



ESI

January 4, 2017 Vol. 5 No. 28

eureka.news

ESI is your INDEPENDENT news source
covering Carroll County, Arkansas

This week’s Independent thinker

John Oliver, host of *Last Week Tonight*, made an already financially frenzied 9,000 people breathe easier last week.

Oliver and his TV team registered as a debt collection company for \$50, then started buying medical debt for less than a penny on a dollar. They bought \$15 million in debt of those unable (not unwilling) to pay, for \$60,000.

The team exposed what few people know, that companies with uncollected debt can sell that debt for nearly nothing to another company that will start in with harassing, threatening phone calls and letters, and once a debtor responds by sending in a payment, the whole debt is back in the active file.

Oliver’s company transferred the 9,000 debts to RIP Medical Debt, a company that abolishes unpaid and unpayable medical debt. Simple forgiveness.

Actions decide fate.



PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA

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If I can see it, I can paint it – Mel Costillo of Pemberton Painting puts fresh and intricate touches on the scary part of the Eureka Springs Historical Museum’s Calif Stone Building on S. Main. Renovation should be finished in a month, but like everything else, it depends on the weather. See story on p.4. **PHOTO BY BECKY GILLETTE**

Parker resigns, denies state allegations

BECKY GILLETTE

Eureka Springs attorney Tim Parker says that although he voluntarily resigned as Western Division Carroll County District Judge, he is not guilty of trading sexual favors from female litigants in return for bonds and releases as was alleged in an investigation by the Arkansas Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission (JDDC).

A JDDC press release of Jan. 3 said Parker was removed and resigned as part of a negotiated resolution with the JDDC. The Letter of Removal From Office said Parker admitted to violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct regarding conducting probable cause determinations and ordering friends or former clients released without bail.

“Over the course of several years you performed probable cause determinations, lowered bail settings and released defendants on their own recognizance as part of your judicial duties,” the JDDC letter said. “You received *ex parte* calls from jail from defendants and discussed their cases. You improperly performed these judicial acts to the benefit of many defendants who were

either friends of yours or former clients from your part-time private practice. You did not properly recuse or disclose your relationships with these defendants. You often went to, or called the jail personally, to affect their prompt release.”

Under a section “Admitted Facts Constituting Judicial Misconduct,” it states, “The totality of your conduct referenced in the paragraphs above exhibit an attitude of bias, conflict of interest and general disregard for the integrity of the judiciary.”

There was also a section “Disputed Allegations Rendered Moot By Your Resignation” that included allegations that from 2013 to 2016, “bonds or release of these women or their family or friends were done by their request in exchange for sexual favors. Jail records and court records reveal the District Court’s authority over these persons. Allegations also exist about trading cash and certain prescription pills for sexual favors or money with many of these same women, as well as with other women in the community. The JDDC possess video statements from over a dozen women, as well as

PARKER continued on page 2

PARKER continued from page 1

recordings of conversations women in the jail had with you in your role as District Court Judge. Print outs of text messages from your cell phone and from the phones of female litigants with cases in District Court also support these allegations. Our investigation led to docket sheets and other records that corroborate the allegations.”

The letter states that Parker has denied the allegations and resigned before receiving the names and details from disputed allegations.

“You stated that your decision was influenced by the effect litigation would have on your family, the time and expense of litigation and that your term on the bench was to expire on Dec. 31, 2016,” the letter said. “You resigned with a declaration of permanent ineligibility to serve in the judiciary before the case progressed to that point.”

Parker said that the investigation was politically motivated by his enemies.

“We denied all that crap, and I think it is odd that having served ten years that they wait until the final few weeks of my term to go after me,” Parker said. “The very few names they even gave me of accusers, I only knew three of the people and the others I don’t know who they were.

They were supposed to hold an election for this position two years ago, but they hated me so much they didn’t even hold the election. It is so G*d damned political it’s pathetic.”

He denied there are any conversations recorded between him and prisoners in jail.

“They have no conversations in jail from anyone, I promise you that,” Parker said.

Parker said most of the time when he was called to do Probable Cause hearings, he didn’t even know the name of the accused beforehand. During PC hearings, he said he was surrounded by law enforcement officers, other attorneys and people in attendance.

Parker said he resigned to protect his wife and two young children. He intends to continue in private practice which he has been practicing in Eureka Springs since April 1994.

Parker’s resignation letter to Gov. Asa Hutchinson Dec. 31, 2016, said there was no vacancy created as his term has ended and a new judge would be sworn in by the time the governor received the letter. Judge Dale Ramsey was elected with an expanded territory, Carroll and Madison Counties. Ramsey took office Jan. 1.

INDEPENDENTNews

Celebration at Leatherwood penciled in

NICKY BOYETTE

Parks Commissioner Ferguson Stewart again announced his plans for a Grand Opening celebration for Lake Leatherwood City Park with a tentative date of Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. He wants to draw attention to the new playground, renovated cabins and the other new features at LLCP the public might not know about.

Stewart said he has no advertising budget for the event, but Parks Director Justin Huss commented the City

Advertising and Promotion Commission could help get the word out. He also mentioned the Chamber of Commerce intends to have a display promoting outdoor activities in the area, and the event could be highlighted there.

Commissioner Steven Foster reminded the group at last week’s meeting they will have to go through the process of getting the 1/8-cent Parks tax, which sunsets in September, on the ballot again, and the Grand Opening would be an opportunity to rally public support.

Grant funds take a different path

NICKY BOYETTE

Director Justin Huss announced at the Dec. 27 Parks meeting that he has arranged for grant funds from Arkansas Parks & Tourism, originally earmarked for a pathway from Harmon Park to Clear Spring School, to be redirected to another trail or sidewalk project in town.

One possibility would be to use the funds to extend the sidewalk along US 62 further toward the intersection with Hwy. 23 South. However, there would need to

be engineering renderings and a \$15,000 match, which would be the responsibility of the city.

Another option would be to use the funds for the proposed fitness trail around the perimeter of the Community Center property in which case the Community Center Foundation would have to meet the match and other expenses.

Huss remarked there are layers of responsibility to resolve for each option, and he will report back.





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Parks going on a hog hunt

NICKY BOYETTE

"We're not talking about elective surgery. It's public safety," Parks Director Justin Huss told the Parks Commission at its Dec. 27 meeting regarding a significant uptick in feral hog activity at Lake Leatherwood City Park.

What especially got the attention of commissioners was the report of a sighting near one of the cabins, which would mean the roaming hogs are rooting closer to park visitors. Huss said he wanted to purchase two traps, costing about \$6000 each, right away. One trap would be the Boar Buster corral trap, remotely triggered to drop around a sounder of hogs by a cell phone. The other would be a Game Changer Jr., a slightly different design of a corral trap that is trailer-mounted and more flexible in where it can be stationed.

Huss said there is a hog-trapping program in Arkansas administered by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, but Carroll County has not been involved. Now he sees imminent need. He suggested Parks start its own program and perhaps rent traps to nearby landowners as a way to help

recoup some of the expense but also keep the hog-trapping campaign in motion, and said there are landowners interested.

Huss acknowledged there are unknowns associated with his plan such as how much staff time the project would consume and how much corn it would take to lure an entire sounder of hogs into a trap. "We really need eight traps out there. It's a huge issue." He said with a quick purchase, trapping could begin in probably two weeks.

Commissioner Steven Foster said the commission would need an itemized budget, and Huss responded that would be difficult because of unknown expenses. For example, once a sounder is trapped and killed, there is hauling away the carcasses. He said the only legitimate way to dispose of the carcasses is to incinerate them, "and how much does that cost?"

Commissioner Jay Fitzsimmons said the commission needs a summary of total costs, but Huss stated, "I need them now." He admitted there were regrettably some unidentified expenses to be incurred, but there also was an unknown number of

feral hogs in an area of hikers and bikers on Parks property.

Chair Bill Featherstone commented the problem would get worse if Parks does not do anything. "It's like putting a roof on your house. When your roof starts leaking, you don't wait to fix it." He said, as a worst case scenario, "We can resell the traps if we don't like them, so let's get them."

Fitzsimmons moved to approve the purchase of two traps not to exceed \$15,000, as a capital expense.

The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Director's report

Huss commented there have been a few cabin rentals during the off-season while other cabins are being renovated in preparation for spring visitors. New trails are being planned near Black Bass Lake, and he's coordinating with the CC Riders on a maintenance plan for other trails during the winter. He mentioned local developers have discussed connecting future developments with the urban trail

PARKS continued on page 15

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Historical Museum getting a facelift

BECKY GILLETTE

One of the more significant historical buildings in town, both in terms of the unique three-story structure itself and the collections inside, is the Calif Stone Building at 95 S. Main, home of the Eureka Springs Historical Museum. But in recent years, rainwater splashed by passing vehicles has affected the front of the building.

This past year, a stonewall was added to protect the entrance, and now the museum building is undergoing a major facelift. Currently you can see through the front part of the building into the museum as workers tackle rebuilding the wall that rotted, although plywood covers the opening at night where windows used to be. Workers employed by Pemberton Painting are not just repainting, but doing major restorative carpentry work at the building that has housed ESHM since 1971.

Mayor Butch Berry, an architect with a special interest in historic preservation, has been involved with the building for decades. While he was in architecture



Winter work is good, and sprucing up a grand old lady is simply grand – Justin Morgan and Mel Costillo, with Pemberton Painting, are starting 2017 giving a makeover to the Eureka Springs Historical Museum downtown.

school, he did work on the building for an architectural preservation class project.

"A friend, Kenneth Davenport, and I measured the building for the Historic American Buildings Survey," Berry said. "I did the original grant application in 1978-79 for the porch, which was built on a couple years later. Prior to being taken over for the museum, it was the Elk's Club."

Berry said the architecture style is known as the Second Empire, which is always recognized by the high mansard roofs (also known as a French or curb roof) that are four-sided gambrel-style hip roofs. The steep roof with windows creates an additional floor of habitable space. The only other example of Second Empire that Berry knows of in Eureka Springs is Penn Castle.

"It is really neat to look at the front of the building the way it was originally compared to how it is today," Berry said. "There was no porch on it originally. It was just a square front. I worked on the design for the porch. It's neat to see the before and after photos of the building."

Berry said the building is also significant in that it is not just a historical museum, but an art museum with the works of many well-known artists who have called Eureka Springs home.

Currently workers with Pemberton Painting have been climbing up and down tall ladders and using a scissor lift to work on the second floor exterior portions of the building, including areas with a lot of

intricate trim work.

"You can walk out on the third floor, so work on that part is really easy," paint contractor Penny Pemberton said. "We were trying to get the most difficult things done when foot traffic was the least. We had the scissor lift over the New Year's weekend to reach high areas because the museum was closed down so much. The challenge with any downtown building in Eureka is the foot traffic and tourism part of it. We waited until the slow season even though it will take longer because we have to work with the correct weather. We were able to tent off the deck in order to paint underneath even when the weather is bad."

Pemberton said a lot of the grant money for the project that started December 1 is going for carpentry, not painting. Rotted wood had to be replaced next to the front door and on other areas of the building. She said metal parts of the building are in good shape.

"You can see on the third floor the wood part has the most damage as compared to the metal," Pemberton said. "Metal will last longer than wood and we did a few specific things to make it last even longer. If the building is prepped and painted every ten years, it will last forever."

Pemberton said their contract gives them four more weeks to complete the work but, if the weather is cooperative, she hopes to finish it in three.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM continued on page 15



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Locals' Cuba visit coincides with Castro funeral

BECKY GILLETTE

Susanne and Kent Long had a front seat during a very historic event witnessed by few Americans. The Longs of Eureka Springs happened to be participating in a People-to-People Cruise to Cuba Dec. 2-9, dates that coincided with the funeral of one of the world's controversial former political leaders, Fidel Castro.

"The cruise was just ahead of the opening of the country to American cruise ships and airlines so we had an opportunity to see it as it has been for the last fifty years under Fidel Castro," Susanne said. "Our ports of call were Santiago de Cuba, (Castro's birthplace), Havana and Cienfuego. Our first stop happened to be on the exact day Castro's remains were brought to Santiago de Cuba for burial. His ashes had been on a nine-day journey across Cuba, originating in Havana, then transported through each city. The ashes were in a glass container aboard a green Russian jeep, visible to all."

Cubans' reactions to the death of the revolutionary who ruled the country for nearly 50 years was different than many Americans might have been led to expect. As the Longs disembarked from their ship in Santiago, they found streets lined with people waiting for the arrival of Castro's remains.

"There were many flags, posters and signs praising



him," Susanne said. "In the town square there was a giant video screen with scenes of early days from the revolution and of Castro making speeches to large crowds. Also in the square were billboards with photos primarily from the revolution. The people that we met

were genuinely sad at his passing. They see him more as the revolutionary leader who freed them from the tyranny of Batista."

Although many Cubans believe Castro's civil

CUBA continued on page 15



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INDEPENDENTNews

Winter gardening – there's not that much to it

NICKY BOYETTE

As the song goes, "Wintertime, and the gardener is mulching." Autumn winds from Canada will have blown leaves out of trees and into your flower beds and gardens, and voila! You have mulch!

According to the Clemson University Cooperative Extension, "Mulching is one of the most important ways to maintain healthy landscape plants. A mulch is any material applied to the soil surface for protection or improvement of the area covered." Leaves are abundant and easily available, so they are a typical mulching choice, as are grass clippings, straw, bark and other materials.

Mulch is serious business in the horticultural world. There is even a Mulch and Soil Council, founded in 1972, which creates industry standards for the bags of mulch and potting soil a consumer buys. It will have its next annual meeting in Nashville in September. The MSC created standards for labeling and product performance, but our discussion will be a less regulated and more informal, backyard view of mulching.

Kinds of mulch

There are organic and inorganic mulches. Inorganic mulches would be products such as black plastics and weed barrier cloths, which keep the soil warmer and weeds down. The gardener would need to get water beneath these, but they do help keep the soil moist. However, lots more fun than dealing with long sheets of plastic and weed cloth are the organic mulches.

Among the most available organic sources for mulch are leaves, straw, hay, pine needles and grass clippings.

If you can't find leaves for your garden or flowerbeds, you're not looking. Eureka Springs is a Tree City USA member, and every route out of town is through the woods. Leaves are abundant and excellent as mulch. Some larger leaves, such as oak and sycamore, are nomadic in that they will go where the wind or destiny takes them. They make good mulch, however, so it is worth the effort to keep them where they will be useful. A lucky gardener will have room for a leaf or debris pile as a repository where leaves and other end-of-year plant matter can just hang around, take some time off and eventually break down into a wonderful, tilthy mulch.

Or a gardener can find a way to keep the leaves in place. Cover a dormant asparagus bed with leaves, for example, then scatter on top some of the wonderful, tilthy leaf mulch from the bottom of the debris pile. A crafty gardener could spread leaves on a recently planted garlic bed and hold the leaves in place with an old worn-out hammock. Leaves stay through the winter, garlic sprouts uninhibited, soil is loose and friable, and the hammock pulls away easily when the time is right. Gardening is art and science.

Leaves are different. Oak leaves are generally acidic which is good for strawberries and blueberries, but not all vegetables or berries appreciate acidity. Without getting too chemical about it, a reasonable best-effort solution would be to combine all the leaves, grass clippings and compost you have. Mix it up. One for all, all for one, into the garden we go.

Pine needles stay in place well, and according to the United States Department of Agriculture, they do not make the soil significantly more acidic. They also provide a neat and tidy appearance to a strawberry bed, for instance.

Grass clippings work well because they are easy to work with and can be tucked easily around plants in beds. They keep soil moist, last through the season, and add nitrogen when they deteriorate.

Straw and hay are also effective, long-lasting mulches because they break down slowly and provide a solid cover in the meantime.



PHOTO BY NICKY BOYETTE

However, hay farmers often use herbicides in fields to increase yields, and the bales you bring home might have residues of scary, nasty chemical concoctions. Gardeners might want to ask about the straw they buy. Uncontaminated straw does eventually break down nicely and add wonderful texture to the soil.

Ruth Stout was a renegade organic gardener who attracted the attention of other gardeners in the 1950s and '60s because she mulched heavily and worked only a little. She claimed after a few years of maintaining as much as seven inches of straw permanently on her garden beds, she never added manure again... just more straw. Academicians and horticulturists toured her garden to see for themselves, and she once said she got tired just hearing about all the work her guests went to raising their vegetables.

Shredded bark, wood chips and sawdust have a place in the pantheon of mulches because they are effective at keeping weeds down, but as they decompose they use up nitrogen in the soil. Therefore, to take advantage of the good part of their behavior and avoid the bad, a gardener could use them to cover pathways. Lay down a thick layer of cardboard or chipboard products such as pizza or beer boxes on the pathway and apply a healthy dose of the shredded bark. It will look wonderful and weed-free for a year or two, but then you have to do it again because weed seeds will grow on anything and beer boxes decompose. So you will need more beer boxes.

Why mulch?

Nature mulches itself. Soil in the woods beneath years of fallen leaves is loamy and easily crumbled. A gardener's job is to take care of the soil and the soil will take care of the plants, so the lesson for

MULCHING continued on page 19

Calamity prediction – would you want to know?

BECKY GILLETTE

Catherine Reed is known around town as a musical entertainer whose style has been compared to James Taylor and Joni Mitchell. She has also worked as an EMT and a firefighter, and has twice built a home with her own labor. She and her partner, Cathy Simmons, have installed 18 solar panels at their home in the country.

You might say this couple is really into the sun. In addition to generating power from the sun, Reed and Simmons are two of the founders of a Disaster Prediction App by Suspicious Observers, available now on iTunes for \$2.99, that they say can be used to predict earthquakes and weather disasters related to fluctuation in the sun's electromagnetic fields.

Reed has always been a science buff. The interest in the Disaster Prediction App began after she got tired of spending time on the Internet trying to learn things about Earth and getting "wild and crazy disaster predictions." She was intrigued by the science being developed that links sun activity to earthquakes and weather-related disasters. Data about solar flares, geomagnetic storms and sunspots collected by satellites observing the sun is now readily available. The Disaster Prediction App correlates sun activity to weather and earthquakes on Earth.

"We are now at the frontier of space weather and how it affects weather on Earth," Reed said. "Space weather has a very interesting educational aspect to it. It was obvious the other websites I went to were just click bait. I wanted something valid and interesting. Thanks to satellites we have out there, we have new information every day about what the sun does and how it affects our weather. Ben Davidson and a few NASA scientists have figured out how the sun affects larger earthquakes. Davidson has developed a way to run the information through a computer to come up with predictions. His record is becoming more and more accurate daily."

According to preview information about the app on iTunes, "The Disaster Prediction App will show you the current state of the sun, its effects on Earth, earthquake events, and areas of the earth likely to have large earthquakes. There is a space weather portion and an earthquake portion of the app. The space weather portion includes alerts for when to pay attention, but most important, this is your in-hand warning system if the sun ever decides to really rock-



and-roll. If we are about to take the big storm that changes the world forever, you'll know about it beforehand.

"The earthquake portion of this app is based on daily observations of a correlation that exists between certain solar phenomena and seismic activity. Our earthquake forecasting model has been able to forecast the location of large earthquake events on five different continents."

Reed understands that people are skeptical. There are a lot of bogus conspiracy theories out there. But she has won some bets with locals who said there was no way the app could predict earthquakes of a magnitude 6.0 or more.

"As a member of Suspicious Observers, I've been able to get a rational view of all this and been able to differentiate between the outrageous and the possible," Reed said. "It is interesting that when we have a hit, when the app has successfully predicted an

earthquake, I feel joyous. But at the same time, I know the earthquake has caused serious damage and pain."

Reed and Simpson initially got interested by attending an Observing the

SCIENCE continued on page 19

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The Eureka Springs Independent, Inc.

is published weekly in Eureka Springs, AR

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Knowing a good library

Editor,

I love the libraries! Of all the libraries I have been a patron of, and there have been many, the Eureka Springs Carnegie Public Library tops the list.

It is #1 because of its staff, welcoming and assisting. Their care and concern are special, creating the feeling of being with good neighbors, not being a member of an institution.

You should be reminded of how good you are and how much the community appreciates you.

Health, happiness and prosperity for 2017!

Leon Bert

Art and energy and how you look at it

Editor,

How can freedom-loving Democrats, liberals, tree-huggers, animal lovers who believed in the possibilities of a fair and just United States government survive votes being stolen, not even counted? How can we stop the growth of fascism?

My oldest friend in California told me, “Just remember what the Vietnamese said: ‘Turn hate into energy.’” So, I listed a few things that make me appreciate kindness and smiles:

1. The Carnegie Library – Fran, Loretta, Kate, Sarah, Christina, Mackenzie, Ginger and April are always pleasant and helpful. What a beautiful library we have. Thank you.

2. The Flint Street Food Bank – Pat Kasner and many volunteers distribute food to many families. (Our wonderful

organic Farmers’ Market gives vegetables to Flint St. when they can.)

3. The Cup of Love Ministry – Pattie and Chuck Jarrett live their religious faith by feeding the hungry with joy. They are moving to the old Calvary Chapel and offering free soup Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. They need volunteers, refrigerators, freezers, tables, chairs and food to keep going. Call them (479) 363-4529. I must add that my sweetheart Marie Howard bakes hot cornbread every Monday and Wednesday for folks.

4. The old Eureka Springs Hospital – funky but well-run by caring and professional nurses and doctors. We are lucky to have them.

5. Local musicians and artists – What would we do without their spiritual beauty? Robert Redford said, “The country is so wounded, bleeding and hurt right now. How are we going to be healed? Art is the healing force.”

6. The trees and the flowers and the rock work – look around, say thank you.

7. Our first National River – the Buffalo is sacred. We must protect her from greed and hog waste.

8. Eureka’s Public Works Department – I commend the folks who repair our old streets and work so very hard to keep our town working and beautiful.

9. Our Diverse Population – LBGTQ people have fought to be able to live in respect here.

10. Domestic Partnerships and Gay Marriages – our city council voted domestic partnerships in, voted for gay marriages, and now proudly offers these legal rights to lesbians and gays with dignity and pride.

When I think of these sweet things, I look at my Obama coffee cup which says,

“The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something.”

I am going to the Women’s March (open to all) in Little Rock, Jan. 20-21 and help create a happy new year that celebrates equality, love, anti-racism, and the 2020 presidential election!

Trella Laughlin

Keep the ACA

Dear members of state and federal government (AR Sen. Boozman, Rep. Womack, Sen. King, Rep. Ballinger and U.S. Sen. Paul Ryan),

I am writing this as an open letter to the editor in my local paper since I know there are many in my community with similar concerns, but feel it is hopeless to contact any of you since frequently we get no response to letters and emails.

I am urging you to preserve the Affordable Care Act so that thousands of us in Arkansas can still have health insurance. Many of us have had to struggle with no insurance at all for years or decades before the ACA, and in the past, others like myself have had to pay outrageous premiums with high deductibles if we could get insurance at all.

My own story includes years of no insurance while self-employed as a farmer in Massachusetts. During that time I was denied health insurance even when willing to pay any premium because I had (to quote the insurance company) “a history of migraines and was of child-bearing age.” I was in my late 30s. Many decades later, without benefit of the ACA, I got insurance but paid \$618/mo. premium with a \$3,500 deductible, so I

MAIL continued on page 19



WEEK’S Top Tweets

@roybragg: If you spill mustard on your clothes, tell everyone you were holding a baby. No one likes a slob, everyone loves babies.

@TragicAlly: A waffle is just a more considerate pancake. It’s like, here, let me hold that syrup for you in these convenient boxes.

@misfarber: You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Unless you meet another person.

@thealexnevil: Twitter. Because your potential isn’t going to just waste itself.

@mindless4miles: Saw a hawk swoop down over the highway and fly off with a snake in its mouth and I can’t even switch lanes

while eating a Twizzler.

@markydoodoo: I’m aging like an avocado. By the time I finally noticed my prime it was too late.

@ohsnapitschris: I like to whisper my questions to the librarian so she can ask me to speak louder.

@barryjohn: WiFi was down so I had to talk to my girlfriend. She seems nice.

@outonthemoor: Friend showed me all the pics taken from the drone he got for Christmas, guess I won’t be renting the cottage on his farm after all.

@filtybeggar: People who put “Retired” on the Linked In acct: I’m not certain you’ve grasped the site.

Diamond Defiance

“Standing firm against evil is the ultimate act of defiance”

Evil acts are done by people following broken rules. Plains All-American is a greedy corporation raping our land for shareholder profits. Using a fake name to hide a history of oil spills, PAA chose Arkansas, an easy target, to export shale crude oil to China.

People have the right to stand firm to protect their families. Respect is earned by authorities protecting individual rights, not by electoral votes. Defiance is justified when public health and environmental justice are ignored. Diamond defiance is a legal challenge, open resistance, bold disobedience, rebellion and disregard of what PAA wants to do.

Arkansas, the Fossil Fuel State

“On June 13, 1920, the oil boom arrived near El Dorado when the explosion of a test well killed five people. The chaos broke down the fabric of law and order and other social services. Mules, dying in the streets, were run over where they lay,” is the lore of the Golden Town. Oil, seen as black gold, was exempted from laws protecting private property, public health, and ecology.

The black gold is gone. Fracking wells will not make America great. Fracking is the cause of toxic wastewater, earthquakes and injection wells. Near Norman, Oklahoma, fracking is contaminating tap water and killing people with cancer. Shale oil is deadly.

Arkansas Rising is a non-violent, direct action group, of dedicated, determined and brave Water Guardians. On Monday, December 12, two Water Guardians were arrested and bailed out immediately. Frank and Amber pleaded not guilty to criminal trespassing. Their peaceful resistance was done in the interest of public safety. Arkansas Rising does not condone violence, vandalism of any kind, nor destruction of property. Their goal is to protect the people of Arkansas through nonviolent direct action. We are lucky to have people like Frank and Amber making great personal sacrifices and risking arrest to protect our water and life.

Diamond Legal Challenge

After weeks of searching for an experienced, honest, dedicated legal team, we found a great law firm who knows PAA and Diamond, and has a sound legal strategy. With the best legal team, we are ready to challenge the Diamond project in court.

Hidden Truths are Unspoken Lies

The Diamond line has not been approved. Without permits for 440-miles,

construction is illegal. Only five river crossings, less than one percent of the line, have permits.

On December 15, 2015 Diamond showed up at the Corps of Engineers Little Rock office with a dolly and boxes of papers. Diamond had already taken the easements and cleared the Rights-of-Way. Diamond needed fast track approval for more than 500 water crossings. USACE was left holding a bag full of holes.

The Nationwide Permit (NWP-12) is an all-or-nothing process to piecemeal bulk oil pipelines, block public input, and avoid Environmental Impact Statements. NWP-12 is an arbitrary and capricious process in violation of the EPA Clean Water Act. Why would USACE use it? If you look at a map of the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline, connecting the Bakken fields to the Gulf Coast ports, and oil barges to China, it is clear what Diamond is all about.

Negligence is deadly

Crude oil spills have increased in frequency and size, as high-pressure bulk transmission lines are built in every state.

Spill investigations, after months of clean up activities, find a corroded pipe, a defective weld, or negligent operations. Spills are predictable and preventable, yet people and wildlife die.

Pipes are physical objects, not evil beings, designed to function within engineering specifications – not the cause of catastrophic events. PAA hires lawyers to deal with spills. Accidents are undesirable, unexpected, and unintended events. Oil spills are not accidental, they are caused by negligent managers choosing low-cost pipes, and cutting back on training, inspection, and maintenance.

How can you help?

Anyone can participate with small donations to pay legal fees, and spreading the word to their friends, a 10-10 campaign. Please donate \$10 and ask 10 friends to do the same, www.gofundme.com/Stop-Diamond-Pipeline

To support Arkansas Rising, please visit their Facebook page and their website ArkansasRising.net.

Dr. Luis Contreras



The Pursuit Of HAPPINESS

by Dan Krotz

I'm a first-string church goer but don't attend any single church regularly. If you see an old, tired fat man in the back pew next Sunday it's probably me. A rough count shows that there are about 135 churches in Carroll County, and I hope to visit them all; it's a toss up whether I run out of weeks before I get to each one, but I'll see soon enough who's telling the truth – and who isn't.

I like going to church. In his 1927 novel, *Elmer Gantry*, Sinclair Lewis described churches as the one place in small towns where you might find the Great Ideas, finer art, and impressive music. That isn't entirely true anymore because of our better communication systems, but it should be true about the character of our churches whether we live in small towns or big cities.

I've found some lovely churches and heard some sermons that caused me to think and reflect, and to some music that was inspiring and humbling. And I've attended services that felt like being in the audience of a TV game show; when, I wondered, did religion become a division of the entertainment industry?

The best sermons are unafraid of Johnathan Edwards' example in *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, and they debunk the modern nonsense of awarding participation trophies. These sermons correctly identify guilt as a sign of good mental and spiritual health; toss in smidgens of Kierkegaard, William Pope Burt and Karl Barth, and you've heard a Jim Dandy sermon.

The worst sermons I've heard turn Jesus into a pharmacist or bartender. These sermons tell us that if we feel bad and lowdown, take a dose or a shot of Jesus and everything ailing us is washed away. There is no mention of making amends or taking responsibility for righting wrongs. Everybody gets a participation trophy.

But the very worst sermons are sermons directing congregational fingers towards society's offenders; they've got a little list, and everybody outside the church is on it. They can't wait to send you to hell and, oh, what a happy day that will be.

Alrighty, then. See you in church.

A little help from our friends:

• **Carroll County Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-844-247-3223 (844-24PEACE) is available 24/7. The Purple Flower Domestic Violence Resource and Support Center of Carroll County is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 103 West Church St. in Berryville. (479) 981-1676. The Purple Flower will also have free and confidential Domestic Violence Empowerment Support Group on every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Berryville Community Center from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

• **24-hour NWA Crisis Line for Women** – NWA Women’s Shelter serving Carroll County – “Empowering families to live free of violence.” (800) 775-9011 www.nwaws.org

• **A Cup of Love Ministries offering free soup** – A Cup of Love Ministries provides soup lunches at Flint Street Fellowship on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (479) 363-4529.

• **Flint Street Fellowship food pantry, lunch, free clothing** – Pantry open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Free lunch Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free clothes/shoes closet, books and household items. (479) 253-9491 or 253-4945. Leave donations in barrel at entrance if facility is closed.

• **Wildflowers one-dollar, furniture barn/thrift store** US 62E across from Hill County Hardware. One-dollar store in the yellow building every Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thrift store, furniture bank in big blue barn behind the chapel open Wednesdays – Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Donation drop offs Thursday – Saturday between 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Healing and delivery outreach in chapel Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

• **Recorded Teachings and Meditation Monday** – Recorded Rinpoche teachings at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays followed by meditation at 6 p.m. Call Alece at (479) 244-6841 or Gary at (479) 2444-6840.

• **Celebrate Recovery** – Soul Purpose Ministries, 801 S. Springfield, Green Forest, 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Potluck followed by 12-step Christ-centered meetings for those suffering from addiction, habit, hang-up or hurt.

• **Grief Share**, A Bible-based, 13-week program for those who have lost a loved one will begin on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 1 – 3 p.m. at Faith Bible Church, Suite C, 3 Parkcliff Drive, Holiday Island. Share with others experiencing similar circumstances in an informal, confidential setting. Call (479) 253-8925 or email lardellen@gmail.com.

• **Overeaters Anonymous** – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Barbara (479) 244-0371 • **Narcotics Anonymous** – Fridays, 5:30 p.m. (903) 278-5568. Meetings held at Eureka Springs Coffee Pot Group behind Land O’ Nod Victorian Inn.

• **Coffee Break Al-Anon Family Group Women** – Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m., Faith Christian Family Church, Hwy. 23S, (479) 981-1686. • **Al-Anon Family Group (AFG)** – Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays 7 p.m. • **Eureka Springs Coffee Pot AA Groups** Monday – Saturday 12:30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.; Sunday – Thursday, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m. (479) 253-7956 • **Al-Anon** Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Meetings held at Eureka Springs Coffee Pot Group behind Land O’ Nod Victorian Inn. All other meetings: See www.nwarkaa.org

• **St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store** – First Tuesdays – provide assistance with medical help, utilities, clothing, emergency shelter, shoes, etc. Annual charity Christmas Gift & Food Program. Mon-Sat 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 1844 Hwy. 62W Berryville.

• **St. James’ Community Suppers** – Held Sunday from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Meals provided by local restaurants and are free to all. St. James’ Episcopal Church is located at 86 Prospect Avenue on the historic loop and meals are served in the undercroft.

• **Support Group** – for those with **Parkinson’s** and their caregivers, first Wednesday of each month, ECHO Community Room at 10 a.m. For questions email Sally at sarahg@arkansas.net or call (479) 9810-1587. Next meeting Dec. 7.

INDEPENDENT ConstablesOnPatrol

DECEMBER 26

8:09 a.m. – Constable on patrol went to see why an alarm was ringing at a business downtown. He found the place secure.

2:33 p.m. – There was a motorcycle accident on US 62 toward the western edge of town.

10:53 p.m. – A mother told ESPD her son was drunk and they had just had a verbal encounter. Constables went to the scene, and the son promised to behave and go to bed.

DECEMBER 27

4:19 a.m. – CCSO alerted ESPD to a possibly intoxicated driver headed toward town from the north, but constables did not see any erratic driving.

6:50 a.m. – Constable took a report of alleged abuse at a care facility.

9:17 a.m. – Motel staff claimed a family might be sneaking into a room at the back of the motel during the night. Constables responded but found no intruders.

12:00 p.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for driving on a suspended license.

2:30 p.m. – Benton County jail advised an individual being held on an ESPD warrant was ready for transport. Constable went to get him.

3:05 p.m. – Two males were sitting in a vehicle belonging to a restaurant employee, so staff called ESPD. The males were gone when the constables arrived.

6:20 p.m. – Resident on the western side of town suspected an intruder was in the house. Constables found no intruder, but items had been moved and some were missing.

DECEMBER 28

8:43 a.m. – Constable checked on a residential alarm, and the new homeowner said he did not know the alarm was on.

9:38 a.m. – A mother told ESPD she received an inappropriate photo intended for her daughter.

12:16 p.m. – There was a one-vehicle rollover accident in the north part of town, and the driver was pinned beneath the vehicle. The driver was transported to a helicopter by EMS.

DECEMBER 29

10:17 a.m. – Downtown business reported someone stole a Christmas decoration.

3:47 p.m. – There was a two-vehicle accident on US 62.

5:43 p.m. – Constable checked on a commercial burglar alarm on the Historic Loop.

6:35 p.m. – There was a two-vehicle accident with injuries on US 62.

6:41 p.m. – Disorderly patient at ESH was arrested for public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

DECEMBER 30

7:53 p.m. – Constable took a report of a theft at a local bank.

8:13 p.m. – There was a hit and run accident in a restaurant parking lot.

DECEMBER 31

12:11 a.m. – Traffic stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for second offense DWI, driving left of center and no proof of insurance.

12:39 a.m. – Barking dog prompted a complaint to ESPD. Constable asked the dog’s owner to keep it in for the night.

4:12 p.m. – Constable filed a fraud report.

4:30 p.m. – Constable cautioned a homeowner near downtown about blowing leaves into the street.

7:06 p.m. – Resident in the western part of town called ESPD about a theft.

8:44 p.m. – There was a complaint about people drinking in public, but constable discovered the claim was not true.

9:08 p.m. – Constable checked on a report of gunshots and learned there had been none.

10:52 p.m. – Call came in about a fight at a restaurant downtown, and constable found there had been none.

JANUARY 1

1:31 a.m. – Landlord claimed a renter was arguing with others and threatening them. She was gone from the premises when constables arrived.

1:32 a.m. – Another call came in about a fight downtown. Constable responded but did not find anyone fighting.

11:37 a.m. – Individual claimed his truck had been stolen. He said his debit card was in the truck, and it had been used.

6:10 p.m. – Witness in the north part of town reported passengers were drinking in a vehicle. Constable encountered the vehicle at a bar and learned it was a taxi and the driver was dropping off passengers who appeared to be intoxicated.

JANUARY 2

1:36 a.m. – Alarm rang out at a business, but the constable on patrol found the building secure.

Fake News is the way to go

I think it is time to change my career. For the past 42 years, since starting as a correspondent for the Associated Press at age 19, I followed the rules. Articles had to be accurate and well balanced. When I went to journalism school, we were even taught to count the number of words pro and con, and make sure we didn't give more coverage to one point of view than another.

But now as 2017 dawns, the experience of the last election has me reconsidering whether I want to continue writing real news. It seems like millions of Americans are much more interested in fake news than real news. Fake news played a big role in election that put a sexual predator and bully with no political experience into the White House.

Much has been said about Russian hacking of the emails of the Democratic National Committee with the intention of harming Hillary Clinton and helping throw the country into mayhem by electing a sociopathic narcissist to the Presidency.

Less is being said about who is behind the "fake news" sites. According to the Washington Post, "The flood of 'fake news' this election season got support from a sophisticated Russian propaganda campaign that created and spread misleading articles online with the goal of punishing Democrat Hillary Clinton, helping Republican Donald Trump and undermining faith in American democracy, say independent researchers who tracked the operation."

I still contend the election was stolen. Not only did Clinton receive 2.8 million more votes, but there are firm grounds to suspect that our election systems are not secure. Voting machines can easily be hacked to manipulate voting results. Then there were things like most of the vote tabulating machines mysteriously

"breaking down" in Detroit on Election Day with those lost votes for Clinton contributing greatly to Trump winning Michigan by only 13,000 votes.

But the election wouldn't have been nearly so close without fake news. Fake news sites portrayed Hillary as running a child prostitution ring out of a Washington D.C. restaurant (Pizzagate), claimed she was hiding fatal health problems, and she was planning to turn over control of the nation to an international cabal of wealthy financiers.

I can see some advantages of writing fake. No tedious fact checking or research. But if I'm going to transfer over into writing fake news, I need some help. First, I need to understand why fake news is more fun than real news. The child porn thing reminded me of John Kerry's Swiftboating where the Republicans attacked one of Kerry's strongest assets, being a war hero. Clinton has spent a lifetime fighting for the rights of women and children, so attack her on her strengths.

It doesn't have to make sense. Why would anyone who can make \$200,000 per speech be involved in child prostitution? But even Trump's pick as National Security Advisor tweeted about alleged Clinton sex crimes.

Meanwhile, the real news is that Donald Trump appeared in Playboy porn movies. Sure, he wasn't naked. People would gag at that. Instead, he appeared briefly in movies that exploited women who were naked and committing sex acts.

The real news is that Donald Trump has been accused in a federal lawsuit filed in New York of repeatedly raping a 13-year-old girl more than 20 years ago, allegedly at parties hosted by billionaire Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender. The teenager claims Trump threatened her and her family if she ever revealed the rape.

So, why is it people seem to discount the rape allegation and the many other women who have come forward to discussed unwelcome sexual advances from Trump, including a credible report from a *People* magazine reporter who told her former journalism professor and a number of other people about it at the time?

One of the more effective "fake news" efforts involve gruesome videos showing babies being ripped apart in supposed late-term abortions. And then there was the "fake news" about Planned Parenthood "selling baby parts."

So, to learn how to be effective at fake news, I think the first thing you have to do is make sure the target is female. Sexism is alive and well in the U.S. Trump was considered "manly" because he bullied his opponents, and encouraged a witch hunt at rallies with supporters chanting, "Lock her up!" After the election Trump called his own supporters nasty, mean and vicious. Evidently that is a good thing?

Trump supporters also wanted Clinton jailed for what they called "pay for play"

in allowing people who donated to the Clinton Foundation to have appointments with her as Secretary of State. At least proceeds from the Clinton Foundation help the needy. Meanwhile Trump has used \$258,000 from one of his non-profit foundations to benefit his for-profit businesses.

And now we have seen that Trump's cabinet's picks are largely billionaires with no political experience who contributed millions to elect him. That is "pay to play" times 100.

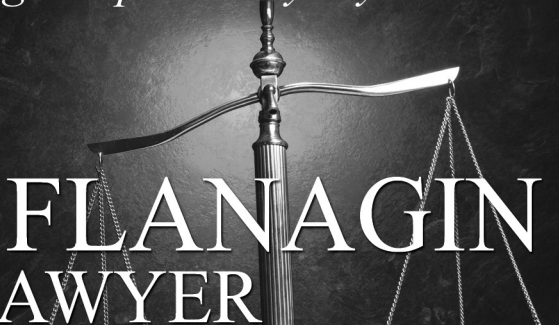
Well, I'm not sure if this career change will work for me. That is because I support women's rights and racial, economic and social justice. And I couldn't dream up any fake news about Trump that could possibly be worse than the real news about the man who bullied his way to the presidency with the help not just of the Russians, but people in America (including 53 percent of white women and 63 percent of white men) who just don't trust a woman – even one with decades more political experience than the male to be President.

Becky Gillette

Let the good times roll with the Krewe of Krazo

The Krewe of Krazo Kings Day kick-off rally will be at the Rowdy Beaver Tavern on Saturday, Jan. 7 at 5 p.m. Details on four masquerade balls, Taste of N'Awlins, Arti-Gra, the Night Light and Sound Parade, the Day Parade, Jazz Brunch, and Mardi Gras Day will be announced. Members of the Royal Court and the king and Queen for 2017 will be formally introduced followed by a gala party. The public is invited. For more information go to www.eurekaspringsmardigras.org.

Helping People Everyday



**CHRIS FLANAGIN
LAWYER**

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DEPARTURES

Barbara Baker May 7, 1963 – Dec. 15, 2016

Barbara Baker of Holiday Island, Ark., was born May 7, 1963 in Bakersfield, Calif., daughter of Jerry Neal and JoAnn Marie (Faringer) Burns. She departed this life Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 in Eureka Springs, Ark., at age 53.

Barbara was united in marriage with Monty Baker, who survives her of the home. She is also survived by her two daughters, Kristina Galyen and husband, J.J., of Eureka

Springs, Ark.; Tasha Fanning and husband, Justin, of Eureka Springs, Ark.; mother, JoAnn Marie (Faringer) Burns of Napa, Calif.; sister Tammie Herrington of Kansas City, Kan.; sister Regina Buchanan of Tulalake, Calif.; sister, Michele Burns of Ronan, Mont.; sister, Tina Burns of Redding, Calif.; brother, Jerry Burns, Jr. of Idaho Falls, Idaho; brother, Jerry Burns, III of Napa, Calif.; four grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, other relatives, a host friends

and loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jerry Neal Burns, Sr., and her grandparents.

Memorial services were Jan. 4 at Nelson's Chapel of the Springs, Eureka Springs, Arkansas with Reverend Tim Garrison officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. Online condolences may be sent to the family at nelsonfuneral.com. © Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. 2016



Collette Bradt Jan. 17, 1929 – Dec. 25, 2016

Collette Bradt passed away on Christmas morning 2016 in the loving care of The Circle of Life Hospice Home in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Collette was born January 17, 1929 in Denver, Colo., to Gail and Jewel Ireland. A true Colorado native daughter of a Colorado Attorney General, Collette Ireland was raised in Denver and attended The University of Colorado in Boulder, where she met her life partner for 67 years, Gordon Bradt, a veteran just returning from World War II. They were married in Denver on Jan. 28, 1950 and moved to Gordon's hometown of Evanston, Ill. In Evanston and Wilmette, Collette and Gordon raised three children, Kristine, Terese and Andrew, while Gordon worked at Bell & Howell for 22 years.

In 1973, Gordon and Collette created Kinetico, Inc., where they began manufacturing Gordon's kinetic sculpture designs. This led them to Busch, Arkansas in 1974, where

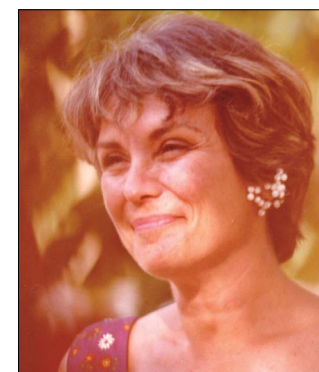
they set up shop and built a new life for themselves manufacturing and marketing Gordon's designs all over the world. Kinetico Studios remains active to this day.

In Busch and Eureka Springs, Collette pursued her lifelong talent as a watercolor and pastel artist. Her renditions of local buildings included the Eureka Springs Historical Museum and the Palace Hotel, paintings still featured today. She was active in the community, serving as President of the Inspiration Point Volunteer Fire Association in the early 1990s, and always involved in Carroll County Democratic politics. But in 2005, Collette and Gordon retired to a lakeside home in Prairie Creek, Ark., and Rogers became their new territory.

She never changed, from childhood to old age. Collette had personality, heart, spirit and spunk. She enjoyed and cherished her many friends and family, who often say, "I've never known anyone like her before!"

Collette was preceded in death by her father and mother and her brother, Roger Ireland. Collette is survived by her husband, Gordon Bradt, and their children, Kristine Kendrick, Terri Bradt and Andrew Bradt. She is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Private family memorial services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that memorials be made to a charity of choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. Online condolences may be sent to the family at nelsonfuneral.com. © Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. 2016



Chaffyn Lovejoy

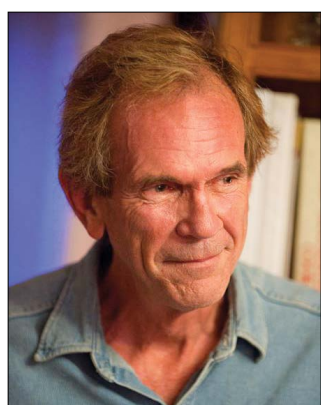
August 25, 1948 – Dec. 18, 2016

Chaffyn Lovejoy of Eureka Springs, Ark., was born August 25, 1948 in Wichita Falls, Texas, son of Roland Baxter and Mary Rebecca (Chaffin) Gouldy. He departed this life Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016 in Eureka Springs, Ark. at age 68.

He is survived by his son, Lucas Sean Gouldy of California; brother, Ralph Gouldy of Florida; special friend, Freya Crow of Eureka Springs, Ark.; several other relatives and many close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

No services are scheduled at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. Memorial donations may be made to the Good Shepherd Humane Society, 6486 Hwy. 62 vEast, Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632. Online condolences may be sent to the family at nelsonfuneral.com. © Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. 2016



Walter Joseph Whitehead June 4, 1945 – Dec. 22, 2016

Walter Joseph Whitehead of Berryville, Ark., was born June 4, 1945, in Newark, N.J., the only son of Joseph William and Anna (Deczynski) Whitehead. He died Dec. 22, 2016, at home in Berryville at age 71.

Mr. Whitehead was a deeply religious man with an extensive knowledge of the Catholic Church matched by very few. His love of faith took him to Seminary early in life, but the love of his life, his future wife, Susan, changed that course forever, and they were united in marriage on Nov. 9, 1968.

After serving as a fighter jet mechanic in the USAF, he went on to hold several sales positions, including being a highly-paid sales associate at Pierce Archives in New York City. He moved his family to Arkansas in 1988 where he has lived ever since.

Walter was an active member of St. Anne's Catholic Church for more than 28 years, even serving as parish council president for over ten. He was also proud to be a Knight of the International Crusade for Holy Relics.

He was a dedicated father and husband, and a wonderfully engaging and fun "Grampa Wally" to his many grandchildren. He was a kind, loving, generous, funny, and mischievous man; extremely prayerful, with a heart full of love for his family, his friends, and his God... a heart that just couldn't live any longer without the love of his life, his Susan.



Walter said his purpose on this earth was to pray for people and tell them about the one true God. "I am here to bless the world by my prayer" he wrote just recently. There is no doubt that he did exactly that his whole life.

He is survived by his daughter, Susan M. and husband, Bryan, and grandchildren Lauryn, Kaitlyn, and Luke Baker, all of Berryville, Ark.; two sons, Christopher P. and Mark F. Whitehead, both of Bentonville, Ark.; one sister, Anne Puccio of Lincoln, Calif.; daughter Charlotte and husband, Kevin, and grandchildren Megan, David, Laura, Peter, Thomas and Elizabeth Kelly of Chester, Penn., and daughter of the heart Kari Zink of Little Elm, Texas, as well as numerous nieces and nephews (all of whom he was very proud of), and a host of other family and friends.

Walter is preceded in death by his wife, Susan Marie (Legere) Whitehead (in 2012), and his parents, Joseph William Whitehead and Anna Wanda Deczynski.

Visitation and Rosary were Dec. 29, and funeral services were Dec. 30, at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Berryville with Fr. Shaun Wesley officiating. Interment followed at the Grandview Cemetery under the direction of Nelson Funeral Service. Online condolences may be sent to the family at nelsonfuneral.com. © Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. 2016

Natured denied: Our collective fate

In 2017, as with any new year, following on the heels of the winter solstice, we enter into a period of inevitable change. In 2017, however, we might be wise to spell CHANGE in capital letters. It will likely be a year of positive change if you happen to be associated with the oil industry. Personally, I fear for the collective heritage of our vast lands in the Western United States. Hopefully those in power (I

hesitate to call them leaders) will have the foresight to look at the long-term value of keeping lands for public good. That little personal worry, however is just minutia in a sea of uncertainty.

Everything waxes and wanes in cycles. It used to be that conservation was a conservative value. The importance of balancing commercial interests (greed) and environmental and health protection, is inherently conservation as conservatism. Protection of large swaths of wilderness and preservation of culturally important areas is also a Republican idea.

In 1906, the Antiquities Act was created by Congress to give the Republican president, Teddy Roosevelt, the power to create national monuments to protect sites for the common good. Before it was a national park, the Grand Canyon was protected under the Antiquities Act. Other national parks whose value was first realized under the Antiquities Act include the Petrified Forest National Park and Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, Pinnacle National Park in California, Zion National Park in Utah

and Acadia National Park in Maine, to name a few. The creation of public national parks is a uniquely American invention born of conservatism. The conservation-minded conservative, Richard Nixon, created both the Endangered Species Act and the Environmental Protection Agency, because it was the Right thing to do.

These are big, broad sweeping policy concepts that fall under our collective human trust; political persuasion is irrelevant. Be aware of the air you breathe, the water you drink and that thin veneer covering our planet called the atmosphere. Each of the past three years we have taken a giant leap forward in warming the atmosphere with record hot years, one record year after another. We have made baby steps by signing the Paris Climate Accord, working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cutting coal consumption.

This year, 2017, promises to be a record year in uncertain collective human behavior that will determine our fate. In 2017, visit a national park while they still exist. Happy New Year!



DEPARTURES

Kate Howard and Sarah Moore

Recently, a few friends of Kate Howard and Sarah Moore received a message from them dated Dec. 20, 2016. Quotes from that message are included in this announcement. This was their farewell letter announcing that they *"have passed on to never-never land."* In the message, they wished all their friends *"all the best"* and expressed their *"thanks for the good times we've had."* They wanted to be certain that everyone understood that *"there is nothing sad about this, just a decision made according to the circumstances we have been given."* Sarah's cancer had progressed rapidly, and they chose to end both their lives *"peacefully and on our terms without regrets."* True to their lifelong values and wry humor, their final comment was, *"We are both so thankful that we will be escaping the Trump presidency."*

Kate and Sarah lived their beliefs. They loved

nature, animals, travel, folk music and the camaraderie of their friends. In addition to cruising, hiking, tending their animals and scrupulously maintaining their Ozark homestead, Sarah and Kate enjoyed adventuring in their vintage VW van and camping in "Gypsy," their restored '60s-era camper. They avidly supported The Nature Conservancy and the Good Shepherd Humane Society.

Kate and Sarah's beloved rescued shelter dog, Scoutie, preceded them in death and, no doubt, right now, he is exploring the hills of "never-never land" with them.

Needless to say, these two remarkable women will be missed by many, especially friends and family in Arkansas and North Carolina. Anyone wishing to commemorate the lives of Kate Howard and Sarah Moore by making a contribution in their honor can do



so by donating either currency or volunteer time to The Nature Conservancy or the Good Shepherd Humane Society.

For information about a commemorative gathering, call Elaine (479) 253-2510.

Ann C. Chouinard Jan. 16, 1928 – Dec. 31, 2016

Ann C. Chouinard of Eureka Springs, Ark., was born January 16, 1928 in Chicopee, Mass., daughter of A. Jerry Roberts and Caroline (Trela) Roberts. She departed this life Saturday, December 31, 2016 peacefully in her home surrounded by her family and caregiver, Dee Dee Tapia, of Eureka Springs, and Father Joseph of Saint Anne's and Saint Elizabeth's Church giving last rites.

On September 25, 1950 she was

united in marriage with Rene J. Chouinard, who survives her of their home. She is also survived by her children; daughter, Debra Ivaldi and husband, Albert, of East Hartford, Conn.; daughter, Linda Dudiak and husband, Joe, of Clayton, New York; daughter, Lisa Carcio, and husband, Robert, of Farmington, Conn.; son, Andre Chouinard and wife, Gertrud, of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; brother, Donald Roberts and wife, Eileen, of Lynbrook, N.Y.; sister,

Kathleen Carriere, and husband, Ernie, of Chicopee, Mass.; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, one brother, and one sister.

No services are scheduled at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. Online condolences may be sent to the family at nelsonfuneral.com. © Nelson Funeral Service, Inc. 2016



Epiphany & the Three Astrologer Kings

In our beginning weeks of January 2017 there is already much activity in the skies influencing each of us. Mercury enters Sag. (travel, journeys, justice), Capricorn Sun/Pluto (transformation in government), Mercury (Sunday) turning stationary direct. Every January a meteor shower, the Quadrantids, appears in the heavens near the North Star (Polaris). The showers brief yet splendid, radiate between the Big Dipper & Bootes on the right and Polaris and Ursa Minor (Little Dipper) on the left. The showers, many hued, begin after midnight and peak before dawn, January 4. They are

the forerunners to the first full moon of the year (next Thursday).

Friday, Jan. 6, is Epiphany or Three Kings Day, ending the Advent season. Epiphany celebrates the three Astrologer Magi Kings who, following a star, discovered the holy child in a manger in Bethlehem (house of Bread). Epiphany is the 12th Day after Christmas, in Pisces, sign of the Savior & Saving the World. The word epiphany means “to show, to make known, to reveal.” The Messiah’s birth was “revealed” to the Three Magi Kings who then spread the news to

the world that the “prophesied one” (savior, messiah) had arrived.

The Three Kings were Zoroastrian astrologers and scholars, learned wise men. Their names were the Babylonian Melchior, the Persian Caspar, and Balthazar from Arabia. They brought gold, frankincense & myrrh – gifts from the mineral and plant kingdoms. We, too, are asked to bring our gifts to the holy child, who represents all of humanity – humble, suffering and in need. (Read more on my FB page or website, www.nightlightnews.org/ Daily Studies).

ARIES: Your work in the world will be overshadowed by promptings and impressions from above, asking you to initiate new ideas: new possibilities creating new probabilities, creating new outcomes not reflecting the past. You will have to meet important people, become one yourself. You will have to act with humility while attaining goals. Develop what is necessary to solidify this task. Only you can do this.

TAURUS: It’s important to contact people far way concerning future plans, actions, agendas, and matters of a legal nature. The outer aspects of these interactions hide a deep spiritual purpose. With strength and calmness speak the truth of your aims and purposes; listen carefully to the other(s). There’s a seed of enlightenment in their words. Be not afraid to ask for all that is needed. Read Matthew 7:7.

GEMINI: You hold within yourself secret talents. Knowing, recognizing and cultivating them is important. They need to be called forth by you with intention. You can ask that they appear and you recognize them. Do not be secretive about resources. However, you must protect them. Pay all debts on all levels – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual. You and another may need to travel somewhere to discover information. Why would that be?

CANCER: There’s a spiritual task you’re being asked to provide from Jupiter, the planet central to the Aquarian Age distributing Love/Wisdom, Ray 2. You are to provide more love to your groups and to the communities you interact with. You are to be wise and distribute truth with pure reason and wisdom to those around you. Not gossip, not opinion, not another’s point of view, but the truth within your heart. This safeguards you.

LEO: In daily work and responsibilities, are you the communicator to co-workers and colleagues? Leo is the sign with love in the heart. But sometimes that love is obscured by hurts, sadness and imperfect interactions in relationships (most relationships are). Sometimes we turn away from people, lavishing our love on pets, gardens, climbing rocks, fashions, artful creations. It might be good to think of all the people you’ve known. Lovingly they say to you, “Hello, my friend, hello.”

VIRGO: It’s a special time for you to think upon what avocations you want to pursue,

what talents, gifts and skills you possess and to think back on how you’ve tended & supported loved ones. And now what is it you want to do for others in terms of serving? Virgo is the sign of service. I see you in a garden, vines of Mandeville, pale roses and hops climbing tall gates. Begin to create this for summer.

LIBRA: You’re thinking about family and friends, love and relationships and your needs. Friends are sometimes Libra’s family. You’re attempting to have a greater sense of family foundation. It may bring up childhood wounds. We cannot heal or understand until wounds surface. You have the strength to face this, wisdom to understand it and the love to heal all wounds. In emotional crisis, take homeopath Ignatia Amara. It soothes, calms and settles grief.

SCORPIO: You need to have more interchanges with those equally intelligent, creative and passionate. You need exchanges of ideas and beliefs in order to grow and expand into new values. You need to experiment with new plans for the future. A new foundation of thought will help you meet the challenges of the new world unfolding. Remain focused with purposeful spiritual intent.

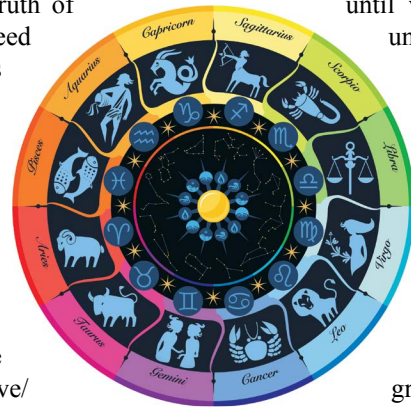
SAGITTARIUS: In observing how your sense of identity has deepened and expanded, look to your values. Compare your present values with those 14, then 21 years ago. You’ve realized greater responsibility while climbing to a level of success. You now ask, “What’s next?” Each day have the intention to “stand in the light.”

Your journey has been long and arduous. You have permission to step into the unknown. Remain there.

CAPRICORN: You communicate, sense and feel a great depth of feeling. Don’t worry if people step back. Your life-force is showing through, filled with the fire of intention, creativity and conviction. It’s as if God were speaking through you. Do you know Capricorn’s glyph is almost the signature of God? If asked to organize things, to show leadership and drive, know that you will impress others with new ideas that become ideals within them. You do this already. Yes, but now more so. Avoid those who resist.

AQUARIUS: You’re going to enter into an internal state for a while, interacting and investigating things deep within; things confidential, possibly religious, personal with a depth of feeling. Do not get caught up in limitations. They only mean you’re working toward overcoming. Place yourself first in the coming days so that you can protect yourself and maintain good to vibrant health. Someone far away calls to you. Respond.

PISCES: Many things from the past will be remembered, thought about, felt in the heart and encountered. Allow them to occur. A healing is happening. Careful with time each day. Plan early what your actions will be. Outline a time schedule. Use discipline – the first step toward working under the Will of God. Jupiter is influencing all relationships. Speak softly, vibrantly and always with love (another discipline). It will stabilize all endeavors.



OLIO
OF THE OZARKS
RADIO

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

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Risa, writer, teacher, mentor, counselor, astrologer, esotericist. Founder/director - Esoteric & Astrological Studies & Research Institute – a contemporary Wisdom School. FB is our College. Email: risagoodwill@gmail.com. Website: www.nightlightnews.org/ Facebook: Risa D’Angeles. Note – all FB posts are now available on our website under Daily Studies.

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CUBA continued from page 5

rights abuses and property theft are legendary, this was not talked about. Long said corruption, especially the black market, is generally accepted as a way of life.

“It is also important to remember that Castro was in power for so long, many Cubans do not know any other way of life,” Susanne said.

Americans might say that Cuba is Communist, but Susanne says Cuban life is based on a government of socialism. In recent times, Cubans have been allowed to own homes and small businesses. "They are moving towards capitalism, but in small increments," she said. "The Cuban government is anxious to open up to tourism. The primary industry in Cuba has been cigars and rum, so tourism will bring much needed money into the country."

“The most beautiful architecture is from the Spanish Colonial era. Although beautiful, it’s falling into terrible disrepair because there has not been money to restore buildings. They have done

extensive restoration in old downtown Havana for the tourists to see, and this is quite beautiful.

“The average Cuban income is \$20 per month, so they have little money to spend and you will not find any retail stores in the various neighborhoods. They use vouchers to pay for food. However, they have managed to make things work with a healthy black market. Also, many Cubans have relatives abroad who send them clothing and other needed/desired items and funds.”

Susanne said that while poor, Cubans have some advantages that many Americans would envy:

- Education is free all the way up to a doctorate. Children go to school from eight in the morning until five in the afternoon.

- Medical care, including plastic surgery, is free. Prescription medicines are a dollar per item.

- There is a literacy rate of 99.8 percent.

- You will not find homeless people in the streets of Cuba, although the quality

of housing would not be considered acceptable in the United States.

- The government takes care of the disabled.

- In general, it is very safe there. You can go out at night without fear for your safety.

“We were fortunate enough to be provided daily educational briefings on the people, the culture, the history of Cuba and the towns that we were to visit,” Susanne said. “Kent and I were also fortunate in that our cabin attendant, Yaneya, is Cuban and was born and raised in Havana. Yaneya owns her own home and lives with her mother and sister. She told us that the Cuban people are a happy people even though they would all like to have more money and more in the way of designer clothes. In general, it is as though the Cuban people we met look for their happiness inside themselves instead of through external, material things.

“There were good and bad, true and false, right and wrong aspects to all that we experienced. It is primarily a matter of perception.”

EATINGOUT

RESTAURANT QUICK REFERENCE

RESTAURANT QUICK REFERENCE

**PARKS** continued from page 3

system. “We would also like to use local artists to improve on items like fire rings, grills and lantern hangers in the immediate future, and would like to incorporate local artisans into other plans”

Next workshop will be Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m., at Harmon Park, and the next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM continued from page 4

The work is funded half by real estate transfer taxes funneled through the Department of Arkansas Heritage. The other half is paid by the museum, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

The museum is dedicated to preserving and exhibiting documents, photographs and artifacts pertaining to the history of Eureka Springs and surrounding areas. In addition to the main floor with exhibits that tell the history of Eureka Springs, the second floor contains more exhibits and an art gallery featuring local artists who helped put Eureka Springs on the map as an art town.



Handmade Moments play Chelsea's, Saturday, Jan. 7.

Brews, Saturday!

Julian Davis, young bluegrass prodigy, flat-picker champion, and *America's Got Talent* star, brings his neo-traditional dexterity to Brews Saturday evening before he returns to television later this year.

Handmade Moments have returned after a bad bus crash, and the West Coast, to delight our ears with organic musical political discourse Saturday night at Chelsea's.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

BREWS – *Rozenbridge*, Rock, 6 – 9 p.m.

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Voxana*, Americana, 8 – 11 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Reeves Brothers*, Americana, 9 p.m.

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

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

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

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

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Pearson Brothers*, Rock, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

BREWS – *Julian Davis and the Hayburners*, Bluegrass Prodigy, 6 – 9 p.m.

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

CHELSEA'S – *Handmade Moments*, Folk, 9 p.m.

EUREKA LIVE! – *DJ & Dancing*, 9 p.m.

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

LEGENDS SALOON – *SOB*, Rock, 9 p.m.

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

ROWDY BEAVER – *Southern Confession*, Rock, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

CATHOUSE LOUNGE – *Los Roscoes*, Blues, 5 p.m.

CHELSEA'S – *Open Mic*, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

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

LEGENDS SALOON – *SOB*, Rock, 9 p.m.

ROWDY BEAVER DEN – *Karaoke*, 6 – 10 p.m.

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THURSDAYS • 6-8 P.M.
George Brothers

FRIDAY, JAN. 6 • 8-11 P.M.
Voxana

SATURDAY, JAN. 7 • 8-11 P.M.
Mark Shields and Good Company

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Sat., Jan. 7 • 9 p.m. –
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Mon., Jan. 9 • 9 p.m. – SPRUNGBILLY

Tues., Jan. 10 • 9 p.m. – OPEN MIC

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Goodbye 2016 – And hello 2017! Above, the Crescent City Combo jazzed up the Crystal Dining Room on New Year’s Eve as guests enjoyed food and drink. Over at Brews (below) on Spring Street customers enjoyed Brew’s Year Eve with DJ TestTube keeping Brews pumping with music until the New Year. *PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ALVARADO*



School Fair Night Jan. 9

The Eureka Springs High School will host an Academic Fair Night on Monday, Jan. 9 from 5 – 7 p.m. with activities and displays in the classrooms, FAFSA sign-up assistance, and performances by the drama department and pep band.

How bees help us at Permaculture Study Group

The NWA Permaculture Study Group will be meeting on Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. at the home of Mariellen Griffith, 129 Appaloosa Dr. in Holiday Island. Ken Trimble, organizer on the Eureka Springs Pollinator Alliance, will speak on *Bees and their Contributions as a Pollinator to our Plants*. For additional information contact Mariellen Griffith at (479) 363-6401.

What’s the purpose of life?

Khentru Rinpoche will give a public talk on *The Purpose of This Human Life* at 3 p.m. on Jan. 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17 Elk Street.

INDEPENDENTCrossword

by Mike Boian with extensive help from his wife, Ann Solution on page 19

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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49						50				51		

- ACROSS**

 - 1. Winter or stream beginning
 - 4. “Que ____ es?”
 - 8. Hiking route
 - 12. Eagle on a par three
 - 13. Witch’s punishment for Hansel and Gretel
 - 14. Lingering discomfort
 - 15. Online site for car searches
 - 17. Endure something tedious or painful (*Scot.*)
 - 18. Watch over, as a flock
 - 19. Take off the spool
 - 21. Rich tapestry
 - 23. Way to trap a raccoon
 - 24. Informal receipt
 - 25. “____ and Dolls”
 - 26. Special jewel
 - 29. Born as
 - 30. Singapore’s gourmet chocolate
 - 31. Legal document for women introduced in 1923, still not passed,
- for short

 - 32. Unit of corn
 - 33. Particular, fussy
 - 34. Deep blue dye
 - 35. Fiber for making rope
 - 36. Tiny, quick flash of light
 - 37. Cut out
 - 40. Near, Middle or Far ____
 - 41. Marijuana
 - 42. Just discovered
 - 46. Shore bird
 - 47. Non-kosher food
 - 48. Milland or Baronemab
 - 49. Drunkards
 - 50. Withered
 - 51. Calm part of a hurricane
- DOWN**

 - 6. Crimson
 - 7. Artery enlargement
 - 8. San Diego athlete
 - 9. Land segment
 - 10. “Of ____ I sing”
 - 11. Command to dog
 - 16. Breast protuberance
 - 20. Bird house
 - 21. Teen woe
 - 22. Ramie plant or fiber
 - 23. Holland’s favorite flower
 - 25. Clothing
 - 26. A person’s parentage
 - 27. Green isle
 - 28. Single ____ Scotch
 - 30. Gorillas
 - 34. In addition to
 - 35. Skins; pelts
 - 36. Clumsy mistake
 - 37. Female sheep
 - 38. Minimalist shoe
 - 39. Penny
 - 40. America’s Cup trophy is one
 - 43. Lest
 - 44. Negative vote
 - 45. Salon job

INDEPENDENT Classifieds Material

The INDEPENDENT Classifieds cost \$8 for 20 words, each additional word is 25¢. **DEADLINE – Monday at noon**
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PERSONALS

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HKP – Haven’t heard from you. Did the creepy elf find you or are you still hiding?

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REAL ESTATE

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CUSTOM BUILT HOME FOR SALE. Three bedrooms, office, beautiful kitchen, great room, vaulted ceilings, well insulated, passive solar, radiant heat, two Jacuzzis, steam sauna, two car garage, large deck, on 15 acres ten minutes south of Eureka, expansive views in winter, \$325,000. (479) 981-0382.

NEW CONSTRUCTION – 2 exceptional homes overlooking historic downtown. Low maintenance, beautiful porches, hardwood floors, central VAC. (479) 253-2383 or (479) 253-7874



REAL ESTATE

LAND FOR SALE

2 PARCELS – 43 ACRES AND 53 ACRES. Partially cleared. Both border County Road 207. 5 miles from Eureka Springs city limits. High elevation, very good vistas. Paved frontage and electric. (479) 650-1012.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

HOLIDAY ISLAND VILLAS & TOWNHOUSES near lake and marina. Peaceful and quiet, ample parking. From \$400/mo. (479) 253-4385

SHARE BIG BEAUTIFUL HOUSE – Ten minutes south of Eureka in country setting. \$400/mo. & electric. (479) 981-6049

THREE STUDIO APARTMENTS, Passion Play Rd., electric, water, trash, cable, gas paid. \$450 or \$500 for furnished. Amenities include pool, basketball court, BBQ pavilion, discounted gym membership and two minutes from downtown. Contact Christina (479) 253-5071.

COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE

1,000 SQ. FT. – 99 SPRING. Studio/workshop next to post office. Mountain Street access. (479) 244-5100, (479) 253-4314.

CAFE OR RETAIL BUSINESS with deck overlooking creek on North Main. Beautiful location! All utilities paid but electric. (479) 981-9811

CHARMING, REASONABLE DOWNTOWN SHOP SPACE ON SPRING. 340 sq. ft. Great for an office, too. Call (479) 253 9481 or email dan@twilight.arcoxml.com

WINTER RENTAL

WINTER FURNISHED RENTALS – Available now - May 15, 2017, \$575-\$695. Includes utilities, WiFi, cable, parking, patio. Four to six month commitment. victorianserenity@yahoo.com. No smoking/pets.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

MAINTENANCE/ LANDSCAPE/ HOME SERVICES

TOM HEARST PROFESSIONAL PAINTING AND CARPENTRY Painting & Wood Finishing, Trim & Repair Carpentry, Drywall Repair & Texturing, Pressure Washing (479) 244-7096

CHIMNEY WORKS Complete chimney services: sweeps, repairs, relining and installation. Call Bob Messer (479) 253-2284

FANNING’S TREE SERVICE Bucket truck with 65 ft. reach. Professional trimming, stump grinding, topping, removal, chipper. Free estimates. Licensed. Insured. (870) 423-6780, (870) 423-8305

TREE WORKS Skilled tree care: trimming, deadwooding and removals. Conscientious, professional arborist and sawmill. Bob Messer (479) 253-2284

PERFORMANCE PLUMBING – Free estimates, bonded, insured, Master Plumber lic. MP6242. All plumbing services, water heater specialist, background checked and drug free. Cell (479) 244-5335. “When you call us you will talk to a licensed plumber not a machine.”

MOVERS

D-HAUL MOVERS – Local mover over 15 years in business. We move our clients day or night. Well known and very respectful. **CALL DWAYNE, (479) 981-9492**

UPHOLSTERY

UPHOLSTERY–RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, CUSTOM BUILT. Furniture repair, antiques, boats, caning. Fabrics & Foam. Free Estimates. No job too small. Call Aaron (479) 212-2875 or abunyar@sbcglobal.net

Spring cleaning for Historical Museum

The 3rd annual Eureka Springs Historical Museum's Garage Sale at the Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tables and booths are available for rent on a limited basis.

Admission and booth rental proceeds will

benefit the Eureka Springs Historical Museum. Admission is \$3 per person. Set up will be Friday, Jan. 27. Contact Kindra at (479) 253-9768 Ext. 602 or email kindra@innoftheoarks.com for more information and to reserve your spot.

Quiet meditation Jan. 5

The Eureka Springs Buddhist Study Group will gather for 30 minutes of meditation followed by reading and discussion on Thursday, Jan. 5 at 4 p.m. at Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Standing with Standing Rock at EUUF

Vela Giri will discuss his trip to Standing Rock regarding the oil pipeline at Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 Elk Street on Jan. 8 at 11 a.m. Childcare is provided and extra parking is available at Ermilio's Restaurant, 26 White Street.

Sound meditation with Metafizzies

Rebekah Clark will lead the Eureka Springs Metaphysical Society meeting in a session of Divine Singing and Sound Meditation on Monday, Jan. 9. No vocal experience is

necessary. Chants and mantras from multiple traditions will be used. The gathering will begin at 7 p.m. at the Heart of Many Ways, 68 Mountain Street. All are welcome.

Naturally photogenic birds

Hobbs State Park Conservation Area will now offer eagle watch tours on Beaver Lake through February with a special eagle watch cruise on Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. at Rocky Branch Marina. The cruise will teach on *How to Photograph Eagles*.

Jay Stout, chairman of the Photographic Society of Northwest Arkansas, will begin with

a lecture on the dock at Rocky Branch Marina and accompany the group on the water, fielding questions on how best to photograph eagles. Due to the extra photographic equipment that participants may bring along, seating is limited.

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Adults are \$10 plus tax. For more information and to make reservations call (479) 789-5000.

SCIENCE continued from page 7

Frontier Conference in Phoenix last winter. That brought together many different types of science specialists.

“The problem with science today is that different types of scientists are not talking to each other,” Reed said. “Meteorologists aren't talking to solar scientists, geologists or climate change scientists. Most scientists are funded by grants, and they are not allowed to step outside their realm and collaborate. You have communities like Electric Universe where all these different scientists talk to each other and share information. There are more and more scientific papers being written every day about this. We are learning fast and furiously that space weather affects the Earth.”

Reed said there were about 1,900 people involved at various financial levels in developing the app. The number of members of Suspicious Observers (suspiciousobservers.org) continues to grow rapidly, and now is at 280,000.

Reed said the sun goes through 11-year cycles and just ended a cycle of maximum sunspots, so is now sun entering an 11-year cycle of minimal sunspots. Sunspots are electromagnetic energy that can affect the Earth.

“We have a magnetic field around our planet,” she said. “When the sun spews out solar wind or plasma, and it hits the Earth, it affects the earth's magnetic fields. Geomagnetic storms are when we get hit with a lot of the sun's energy. It can interrupt our electric grids, the ability of airports to operate radar equipment, and ability to communicate. We even get cardio events because the heart is electromagnetic. This app can warn people of issues.

“The app can tell you about the coronal holes in the sun. When they face the Earth, it can affect the fault lines on the planet because it is an electrical exchange of energy. Energy comes from the sun through the atmosphere where it penetrates the Earth and goes down into the lower layers. Depending on where that happens, you can get a 6-point or greater magnitude earthquake. Davidson has figured out you can figure out where the quake will be by the outgoing long-wave radiation readings. He has been able to predict locations within a 48- to 72-hour time period.”

Someone watching Reed perform might be surprised at the passion she has for weather. “It doesn't have anything to do with my musical career except musicians also have an interest in mathematics,” she said. “I love weather as much as I love anything else. The science of weather, geology, meteorology and music all have a place in my head. I like understanding new innovative things that better our planet.”

Reed said anyone interested in more information should visit spaceweathernews.com.

MULCHING continued from page 6

gardeners is to do your garden soil a favor by assiduously adding whatever mulch you have on hand. Benefits include:

- soil retains moisture better
- soil temperature is moderated; tomato plants do not bear fruit if the soil is too hot, so mulch; a thick layer of leaves will get garlic through the winter
- soil texture improves dramatically over time; life

under layers of leaves and straw begins to develop thriving economies; even under a small pile of woody stems and twigs like sage or oregano branches, living communities begin to change the texture of the soil

- decaying mulch adds nutrients to the soil
- fewer weeds sprout and the ones that do are easy to remove
- roots grow deeper with less effort

The soil here in the Ozarks is full of rocks. All sizes. Adding mulch for years will not remove them. Ruth Stout's garden was in Connecticut and I do not remember her ever mentioning rocks. Nevertheless, our Ozark rocks do not diminish the benefits of her strategy of applying a healthy layer of mulch to our garden beds. So gather the rocks like Easter eggs, put them where they belong and replace them with...

MAIL continued from page 8

used retirement savings that year.

And in case you want to do away with wellness benefits, that would also be a disaster for so many of us. Prior to the ACA, I did not get a needed colonoscopy (family history) because even though my insurer had a so-called wellness benefit, if any problems were found they would *retroactively* bill it as diagnostic and charge me the full amount (thousands of dollars).

Now, having had brain surgery – were it not for the ACA – I would not be able to

buy decent insurance because of that kind of “pre-existing condition.” Or it would cost a good deal of my retirement savings (and due to brain damage am not able to work full time at age 63). It has been a Godsend for thousands of us in Arkansas with “pre-existing conditions” to be able to still get insurance.

My situation is far from the worst – before the ACA, it was a nightmare for so many Arkansas folks if they got sick, not to mention a drain on society when medical bills went unpaid by uninsured

individuals. What do you plan to put in its place if you get rid of the ACA? Traditionally, federal employees have enjoyed excellent health insurance – now you all benefit from the ACA but are probably wealthy enough to buy insurance even with high premiums. But what about the rest of us?

Thank you for your kind attention to this most important matter. I will publish your replies on my Facebook page and submit to my local paper.

Nan Johnson

CROSSWORD Solution

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2017

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