarked gravel roads and calling in for better directions.

"I know people don't think about addresses and the size of emergency vehicles and fire trucks when planning a rural driveway," Ates said, "but we've been running into a lot of problems getting to houses and it's very frustrating

not being able to get help there in good time.

"Sometimes the access is barred by limbs hanging so low we have to break them going in, or phone and cable lines hanging too low to pass under or bushes growing out into the driveway.

"Then there's the problem of rural addressing. We may come upon a row of mailboxes and one has the right address, but which of the unmarked roads goes to the boxholder's address we're looking for?"

It's a problem those living or planning on building in rural areas may want to consider. For the rest of us who have already feathered our dream nests, Ates has this suggestion – "On a pretty day, go to

the very end of your driveway and imagine you're pulling in close to your house with a moving van and turning it around. If you can get there, so can we."

If you can't, you may want to do some clearing or make some changes so that emergency vehicles can reach those people and things important to you if necessary. If getting to your home is difficult and is also an easement via someone else's property, you may want to talk with that property owner about maximizing access.

As far as posting addresses and marking your road or driveway goes, Ates has this reminder – "If UPS or FedEx has trouble finding you, so will we."

FIRE continued from page 1

told the *Independent*, "They did everything they could, but there was just nothing they could do to save it. They just couldn't get there. I just sat there and watched. It burned up in an hour."

The house was a total loss. Ates later commented, "This was a very frustrating fire for us. Besides the impassable access, we were hampered by fog and ice."

An official cause of the fire will be determined after investigators have completed normal processing of the scene.

Romano said losing his two cats and "sentimental stuff" were the hardest things to deal with. Then, to add insult to injury, his truck slid on an icy patch when he finally left the scene, overturned and hit a tree, totaling the vehicle. "I was probably still in shock when I left. I don't believe in this stuff, but it was a bad Friday the thirteenth for me," Romano said.

According to the fire report, he was

transported to the Eureka Springs Hospital in one of the EMS vehicles present at the scene but was only "beat up a bit and sore," from the accident. Nonetheless, Romano is thankful he has a spare vehicle to get to his job in Bentonville. He's even more thankful he lives in Eureka Springs.

"We had nothing but the clothes we were wearing that night, and no place to stay," Romano said. "But between us, Rob and I now have offers of places to stay from Bentonville to Green Forest." He also noted they've had numerous donations of clothing, and quipped, "I'll probably be better dressed than I usually am."

"I can't stress how fast the community responded and how kind this community is," Romano noted. "We're fortunate to live in a town like this. I work in Bentonville and have commuted to work for years. People at work ask me why I don't move there, but I wouldn't live anywhere other than here."

Romano plans to rebuild on the same land. "I have 10 beautiful acres on Rocky Top Road and we'll be back there," he said. Meanwhile, he and Rob have been out putting together the small items we all take for granted that are necessary for daily living.



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Eureka Springs still distinctive

Arkansas Business of Little Rock recently revealed the 26 Arkansas cities chosen for its 2013 City of Distinction awards program.

Cities were chosen in six categories, each defined by populations of 5,000 or fewer; 5,000 – 20,000 and over 20,000.

Eureka Springs was the winner in the Green/Energy Conservation Initiatives category for cities with fewer than 5,000 population.

Other categories and the winner in the 5,000 or less population were Main Street Preservation (Lake Village), Quality of Life (Carlisle) and Technology Advancement (Lakeview). No cities with less than a 5,000 population entered Tourism Development and Workforce Development categories. In 2012, Eureka Springs was the City of Distinction

for Tourism Development.

Mitch Bettis, *Arkansas Business* publisher, commented, "These cities demonstrate successes in financial innovation, resourceful efficiencies, improved public service and overall enhanced public trust and support."

Winners and honorable mention recipients in each category will also be recognized at the Arkansas Municipal League's 2014 Winter Conference on Jan. 30 in Rogers.

The City of Distinction program is presented by Crews & Associates and sponsored by the Arkansas Municipal League and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas.

For more information, contact Lance Turner at (501) 372-1443, or at lturner@abpg.com.

French country cooking with a gluten-free twist

Start your culinary new year by joining Karen Gros at the CulinArts Center at the Writer's colony at Dairy Hollow, 515 Spring, on Saturday, Jan. 11, and learn how to make a complete French country meal. After the class, dine on your delicious creations with a meal featuring fresh, locally sourced organic ingredients.

You'll be working in the commercial kitchen at the Colony in this hands-on class. Learn how to make Boeuf Bourguignon accompanied by dairy-free mashed

potatoes. For dessert learn how to bake Julia Child's chocolate-almond cake – gluten-free. In fact, the entire meal is gluten and dairy-free, so even those with those food sensitivities and allergies can enjoy it.

The fun begins at 10 a.m., when everyone will get busy in the kitchen.

Karen enjoys teaching people how to cook from scratch with the seasons, using locally grown ingredients whenever possible. She also leads small group tours to Paris, Provence, Normandy and Brittany,

emphasizing food, history and cultural traditions.

The cost for the class, a fundraiser for the Writers' Colony, is \$45. Space is limited, so participants must be pre-registered and paid in advance. Sign up now by calling (479) 253-7444 or email director@writerscolony.org.

For more information on the CulinArts Center and upcoming courses, keep an eye on events at www.writerscolony.org, or on Facebook.



Quicker slicker – US 62 between Riverview and Inspiration Point managed to send numerous vehicles away on tow trucks last Friday morning after an 18-wheeler crossed the river, started up the hill and hit a stretch of black ice. The truck jackknifed and provided a target for cars heading west. There were no injuries and minor but inconvenient damage to vehicles. Inspiration Point Fire Dept. responders were on the scene for several hours while the highway was shut down.

PHOTO BY PAT SCHARFF



Park Bark – I'm Fiona, hunkered down on the couch with my sister, Sophie, over at Bridgeford House, waitin' for my daddy and the other folks to get a final count for the fencing order at the dog Park ... so go away snow! Woof – you can still place an order for a brick in the Memorial Garden at the park by sending a message on Facebook (Eureka Springs Dog Park), or call Rachel (479) 244-9151. And it's never too late to lend a helping paw, so join us on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the library annex at 6 p.m. for the Dog Park meeting. A special thanks to everyone who's helped this year with donations, time and support in many ways. And a full body wag goes out to the *ES Independent* for always keeping everyone informed! (It's the best paper to take my nap on, too.)

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
- **St. James' Episcopal Church hosts community Sunday Night Suppers from 5 – 6:30 p.m.** at St. James' Church, 28 Prospect, until March. The suppers are for the community, especially those who are out of work, and are provided at no charge by area restaurants and others. (479) 253-8610.
- **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

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INDEPENDENTMail

All INDEPENDENTMail must be signed and include address and phone number for confirmation.

Letters to the Editor should be limited to 200 words or so.

We reserve the right to edit submissions. Send your INDEPENDENTMail to:

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

That limo was stretched full

Editor,

Many sincere thanks are owed to many people and organizations for the extremely successful “Fill the Limo” fundraiser organized and held by Fatima Treuer at the Pied Piper Pub on Nov. 21 for the Kids’ Weekend Food Backpack program and Flint Street Fellowship Food Pantry. Nearly \$8000 and 100 boxes of food were donated to these programs all because of the hard work of many folks whom we at Flint Street want to recognize to the community.

These wonderful contributors are Penguin Graphics, Office Supply, Local Geographics, the Treuers, Katrina Pumphrey, Snuffy Ketchum, Steve Ash, Donna and Brandon Cox, all area restaurants for provision of

prepared food and gift certificates for raffle, Alex Marohn, Al Hooks, Wayne Franks, Kirsten Torgerson, Nancy Fuller, Erin Wolfinbarger, Tom the Smoker, Ben E. Keith, Community First Bank, Cornerstone Bank, everyone who showed up on Friday morning to unload all the food, and Harts Family Center for making possible the donation of so many boxes of food.

We pray that God blesses everyone who worked and donated to make possible this funding of His food ministry which feeds those in our area who struggle.

Pat Kasner

Fly the flag properly

Editor,

I love our beautiful flag and

appreciate it displayed en masse on special occasions such as Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veteran’s Day. However, violating the flag display rule by using loads of them as everyday decorations cheapens the banner of our country.

I’m also concerned that flags mounted on every pole down Main Street will show wear within a matter of a few months. Who will replace them when they are faded and torn? Worn flags are another violation of flag decorum.

Two more flag etiquette problem come to mind, as well. If the flags are displayed 24 hour per day, they will need to be lighted, and if there is a federal half mast order, how will these flags be positioned for that rule?

Please don’t spend scarce Arkansas dollars on this ill considered and unnecessary project.

Enid B. Swartz



WEEK’S Top Tweets

@ChipKellysBalls --- In dog beers, I’ve only had one...

@JennyJohnsonH15 --- The “walk of shame” should be going to a bar the next morning after being drunk looking for your lost debit card.

@hidingfromme --- Thank God I still have 20 days to achieve my goal of “going to the gym in 2013.”

@Maxine12339 --- Being a little crazy is like being a little pregnant – you can only hide it for so long.

@Zen_Moments --- To achieve anything, you must be prepared to dabble on the boundary of disaster. ~ Stirling Moss

@MikePearson --- Bomb threats at Harvard...someone really wanted an extra day to study, smh {shaking my head}

@CNN --- About 200,000 people have signed up to take a one-way trip to Mars.

@MotherJones --- Evolution gave us morality—as a default setting.

@RollingStone --- Beyoncé’s surprise new album is expected

to debut at Number One.

@LoyalandRoyal --- I told Jack his school district was getting these buses. He wasn’t happy.



Is it time for Holiday Island to incorporate?

Holiday Island has some of the most scenic values per dollar invested of any resort development in the country. Although there are some high dollar mansions, there are many more small, simple homes owned by people on fixed incomes. Some of those people have had a tough time since the Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District (HISID) Board of Commissioners drastically increased the assessment of benefits (AOB) fees in 2011. Even people with deeper pockets were concerned about the future of their investment.

In some cases, the AOB fee went up more than 40 percent. Current fees can amount to as much as a homeowner's property tax bill. HISID needed "replacement" money to pay for its operations after the owners of a large number of vacant lots stopped paying AOB fees. So HISID hired an assessor, and basically directed the assessment be done in a way to generate the amount of money HISID wanted to meet operating costs.

The assessment was bogus. You don't decide how much money you want and then create an assessment that fills that need.

And HISID was double dipping, putting 100 percent of the cost of the sewer plant into the assessment while also collecting an additional 50 percent of those total costs by adding fees onto residents' water and sewer bills. HISID was also collecting fees for activities not authorized by Arkansas law for SIDs to charge, the lawsuit alleges.

A SID can only levy against the assessed value of its benefits. Under Arkansas law, it cannot engage in any kind of taxation. But HISID, which a lawsuit by Holiday Island resident David Bischoff alleges was illegally mimicking the taxation powers of a lawfully qualified municipality, has knowingly failed to comply with Arkansas laws, even after having in numerous cases received written opinions from the Arkansas Attorney General's office.

After eight months of the HISID board refusing to take any action on, or even consider, the illegality of a SID acting as a city and taking on powers of taxation, Bischoff filed a lawsuit. That wasn't popular with some Holiday Islanders who said he was "poking at their paradise," and it certainly wasn't popular with the five commissioners who run the show. But the Bischoffs had a vested interest in protecting the value of their retirement home, and felt something of a moral obligation to the other property owners in Holiday Island to make sure HISID operated legally and in the best interests of all.

HISID recently agreed to settle the Bischoff lawsuit, including paying attorneys' fees. The settlement is complex. But, seeing as HISID has agreed to credit Holiday Island owners about \$3 million by giving R1 and R2 improved property owners a \$2,300 credit on the AOB, the obvious conclusion is that Bischoff was justified in his concerns.

The only thing HISID can legally charge for are the costs of developing the infrastructure such as water, sewer, roads, fire protection, and some qualified amenities. It can also charge interest to each owner on the unpaid balance they owe on their AOB. The settlement terms will require HISID to now give an accounting to each property owner for how much they owe.

Should a retiree on a fixed income who lives in a simple home miles away from the golf course be forced to help pay for the golf course? Should Holiday Island property owners have to pay for a sheriff's deputy to live at Holiday Island? Who decides whether something the HISID board wants is a necessity for the masses, or a toy for the privileged few?

Just the mention of incorporating into a city draws heated protests. But, if HISID wants to survive, it cannot continue operating as it has in the past. Sooner or later, it has to incorporate.

Becky Gillette



...and all the whos in whoville slept. . .

The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

"I'm going to run off with a hairy boy and spend a dirty weekend in Alpena," I might say to my wife. She would smile, nod distractedly, and go about her business. If I said, instead, "I'm going to buy a pair of blue suede shoes for \$7," I would have her full attention. She would frown, probably threaten to step on them, and then begin a lengthy investigation to locate a cheaper option. "I found a pair on eBay for \$4," she'd say. "If you *must* have them..."

People who know my wife know that she is close with a dollar. This is a family trait. Once upon a time, she and her sister, Mickey, simultaneously spied a penny on the ground and raced one another to pick it up. The ensuing tug of war resulted in the invention of copper wire. (Ho ho, ha ha.)

You may wonder how I feel so free to share these scenes from our marriage. The fact is, my wife doesn't read this column. When I told her about the rare opportunity afforded me by the *Independent*, and my excitement to be part of it, she asked what it paid. The answer has been sufficient cause for her to assign my *oeuvre* all the importance she believes it deserves.

Don't mistake these stories for complaints. Without this woman, I would be that smelly man next to the radiator in the public library who has a pint of Mogen David in the pocket of his dirty overcoat. In truth, I am her ardent admirer, and can barely stand to spend an hour outside her company. She *is*, and etc.

But we have been married for a long time; we have everything we need and want, and I was just kidding about the blue suede shoes; I am shod well enough. So now the annual dilemma is what to buy each other for Christmas? We will walk up and down Spring Street, peer in windows and oooh and ahhh at all the pretty things. And I will try and pry her purse open. Wish me luck.

INDEPENDENTConstablesOnPatrol

DECEMBER 9

11:04 a.m. – Person reported her medication had been taken from her vehicle within the past ten days.
9:24 p.m. – Constable on patrol responded to a front door alarm at a business on US 62, but found the building secure.

DECEMBER 10

11:13 a.m. – Constable and Public Works went to help a semi stuck in a neighborhood. While there, a car got stuck, and the constable assisted her also.
12:38 p.m. – Individual reported money was missing from her apartment, which is adjacent to a motel office. Constable on the scene located a suspect and discovered Washington County had a warrant out on him for probation violation so the constable arrested him.

DECEMBER 11

10:12 a.m. – Resident in a neighborhood reported a vehicle parked in a red zone. The constable discovered from the owner the vehicle was disabled, and made arrangements to move it.
11:40 a.m. – Sad driver told ESPD her vehicle slid out of control into a

parked car.
12:08 p.m. – Another vehicle slid into a parked truck.
3:32 p.m. – Hotel manager claimed someone tried to break in through a downstairs entry. He said the same thing had been tried two weeks ago.
10:55 p.m. – Wife claimed her husband had hit her during a domestic dispute. Constables went to the scene and arrested the husband for third degree domestic battery and three counts of endangering the welfare of a minor.

DECEMBER 12

9:12 a.m. – Constable drove to Washington County to pick up an individual arrested on a Eureka Springs warrant.
9:41 a.m. – Constable and an ambulance responded to a person claiming to be having suicidal thoughts.
11:29 a.m. – Constable and Animal Control responded to a location expecting to find a wounded deer but there were no deer anywhere.

DECEMBER 13

10:27 a.m. – There was a disturbance at a motel in which involved a male subject

allegedly kicking in a door. He left the scene on foot walking toward town. Constables on patrol spoke with everyone involved and all claimed there had been no altercation. Motel manager will let ESPD know about the condition of the door.

DECEMBER 14

3:12 a.m. – There was a noise complaint in a neighborhood near downtown. Constable responded but took no report.
3:45 a.m. – Constable went to the scene of an alarm and discovered someone had broken into a business.
9:42 a.m. – Another alarm sounded, but this time the building was secure.
9:43 a.m. – Car owner noticed damage to his back bumper and asked for a report.
3:22 p.m. – Constable issued a citation for parking in front of a fire hydrant.
3:31 p.m. – Constables on patrol were on the lookout for a vehicle seen crossing the center line on its way to town from Holiday Island.
7:08 p.m. – There was a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of US 62 and CR 302.

DECEMBER 15

4:58 a.m. – Innkeeper told ESPD a female was refusing to leave. A constable responded. He told her she had to go. She left. No report necessary.
10:04 a.m. – Constable aided a stuck motorist.
10:24 a.m. – Constable aided several motorists on a different road.
1:11 p.m. – Constable called a tow truck for a vehicle on US 62.
3:50 p.m. – All local authorities were alerted to a vehicle possibly going from Berryville toward Cassville. The driver had reportedly made suicidal statements and had taken way too much anxiety and pain medications. She had said if the pills did not do it, she would shoot herself. Constables watched for the vehicle.
7:36 p.m. – Domestic disturbance in a motel room elicited a visit from a constable. The male had already left the scene.
8:18 p.m. – Person called to report his clothes had been stolen from a motel laundry room, but during the conversation with ESPD the caller hung up.

SUSTAINABLE continued from page 7

Today the number of small ranchers has diminished considerably, in part due to drought conditions that can make it too expensive to feed cattle. The grant from EPA is designed to help someone quickly and inexpensively grow nutritious food for livestock.
“With this system, someone could ramp up very quickly to grow feed, which could help keep small farmers in business without them having a huge storage facility,” Turnbaugh said. “To keep farmers from going out of business, things are going to have to be different than in the past five years. Sprouts have such amazing nutrient value. What we are doing is trying to figure out what nutrients do the sprouts need, what nutrition do livestock and poultry need, and what amount do we need to sprout to supply the need so there is no need to feed expensive grains or hay?”
In addition to being economical, the micro fodder system could be particularly attractive for people who don’t want to feed livestock any genetically modified (GMO) grains.
“You can’t buy chicken feed without GMO corn in it,” Turnbaugh said. “If I don’t want to eat it, I don’t want to feed

it to my animals. Another advantage is that if you have an alternative feed, rather than putting the animals out to pasture during a drought, you relieve pasture stress. If hay crops are irrigated, then you have water runoff. If you put commercial fertilizer on the pasture to grow enough grass for the cattle, you can have contaminated runoff. So this system would also protect water quality.”
Types of sprouts being evaluated are clover, alfalfa, wheat, soybeans and oats. Students are researching types of containers that could be used to grow the sprouts. The chemistry students are figuring out what temperatures and micronutrients the sprouts need, and physics students are responsible for coming up with a working machine.
Turnbaugh owned two farms outside of Stillwater, Okla., before moving to Eureka Springs. Those earlier two farms gave her a lot of experience.
“I was interested in doing things a little differently,” Turnbaugh said. “So I bought a beefalo, a cross between a cow and a buffalo. Everyone said she would be a wild animal, but she was not. My great uncle bought cattle from Japan, and that always intrigued me, that there might be worthy cattle out there that

have not been altered so much.”
When she bought the ranch in Carroll County, she decided to do research for a bovine not common here, but with a lot of worth. What she decided on was Irish Dexters, a small cow that does well on pasture, fends for itself better than some other breeds, and is good for milk and meat.
“They are amazing cattle,” she said. “The Dexters are very self-sufficient. They are incredible mothers. They will herd around the baby calf if a predator or dog comes in. They are very hardy. They are pasture raised and pasture finished. I don’t do grain at all. They do fine with that. They thrive on it, but it takes twice as long to raise them to market age.”
Recently it has become more difficult to find a USDA facility to process the beef.
“A health food store in Harrison wants 30 pounds of beef per week, but the only place I have found that is a USDA facility is a three-hour drive away,” she said. “Part of the economic squeeze with the drought is so many people have gone out of the cattle business. There are fewer small farmers and meat packinghouses.”
Turnbaugh also has unusual chickens. Most domestic poultry doesn’t

fly, but her jungle chickens roost in trees. They won’t live in a barn. “Maybe after this weather, they will change their minds,” she said. “The chickens I have are one of the oldest known direct links to original chickens. I’m thinking about crossing them with a more domesticated chicken because they are so good at hiding their eggs that you never find them until the chicks come out, and they have an amazing number of chicks every year.”
Turnbaugh is a living demonstration for sustainability. She doubled the number of solar panels on her house recently, has a solar water heater, and also passive solar south-facing windows that keep her home warm enough that when it doesn’t get below 20° at night and there is sunshine during the day, no supplemental heat is needed. She produces about 250 kilowatts hours of electricity per month.
“I have been fortunate to be able to afford to invest in alternative energy, and it is something I can pretty much maintain myself,” Turnbaugh said. “I had the gift of being an engineer, and I’m utilizing that. We all have the responsibility to reduce our footprint on the planet.”

Local music is home for the holidays Dec. 20

After a week of postponements and cancellations, the community is invited to cheer up and celebrate its own talented residents at the free annual Home for the Holidays concert.

The Ozarks hills will come alive with the sound of holiday music on Friday, Dec. 20, when the annual Home for the Holidays Concert takes place in The Aud as local Eureka Springs singers and groups take the stage to perform

songs of the season.

A variety of musical acts include Gravel Yard Blue Grass, Don Matt & Scott Thompson, Pearl Brick, Catherine Reed, Nick Rorick, Michael Garrett, Cyndi Corkran with Ron Sumner, John Wiley, Mayor Morris Pate and more!

Don't miss any holiday surprises. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. The concert is free and freewheelin'.

Thyme for a "Do-over"

Due to icy weather during Judith Ann Griffith's showing of her new creations at Eureka Thyme, there will be a special repeat performance on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Accompanied by good dogs and mischievous cats, Griffith works in her studio among hundreds of books, curiosities, prayer flags and helpful angels. To see what she has created, join us at Eureka Thyme, 19 Spring Street, from 2 to



5 p.m. to enjoy *Honoring the Mother in Nature - Green Women and Entwines* and say hello to Judith.

LIVE IN THE AUDITORIUM

HOME

FOR THE

HOLIDAYS

Friday, December 20th

The Extraordinary Escape!

Eureka Springs
Arkansas
www.eurekasprings.com

Join us from 7:00pm - 9:00pm for a Christmas Spectacular featuring some of Eureka Springs greatest talent!

Gravel Yard Blue Grass • Don Matt/Scott Thompson
Pearl Brick • Catherine Reed • Nick Rorick
Michael Garrett • Cyndi Corkran/w Ron Sumner
John Wiley • Mayor Morris Pate and more!

FREE ADMISSION

Local dance studio steps up in national competition

Performers from Elite Dance Studios in Berryville often travel to Tulsa or Branson for dance competitions, so it was a treat to be in a top-notch competition close to home. The Talent on Parade Holiday Dance Extravaganza was held Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Eureka Springs auditorium. Competitors included 20 dance studios from five states.

The dancers produced some great results. Kourtney Granger was part of a contemporary group performance that took first place overall in their division.

The duet of siblings Gavin and Eden Wilson also earned a first overall for all duets and trios, and their performance to "Two of a Kind" earned the only choreography award in the competition for Artistic Director Virginia Mock. "It's a true musical theater number," she said, "Sometimes in practice, I have them sing along, so they get a real sense of performing it."

The contemporary group of Taylor Gordon, Bayley Watson, Eden Wilson, Gavin Wilson, and Kourtney Granger won first overall in their division. Claire Fossey earned second place in her division with a Lyrical solo. Taylor Gordon and Kourtney Granger ranked third and a top overall score in their division with

a Jazz duet. TJ Strecker was third in her Contemporary division, and also scored well in Tap. She was one of the 10 highest scorers in the competition.

Katie Allison was third in her Contemporary division and top score overall. Other soloists earning high scores included Taylor Gordon in Jazz, Peyton Gordon in Tap, Bayley Watson in Hip-hop, Emerald Watson in Jazz, Riley Carmon in Jazz, and Jada Klunk in Contemporary.

Taylor Gordon and Kourtney Granger participated in a dance workshop the day after the competition, and both earned scholarships to a summer dance program in Branson.

The studio will also be well represented at the Masquerade Dance Competition in Bentonville at the end of January. Elite will also send dancers to St. Louis in February and Dallas in March. The recital in May at the Lawrence Welk Theater in Branson is always a major event for the studio.

Elite Dance Studio will be closed from Dec. 23 through Jan. 6, and some openings will be available when classes resume. More information about Elite Dance Studios is available via (870) 423-5304, or www.elitedancestudios.com.



Elite Dancers – Berryville's Elite Dance Studio's members had shining performances at the recent Talent on Parade dance extravaganza in the city auditorium. From left (front row) are Riley Carmon, Katie Allison, Riley Gordon, Eden Wilson and Gavin Wilson. From left (back row) are Claire Fossey, Bayley Watson, T.J. Strecker, Kourtney Granger, Taylor Gordon, Emerald Watson and Jada Klunk.

INDEPENDENTHIGH (Falutin') SOCIETY



Healing music, healing touch – Musician and healer, John Two-Hawks, took a moment at intermission during his Christmas concert on Dec. 15 to present a flute to Sue Thurman. Thurman had retired and was building her dream home when a board collapsed and she fell and broke her back. Unknown to Thurman, her friend, Cindy Jones (at left), along with friends, had a flute made for her by Jack Stewart of Eagle Spirit Flutes. Two-Hawks played the flute for Thurman and then signed and presented it to her. “I was honored to have been asked to do this,” Two-Hawks said. The concert was a benefit for the Pine Ridge Reservation, an Oglala Lakota reservation in South Dakota. “The audience was so generous, we should be able to provide enough heat for five or six families through the winter,” Peggy Hill, concert promoter, said.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MHYRE



Holiday spirit – Holiday Spirit and Jester, Margo Pirkle, takes time to greet a happy young fan during the Parade of Lights.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MHYRE

They brought the bling – From left, CAPC’s Karen Pryor delivered the “Winner” distinction to Gay and Clyde Hawkins at Kettle Campground on US 62E for the best commercial holiday decorations. Make sure to drive by after dark to catch the bling effect.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPC



Knitted elf – At right, Mark Wetzel, aka Sparky in his handmade suit, crocheted some holiday enchantment for these kids at the Christmas parade.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MHYRE



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This week most of Eureka's high falutin' society was out entertaining, parading, watching the parade – or getting awards and recognition for the good things they do. Here's to community spirit!

Book signing – Eureka Springs resident Peggy Sjogelgaard celebrates the release of her book, *Birthmark of Evil*, with her first book signing at the home of Charles and Sandra Templeton on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Flaming the
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roll Dec. 14. In
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ere still able
take the stroll
owntown.



Happy Birthday – The Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 125th year on Dec. 17 with a gathering of board members, staff and community. Director Mike Bishop plans on recording the Chamber's story in the coming year and welcomes material from anyone who might have information to fill in the blanks.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

How Queen – L.J. Smole affably commands the street with her two loyal Corgis.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MHYRE



ES Fire and EMS present yearly awards

– Fire Chief Rhys Williams presented 2013 awards at the Eureka Springs Fire and Emergency Medical Services annual Christmas party. From left are Randy Ates, Paramedic of the Year; Vance Marvin, Volunteer of the Year and EMS Responder of the year; and Josh Beyler, Firefighter of the Year. Recipients were chosen by a vote of paid and volunteer staff of the fire department based on their efforts to promote the department, provide excellent patient care, and for putting forth extra effort on the behalf of the public and city, along with attendance and training.



Royal Court announced – Mardi Gras Royal Court 2014 Dukes and Duchesses have been chosen and will be introduced at the annual Krewe of Krazo Kick-Off Gala at the Rowdy Beaver Tavern on US 62 W Saturday, Jan. 11 at 5 p.m. The "royals" include Duchesses Anna Marie Lee, R.N., accreditation surveyor, association president; Dr. Vonda Miller, senior engineering consultant; KellyJo Carroll, public relations manager and education coordinator at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and Kimberly Owens, director, New Moon Spa and Salon, Crescent Hotel. Dukes include Steve Roberson, manager co-owner at Quicksilver Gallery; Bud Barter, co-owner Abaco – Oil & Gas Exploration & Development; Landry Weston, loan review specialist at Cornerstone Bank and Ken Ames, board commissioner at Holiday Island and Ghost Tour guide at the Crescent Hotel.





Banking on Christmas – This happy crew representing Arvest Bank happen to be riding the float voted into First Place at the annual Christmas Parade Dec. 16.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK



Hallelujah – During its annual Christmas concert, Director Beth Withey led The Ozarks Chorale and the audience in some favorite Christmas carols. The finale was Handel's rousing Hallelujah Chorus sung by everyone in the auditorium. "It was a very ambitious program, and it was obvious a lot of people in the audience had been rehearsing," commented one concertgoer.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE

TheNATUREofEUREKA by Steven Foster

Celebrate natural cycles – Create new traditions

Whether you follow ancient pagan traditions, the Roman Saturnalia, or just good old Christian Christmas, it is the time of the winter festival marked by the concurrent astronomical

shift of the Winter solstice. In 274 C.E., the Roman Emperor Aurelian christened the 25th of December the day of the solstice on the Julian calendar – *natalis solis invicti* – "birth of the invincible sun."



Just two years earlier, the 57th Emperor of the Roman Empire was born, Constantine I, who was to usher in a new epoch as the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity. The December 25th celebration of the "birth of the invincible sun" was easily transformed into the Christian celebration of the "birth of the invincible Son."

Remnants of ancient Winter Solstice celebrations crept into Christmas traditions, many revived during the Victorian era when the printed word, advertising, and the emergence of consumerism allowed for expansion of celebration in a wider

cultural convergence. Hence, the Yule log, the symbolic mistletoe, evergreen leaves and red berries of hollies implanted themselves into new traditions marking this celebratory time of year. Green and red became the primary colors of the celebration, dating back to at least the 14th century, when evergreen trees, with red apples affixed to the branches represented green as eternal life and red as the blood of Christ.

With its evergreen leaves and red berries, why not adopt our garden plant, heavenly bamboo or *Nandina domestica*, as a new seasonal symbol? Introduced into European horticulture in 1804, it is native to China and Japan.

In China it is symbolic of the Chinese New Year. Writing in 1848, Robert Fortune, observed, "Large quantities of its branches are brought at this time from the country and hawked about the streets. Each of these branches is crowned with a large bunch of red berries, not very unlike those of the common holly, and, contrasted with the dark, shining leaves, are singularly ornamental. It is used chiefly in the decoration of altars, not only in temples, but also in private dwellings and in boats – for here every house and boat has its altar."

No matter the tradition, this is a time of year to remember the past and celebrate new beginnings.



Sycamore, by Constance Wagner and published in 1950 by Alfred A. Knopf, is the story of a sophisticated New York girl who marries a boy from Arkansas. The Wagners and their four children lived in Eureka Springs while the novel was written.

In addition to four novels, Constance Wagner wrote numerous articles and stories published in *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *Collier's*.

He wondered, all through the long drive home, if Jane would feel the hills, the town. Not the way he felt them, of course. That would be asking the impossible. But perhaps it would reach her faintly – an intimation of the spell that drew him back always to Sycamore.

He was ecstatically in love with Jane, but he had also the illusion of rescuing her, removing her from her mother and her mother's silly friends, and from what, after two years in New York, he had come to look upon as the most vapid existence to be found anywhere. Jane he regarded as an engaging child who had been alternately pushed around and ignored, and subjected to the most frivolous education, and he thought of himself as the agent of her deliverance.

He was prepared to teach her, make her over if necessary, to fit her into a background that, to him, seemed ideal. How could poor Jane know, artificially nurtured as she'd been, the fullness of life in the hills? Skittering about Switzerland or the Riviera, skiing at Lake Placid, making arty talk over the hubbub of cocktail parties in the Village among the people whom Mrs. Telemon deplored – a sorry, trifling time she'd had of it.

As they crossed the clattering bridge above the White River, he tried to make her see how it had been when he and his mother and father had gone on the lazy float trips

in summers of his childhood. The three-sided fellowship of those days appeared to him a perfect thing, as he looked back on it. He saw his father's brown, strong arms in rhythmic motion, as he bent to the long pull on the oars, his mother baiting hooks, gutting fish without a trace of feminine squeamishness, making the fat sizzle in pans over innumerable campfires...

"Good!" he cried, remembering. "You never tasted anything like fresh caught bass."

He tried to imagine how Sycamore would look to a newcomer, to Jane – a down-at-the-heels little ghost town, a hundred miles from nowhere – but every corner of it was so clotted with associations, so linked and welded with his own life, that it was impossible for him to stand outside and view it coldly.

You came upon the town abruptly, after winding and climbing for an hour on a road that ran like a chipmunk's trail through woods and gulches, and along the rim of sheer limestone bluffs. The only marks of men along the way were widely scattered cabins with their time-eaten shingled roofs warped and slantwise, and the repetitive angles of split-rail fences containing steep, rock-strewn pastures and lean cows.

You got the impression that the fences implied nothing more than a gesture or an imbedded habit, since whoever threw them together must long since have abandoned

the notion that he would ever own anything worth fencing. Aside from these lost little farmsteads, the hills bore no human burden, supporting only violent outcroppings of rock and the vast forest: oak and pine, cedar and sycamore, hickory and walnut. (It was down in there, he thought, that Jarvis Blake's dog treed a possum, and Jarvis got excited and fell in a dry creek bed and broke his leg, and howled louder than the dogs. And we had to carry him all the way back to where the horses were, and it was dark as a pocket, and all of us caught hell for sneaking off without saying anything – all but Jarvis, because he had a broken leg.)

"I see," he said, "Old Man Purdy finally got around to building a privy. Held out against it for a good long time, though. Twenty years that I know of..."

"You mean," Jane said incredulous, "you mean they didn't even have..."

"Nope. There's a considerable feeling against them in some quarters. Unsanitary, you see. And after all, there's the whole big outdoors. Old Man Purdy belonged to that school of thought. Some of his kids had new-fangled notions, though. Finally wore him down."

As they rounded a curve of the bluff, an arc of lower hills and deep-cut hollows was abruptly spread out below them, and he slowed the car for a moment and waved a hand over the

landscape. "Down there," he said, "the farm where my grandmother was born. On the old road, the one they used before the highway was built. It's abandoned now, but we'll go out there sometime. Have to go horseback... the Confederate troops..." he stopped short. How must it seem to her, this pull and power of the tough, tangled human roots that lay in these hills, reaching deep down in time, matted and dense in the darkness?

She, however, gazing across the rugged, humped landscape, seemed only pleased, not at all awed by the presence of buried time and old bones. "Beautiful," she said. "Absolutely beautiful." The forest trees were still bare enough so that the ground could be seen, a soft rust-red carpet of fallen leaves on all the slopes. The upper branches, however, had begun to leaf out like a pale green mist thrown lightly across the wood. Here and there a fruit tree stood forth, bright with blossom.

"What are *those*?" she wanted to know, pointing. "That brilliant pink?"

"Redbud," he said, not needing to look. "Or flowering Judas, if you want to be poetic. Around here it's called redbud."

Jane preferred the other. "I always felt sorry for poor Judas," she said.

He was trying, now, not to remember. "The hi-ills of home," he sang out, casting round baritone notes onto the hushed expectancy of April air.

NOTES from the HOLLOW by Steve Weems

With Christmas upon us, there is little doubt that the cash registers will be busy at the 11,000 stores owned by Wal-Mart. But what allowed Wal-Mart to rapidly expand into such a global juggernaut? An important facet of that answer is Eureka Springs and our roads.

Sam Walton always said he managed by walking around, keeping an eye on things at as many stores as he could while continually teaching his philosophy and managing the rollout of his plans. In the early days, he was frustrated by the roads in the Ozarks, but as Vance H. Trimble wrote in his biography *Sam Walton: The Inside Story of America's Richest Man*, "But

one evening as he toiled along the corkscrew curves on U.S. Highway 62 through Eureka Springs he heard the drone of a small airplane." That gave him an idea that eventually led to a pilot's license and an airplane. As Vance H. Trimble says in the book, "Without this magic carpet, his Wal-Mart phenomenon never would have seen the light of day."

When I was a kid, Grandpa Jack McCall and I encountered Sam Walton at the old Berryville Wal-Mart. The mantle had burned out on Grandpa's Coleman lantern and he needed another one. We were wandering around the store when we bumped into this older guy who obviously worked for Wal-

Mart. Grandpa asked where the mantles were. The older man didn't know but said they'd sure find them. Three Wal-Mart associates who'd been lurking around the corner appeared and took Grandpa by the arm to the mantles.

After we left, I asked Grandpa if he knew who the old man was. Grandpa shook his head. I said that it was Sam Walton, owner of Wal-Mart, the richest man in America. Grandpa said that if he owned the store, he should've known where the mantles were. He was not impressed.

Sam is gone now, but after skimming the *Forbes* list of the wealthiest people, it appears the Walton family is still doing okay. Lumping together the



reported net worth of the six heirs of brothers Sam and Bud Walton gives a respectable total of \$145 billion or so, enough to rank as the richest family in the world.

Last chances to explore the Snow Train Village

Don't miss seeing the Snow Train Village exhibit at the Carnegie Library Annex, 192A Spring Street. The last days of the gigantic exhibit will be Thursday, Dec. 19 and Friday from 5 – 7 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The final day, Monday, Dec. 23, from 5 to 7 pm. is the perfect

pre-Christmas eve time to bring the family for a little holiday awe and wonder.

This charming landscape of 1930s and '40s small town American villages, Lionel trains, a trolley, vehicles and accessories is a fundraiser for the Eureka Springs Historical Museum, with a portion of the proceeds to be

donated to the library. This fabulous collection made possible by the generosity of Larry and Cathy Handley.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children at the door. Advance tickets not required. For further information see www.eurekaspringshistoricalmuseum.org or phone (479) 253-9417.

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



My wife and I are in our mid-50s and we enjoy a wonderful, playful relationship. We both take measures to look nice. My wife is complimented often but she DOES NOT dress sexy, as she feels it would make her look cheap. Even in sexual fantasy I do not stray, my wife holds the starring role – in very sexy attire. If she would occasionally dress to entice me, wow! Could this ever be possible?

What a beautiful compliment to your wife. Your question is not unusual, nor is your desire. Many women are uncomfortable dressing in a manner that is sexually alluring.

For brevity's sake, here is the *Reader's Digest* version of where this discomfort originates. Historically,

as children women are taught to be accommodating, as opposed to dominating. Consequently women often lack awareness of their own needs, their bodies and particularly their sexuality. The unspoken expectation is this: Women are the stewards of morality, exemplifying modesty, purity and innocence, while mightily guarding hearth and home as devoted wives and mothers. Antiquated as this perspective may seem, it remains pervasive. Case in point, even today when a woman is sexually victimized, her manner of dress is often and shockingly still considered relevant to the assault.

So, the first and most essential step is to understand and truly empathize

with where your wife's reservations likely originated. Next, share with her openly. Your devotion to her, even during private sexual fantasy is a stunning compliment. Together discuss ways to spice things up, including your desire for her to dress in a sexually alluring manner. Ask her to share some adventurous bedroom activities that may have permeated her fantasies. Visit a lingerie boutique together. Make it playful, not pressured.

It's important to start simple. While fishnet thigh-highs and a black satin blind-fold may strike your fancy, a long sexy gown worn to a private candle lit dinner may be more her style. Engaging in sexual behaviors outside of one's comfort zone can be quite

intimidating... as well as extremely liberating. Speaking of which, go ahead and grab that black satin blind-fold on your shopping venture. It would be the perfect accessory for you to don after that candle lit dinner. Enjoy!

QUESTIONS? Email leslie@esindependent.com. *Leslie Meeker, M.A., L.P.C., is a psychotherapist who has specialized in relational and sex therapy, sexual compulsivity and sexual trauma for the past 15 years, after receiving extensive training in human sexuality at the Masters and Johnson Institute in St. Louis, Mo.*



Slip & stick – In spite of 50° weather and dry main roads giving motorists more confidence, the side streets can still fool you – as Samuel Jones of Clarksville, Ark., found out around noon on Dec. 17. Jones slid off Armstrong while trying to negotiate slushy ice and almost ended up on Planer Hill. Fortunately, he stuck a landing in the trees and stayed put until the wrecker arrived.

PHOTO BY GWEN ETHEREDGE



"Apple" Annie – Annie Stricherz brightens the night in holiday red, looking like she could step in for Mrs. Claus at any moment.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK

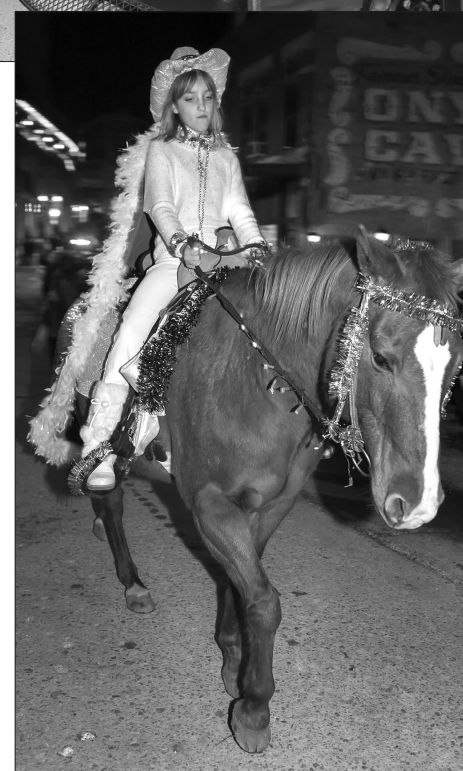


Tom at the Reins – Tom Tharp traded horse and carriage to drive a trolley full of Preservation Society members in the Christmas Memories parade on Dec. 16.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK

Giddiup! – Merritt Taylor urges her horse, Princess, along during the parade Monday night. This was the second parade outing for Princess and Merritt.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK



Swampbird sighting at Squid & Whale

“If you have, for one reason or another, walked the length of the Front Street apartments, you perchance have, for one reason or another, heard tale told of a monster, a legend, an abhorrence, a Swampbird.” - Arkansas Folk Legend

Swampbird, a grunge Southern rock band, originated

in Conway, Ark., when three college students living at Front Street Apartments got together to jam. Zac Hale on bass/vocals, Trent Whitehead on guitar and Dylan Vernon on guitar/vocals combined songwriting skills and started playing together every day. After moving to Little Rock, Paul Fennig joined them on drums and

Swampbird was hatched. Their first full length album, titled *On Being Alone*, was released in May of this year. Shea Stewart of *Sync* describes the album like this: “Some dreamy psychedelic rock. A touch of freewheeling roots and earthy country. A little pop.” Swampbird plays at the Squid & Whale on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 9 p.m.

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 19

- **BLARNEY STONE** Loose Mic, 7 p.m.
- **CATHOUSE LOUNGE** *Naughty P.J. Party – Wear your P.J.s!!*
- **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** DJ Karaoke
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** *Open Mic Musical Smackdown*
- **VOULEZ-VOUS** Open Mic Night

FRIDAY – DECEMBER 20

- **BLARNEY STONE** *Blind Driver, 9 p.m.*
- **CATHOUSE LOUNGE** *Adam Johnston, 8 p.m. – midnight*
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** *Emerald Girls Lingerie Show, 9 p.m.*
- **CHELSEA’S** *CHELSEA’S CHRISTMAS PARTY, 5 p.m., Whistle Pigs, 9 p.m.*
- **EUREKA LIVE!** DJ & Dancing, 9 p.m.
- **EUREKA PARADISE** *Ladies Night, Latin Fridays, DJ & Dancing to Latin hits*
- **GRAND TAVERNE** *Arkansas Red Guitar, 6:30–9:30 p.m.*
- **JACK’S PLACE** *Karaoke with DJ Goose, 9 p.m.*
- **LEGENDS SALOON** *The George Brothers, 9 p.m.*
- **NEW DELHI** *Ugly Christmas Sweater Party! Mike & Grady, 6:30–10:30 p.m.*
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Live Music, 7:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** *Ride Shy, 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.*
- **THE STONE HOUSE** *Jerry Yester, 6:30–9:30 p.m.*
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** “Local Kine” Local Talent Showcase, 9 p.m.
- **VOULEZ-VOUS** *Jesse Dean & Left of Center, 9 p.m.*

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 21

- **BLARNEY STONE** *Sam Clanton, 2–7 p.m., Little Zero, 9 p.m.*
- **CATHOUSE LOUNGE** *Charles Cole Pate, 8 p.m. – midnight*
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** *Muddy River*
- **CHELSEA’S** *Earl & Them, 9 p.m.*
- **EUREKA LIVE!** DJ & Dancing, 9 p.m.
- **EUREKA PARADISE** DJ & Dancing
- **GRAND TAVERNE** *Jerry Yester Grand Piano Dinner Music, 6:30–9:30 p.m.*
- **JACK’S PLACE** *Karaoke with DJ Goose, 9 p.m.*
- **LEGENDS SALOON** *The George Brothers, 9 p.m.*
- **NEW DELHI** *Kevin Riddle, 1–5 p.m., John Henry & Friends, 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.*
- **ROWDY BEAVER** *Karaoke with Jerry, 7:30 p.m.*
- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** *Strange Derangers, 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.*
- **SMILING BROOK CAFÉ** *Becky Jean & the Candy Man, 5–7 p.m. – BYOB*
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** *Swampbird, 9 p.m.*
- **VOULEZ-VOUS** *Jesse Dean & Left of Center, 9 p.m. Naughty Santa Costume Party!*

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 22

- **BLARNEY STONE** NFL Game Day–We Have Every Game
- **CHASERS** Sunday Funday
- **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** Sunday Night Football – gametime food/drink specials
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Free Pool Sundays
- **ROWDY BEAVER DEN** Open mic with *Jesse Dean*, 4–8 p.m.
- **SQUID & WHALE PUB** NFL Football afternoon, food & beer specials

MONDAY – DECEMBER 23

- **BLARNEY STONE** Monday Night Football
- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Pool Tournament, 7 p.m., NFL Specials – Challenge the spread for free wings!
- **CHELSEA’S** *SpringBilly, 9 p.m.*
- **NEW DELHI CAFÉ** Monday Night Football – gametime food/drink specials

TUESDAY – DECEMBER 24

- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Game challenge night, NFL Specials

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Swampbird – Hear the sounds of grunge Southern rock at Squid & Whale on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 9 p.m.

– Challenge the spread for free wings!

- **CHELSEA'S** Open Mic
- **LEGENDS SALOON** Pool Tournament, 6:30 p.m.
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Hospitality Night

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 25

- **CHASERS BAR & GRILL** Ladies Night – Drink specials, free jukebox
- **NEW DELHI CAFÉ** Open Jam
- **ROWDY BEAVER** Wine Wednesday

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Emerald Girls is an elite group of Southern Influence runway, photographic and promotional models in various cities around the country. The Fayetteville chapter of these glam girls have a plan to help seven local families this Christmas with a lingerie fashion show where all proceeds go to the families. Admission is \$5 or a new unwrapped toy. Children needing toys are three boys between 11-14 years old, a 12 year old girl, a seven year old boy and two tykes under the age of two, a boy and a girl.

The show is at Chasers Bar & Grill, 169 E. Van Buren in Eureka Springs on Friday, Dec. 20. Starting at 9 p.m., the show begins and ends with a solo dance, with the runway show in between. There will be eight Emerald Girls, each walking the runway twice, with Carrie Sparks providing intermission entertainment. Samples of the featured lingerie items will be available for purchase.



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Duet – Yes, we know they're already on the front page, but this happy duo of June and June is just having too much fun to ignore.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK

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Merry Gras – The Merry Krewe of Krazo mixed Mardi Gras and Christmas colors and won Second Place in the "Other" category during the annual Parade of Lights.

PHOTO BY RICHARD QUICK

Things that sparkle, resemble stars and planets, etc.

Saturday, Dec. 21 after the Sun enters Capricorn and Winter Solstice begins, Venus (love, finances, beauty, resources and gifts) retrogrades (29 degrees Capricorn). For those still considering gifts for Christmas (a daunting task), here are some imaginative ideas. Consider things that sparkle and shine, resembling stars and planets. Things tasting divine. Things hand-sewn with a bit of tulle, bio-luminescent and incandescent. Things that bubble, boil, bringing a bit of trouble. Things that bend, lean, wave and sway – pink ostrich and peacock plumes. Things soft, satin, made of mohair, angora or llama.

Things found. Things with attitude, glamour,

rebellion and style. Collections of things – stones, glass, shells, gems, gold, diamonds. Things that cover – smothered in hugs and kisses. Things handcrafted, supporting entire communities. Devoted narratives, magical colors, tender objects, unexpected ideas. Things jewel-like, hot and tasty. Things that seed, bud, sprout and thrive.

Things architectural, fractal, flourishing landscapes, textural (leather, bison, ceramic, glass and clay). All things biodynamic. Things made with passion, slowly, small and personal. Things that last lifetimes. Things rhythmic, moody, scented – sandalwood, frankincense and myrrh (joining the Three Kings). Cloved oranges, hanging chilies (green

that turn red), dried roses, cedar blocks, lavender bundles, piñon, luminarios. Spices for ayurvedic medicines, foods and curries, chai spices. Cocktail items and Pendletons (retro).

Bowls, baskets, art, food from a local artist and artisans (Ladysmith Jams). Small cards, Corita prints, magazines (gift each month), flour sack towels (Watts Tower tea towels), fig vinegar, cactus, tree ornaments. A promise to live happily and mindfully. Chickens, lambs, goats, sheep, a heifer, water buffalo, and a stove for a village. Help launch a new enterprise, clean water, an irrigation pump. Above all, gifts ending hunger and poverty, empowering, sustainable and life-changing. Joyful Christmas, everyone.

ARIES: Tend carefully to career and your reputation. Things change, everything's in review, past events come alive again. Be kind and giving with co-workers. You may feel compromised professionally. Observe this carefully. Make no unnecessary moves or decisions. You may not realize your value or the value of others. In Venus retrograde situation this is not unusual. Allow bonds of respect to direct your decisions.

TAURUS: You may have an encounter with faith, religion, a white horse, riding over the plains having an adventure. You may have disagreements with others philosophically. You'll assess and reassess your values, personal beliefs and all you've done and considered the last 18 months. You will refine and perhaps redesign whatever it is you're envisioning.

GEMINI: An interesting time for Geminis. Venus is your Soul ruler (this is Esoteric astrology). Most of your life you pointed out dualities. You lived with and your behaviors reflected duality. That was your personality task. When the Soul begins to direct the personality one synthesizes dualities through Love. That's what Venus is for you now. Venus supports you always. Ideas of love change.

CANCER: You may remember past partners and relationships. You may feel alone or misunderstood. It's important to talk all situations through with those you love. Refrain from judgments,

gossip, being distant emotionally. Be transparent, have patience, and wait out everything that feels uncomfortable. Things from the past appear (chaos) seeking a new level of harmony.

LEO: Do all you can to make work and work relationships harmonious and unstressful. Maintain clear concise information. Display real caring and compassion to co-workers.

Allow nothing to disturb the holidays. Create a warm environment in your heart and home, inviting everyone in. Focus on healing yourself which then heals others. The animals are all walking toward the manger. Join them.

VIRGO: Whenever a sense of an argument arises or a feeling of chaos emerges in your world, realize it's Ray 4 (light from a star in the Big Dipper) seeking the next level of harmony which you are to bring forth. Allow everyone their own beliefs. Don't complicate others with information unable to be processed. Sometimes new ideas are too fiery to absorb. Everyone's Soul takes care of them. Your Soul keeps you from disillusion.

LIBRA: There's something unspoken in your relationship to family. Every family is a Holy Family always learning new

things together at different levels. No family is dysfunctional. Every family is learning how to awaken.

Sometime in the next year you may come to a state of rapprochement with your family. You are ruled by Venus. You will ponder upon love for the next five months. **SCORPIO:** You've felt insulated these past months. You're known to be a hermit, retreating in protection.

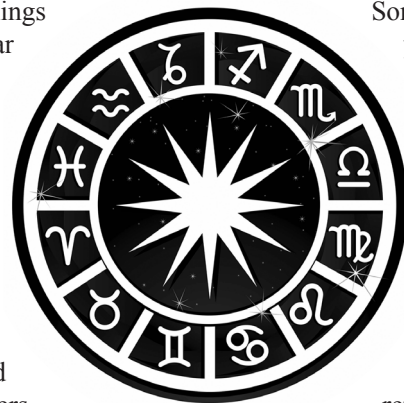
In the coming months this will increase. You will consider past relationships and their value. Your values have changed radically. You allow less chatter, needing more sincerity. Think on what you truly need, desire and aspire to. It all requires sacrifice which means "coming from the heart."

SAGITTARIUS: It would be good this Christmas to tithe in great quantities. To tithe from your heart. To give and then give some more to those in need. Not holding back. To tithe until you love so much you weep for those in need in the world. This is your Christmas gift to the world and to yourself. The results will be unsurpassed by any other experience. In the coming months issues of money will surface. This tithing is a means of securing an insecurity you may feel. Just do it.

CAPRICORN: Your personal appearance, sense of self, even your mannerisms are beginning to change. And therefore, who you project out into the world that others see. In meditation each morning, we call for the Sun's light and our prayers to rest within and emanate a light from each of us. This light helps others discover their Path of Return. You are on that Path. You must rest more, not worry, stand in the Sun's light each day and take on no new responsibilities.

AQUARIUS: All Aquarians need a Tesla coil Christmas tree. The light from the coils helps illuminate all that lies beneath the surface of all feelings, sadnesses and aspirations. It will form a pathway for those from the past to visit. When they appear, offer them love and understanding. You may feel obscure for a while. It's OK. You're behind veils doing inner work for the next many months. The inner work illuminates and supports the outer.

PISCES: You may want to make contact with previous friends and lovers and with some you will. However, do not expect any responses. The past has withdrawn as much as possible so you can move forward in the vision of the new world. Also, friends from the past may not be able to withstand your extreme intensity. They are not disinterested. They simply can't respond. Use your present communications with those who already love you. There are many.



Risa D'Angeles, founder & director, Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute, a contemporary Wisdom School studying the Ageless Wisdom 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.

Film fest offers more than \$5,000 in awards and prizes

Starting January 23, Eureka Springs goes independent to celebrate the art of filmmaking. The Thursday night Eureka Springs Indie FilmFest (ESIFF) Filmmakers' VIP Reception will be at Fresh on N. Main, beginning three days of film, food and fun including screenings, panel discussions, presentations and creative socializing with an independent attitude.

The ESIFF Award Show is Saturday night, Jan. 25, at The Aud followed by an after party at Voulez-Vous.

A couple of special honors will be awarded along with Best of Show (sponsored by VCI Entertainment). Best in Category Awards will be given to Innovative Women In Film, sponsored by The Loretta Young Foundation; Best Young Filmmakers, sponsored by Procomm and The Arts Council; and Best Storytelling sponsored by The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow.

There will be several Best of Craft prizes as well. The festival is open to the public, and tickets and passes will go on sale after the first of the year.

Know someone who makes digital films or just enjoys indie films? Let them know and blast it on Facebook,

too! See entry form and all event times and details at www.esindiefilmfest.com. Entry deadline is Dec. 31.

PASSAGE

Larry Teslow

Larry Teslow, 72, of Park Rapids, Minn., died on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013 at his home. The Teslows spent many winters in Eureka Springs, then lived here full time until moving to Minnesota.

A memorial service will be held in the summer of 2014. Date, time and place of the service will be announced later.

You may leave online condolences at www.ceasefuneralhome.com

HISID continued from page 3

got their HISID bill and thought it was a tax. A true, legal government entity can send out bills 'forever' in the form of taxes. It is illegal for a SID to tax because, under Arkansas law, they are not a true government. HISID is pretending to be a city, and wants all the rights of a city, without following the rules and regulations of actually becoming a city."

Bischoff said SIDs weren't really intended to last forever; they are to be

a stopgap between bare dirt and being developed to the point where it can evolve into a real city, or be annexed into one.

HISID has been functioning as a municipality for decades, Bischoff said, being run by "a bunch of truly well intentioned people who had no real knowledge of how it was supposed to be operated under Arkansas law and, as such, Holiday Island has not been in compliance.

"AOB money has been spent in

ways that the laws regulating SIDs do not allow, and even though it may seem to have made perfect sense, that is illegal. As such it opens up the district to potential lawsuits for operating illegally. If you don't like a law, you change that law. You can't just ignore it."

The settlement allows the 2011 valuations to stand, but gives current R1 and R2 (improved) owners a \$2,300 credit. The remaining assessed benefits are \$10,700 for R1 and R2 improved. R3 improved property owners receive no credit under the proposed settlement, and are assessed at \$17,000.

As stated in the notice of the proposed settlement sent to owners: "The \$2,300 credit is in place as recognition that the improved lots are owned by property owners connected to the HISID water/sewer system and thus have paid and will continue to pay the special sewer debt assessment charge, water tower charge and security fee that are all included in their monthly sewer bill."

Under the proposed settlement, HISID would be allowed to charge six percent interest each year on the remaining balance. The annual assessment fees levy, which is set annually by the BOC, is based on a percentage (which can't exceed 10 percent in any one year) of the total assessed benefit. Currently the levy is at 5.2 percent. R1 and R2 improved are billed \$676. R3 improved is billed \$884.

According to a PowerPoint presentation by Graves, the current annual assessment fees charged won't change. However, each year in which the amount billed/paid exceeds the interest due on the principal balance, the remaining balance due from each property will decline, and would be paid off by the year 2040 (unless the district

would undertake a project that would change the amount of "amenities," which would in turn require an adjustment to the basis amount.)

"We have about twenty-seven years to figure out our future, if indeed it changes our future," Graves said.

Bischoff said the lawsuit settlement was designed to correct errors, and have everybody treated fairly under the law.

"There have been fees collected here over the years vastly in excess of what was allowed under Arkansas law," Bischoff said. "Numerous ownership categories have not been treated equally, as they are supposed to be under the law. It simply needs to be straightened out. It has never been my intention to tank Holiday Island, trash it, burn it to the ground, or any of the other paranoia being fostered by people who never come to a HISID meeting, and just listened to what their neighbor – who probably knows nothing about it either – said."

Bischoff said in order for Holiday Island to exist, it does need some form of revenue stream. So the lawsuit is a compromise that allows HISID to charge up to six percent interest on the remaining AOB principal balance. Interest charges can never exceed six percent.

"There is a critical balance here to make sure we try to meet the needs of property owners, but we also don't want an open-ended checkbook so the five people on the commission can come along and price everyone out of the market," Bischoff said. "We hit common ground where we can exist, but they can't just charge whatever they want, either. My personal opinion is that priority issues don't seem to be being realistically addressed as far as what is vital, and what is just 'nice to have'."

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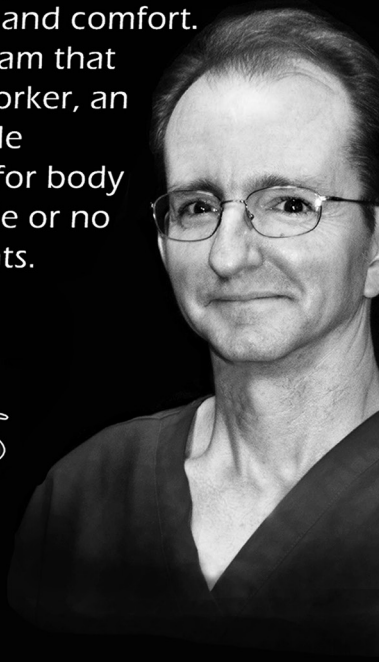
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Win a Polaris Ranger

Berryville Kiwanis Club is selling chances to win a Polaris Ranger. Only 350 tickets will be sold and eight secondary \$100 prizes will be given

Tickets are \$50 and odds are really good. Drawing will be held Jan. 11 at the Berryville Fire Station pancake breakfast, which begins at 7 a.m., but you don't have to be present to win.

Anyone interested in a ticket or two, or info on the pancake breakfast, should email Gayle at GPace@fmbgf.com.



Get the word out in Berryville

In addition to news media and the Eureka Springs Chamber, local organizations and businesses have been invited to send information about special holiday services, events or displays to the Berryville Chamber at berryvillechamber@windstream.net.

"The information will be sent out to all our members," Ginger Oaks, Director, said. "We want our community to know about what you have waiting for them."

DROPPING A Line

by Robert Johnson

December 18 shows how pretty the lake can be in the winter, and in order to get a payday sometimes you have to shovel some snow.

Stripers on Beaver Lake like to move, so it helps having friends who chase them, too. If you don't have a trip and your partner does, you do what you have to do to help get each other on or off the water. By the way, this is Johnny Glantz of Rogers. We got him in and his people had a good day.

Stripers on Beaver are still hitting the top and not that hard to find this time of year, just look for the birds feeding on the bait that is being pushed up. Stripers are being caught from the dam area to Horseshoe Bend out of Rogers. Brood shiners can work well now because they are feeding on smaller bait so if you can't net shad and need shiners, check Beaver Dam Store, Barnett's Bait and Pawn in Garfield or Hook Line & Sinker in Rogers. I keep a few pounds on hand through the winter months by feeding them goldfish flakes. I keep shad on hand, too, but to net this time of year you have to mark them on your graph and let your net sink about 20 ft.

Here at Holiday Island I have not been able to get out this week, but do have a friend who has been out every day but one in his houseboat catching walleye and



bass pretty good off the bottom. The water temp here is about 38° but warmer going up river. Jigging the bottom or putting a big shiner down should get you some fish. Think slow.

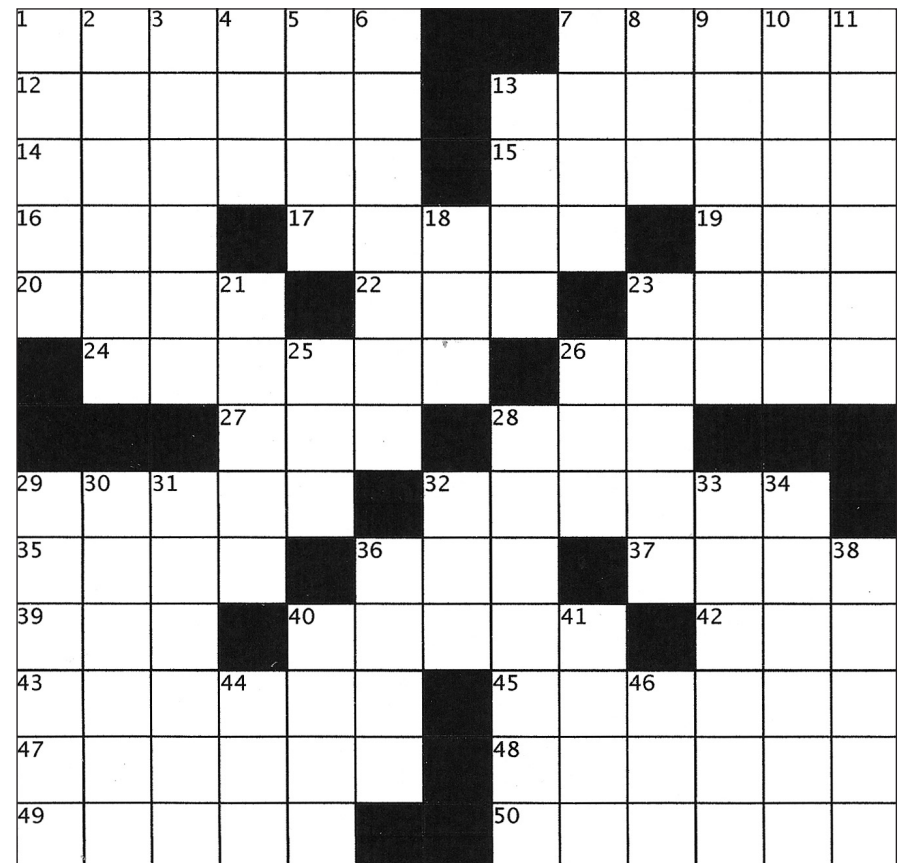
Well, that's it for this week. Have a Merry Christmas and bundle up if going out.



INDEPENDENT Crossword

by Wayne Levering

Solution on page 31



ACROSS

- One who practices nature worship
- Toward the stern
- Take in air
- Cinder cones
- Cartoonist
- Wild ass
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Avoid
- Work unit
- Defense acronym
- Greek peak
- Previously
- Protect
- Band of eight
- Ball holder
- Skedaddle
- Weighed down
- Ethiopian ape
- Yemeni gulf

- Savage

- Water gate?
- Wild bunch
- Donated
- Who Uncle Sam wants
- Tooth coating
- Paraphrase
- Floating
- Sports venues
- Levels
- Without companions

DOWN

- Expand
- Bit of progress
- Pure
- Crow call
- Away from the wind
- Soothing medicine
- Zits
- It's a wrap

- Silvery white
- Savage
- Where shooters aim
- Kind of cracker
- Total
- Frequent
- Santa's reindeer, e.g.
- Bard's nightfall
- Texas tea
- Vague
- Regret
- God, in the Torah
- War of the words
- Soho sir
- Very beginning
- Unprincipled
- Weapon handle
- Frothy
- Roman clan
- Roman fiddler
- Deface
- Harmless cyst

CAPC continued from page 2

"anywhere on the web." More spots will be added regularly.

Executive session

After an Executive Session, Ragsdell stated the topic was discussion

of reprimanding an employee, and they decided to take no action.

Next workshop will be Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 4 p.m. at the CAPC offices. Next regular meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m.

INDEPENDENTClassifieds

The INDEPENDENT Classifieds cost \$8 for 20 words, each additional word is 25¢.

DEADLINE – Monday at noon

To place a classified, email classifieds@esindependent.com or call 479.253.6101

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ISLAND NAILS IS NOW OPEN at 3 Parkway Dr., Ste G (near HI Subway.) Mention this ad for \$5 off your first visit. Featuring in December: Spa Pedi, Mani with OPI gel polish—lasts 2 weeks (compare to Shellac) Call (479) 981-9556 for info on other services and appointments.

LAUGHING HANDS MASSAGE announces it is winter special time. Three one hour massages for \$120 or a 75 minute hot stone for \$65. Laughing Hands always a great location for couples massage. Call (479) 244-5954 for appointment.

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YOGA WITH JACK. Come to yoga on Mondays at 6 p.m. during the holidays. Wed./Thurs. classes will resume in January. The Space \$8. (870) 480-9148.

WINTER MARKET IS HERE! We are open on Thursdays from 9 a.m. – noon in the Pine Mountain Village parking lot. We have winter greens, roots, squash, pecans, apples, mushrooms, beef, chicken, eggs, baked goods and more!

BREAD – LOCAL ORGANIC SOURDOUGH Ivan's Art Bread – Thursday all winter at Farmer's Market. Pumpernickel Rye! Long Italian and Onion Poppy Bialys. Every week a surprise! Check: bread.loveureka.com My cookbook is here — Winter BBQ Rub coming soon! Special requests entertained; call me! (479) 244-7112

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CHARITY INSPIRED ESTATE SALE Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 21 & 22, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. 37 Woodsdale Drive, Holiday Island (old Arvest Bank) Furniture, antiques, art, pocket watches, silver coins & much more. Proceeds to benefit Flint Street Fellowship and ECHO clinic. Refreshments and pastries provided. Contact: islandemporium@yahoo.com

To place a classified, email classifieds@esindependent.com

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HELP WANTED

THE CITY OF BERRYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT is accepting applications for the position of Reserve Police Officer. Applicants must meet minimum standards, and be capable of passing a physical and psychological exam. Applications and job descriptions are available at the Berryville Police Department. Applications must be received by Dec. 31, 2013, at the Berryville Police Department located at 303 E. Madison, Berryville, AR 72616. For more information please call (870) 423-3343. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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Home Tour – Kathy Pickowitz of Rock Cottage Gardens invites the public in for a tour of the beautiful B&B decked out for the holidays. Intrepid visitors braved the ice and slush for a tour of nine historic homes on Dec. 14 after the tour had to be canceled due to weather the week prior.

New Calendar – A jolly John Cross holds a copy of the 2014 Cornerstone Calendar. The calendars were distributed on Dec. 17 during an Open House at all bank locations. Cross presented this one at the Historic Bank of Eureka Springs Museum on Main St.

Enchanted – The Eureka Springs Carnegie Library annex houses a magical miniature Snow Train Village that's fascinating to Lynx Zohar and Suriah Rogers of Eureka Springs.

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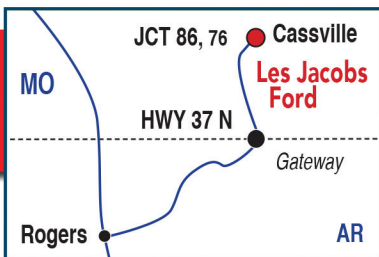
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